

## Richmond/Tri-Cities Regional Conformity Assessment

### **FY 21-24 Transportation Improvement Program and 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan**

Interagency Consultation Group Meeting

**Dan Grinnell, VDOT Environmental Division**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

# Agenda

1. Introduction & Overview
2. ICG Membership Update
3. Consultation Items:
  - a. Conformity Assessment Schedule
  - b. Project List for Conformity Assessment
4. Public Comment Period
5. Approvals & Next Steps

# 1. Introduction & Overview

- **United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in South Coast Air Quality Mgmt. District v. EPA (“South Coast II,” 882 F.3d 1138) held in its decision on February 16, 2018 that transportation conformity determinations must be made in all areas nation-wide that were either nonattainment or maintenance for the 1997 ozone NAAQS and attainment for the 2008 ozone NAAQS when the 1997 ozone NAAQS was revoked.**
- **The reinstated conformity requirements were subsequently made effective February 16, 2019.**
- **November 29, 2018, EPA issued Transportation Conformity Guidance for the South Coast II Court Decision states;**
  - **“...a regional emissions analysis is not required for conformity determinations for the 1997 ozone NAAQS because that NAAQS has been revoked (80 FR 12264).”**

# 1. Introduction & Overview Continued

- **Interagency consultation is required by the Clean Air Act and Transportation Conformity Rule**
  - **ICG Membership specified by agency**
  - **RRTPO and TCAMPO approved Consultation Procedures in October 2005**
- **Consultation required for:**
  - **Schedule**
  - **Project lists for the conformity analysis**
- **Focus on TCAMPO FY 21-24 TIP and 2045 LRTP, as RRTPO is not amending/updating its TIP/LRTP at this time.**

## 2. ICG Membership Update

| Richmond Interagency Consultation Group Members<br>Agency | Designated Staff           |
|---|----------------------------|
| <i>MPO Members</i>  |                            |
| Charles City County                                       | Ms. Rhonda Russell         |
| Chesterfield County                                       | Ms. Barb Smith             |
| City of Colonial Heights                                  | Mr. Todd Flippen           |
| City of Hopewell  | Mr. Austin Anderson        |
| City of Petersburg  | Mr. Reggie Tabor           |
| City of Richmond  | Ms. Dironna Clark          |
| Hanover County  | Mr. Joe Vidunas            |
| Henrico County  | Ms. Sharon Smidler         |
| Prince George County                                      | Ms. Julie Walton           |
| Town of Ashland   | Ms. Nora Amos              |
| <i>Regional</i>   |                            |
| Crater Planning District Commission                       | Mr. Ron Svejksky           |
| Greater Richmond Transit Company                          | Ms. Adrienne Torres        |
| Petersburg Transit  | Mr. Charles Koonce         |
| Ridefinders   | Ms. Brigitte Tanner Carter |
| Richmond Regional Planning District                       | Mr. Chet Parsons           |
| <i>State</i>  |                            |
| Dept. of Environmental Quality*                           | Ms. Sonya Lewis-Cheatham   |
| Dept. of Transportation – Environmental                   | Mr. Jim Ponticello         |
| Dept. of Rail & Public Transportation                     | Ms. Tiffany Dubinsky       |
| <i>Federal</i>  |                            |
| Environmental Protection Agency                           | Mr. Gregory Becoat         |
| Federal Highway Administration                            | Mr. Ivan Rucker            |
| Federal Transit Administration                            | Ms. Kathleen Zubrzycki     |

# Richmond 8-Hour Ozone “Orphan” Maintenance Area



### 3(a). Conformity Assessment Schedule

| Date  | Task  |
|---|---|
| <b>January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>                    | TCAMPO approved the fiscally-constrained FY21-24 TIP and 2045 LRTP project list for conformity and authorized the TAC to approve the draft regional conformity assessment for public review |
| <b>February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>                    | Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) Meeting on the FY21-24 TIP and 2045 LRTP regional conformity assessment.   |
| <b>March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>                       | TCAMPO TAC approves the draft regional conformity assessment for public review  |
| <b>March 7<sup>th</sup>- April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b> | 30-day public comment period on the draft regional conformity assessment  |
| <b>April 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>       | VDOT/PDC staff review and address public comments (if necessary)  |
| <b>April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>                      | TCAMPO approves the final regional conformity assessment for submittal to FHWA  |
| <b>April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>                      | VDOT submits e-copy of final regional conformity assessment to FHWA; 45-day federal review period begins  |
| <b>May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>                        | Federal Conformity Determination received   |

## 3(b). Project Lists for Conformity Analysis

- **The conformity project list focuses on projects that are regionally significant and would normally be included in the transportation demand modeling network**
  - *Regionally Significant project* means a transportation project (other than an exempt project) that is on a facility which serves regional transportation needs (such as access to and from the area outside of the region, major activity centers in the region, major planned developments such as new retail malls, sports complexes, etc., or transportation terminals as well as most terminals themselves) and would normally be included in the modeling of a metropolitan area's transportation network, including at a minimum all principal arterial highways and all fixed guideway transit facilities that offer an alternative to regional highway travel.
- **Projects not regionally significant or not typically modeled are not necessarily identified on this list**
- **Discussion on project list?**



## 4. Public Comment Period

*Three minute limit on comments*

## 5. Wrap-Up & Next Steps

### APPROVALS:

- *Membership Updates?*
- **Conformity Schedule**
- **Project Lists for Conformity Assessment**
  - **FY 21-24 TIP and 2045 LRTP**

### NEXT STEPS:

- **TCAMPO TAC approval of the draft conformity assessment for public review on March 4<sup>th</sup>.**
- **30 day public review period that would begin March 7<sup>th</sup>**