



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

**California Division**

January 28, 2022

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 498-5001

In Reply Refer To:  
HDA-CA

Ms. Jennifer Duran, Chief  
Regional Planning Branch  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Hasan Ikhata, Chief Executive Officer  
San Diego Association of Governments  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101-4231

Attention: Rodney Tavitas, Chief  
Air Quality Branch

SUBJECT: SANDAG 2021 Regional Plan, RTIP Amendment No. 6, and Associated Air Quality  
Conformity Analysis

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our reviews of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) 2021 Regional Plan, the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendment No. 6, and the air quality conformity analysis submitted by SANDAG's letters dated December 15, 2021, and January 20, 2022, respectfully.

Amendment No. 6, to SANDAG's 2021 RTIP includes changes to 79 projects and seven grouped listings within San Diego County, for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities - Bayshore Bikeway; Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities - Coastal Rail Trail; Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities - San Diego River Trail; Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities - North Park/Mid-City Bikeways; Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities - Uptown Bikeways; Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities; Bicycle and pedestrian facilities - Active Transportation Program (ATP).

On December 10, 2021, the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted the 2021 Regional Plan and associated air quality conformity analysis. On January 14, 2022, through the adoption of Resolution No. 2022-11, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved Amendment No.6.

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 SANDAG indicates all air quality conformity requirements have been met. Based on our review, we determined that the 2021 Regional Plan and the 2021 RTIP Amendment No. 6 conforms to the applicable state implementation plan in accordance with the

provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93. SANDAG's conformity determination for the 2021 Regional Plan is consistent with its 2021 RTIP through Amendment No. 6. 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 SANDAG 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 SANDAG's amended portion of the California FSTIP, including the RTIP Amendment No. 6, is financially constrained as required by the Federal surface transportation programs authorizing legislation and statewide planning, metropolitan planning, and programming regulations. SANDAG'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](mailto:michael.morris@dot.gov); or Mervin Acebo of the FTA's Los Angeles Office at (213) 202-3957 or [mervin.acebo@dot.gov](mailto:mervin.acebo@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Antonio Johnson, Team Leader  
Planning and Air Quality

cc: (e-mail)

[antonio.johnson@dot.gov](mailto:antonio.johnson@dot.gov)

[michael.morris@dot.gov](mailto:michael.morris@dot.gov)

[joseph.vaughn@dot.gov](mailto:joseph.vaughn@dot.gov)

[ted.matley@dot.gov](mailto:ted.matley@dot.gov)

[mervin.acebo@dot.gov](mailto:mervin.acebo@dot.gov)

[kelly.johmj@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.johmj@epa.gov)

[jennifer.duran@dot.ca.gov](mailto:jennifer.duran@dot.ca.gov)

[rodney.tavitas@dot.ca.gov](mailto:rodney.tavitas@dot.ca.gov)

[abhijit.bagde@dot.ca.gov](mailto:abhijit.bagde@dot.ca.gov)

[Allison.wood@sandag.org](mailto:Allison.wood@sandag.org)

[Richard.radcliffe@sandag.org](mailto:Richard.radcliffe@sandag.org)