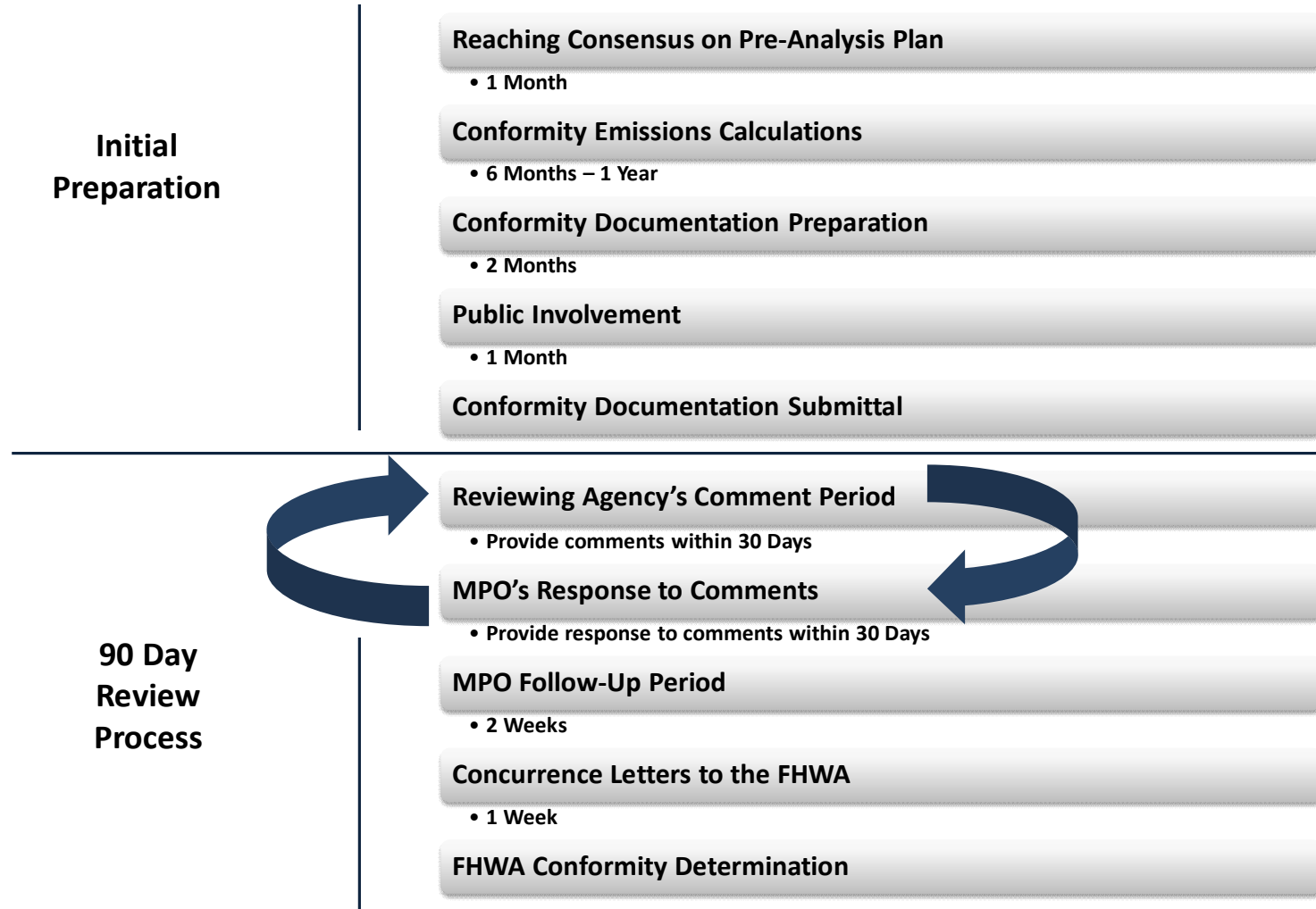


# Texas Transportation Conformity Process Illustration

(Conformity Illustration is accompanied by the Conformity Process Description below)



## **Texas Transportation Conformity Process Description and Contacts**

### **Pre-Analysis Plan: Reaching Early Consensus**

The metropolitan planning organization (MPO) emails a pre-analysis plan to reviewing agency contacts and hosts a conference call to introduce it. Reviewers email comments to the MPO, copying the other contacts. Once consensus is reached, the MPO prepares its conformity determination according to the consensus. Reaching consensus takes about a month.

### **Conformity Calculations**

A conformity determination begins with running the travel demand model, including all new projects, then calculating emissions using the latest U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved emission factor model. Calculations take about six months to one year.

### **Conformity Determination Documentation**

Once the air quality calculations are done, the MPO prepares a narrative and finalizes the documentation. This takes about two months.

### **Public Involvement**

The MPO completes a public involvement process, which consists of a 30-day comment period that includes one or more public meetings. The MPO responds to public comments and incorporates any necessary changes into its conformity documentation. The MPO also alerts the reviewing agencies that public involvement has started.

### **Conformity Determination Adopted and Documentation Submittal**

The MPO policy board adopts the conformity determination and mails it to each reviewing agency division director. The format is as follows: a cover letter and CD are mailed. A printed copy is available upon request and the conformity documentation is posted on the MPO website.

