

LRP-9 - Make Conformity Determination by MPO

Description

In nonattainment and maintenance areas for the transportation-related pollutants, transportation conformity analysis is done in order to determine that the preferred scenario meets current conformity requirements. The MPO Board must make a conformity determination to meet federal requirements.

There is information developed in prior key decisions that informs this step.

Purpose

In nonattainment and maintenance areas for the transportation-related pollutants, to make a conformity determination.

Outcome

Conformity determination in nonattainment and maintenance areas for the transportation-related pollutants.

Partner	Role Type	Description
MPO	Decision Maker	Ensures the air quality conformity analysis meets all federal requirements.
FHWA/FTA	Advisor	Ensure conformity requirements are met.
State DOT	Advisor	State and local transportation agencies provide support and participation as needed in transportation conformity analysis.
Resource Agency	Advisor	US EPA has a consultation role in the conformity process, along with the State and local air agencies.
Public Transportation Operator(s)	Advisor	Provides support and participation as needed in air quality conformity analysis.

Policy Questions

Questions are a way to elicit information and to validate that the information has been considered. The partners should discuss the listed questions to ensure a broad array of interests is considered at a key decision. Discussions arising from these questions support collaborative decision making.

Questions Partners Discuss

Questions about purpose and roles

- No specific questions

Questions about stakeholders, including modal and operational partners

- Can our air quality analysis and this adoption be clearly explained to our stakeholders?
- Have we considered stakeholder comments about air quality? If so, how?

Questions about the transportation process supporting the decision

- Does this analysis meet all federal requirements?
- Does this analysis meet our air quality goals as well as our air quality budget?
- Have operations data and analysis been included in the air quality conformity determination? If so, what additional data/analysis is needed to ensure project-level conformity?

Questions about other phases

- No specific questions

Questions about non-transportation sectors/processes

- Are there actions in this analysis that require implementation that is outside of our control? Are the implementing agencies/partners supportive of these actions?

Stakeholder Inputs

'Questions to Gather Stakeholder Interests' allow staff to determine which stakeholders have interests at a key decision and to collect those interests for partner consideration. 'Questions to Incorporate Stakeholder Interests' ensure the interests of stakeholders are included in the decision. For more help with stakeholder collaboration visit the Stakeholder Portal

Questions to Gather Stakeholder Interests

- None

Questions to Incorporate Stakeholder Interests

- None

Data

The following is a list of data needed to support the key decision. Practitioners collect this information for decision makers to consider.

Supporting Data for the Key Decision		
From other phases of transportation decision making	Long Range Planning	No Specific Data.
	Programming	No Specific Data.
	Corridor Planning	No Specific Data.
	Environmental Review	No Specific Data.
From other sectors and processes	Land Use	No Specific Data.
	Transportation Conformity	Emissions analysis results
		SIP budget
	Natural Environment and Implementing Eco-Logical	No Specific Data.
	Capital Improvement	No Specific Data.
	Safety and Security	No Specific Data.
	Human Environment	No Specific Data.
	Economic Development	No Specific Data.
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	No Specific Data.
Freight	No Specific Data.	
From the transportation technical process supporting this key decision	Data associated with the preferred scenario	
From stakeholder collaboration	No Specific Data.	
From public private partnership	No Specific Data.	

Links to Decisions

This table identifies how a key decision is connected to other key decisions. The linkages are a two-way transfer of information. Understanding and applying these linkages means that partners will recognize how a decision will impact other specific key decisions. Recognizing that the transportation processes are linked will: (1) encourage practitioners to produce information that can be used later and (2) remind them to look at information from previous key decisions.

linkages to other phases of transportation decision making

Key Decision	What is Linked?	Purpose of Linkage
None		

Examples

In-depth case studies of successful practices in collaborative decision making were used to develop the Decision Guide. Links in this table point to a specific paragraph or section of a case study that supports a key decision. It is not necessary to read through an entire case study to find the example; however, full versions are available in the Library.

PlanWorks Case Study Examples

- None

Other Examples

- None

Integrated Planning

Integrated Planning looks at the interaction between the transportation decision making process and other processes. Considering these inputs will ensure that important values and goals outside the transportation process are recognized and considered. For a full understanding of a specific process and how it influences transportation decisions, visit Applications.

Process	Integration Type	Integration Description
Land Use	None.	None.
Transportation Conformity	Process	Approve the conformity analysis Purpose: Demonstrate and document that the preferred scenario meets conformity Outcome: Conforming scenario For conformity practices, please see: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/practices/ .
	Data	Emissions analysis results
Natural Environment and Implementing Eco-Logical	None.	None.
Capital Improvement	None.	None.
Safety and Security	None.	None.
Human Environment	None.	None.
Economic Development	None.	None.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	None.	None.
Freight	None.	None.
Bicycles and Pedestrians	None.	None.

Special Topics

This table provides an overview of the relationship between a key decision and individual special topics. A special topic may be an external process, a new regulation, or any emerging issue requiring collaboration. For a full understanding of a specific topic and how it influences transportation decisions, visit Applications.

Key Decision Relationship to Other Topics

Topic	Description
Planning and Environment Linkages	Conformity Validation - To the extent that operations strategies are part of the conformity determination, any off-model analysis must be considered when new projects are developed. This will be an additional check against the assumptions used to reach conformity.
	Data Transfer - Data and analysis results that inform the determination of conformity to be revisited following project development.