

Attachment 2

Memorandum:

To: RPC Commissioners

From: Dave Walker, Transportation Program Manager
Tim Roache, Executive Director

Date: August 8, 2018

Subject: UPWP Contract Amendment/Air Quality Conformity

In February 2018 a decision was handed down by the D.C. Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals that vacated certain aspects of the implementation of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Ozone and the revocation of the 1997 NAAQS.

The Federal Highway Administration has interpreted this to mean that areas that were formerly considered "Non-Attainment" under the 1997 NAAQS must immediately resume New Source Review and Transportation Conformity to prevent "backsliding", or the worsening of air quality. This requires that any changes or updates to the TIP or Metropolitan Transportation Plan that involve projects that are not-exempt from the Clean Air Act must be subject to air quality conformity analysis before they can be approved. The MPO was part of the Southern New Hampshire Non-Attainment Area under the 1997 NAAQS.

To adopt the FY 2019 – FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program later this fiscal year, the MPO must provide an air quality conformity analysis that demonstrates the proposed projects in the MPO TIP and Metropolitan Transportation Plan do not worsen air quality in the region. In order to complete these analyses, the MPO must update its travel demand model and adjust staff hours within our Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). These actions require the RPC to amend the contract with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

The proposed contract amendment entails updating our UPWP to include a task description and staff hours under task 209 Air Quality Conformity Analyses. It also requires \$26,465 in additional funding from the NHDOT to support consultant services need for the travel demand model update.

We are providing this information to the RPC as the contracting entity and seeking a motion to move forward with the proposed amendment.