



August 8, 2006

Mr. Joe Palladi
Transportation Planning Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation
No. 2 Capital Square
Atlanta, GA 30334

Subject: Agreement between Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia (CHCNGA) Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on Roles and Responsibilities for Future Transportation Conformity Purposes under PM^{2.5} Standards

Dear Mr. Palladi:

In response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) designation of the Chattanooga region (including all of Catoosa and Walker Counties in Georgia) as a nonattainment area under PM^{2.5} standards in April 2005, a letter was signed by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the TPO on November 15, 2005 agreeing to the roles and responsibilities of each party relative to conducting the transportation conformity determination for the previously adopted and amended 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. The November 15, 2005 letter served as a multi-jurisdictional agreement between GDOT and the TPO which applied only to the Conformity Determination Report (CDR) that was approved by the U.S. DOT in April 2006. As a result, a new multi-jurisdictional agreement is necessary for future transportation conformity purposes.

Based on discussions between the TPO and GDOT, the TPO has agreed to be responsible for the following efforts:

- The TPO will lead the overall conformity process, including development of the required conformity document, whether it be a resolution, CDR addendum, or full CDR. The TPO will be responsible for providing narrative on the travel demand modeling process for those areas inside the TPO boundary.
- If new emissions analysis is required, the TPO will conduct all travel demand modeling necessary and will provide all loaded TransCAD networks in Geographic Information System (GIS) format to GDOT for emissions modeling. The TPO will include any model documentation with the transmission of the model networks, including attribute field definitions. The TPO will transmit each model year network upon completion as scheduled with GDOT.

- The TPO will expand the TransCAD travel demand model to include all of Catoosa County.
- The TPO will rename the existing HPMS code attribute field in the travel demand model to represent the 2000 Census HPMS codes in Georgia. Upon receipt of the 1990 Census HPMS code GIS shape file from GDOT, the TPO will add a second HPMS code to the travel demand model representing the 1990 Census codes and will populate with the 1990 HPMS code shape file provided by GDOT.

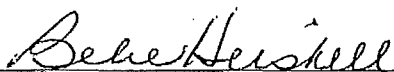
The GDOT has agreed to be responsible for the following efforts:

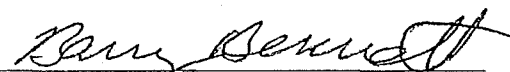
- GDOT will conduct required emissions analyses for all model years necessary both inside (model-based) and outside the TPO donut areas (off-model based) in Georgia.
- GDOT will provide narrative documenting the air quality emissions process and results for all of Catoosa and Walker Counties in Georgia (both inside and outside the donut areas) for the TPO's incorporation into the overall conformity process.
- GDOT will provide the 1990 Census HPMS code GIS shape file to the TPO for inclusion in the travel demand model.

This letter confirms the agreement made between the TPO and GDOT regarding the roles and responsibilities of each organization for future transportation conformity processes for PM^{2.5} nonattainment. By my signature below, the TPO acknowledges it will fulfill its role as leading the overall conformity process. The TPO will bring to the Department's attention any issues of significance that could or would affect the Department's transportation interests. Due to GDOT's participation on the Chattanooga Nonattainment Area Interagency Consultation Committee (ICC), it will be assumed that GDOT concurs with any future conformity findings as long as the ICC achieves consensus and thus no additional endorsement letter from GDOT will be necessary. I have provided an area below for you to sign indicating your concurrence with these arrangements. Please sign this letter, keep a copy for your records, and return the signed original to the attention of Ms. Karen Rhodes.


If you have any questions about air quality issues, Ms. Karen Rhodes will serve as your TPO contact. You may reach her at (423) 757-5216. We look forward to working with the Department throughout the transportation conformity process under PM^{2.5} standards.

Sincerely,


 Commissioner Bebe Heiskell
 Chairperson, TPO Executive Board


 Barry Bennett
 Chairperson, TPO Executive Staff

CONCURRENCE:


 Joe Palladi, GDOT Transportation Planning Administrator