



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

California Division

January 4, 2022

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In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

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Southern California Association of Governments
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Attention: Caleb Brock, Associate Transportation Planner
Office of Regional Planning

SUBJECT: SCAG Connect SoCal – the 2020–2045 Regional Transportation
Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy – Amendment No. 1
and 2021 FTIP Consistency Amendment #21-05

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our reviews of the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Connect SoCal 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy – Amendment No. 1 and 2021 FTIP Consistency Amendment #21-05 submitted by SCAG's letters dated November 4, 2021.

This Amendments were developed to respond to project changes in the Connect SoCal. The majority of the changes include updates to project completion years, minor modifications to project scopes, costs, and/or funding. In addition, several new transportation improvements were incorporated as part of this amendment.

On November 4, 2021, SCAG adopted Amendment No. 1 and 2021 FTIP Consistency Amendment #21-05 via Resolution No. 21-637-1. An FHWA/FTA air quality conformity determination is required pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Transportation Conformity Rule*, 40 Code of Regulations (CFR) Parts 51 and 93, and the United States Department of Transportation's *Metropolitan Planning Rule*, 23 CFR Part 450. The conformity analysis given by SCAG indicates all air quality conformity requirements have been met. Based on our review, we determined the Amendment No. 1 and 2021 FTIP Consistency Amendment #21-05 conforms to the applicable state implementation plan in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93. SCAG's new conformity determination for the Connect SoCal is consistent with its 2021 FTIP through Amendment No. 1. FHWA's conformity determination was coordinated with Region 9 of the EPA according to the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between*

the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the EPA on Transportation Conformity dated April 25, 2000.

Pursuant to the February 14, 2018, *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the FHWA – California Division and FTA – Region 9*, and based on our review of information submitted with the State's proposed 2021 FSTIP, which includes revenues, proposed project funding information to demonstrate financial constraint, and statewide and metropolitan planning process documentation, we accept this modification proposed for the SCAG region in accordance with 23 CFR Part 450 and 49 CFR Part 613 (see the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning published in the May 27, 2016, Federal Register). We have determined SCAG's amended portion of the FSTIP, including the FTIP Amendment No. 21-05, is financially constrained as required by the Federal surface transportation programs authorizing legislation and statewide planning, metropolitan planning, and programming regulations. SCAG's portion of the FSTIP was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with the metropolitan transportation planning provisions of 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 134 and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Public Law 114-94 (the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act).

Our FSTIP amendment approval is being given with the understanding that an eligibility determination of individual projects for funding must be met, and the applicant must ensure the satisfaction of all administrative and statutory requirements.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning approval, please contact Michael Morris of the FHWA California Division's Cal-South Office at (213) 894-4014 or michael.morris@dot.gov; or Mervin Acebo of the FTA's Los Angeles Office at (213) 202-3957 or mervin.acebo@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Antonio Johnson, Team Leader
Planning and Air Quality

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