

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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December 5, 2012

Honorable Todd M. Turner, Chair
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Chair Turner:

Thank you for providing an opportunity to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) to comment on the Air Quality Conformity Update for the 2012 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and the FY2013-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). MWAQC understands that this additional analysis to include the milestone year 2015 is being performed to meet the requirements of the 2008 ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS).

MWAQC has reviewed the draft Air Quality Conformity assessment and is pleased to find that the proposed transportation plans meet the interim base year 2002 emissions tests for the PM_{2.5} annual standard and the approved motor vehicle emissions budgets for the 8-hour ozone and carbon monoxide standards for the year 2015. The attainment year for the Washington, DC-MD-VA marginal ozone nonattainment region for the 2008 ozone NAAQS is 2015.

As noted in the previous comment letter to the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) on July 11, 2012, MWAQC understands the need for new federal emission control programs such as Tier 3 to reduce emissions from future fleets. We encourage TPB's continued investment in public transit, ride-sharing and transit-oriented development to mitigate future growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT). We also strongly urge TPB to maintain its commitments to Transportation Emission Reduction Measures (TERMs) and other emission reduction measures. These efforts are essential to meet the current air quality standards and potentially more stringent ozone and fine particle standards expected in the future. We look forward to working with TPB on updated mobile budgets related to stricter EPA air quality standards if it should become necessary in the future.

We commend TPB for your contribution to air quality improvement efforts and look forward to working with you to further improve the region's air quality.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft conformity analysis.

Sincerely,



Hon. Phil Mendelson, Chair
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee