



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 02 2000

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: EPA-DOT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Transportation Conformity

FROM: Merrylin Zaw-Mon, Director *Merrylin Zaw-Mon*
Transportation and Regional Programs Division
Office of Transportation and Air Quality

TO: Air Director, Regions I-X

I am pleased to inform you that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Transportation (DOT) was signed on April 19, 2000. The purpose of the MOU is to improve coordination between the federal agencies in the transportation conformity and SIP processes. A copy of the MOU is attached for your reference.

The MOU provides EPA, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with an improved framework for coordinating and working through issues in the conformity and SIP processes. The MOU's provisions will ensure that:

- EPA and DOT field offices consult regularly on conformity determinations and transportation-related SIPs;
- Unresolved, conformity-related issues are escalated for discussion at senior levels of EPA and DOT management;
- Federal coordination is maintained when transportation programs, plans and projects will not conform to an area's air quality goals; and
- New transportation control measures (TCMs) which have air quality benefits can proceed when transportation activities do not conform to an area's air quality goals.

I encourage you and your staff to work with your FHWA and FTA counterparts to examine how the MOU's provisions can improve your current consultation processes. I look forward to working with you to implement the MOU's provisions and goals.

Without your support for the principles the MOU establishes, it would not have been possible for us to reach this agreement with DOT. I appreciate your region's involvement in the development of the MOU.

If you have questions on the MOU, please contact Meg Patulski of my staff at 734) 214-4842.