

October 3, 2008

Ms. Susan Mortel, Director/Bureau of Transportation Planning
Michigan Dept. of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa, PO Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Mortel:

The SEMCOG General Assembly adopted the attached resolution on June 26, 2008 amending the adopted *2030 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan* to include both the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project and the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC), conditioned upon identification of the preferred alternative in Canada by the appropriate Canadian officials.

Please be advised that we have received a communication from Mr. Mark Butler of Transport Canada (attached) indicating that the Canadian government has identified plaza option B or B1 in the DRIC Environmental Assessment as their preferred alternative. With this notification, the condition in the General Assembly resolution as it relates to the DRIC has been met. We are still waiting for notification that the condition has been met for the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project and will notify you upon notification by the appropriate Canadian officials.

Please notify the Federal Highway Administration of this information and contact me or Mr. Carmine Palombo, Director, Transportation Programs if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Tait, C.A.E.
Executive Director

CC: Mohammed Alghurabi, MDOT
Jim Steele, FHWA
Mark Butler, Transport Canada
Dan Stamper, Ambassador Bridge

Attachments

PT:cp

Mary Blackmon Chairperson Treasurer, Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency	Robert Blisea First Vice Chair Mayor, City of St. Clair Shores	Robert J. Cannon Vice Chairperson Supervisor, Clinton Township	Philip M. Cavanaugh Vice Chairperson Commissioner, Wayne County Board of Commissioners	Gretchen Driskell Vice Chairperson Mayor, City of Saline	Michael Sedlak Vice Chairperson Clerk, Green Oak Township	William T. Roberts Immediate Past Chair Mayor, City of Walled Lake	Paul E. Tait Executive Director
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMIN.

OCT 14 2008
MICHIGAN DIVISION
LANSING, MICHIGAN

OCT 08 2008

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

AR-18J

James J. Steele
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Michigan Division
315 West Allegan Street, Room 211
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Mr. Steele:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed its review of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) conformity determination for the amendments to the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (Plan). This letter provides the results of our review of the SEMCOG conformity determination.

The Detroit-Ann Arbor metropolitan area is currently designated maintenance for carbon monoxide (CO), marginal nonattainment for the eight-hour ozone standard and nonattainment for fine particulates (PM_{2.5}). This area has Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs) for CO, and for the ozone precursors Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x). The ozone MVEBs cover all maintenance counties except Lenawee. Eight hour ozone areas with MVEBs may use them to demonstrate conformity. Nonattainment areas that are not covered by a MVEB may demonstrate conformity by meeting either an Action/Baseline test, or an Action scenario less than 2002 mobile source emissions levels test.

The SEMCOG applied EPA's MOBILE6.2 model to generate VOC, NO_x, CO, and PM_{2.5} emissions factors for the regional air quality analysis. Emissions were calculated for the years 2005, 2007, 2010, 2015, 2025, and 2030. This area demonstrated consistency with the MVEBs for CO, VOC, and NO_x. The VOC and NO_x emissions for Lenawee County portion of eight-hour ozone area were less than 2002 levels. The PM_{2.5} and NO_x emissions for the Detroit fine particle nonattainment area were less than 2002 levels. The conformity analysis was developed through the interagency consultation process which included representatives of the local, State, and Federal governments.

In summary, the Plan conformity determination meets the requirements of the conformity regulations. The EPA recommends that it be found to conform.

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If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Michael Leslie of my staff at (312) 353-6680.

Sincerely yours,



John Mooney
Chief
Criteria Pollutant Section

cc: Robert Rusch
Air Quality Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

William Wheeler, Community Planner
Federal Transit Administration

Jim Cramer, Transportation Planning Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
Michigan Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Michigan Division

315 W. Allegan, Room 201
Lansing, Michigan 48933

October 10, 2008

Ms. Susan P. Mortel, Director
Bureau of Transportation Planning (B340)
Michigan Department of Transportation
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Ms. Mortel:

We have reviewed the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) amendment submitted by your letter of September 15, 2008. Our review compared the amended plan with the requirements of 49 USC 1607, 23 USC 134, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA), and the regulations issued in connection with each Act. The air quality conformity portion of our review was coordinated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

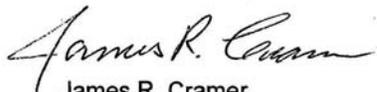
The SEMCOG General Assembly adoption of the amendment of the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project and Detroit River International Crossing to the *2030 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan* was "conditioned upon identification of the preferred alternative on the Canadian side by the appropriate Canadian officials." In Mr. Tait's letter to Ms. Mortel of MDOT dated October 3, 2008, SEMCOG has provided evidence that the condition has been met for the Detroit River International Crossing project but not for the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project. When similar evidence is provided that the condition of approval of the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project has been met, FHWA can recognize the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project as being in the *2030 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan*.

We find that the SEMCOG 2030 RTP as amended is in conformance with the transportation related requirements of the 1990 CAAA and the regulations for determining conformity of transportation plans and programs to State Implementation Plans (SIP) for air quality as contained in 40 CFR Part 93. A new conformity finding will be required if the plan is modified by adding or deleting non-exempt projects, or if any of the triggering events specified in 40 CFR 93.104 occur.



If there are any questions concerning our action on this plan, please contact Jim Cramer, at (517) 702-1827.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Cramer".

James R. Cramer
Transportation Planning Engineer

For: James J. Steele
Division Administrator

Doc# 99066

