



October 1, 2007

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Susan Payne

Subject: Item 4c: Air Quality Conformity Determination for 2031 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and FY08-11 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Action Requested:

Review and hold a Public Hearing on the Air Quality Conformity Determination

Issue Summary

In 1994, the Eugene-Springfield area was designated by US-EPA as a maintenance area for *carbon monoxide* (CO). This meant that air quality had improved to the point where it now met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for CO (a part of the Clean Air Act). A 20-year monitoring period then began to ensure that no backsliding occurs and that the CO standard continues to be met. EPA had determined that vehicle emissions were a primary source of CO levels along with home wood heating. Because of this finding, federal transportation plans and projects must be shown to not cause a violation of the CO air quality standard. An air quality conformity determination (AQCD) for a plan or program is, in effect, a finding that the appropriate air quality standards will continue to be met.

An AQCD is required whenever the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) or Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) is updated, or, every 3 years, whichever comes first. Thus, a conformity determination must be adopted as part of the approval process for the draft 2031 RTP and the FY08-11 MTIP. USDOT must approve the conformity determination before the plans can become operative.

Status

The current 2025 RTP was last conformed in December 2004. The current FY06-09 MTIP was conformed in August 2006.

A draft AQCD has been prepared based on the project lists of the 2031 RTP and the FY08-11 MTIP. The analysis shows that CO emissions, based on estimated future vehicle miles traveled and congested speeds within the region, will remain well below the limit set by USEPA. Measured CO levels in the area have been steadily decreasing and, in 2006, reached a level that is only ¼ of the standard – attributed to improvements in both car and wood stove technologies, as well as due to the area's home wood heating advisory programs.

The public comment period on the AQCD is now open through October 29. MPC is being asked to hold a public hearing on October 11. On November 8, MPC will be asked to adopt the final AQCD.

Attachment 1: Executive Summary -- Air Quality Conformity Determination

Attachment 2: Air Quality Conformity Determination – report (no appendices)

Appendices are available at <http://www.lcog.org/meetings/mpc.html>

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