

CHAPTER 10: INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION

10.1 Process Description

Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 93.112 (40 CFR 93.112) of the conformity rule includes procedures for interagency consultation, resolution of conflict, and public consultation of the conformity analysis affecting the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program.

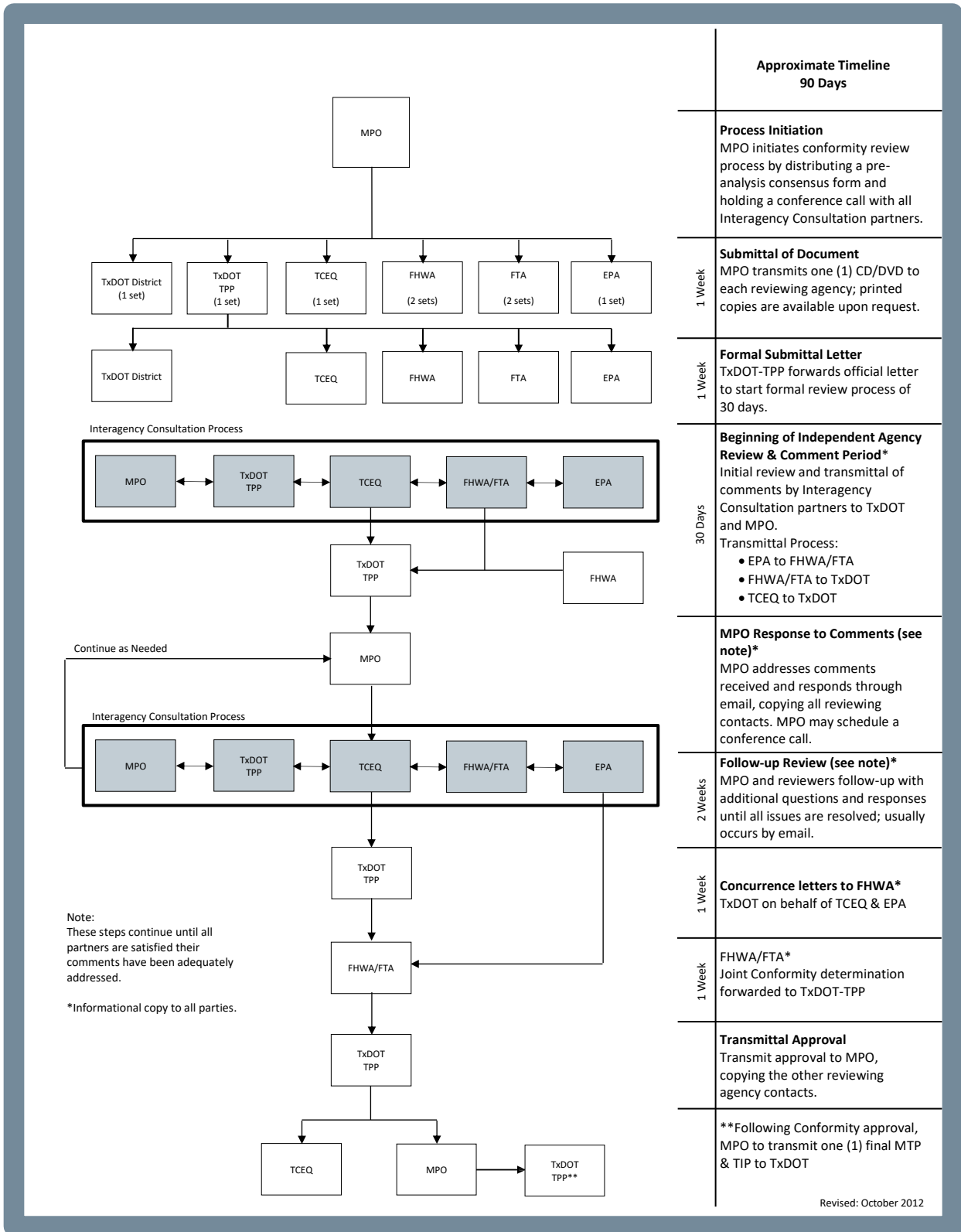
The Metropolitan Planning Organization must provide reasonable opportunity for consultation with federal, State, and local transportation authorities on several issues described in 40 CFR 93.105. In response to this requirement, the Texas Mobile Source Modeling Technical Working Group and its subcommittees meet regularly to address and consult on various conformity-related topics in the State. Issues discussed include evaluating and choosing models and associated methods, determining regional significant project definitions, conformity documentation format, review process and requirements, to name a few. Establishment of consultation procedures aid in effective communication, provide equal opportunity to all consultation partners to ask questions, provide comments and/or concerns that help reach consensus with mutual cooperation. Exhibit 10.1-1 summarizes interagency consultation held during this conformity development, review, and approval. Appendix 12.12 contains all interagency consultation correspondence that occurred before local determination of this conformity document by the Regional Transportation Council. Exhibit 10.1-2 illustrates the consultation process as implemented for this conformity analysis following local policy body approval. Successful completion of this consultation process is key to receiving a favorable conformity determination at the federal level.

Exhibit 10.1-1: Interagency Consultation Conference Call Participation

| Date | MPO | TxDOT | TCEQ | FHWA | EPA | Subject |
|---------------|-----|-------|------|------|-----|-----------------------------|
| May 18, 2017 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Conformity Notification |
| March 1, 2018 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pre-analysis Consensus |
| May 7, 2018 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Conformity and Plan Updates |
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**Note: Federal Highway Administration acts as executive agent for Federal Transit Administration on transportation conformity determinations.*

Exhibit 10.1-2: Interagency Consultation Process



Note:
These steps continue until all partners are satisfied their comments have been adequately addressed.
*Informational copy to all parties.