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September 1, 2026

Mr. Garrett Eucalitto
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Subject: Approval of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2027-2030 and Air Quality Conformity Determination

Dear Commissioner Eucalitto:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the concurrent joint reviews of Connecticut's FFY 2027-2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the air quality conformity reviews for the FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) and their associated FFY 2023-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs) for each of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

This letter jointly approves the FFY2027-2030 STIP while confirming the underlying TIPs and MTPs conform to the Clean Air Act and State Implementation Plan (SIP) guidelines, a determination that remains active until a new evaluation is required.

State Transportation Improvement Program

FHWA and FTA make the following Transportation Planning Findings, as per 23 CFR 450.220 and 23 CFR 450.330:

- The projects in the STIP are based on a planning process that meets the requirements of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135; 49 U.S.C. 5303-5305; subparts A, B, and C of 23 CFR 450; and other applicable Federal requirements.
- Determination of STIP compliance has also been based on the CTDOT's self-certification and the MPO self-certifications, routine FHWA/FTA involvement in the statewide and metropolitan planning processes (e.g., review, concurrence, or approval of various planning documents), and the CTDOT's progress in addressing past planning findings.
- The metropolitan TIPs are based on a continuing, comprehensive transportation planning process carried on cooperatively by the State, the MPOs, and the transit operators in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134; 49 U.S.C. 5303-5305; and subparts A and C of 23 CFR 450.

- Determination of TIP compliance has also been based on joint MPO/CTDOT self-certification statements, routine FHWA/FTA involvement in the metropolitan planning processes (e.g., review, concurrence, or approval of various MPO documents), and finding from FHWA/FTA Certification Reviews of transportation management area planning processes.

The FHWA and FTA will provide recommendations at a later date detailing actions that should be implemented to improve processes and planning products.

Based on our joint review, the FHWA and FTA have determined the FFY 2027-2030 STIP for Connecticut substantially meets the requirements of 23 USC 134 and 135, 49 USC 5303-5305, and Subpart A, B, and C of 23 CFR 450, and hereby approves the STIP

Air Quality

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Transportation Conformity Rule stated in 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93, and the U.S. DOT's Metropolitan Planning Rule stated in 23 CFR Part 450, a conformity determination must be completed as a joint action by the FHWA and the FTA. The FHWA and the FTA reviewed the CTDOT's "Ozone and PM2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination" report dated March 2026, as submitted to the federal agencies on March 12, 2026. These analyses evaluated conformity of the MPO's 2023 – 2050 MTPs and the FFY 2027-2030 TIPs to the budgets in the current SIP for air quality. CTDOT's report was also transmitted to EPA Region 1 for their review.

By email dated August 26, 2026, the EPA notified the FHWA and FTA of their finding that the submitted air quality conformity analyses support U.S. DOT making a positive conformity determination. In particular, EPA Region 1 supports positive conformity determinations for the following areas:

- (1) the Connecticut portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT 2008 8-hour ozone nonattainment area;
- (2) the Greater Connecticut 2008 8-hour ozone nonattainment area;
- (3) the Connecticut portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT 2015 8-hour ozone nonattainment area;
- (4) the Greater Connecticut 2015 8-hour ozone nonattainment area;
- (5) the Connecticut portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT, 1997 annual PM2.5 attainment area with a maintenance plan;
- (6) the Connecticut portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT, 2006 24-hour PM2.5 attainment area with a limited maintenance plan; and
- (7) the New Haven PM10 attainment area with a limited maintenance plan.

Accordingly, based on FHWA and FTA's joint evaluation of the TIPs and MTPs in addition to input received from CTDOT and EPA, FHWA and the FTA have determined that the TIPs and MTPs are in conformity with the goals of the SIP, are consistent with the Clean Air Act, and are consistent with the EPA conformity regulations as stated in 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93.

The conformity determination of the TIPs and MTPs will remain in effect until such time as a new determination is required by 40 CFR 93.104.

FHWA and FTA look forward to discussing progress on the forthcoming documented recommendations at monthly meetings. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Jennifer Brady of FHWA at (860) 494-7567, or Jonathan Schmidt of FTA at (617) 494-4742.

Sincerely yours,

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Peter Butler
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration Region 1

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