



# EAST-WEST GATEWAY Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Transportation Planning Committee - Missouri Members**  
**FROM: East-West Gateway Staff**  
**DATE: March 1, 2013**  
**SUBJECT: Monday, March 4, 2013 meeting**

The next meeting of the Missouri subcommittee of the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) is scheduled for **Monday, March 4, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at East-West Gateway Council of Governments offices.** (Reminder parking is available at Stadium-East Garage)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed materials or the upcoming meeting please contact EWGCOG. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

## AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Regional Sustainable Development Planning Grant Update – Jennifer Howland
3. Federal Certification Review – Jason Lange
4. Semi-Annual Conformity Determination – Jason Lange
5. Reasonable Progress – Anna Musial
6. Other business

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**James M. Wild**

Gateway Tower  
One Memorial Drive, Suite 1600  
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451

314-421-4220  
618-274-2750  
Fax 314-231-6120

webmaster@ewgateway.org  
www.ewgateway.org



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**Memo to:** Missouri Transportation Planning Committee

**From:** Staff

**Subject:** Semi-Annual Conformity Determination

**Date:** March 1, 2013

The conformity process is intended to ensure that the programs and activities proposed in the region's long-range transportation plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) conform to State Implementation Plans (statewide air quality plans), which set out benchmarks against which progress is measured in meeting national goals for cleaner and healthier air. Under the transportation conformity regulations, the Council is the agency responsible for conducting the conformity determination.

The conformity analysis typically is completed during the annual update of the TIP and the long-range transportation plan. Projects that receive the most scrutiny during the conformity process are those that add capacity to the transportation system by building new roads, new interchanges or by adding through lanes to existing roads. Whenever modifications are made to the TIP that includes projects that add capacity to the system, the Council is required to make a new conformity determination. If a capacity-adding project is not included in a conformity analysis, it cannot be added to the TIP.

The development of the conformity determination is a time consuming process that can take four to five months from beginning to end. This includes one month to run the travel demand model, complete the regional emissions analysis and publish a draft conformity determination document. The draft conformity determination is released to the Interagency Consultation Group (IACG) for their review fifteen days prior to the document's release for public comment. The IACG consists of representatives from East-West Gateway, State, and local air quality planning agencies as well as Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Following the IACG review, the document is released for public comment for a minimum of thirty days. Following the public comment period, the document is submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. When the Board of Directors approves the conformity determination, it is submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for review. The federal agencies require 30 days to review and approve the conformity determination.

If more than two conformity determinations are performed during a single year, there exists a possibility of having multiple versions of a conformity determination document

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out for public comment and federal review at the same time. To ensure this situation is avoided, staff proposes a semi-annual conformity determination schedule to limit the number of conformity determination documents to two each year. An exception would be made if a major transportation funding program outside of the current transportation law is approved (i.e. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009).

The table below details the schedule for the semi-annual conformity determination.

<b>Proposed Semi-Annual Conformity Determination</b>		
	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Semi-Annual<sup>1</sup></b>
Projects due	March 31	October 15
Prepare and run travel demand model/ complete draft conformity determination	April 1 – April 30	October 16-November 15
IACG review	May 1 – May 15	December 1 – December 15
Board review	May (last Wed)	mid December <sup>2</sup>
Public participation	June 1 – July 1	December 16 - January 15
Board approval	July (last Wed)	January (last Wed)
Federal approval	August 1 – August 31	February 1 – February 28
NOTES:		
1. Will only be conducted if there are projects submitted by the project due date 2. Draft conformity determination to be emailed. No Board of Directors meetings in November or December		
All dates are illustrative and subject to change. A revised schedule will be provided at the beginning of each year		

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the semi-annual conformity determination schedule. An exception would be made if a major transportation funding program outside of the current transportation law is approved (i.e. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009).