



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

California Division

November 13, 2013

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

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Ms. Rachel Falsetti
Chief
Division of Transportation Programming
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Muhaned Aljabiry

SUBJECT: MCAG FY 2012/13-2015/16 FTIP Amendment # 13

Dear Ms. Falsetti:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment # 13 to the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) FY 2012/13-2015/16 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated October 8, 2013. MCAG Amendment # 13 was adopted by the MCAG Board with Resolution No. 2013/03-21-04 on September 26, 2013. This amendment to MCAG's 2013 FTIP programs a new FTA award, adds additional Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding to Rideshare, corrects entity name for transit, and updates the CMAQ revenue allocation estimates:

- (205-0000-0224): YARTS Purchase of Cash Fare Boxes: Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) was awarded Federal Transit Administration (FTA-5311(f)) funds, in the amount of \$57,523, for FFY 2013 for the purchase of cash fare boxes for the transit system;
- (205-0000-0042): CMAQ: TDM / Alternative Modes (Rideshare): Program the additional \$150,000 CMAQ in FFY 2014/15 to continue the rideshare program, "Commute Connections," in the Merced region, and to expand on the service's public outreach and marketing activities;
- (205-0000-0022): TJPAMC: Operations and Maintenance: Correct and clearly define the transit entity. The Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (TJPAMC) governs "The Bus" transit system for the Merced County Region;

- (205-0000-0223): TJPAMC: Public Outreach and Marketing: Correct and clearly define the transit entity. The Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (TJPAMC) governs “The Bus” transit system for the Merced County Region;
- FTIP Financial Revenue Table: Adjust the FFY 2013/14 CMAQ apportionment figure to correspond to the most current apportionment estimate, as provided on 08/06/2013 and on 09/18/2013 by Gwyn Reese of the Office of Federal Transportation Management Program. Use this most current figure (\$3,100,016) as the CMAQ apportionment estimates for FFY 2014/15 and FFY 2015/16;
- FTIP Financial Revenue Table: Increase the FFY 2013/14 CMAQ revenue figure (+\$87,000) to reflect the correct MCAG CMAQ repayment, per John Flores’ 08/13/2013 clarification email (305-0000-0000): Grouped Projects for Safety Improvements- SHOPP Collision Reduction: A \$7,482,000 Safety Improvements project (“Construct median barrier near Pacheco State Park, from east of Fifield Road to west of Vista Point”) on SR-152, programmed in FFY 2015/16, was amended into the 2012 SHOPP, via Amend. 12H-216;
- (205-0000-0222): Grouped Projects for Safety Improvements- SHOPP Mandates: A \$1,432,000 Safety Improvements project (“Construct ADA-standard pedestrian ramps and sidewalks”) on Various Routes in Merced County, programmed in FFY 2015/16, was amended into the 2012 SHOPP, via Amend. 12H-191;
- (205-0000-0223): CMAQ: Public Outreach & Marketing for “The Bus”: Multiple years of CMAQ funding will be programmed for the public outreach and marketing of “The Bus” (Regional transit system that is governed by the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County [TJPAMC]). Total project cost = \$847,000. TOLL CREDITS IN USE.

Pursuant to the July 17, 2004, *Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX*, we accept the modifications to the 2012/13 – 2015/16 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for the MCAG region in accordance with the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning published in the February 14, 2007 Federal Register. We find that the MCAG’s FTIP, through Amendment # 13, was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the metropolitan planning provisions of 23 U.S.C. 174, and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Sections 1201, 1202, 20005 and 20006 of Public Law 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

We have determined that this program modification is exempt from the regional emissions analysis requirements pursuant to the transportation conformity provisions found in 40 CFR Part 93. This finding has been coordinated with Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding between DOT and EPA on Transportation Conformity*, dated April 25, 2000. Therefore, we find that the FTIP continues to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

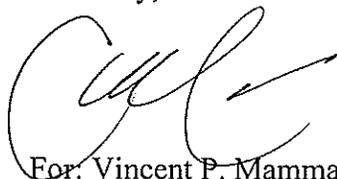
This approval is provided with the understanding that the FTA funding approval on the individual projects contained in the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements, and that approval of this programming action does not provide a Federal eligibility determination for CMAQ projects or any other project funding source included in this amendment.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our approval for this MCAG FSTIP amendment, please contact Cecilia Crenshaw (cecilia.crenshaw@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5033.

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Mammano', written over a circular stamp or seal.

For: Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration