



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Air Quality Conformity Task Force

DATE: June 18, 2015

FR: Adam Crenshaw

RE: Review of the Regional Conformity Status for New and Revised Projects

Staff has prepared the following information in an effort to streamline the review of the regional air quality conformity implications of projects that staff proposes to revise or add into the 2015 TIP through current or future revisions. This item is for advisory purposes only. The inclusion of these projects and project changes in a proposed revision to the TIP is subject to Commission approval in the case of amendments and MTC's Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director in the case of administrative modifications. The final determination of the regional air quality conformity status of these projects will be made by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency as part of their review of proposed final TIP amendments and by the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director as part of their review for TIP administrative modifications. Staff is not requesting a review of the project-level air quality conformity implications of these projects through this item. Details of each project and category of projects under review is as follows:

Proposed Revision to the Regionally Non-Exempt AC Transit Richmond Parkway Transit Center
AC Transit's Richmond Parkway Transit Center project (CC-030001) is currently included in the 2015 TIP as a project expanding an existing park and ride facility to accommodate 800 vehicles. The project sponsor has recently requested that the project scope be revised to indicate that the existing park and ride facility will only be rehabilitated and not expanded. The current and proposed project descriptions are as follows:

Current Project Description: Richmond: Adjacent to I-80 at the Richmond Parkway Transit Center; Provide up to 800 parking spaces, improve transit facilities and improve bicycle/pedestrian access.

Current Expanded Project Description: The project is located at the Richmond Parkway Transit Center adjacent to I-80 (one of the two most congested freeways in the Bay Area). Scope of work includes: 1) Park and ride facility for over 700 vehicles; 2) Commuter bus loading areas; 3) Facilities improvements including new canopies/benches, new trash receptacles, additional lighting, real-time signage, security elements, bike facilities and pavement replacement and restriping. RM2 funds will only fund projects in item 3.

Proposed Project Description: Richmond: Adjacent to I-80 at the Richmond Parkway Transit Center; rehabilitation park and ride facility.

Proposed Expanded Project Description: The project is located at the Richmond Parkway Transit Center adjacent to I-80. The scope includes renovation and improvements to the transit center with elements that include pavement replacement and restriping, new canopies/benches, new trash receptacles, additional lighting, real-time signage, security elements, and bike

facilities. The project also includes a traffic signal and restriping on Blume Drive at the entrance to the Transit Center.

As the current scope of the project cannot be classified under the project types included under 40 CFR 93.126 and 40 CFR 93.127, the project has been classified in the TIP as non-exempt from regional air quality conformity. The proposed revision to this project will remove the regionally non-exempt scope elements of the project. The resulting project includes many elements exempt under 40 CFR 93.126, but the overall project can be classified as exempt from regional conformity under 40 CFR 93.127 as an “Intersection signalization projects at individual intersections” as this applies a stricter classification for project-level conformity purposes. However, since the regional travel model used in conducting the regional air quality conformity analysis only captures whether or not a transit station has associated parking and does not currently capture the number of parking spaces associated with a transit station, this change in the scope of the project will not impact the results of the regional air quality conformity analysis. As such, staff is requesting the Task Force’s concurrence that incorporating this change in scope into the 2015 TIP will not require an update to the conformity analysis.

New Projects Staff is Proposing to Include in Future Revisions

Staff has also received requests from sponsors to add 10 new exempt projects to grouped listings in future revisions. Attachment A includes a list of these projects along with the regional air quality category that staff believes best describes the projects.