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May 17, 2023

Mr. Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, Connecticut 06131-7546

Subject: Connecticut Ozone and PM_{2.5} Air Quality Conformity Determination of the 2023-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs) and 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs), as Amended

Dear Commissioner Eucalitto:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have reviewed the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) "*Ozone and PM_{2.5} Air Quality Conformity Determination of the 2023-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plans and the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Programs, as amended*" dated February 2023 along with the conformity determinations made by the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), as submitted on May 1, 2023.

Subsequent to the issuance of the February 2023 conformity report FHWA and FTA met with CTDOT to clarify the population and employment projections that were included in the statewide Travel Demand Model (TDM) and public comments received during the public review period (Appendix E of the Air Quality Determination Report). Prior to finalizing the February report, CTDOT received comments from the MPOs regarding the population and employment projections included in the Travel Demand Model, which is used to support the Air Quality Conformity Model. CTDOT agreed to rerun the model using a historical growth rate methodology based on Connecticut Department of Public Health annual estimates for population forecasts and growth rates for employment projections. This information was updated in the TDM and is contained in the Air Quality Conformity model runs documented in the conformity determination dated February 2023. CTDOT further clarified that there were no comments received during the public review period.

By email transmittal dated May 17, 2023, the EPA notified FHWA and FTA of its finding that the CTDOT's air quality conformity analyses will support a U.S. DOT positive conformity determination for the air quality areas delineated in the "*Ozone and PM_{2.5} Air Quality Conformity Determination of the 2023-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plans and the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Programs, as amended*".

Accordingly, the FHWA and the FTA, with the concurrence of EPA, have determined that Connecticut's 2023-2050 MTPs and the 2021-2024 TIPs, as amended, are in conformity with the goals of the State Implementation Plan (SIP), are consistent with the Clean Air Act, and are consistent with the EPA conformity regulations as stated in 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93. This conformity determination will remain in effect until such time as a new determination is required by 40 CFR 93.104.

Should you have any questions regarding this subject, please feel free to contact Jennifer Carrier at (860) 494-7567, or Leah Sirmin at (617) 494-2459.

Sincerely,

for _____
Peter Butler
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration Region 1

Barbara Breslin
Acting Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration - Connecticut

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