## **90-Day Review Process**

### **Review and Comment (30 days)**

Once the MPO has completed its public involvement and finalizes its conformity determination, the MPO director mails a letter and CD to reviewing agency division directors (copying appropriate contacts). This starts a 30-day review process among reviewing agencies. Within 30 days, reviewing agency contacts email their questions and comments to the MPO contact, copying the other contacts. The MPO may schedule a conference call.

### **Response to Comments (30 days)**

The MPO considers the questions and comments and responds by email, copying all reviewing contacts. The MPO may schedule a conference call.

### **Follow-Up (two weeks)**

The MPO and reviewers follow up with additional questions and responses until all issues are resolved. This usually occurs by e-mail.

### **Concurrence Letters to the FHWA (one week)**

Reviewing agency directors send a concurrence letter to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) director within a week of the resolution of all issues. A reviewing agency may send its letter as soon as that agency's issues are resolved, or the agency may wait until all reviewing agencies' issues are resolved.

### **FHWA Conformity Determination (one week)**

The FHWA, on behalf of itself and the Federal Transit Administration mails a final determination letter to the MPO director, copying the other reviewing agency contacts.

## Conformity Review Contacts

### **Federal Highway Administration, Texas Division**

Mr. Al Alonzi, Division Administrator  
300 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 826  
Austin, TX 78701

Contacts: **Air Quality Team Lead**

Mr. Jose M. Campos at 512-536-5932 or jose.campos@dot.gov

**Air Quality Specialist**

Ms. Barbara C. Maley, AICP at 214-224-2175 or barbara.maley@dot.gov

### ***and***

FHWA Planning Coordinator contacts:

Beaumont–Port Arthur: Mr. Kirk Fauver at 512-536-5952 or kirk.fauver@dot.gov

Dallas–Fort Worth: Ms. Barbara Maley at 214-224-2175 or barbara.maley@dot.gov

Houston-Galveston-Brazoria: Mr. Jose Campos (contact info above)

El Paso: Ms. Genevieve Bales at 512-536-5942 or genevieve.bales@dot.gov

### **Federal Transit Administration, Region VI**

Mr. Robert C. Patrick, Regional Administrator  
819 Taylor Street, Room 8A36  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Contact: Director, Planning and Program Development

Mr. Donald Koski at 817-978-0571 or donald.koski@dot.gov

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6**

Mr. Guy Donaldson, Chief, Air Planning Section  
1445 Ross Ave, Suite 1200, Mail Code: 6PD-L  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Contact: Mr. Jeff Riley at 214-665-8542 or riley.jeffrey@epa.gov

### **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

Mr. David Brymer, Director, Air Quality Division  
Post Office Box 13087, MC-206  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Contact: Jamie Zech, Ph.D., at 512-239-3935 or jamie.zech@tceq.texas.gov

### **Texas Department of Transportation**

Mr. Carlos Swonke, Director  
Environmental Affairs Division  
125 E. 11th Street  
Austin, TX 78701-2483

Contact: Ms. Jackie Ploch at 512-416-2621 or Jackie.Ploch@txdot.gov

### ***and***

Mr. Lauren D. Garduño, P.E.

Interim Director Transportation Planning & Programming Division

118 E. Riverside Dr.

AUSTIN, TX 78704-1202

**Contact:** Ms. Peggy Thurin, P.E., at 512-486-5036 or peggy.thurin@txdot.gov

### ***and***

### **TPP-Systems Planning Field Representatives**

El Paso – Mr. Tim Juarez 512-486-5028 or Tim.Juarez@txdot.gov

HGAC – Ms. Megan Campbell 512-486-5042 or Megan.Campbell@txdot.gov

Conformity preparation contacts

**Beaumont–Port Arthur Area**

Mr. Bob Dickinson, Director,  
Transportation and Environmental Resources Division  
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission  
2210 Eastex Freeway  
Beaumont, Texas 77703  
Contact: Mr. Bob Dickinson 409-899-8444 x7520 or bdickinson@setrpc.org

**Dallas–Fort Worth Area**

Mr. Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation  
North Central Texas Council of Governments  
Post Office Box 5888  
Arlington, Texas 76005-5888  
Contact: Ms. Jenny Narvaez at 817-608-2342 or JNarvaez@nctcog.org

**El Paso Area**

Mr. Michael Medina, Interim Director  
El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization  
10767 Gateway West, Suite 605  
El Paso, Texas 79935  
Contact: Mr. Mike Medina at 915-591-9735, x17 or mmedina@elpasompo.org

**Houston–Galveston–Brazoria Area**

Mr. Alan Clark, Director, Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Houston-Galveston Area Council  
Post Office Box 22777  
Houston, Texas 77227-2777  
Contact: Graciela Lubertino, Ph.D., at 713-993-4582 or graciela.lubertino@h-gac.com

Technical contact:

Dennis Perkinson, Ph.D.  
Research Scientist / Program Manager  
Transportation Modeling Program  
Texas A&M Transportation Institute  
2929 Research Parkway  
Gibb Gilchrist Building, Room 374  
College Station, Texas 77843-3135  
979-862-4926 or d-perkinson@tamu.edu

Technical Work Group contact:

Mr. Christopher Sasser  
Research Editor  
Texas A&M Transportation Institute  
2929 Research Parkway  
Gibb Gilchrist Building, Room 219  
College Station, Texas 77843-3135  
979-845-7568 or c-sasser@tamu.edu

