



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

California Division

May 16, 2014

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Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Ms. Rachel Falsetti
Chief
Division of Transportation Programming
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Muhaned Aljabiry

SUBJECT: MCAG FY 2012/13-2015/16 FTIP Amendment # 20

Dear Ms. Falsetti:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 20 to the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) FY 2012/13-2015/16 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated April 18, 2014. MCAG Amendment # 20 was adopted by the MCAG Board with Resolution No. 2013/03-21-04 on April 17, 2014. This amendment to MCAG's 2013 FTIP revises the project limits for a previously-approved/programmed (NON-TRANSIT) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) project to MCAG's 2013 FTIP.

- (205-0000-0235): CMAQ: In Atwater. Sidewalk/Bike Path Infill on Juniper Ave Btwn. Sierra Madre Dr & Bridgewater Street: To define the project scope more accurately, the project description is modified to be "between Vann Ter & Bridgewater Street."

This project was included in FTIP Formal Amendment 17, which received State approval on February 21, 2014 and Federal approval on March 3, 2014. This minor scope change is for the new, to-be-constructed, bike/pedestrian path that will extend a couple of extra blocks to connect with an existing facility.

Pursuant to the July 17, 2004, *Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX*, we accept the modifications to the 2012/13 – 2015/16 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for the MCAG region in accordance with the *Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning* published in the February 17, 2007 Federal

Register. We find that the MCAG's FTIP, through Amendment # 20, was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the metropolitan planning provisions of 23 U.S.C. 174, and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Sections 1201, 1202, 20005 and 20006 of Public Law 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

We have determined that this program modification is exempt from the regional emissions analysis requirements pursuant to the transportation conformity provisions found in 40 CFR Part 93. This finding has been coordinated with Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding between DOT and EPA on Transportation Conformity*, dated April 25, 2000. Therefore, we find that the FTIP continues to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

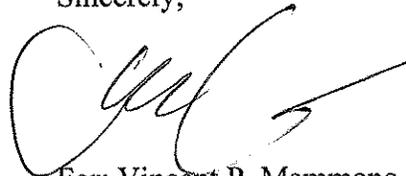
This approval is provided with the understanding that the FTA funding approval on the individual projects contained in the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements and that approval of this programming action does not provide a federal eligibility determination for CMAQ projects or any other project funding source included in this amendment.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our approval for this MCAG FSTIP amendment, please contact Cecilia Crenshaw (cecilia.crenshaw@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5033.

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Sincerely,



For: Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

cc: (e-mail)

Ray Sukys, FTA

Eric Eidlin, FTA

Muhaned Aljabiry, Caltrans

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Marjie Kim, MCAG

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cc: (other)

MCAG FTIP Binder

CCrenshaw