

## DCHC MPO Technical Committee

### Additional Agenda Item for 5/23/18 Meeting

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#### Proposed TC Action

Recommend that the DCHC MPO Board grant authorization to a TC subcommittee to release the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report for a minimum 30-day public comment period as soon as the Report is ready.

#### Background and Request

In the past, the DCHC MPO has been required to complete an Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ-CDR) for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Basically, the AQ-CDR demonstrates that certain pollutant emissions from the future transportation sector would not exceed a specified threshold. In the most recent updates to the 2045 MTP and FY 2018-2027 TIP, the MPO was not required to complete an AQ-CDR because the Triangle area was no longer designated as “non-attainment” or part of a maintenance program for any pollutant.

However, the ruling in a recent court case could put the MPO back into a maintenance program. The court case is under appeal. A maintenance program means that the area remains designated as “attainment” but must continue to complete the AQ-CDR to demonstrate that the area’s transportation sector won’t slip back into “non-attainment.” It should be noted that the inter-agency meeting of accountable state, federal and MPO staff will occur on June 18, 2018, and therefore, at this time, MPO staff do not know the exact AQ-CDR schedule or any project impacts. Nonetheless, MPO staff recommends creating, releasing for public comment and approving the AQ-CDR report as soon as possible to minimize any projects impacts. The MPO Board traditionally does not meet in July, which could delay AQ-CDR approval. Therefore, the MPO Technical Committee (TC) should request that the MPO Board grant authorization to a TC subcommittee to release the AQ-CDR as soon as it is ready.

#### Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ-CDR)

The AQ-CDR discusses the applicability of air quality regulations, the emissions budgets (i.e., thresholds for pollutant emissions), the financial, land use and transportation planning assumptions, and the methodology for calculating emissions for each county. The Report does not commit the MPO to any projects or programs that are not already in the MTP and TIP. For a detailed view of the AQ-CDR, see the following link, which is a copy of the *Research Triangle Regional Conformity Determination Report* that was approved for the 2040 MTP: [www.bit.ly/2040MTP-AirQuality](http://www.bit.ly/2040MTP-AirQuality).