



## Chapter 12: Air Quality Conformity

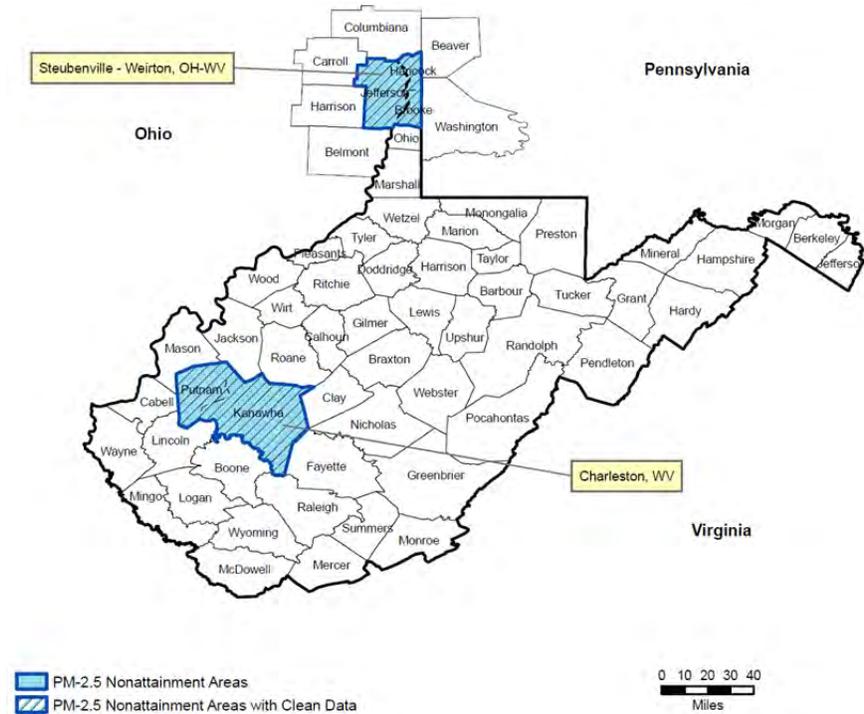
Transportation air quality conformity is a way to ensure that federal funding and approval are awarded to those transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals. Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), transportation and air quality modeling procedures must be coordinated to ensure that the TIP and MTP are consistent with the region's air quality State Implementation Plan (SIP).

A nonattainment area is an area considered to have air quality below the acceptable threshold of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) as defined in the CAA. Nonattainment areas must possess and implement a plan to meet the minimum standard or risk losing eligibility for some forms of federal highway funding. Kanawha and Putnam counties are designated nonattainment areas for both the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> (annual) and the 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard (24-hour) NAAQS. Based on recent monitor readings showing compliance with both standards, a redesignation request and ten-year maintenance SIP is being prepared for the area. Both counties are in attainment for the 8-hour ozone standard.

In order to receive transportation funding and approvals from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), state and local transportation agencies with plans, programs or projects in nonattainment or maintenance areas must demonstrate that all transportation air quality conformity requirements of the CAA are being met as set forth in the transportation conformity rule. As such, transportation plans are expected to conform to the SIP. The integration of transportation and air quality planning is intended to ensure that transportation plans, programs, and projects will not:

- Cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area;
- Increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area;
- Delay timely attainment of any standard or any required interim emissions reductions or other milestones in any area; or

**FIGURE 44: WV PM2.5 NONATTAINMENT AREAS (2006 STANDARD)**



The transportation air quality conformity determination includes an assessment of estimated future highway emissions for defined analysis years including the end year of the plan. Emissions are estimated using the latest available planning assumptions and available analytical tools including the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) latest approved emission factor model. The conformity determination provides a tabulation of the analysis results for applicable pollutants showing that the required conformity test was met for each analysis year.

A technical report, documenting the transportation conformity analysis results, is provided in Appendix E. Based on the analyses, it has been determined that the Metro Mobility 2040 Plan would not cause any decrease in region’s air quality or delay the timely attainment of the NAAQS.