North Carolina Division

310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 856-4346
(919) 747-7030
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ncdiv/

April 6, 2026

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-NC

Mr. Daniel Johnson, Secretary
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Subject: Metrolina Region Transportation Conformity Determination

Dear Secretary Johnson:

The Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 reviewed the Metrolina Region Transportation Conformity Determination Report (CDR) and supporting documentation:

- The Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (CRMPO) made a conformity determination on their 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the CRMPO FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on February 25, 2026.
- The Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) made a conformity determination on their 2055 MTP and the FY 2026-2029 TIP on February 18, 2026.
- The Gaston Cleveland Lincoln MPO (GCLMPO) made a conformity determination on their 2055 MTP and the FY 2026-2029 TIP on March 26, 2026.
- The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) had no regionally significant projects in the FY 2026-2029 portion of the State FY 2026-2035 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the donut area within Union County.

No comments were received on the CDR and comments received on the MTPs and TIPs were satisfactorily addressed by the MPOs.

Based on the February 16, 2018, South Coast Air Quality Management District vs EPA ruling, we find the FY 2026-2029 TIPs are a direct subset of the MPOs Metropolitan Transportation Plans.

The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration have reviewed these documents. We coordinated this conformity process with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 and their review letter is attached.

Based on our review, we find that the 2055 MTPs and TIPs for the CRMPO, CRTPO, GCLMPO and the donut area of Union County conform to the purpose of the State Implementation Plan in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93.

Sincerely,

For Yolonda Jordan
Division Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Mike Abraczinskas, Director, Division of Air Quality, NCDEQ
Weston Freund, Environmental Protection Specialist, Region 4
Robert Sachnin, AICP, Director Planning & Program Development, FTA, Region 4
Ronald Smith, FTA, Region 4
Leigh Wing, P.E., Director of Planning & Programming, NCDOT
Brennon Fuqua, Public Transportation, NCDOT
Andy Bailey, Transportation Planning, NCDOT

REGION 4
ATLANTA, GA 30303

April 3, 2026

Yolonda Jordan
Division Administrator
North Carolina Division Office
Federal Highway Administration
310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Dear Ms. Jordan:

Thank you for your letter requesting our review of the transportation conformity determination for the 1997 and 2008 8-Hour Ozone Conformity Determinations for the Updated 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTP) and the Amended FY 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) for the Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (CRMPO), the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO), Gaston Cleveland Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO), and the FY 2026-2035 State Transportation Improvement Program for the Donut Area in Union County Located in the North Carolina Portion of the Charlotte Bi-State Maintenance Area. As allowed by the Transportation Conformity Rule, the South Carolina portion of this Maintenance area implements transportation conformity independent of the North Carolina portion of this area. We have completed our review and recommend a finding of conformity for the 1997 and 2008 8-hour ozone standards for the Updated 2050 MTPs, Amended FY 2026-2035 TIP and FY 2026-2035 STIP for the CRMPO, CRTPO, GCLMPO and the donut portion of Union County in the bi-state Charlotte, North Carolina Maintenance Area.

On August 15, 1997, and subsequently on July 1, 2004, and May 6, 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published revisions related to the "Criteria and Procedures for Determining Conformity to State or Federal Implementation Plans of Transportation Plans, Programs, and Projects Funded or Approved Under Title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act," or Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93). These revisions outline the criteria that must be met for the 8-hour ozone standard. The EPA has reviewed the conformity determinations related to both the 1997 and 2008 8-hour ozone standards for the Updated 2055 MTPs and Amended FY 2026-2035 TIPs and FY2026-2035 STIP for the CRMPO, CRTPO, GCLMPO and the donut portion of Union County in the bi-state Charlotte, North Carolina Maintenance area and has concluded that all of the criteria have been met, including those outlined in the July 1, 2004, conformity rule revision entitled, "Transportation Conformity Rule Amendments: Conformity Amendments for New 8-hour Ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ National Ambient Air Quality Standards, Response to March 1999, Court Decision and Additional Rule Changes," (69 FR 40004).

Thank you again for the opportunity to review the conformity determinations for the 1997 and 2008 8-hour ozone standards for the Updated 2050 MTPs and Amended FY 2026-2035 TIPs and FY2026-2035 STIP for the GCLMPO, CRMPO, CRTPO and the donut portion of Union County in the bi-state Charlotte, North Carolina Maintenance area. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Weston Freund of my staff at (404) 562-8773.

Sincerely,

JEANNIE WILLIAMSON

Digitally signed by JEANNIE WILLIAMSON
Date: 2026.04.03 08:54:59 -04'00'

Jeannie Williamson
Manager
Air Regulatory Management Section

cc: Mike Abraczinskas, NCDEQ
Robert Sachnin, AICP, Director Planning & Program Development, FTA, Region 4
Ronald Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist, FTA, Region 4
Leigh Wing, P.E., Director of Planning & Programming, NCDOT
Alpesh Patel, Transportation Planning Branch, NCDOT
Andy Bailey, Transportation Planning Branch, NCDOT
Simone Jarvis, EPA Region 4
Gillian Walshe-Langford, EPA Region 4