



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Nick Gill, Transportation Director

DATE: February 22, 2023

SUBJECT: **Proposed Resolution T-4-23: “Adopting Updated Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Central Ohio Ozone Maintenance Area”**

Resolution T-4-23 adopts and updated air quality conformity determination necessitated by an amendment being made by the Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS) to their 2020-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Federal transportation planning regulations and Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require that Transportation Plans for a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) located in an air quality non-attainment area or area previously non-attainment and currently classified as maintenance area include a determination that the Transportation Plan is in conformity with the State Implementation Plan (SIP), which establishes how the area will meet or maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This is known as an air quality conformity determination. This is required when complete Plan updates are completed every four years and when any amendments to the Plan are adopted between full updates. Furthermore, since air quality areas do not follow MPO boundaries, when there are multiple MPOs in the air quality area, all MPOs must adopt a resolution the air quality conformity determination.

Six counties in central Ohio, which span both the MORPC and LCATS geographies, are currently classified as a maintenance area with regard to ozone NAAQS. In March LCATS is completing their process to adopt an amendment to their 2020-2050 Transportation Plan to add a freeway widening project. MORPC, working with LCATS has updated the previous air quality conformity determination document. The updated document which is available on the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan section of the MORPC website ([www.morpc.org/mtp](http://www.morpc.org/mtp)). Resolution T-4-23 completes our part of the collaborative process with LCATS for this.

Attachment: Resolution T-4-23

RESOLUTION T-4-23

**“ADOPTING UPDATED AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION FOR THE CENTRAL OHIO OZONE MAINTENANCE AREA”**

WHEREAS, the counties of Franklin, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Madison and Knox counties have previously been in non-attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone; and

WHEREAS, these counties are currently meeting the NAAQS for ozone and are classified as a maintenance area with regard to the ozone NAAQS; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) by the governor acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation and in cooperation with locally elected officials for Franklin and Delaware counties, New Albany, Pataskala and Etna Township in Licking County, Violet and Bloom townships in Fairfield County, and Jerome Township in Union County; and

WHEREAS the Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS) is designated as the MPO for the Newark Urbanized Area and serves the balance of Licking County; and

WHEREAS, the six-county USEPA ozone maintenance area consists of two metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), MORPC and LCATS and each MPO develops a metropolitan transportation plan for its respective transportation study area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 49 USC, 1607, 23 USC, 134 and 42 USC, 7506, and requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, MPO Transportation Plans in ozone maintenance areas must be analyzed based on accepted methodology to be in conformity with the State Implementation (SIP) to maintain the NAAQS; and

WHEREAS, in March 2023, LCATS will amend their 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the LCATS 2020-2050 amended MTP has been analyzed and has been determined to be in conformity as documented in the *Air Quality Conformity Determination Documentation for the Franklin, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Madison and Knox County Ozone Non-Attainment Area and the Franklin, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield and Coshocton County (Franklin Twp.) PM 2.5 Non-Attainment Area dated February 2023*; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Federal Highway Administration’s procedural requirements, MPOs in the same air quality area not amending their MTP must also adopt a resolution to adopt the amended air quality conformity determination analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its February 27, 2023 meeting, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its March 1, 2023 meeting recommended approval to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Section 1. That it adopts the updated Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Central Ohio ozone maintenance area as documented February 2023 available on the MORPC website.

Section 2. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of the committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

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Erik J. Janas, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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Date

Prepared by: Programming Department Staff