



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**


REGION IX
Arizona, California,
Hawaii, Nevada, Guam
American Samoa,
Northern Mariana Islands

90 Seventh Street
Suite 15-300
San Francisco, CA 94103-6701
415-734-9490
415-734-9489 (fax)

Mr. Scott Smith, CEO
Valley Metro
101 North 1st Avenue, Suite 1300
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Attention: Wulf Grote, Director, Capital & Service Development

OCT 09 2018

Re: Environmental Determination Request:
Design Refinements for the South Central
Light Rail Extension Project

Dear Mr. Smith 

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has completed its review of the June 8, 2018 letter from Valley Metro, supporting documentation, and the additional September 27, 2018 letter outlining the outcome of additional public outreach. The letters and supporting documentation requested FTA review of an environmental re-evaluation for the following design changes to the South Central Avenue Light Rail Extension Project (Project):

- Addition of trackwork at several additional locations in Downtown Phoenix
- New stations/platforms in Downtown Phoenix
- Addition of three signal buildings and one traction power substation
- Additional improvements (mill and overlay, sidewalk replacement, relocation of signs, and modifying the length of right turns) on 7th Street and 7th Avenue at Interstate 17

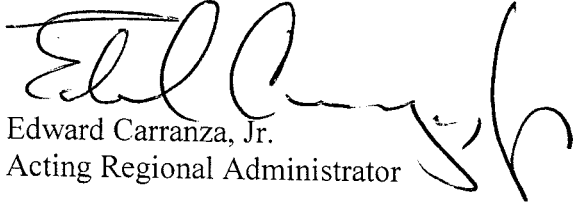
The Project was previously the subject of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated January 6, 2017. In its letter, Valley Metro indicated that neither the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) nor an Environmental Assessment (EA) is necessary, in accordance with 23 CFR §§ 771.115, 771.119, and 771.130(c), for a design change for the Project.

Based on the environmental re-evaluation materials submitted and past experience with similar projects, this review finds that the design changes: do not induce significant environmental impacts to planned growth or land use for the area; do not require the relocation of significant numbers of people; do not have a significant impact on natural, cultural, recreational, historical or other resource; do not involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts; do not have significant impacts on travel patterns; do not result in any use of historic or other resources within the meaning of Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, 49 USC § 303; and do not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts.

The FTA finds that the changes described in the re-evaluation materials are not substantial and that the changes will not cause significant environmental impacts that were not previously evaluated. Neither the preparation of a SEIS nor an EA is necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Dominique M. Kraft at 415-734-9469 or dominique.kraft@dot.gov .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Carranza, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward Carranza, Jr.
Acting Regional Administrator