

To: Transportation Committee
Cc: Policy Board
Lyle Wray, Executive Director
Rob Aloise, Director of Planning
From: Pramod Pandey, Principal Planner II
Date: March 12, 2021
Subject: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program – Project Rankings

In December of 2020, CRCOG invited municipalities to submit proposals for projects to be funded under the federal *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality* (CMAQ) Program. Under this round of CMAQ funding, which typically covers a two-year period, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has reserved \$12 million each year, prior to matching requirements, to fund CMAQ project proposals from the MPOs/Rural COGs. Per CTDOT's guidance, CRCOG will be permitted to submit five (5) projects, which must be prioritized for consideration under this solicitation.

Five municipalities each submitted a project in response to this solicitation. Since CTDOT has permitted CRCOG to submit five (5) prioritized proposals, CRCOG is submitting all five (5) proposals to be considered for funding. Projects submitted to CTDOT must compete with all projects submitted statewide, with no guarantee that any project will receive funding.

In order to assign priorities to the projects, CRCOG staff used criteria similar to that which will be used by CTDOT to rank the five projects. These criteria and their components are as follows:

Cost Effectiveness: 60 points

- Emissions Benefits vs. Cost
- Emissions Benefits: used national standards and CTDOT calculation methodology or calculations supplied by the municipality
- Cost: used CTDOT calculation methodology

Regional Significance: 20 points

- Points for “regional significance”: support for regional facilities (economic development centers, employment centers, hospital, schools, freeways, etc.)
- Inclusion in a regional plan (MTP, ITS, UPWP, etc.)

Operations and Maintenance: 20 points

- Points for commitment to operate, maintain, and provide local share (if required)
- Readiness to advance project, plan for future operations and maintenance, and whether or not supplemental information was provided

The results of the staff review are detailed on the following page. CRCOG staff recommends that all five projects be submitted to CTDOT, prioritized as follows:

1. Downtown Traffic Signal Improvements – Phase 3 (Hartford)
2. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Project (Canton)
3. Municipal Electric Vehicles (West Hartford)
4. Silver Lane Bike Path and Sidewalks Project (East Hartford)
5. Citywide Traffic Signal Modernization, Phase 3 (New Britain)

CRCOG staff will be seeking endorsement by the Transportation Committee and approval by the Policy Board of the above project rankings at their meetings on March 22, 2021 and March 24, 2021, respectively.

Applicant	Project Description	Total Cost	Federal Share	Cost Effectiveness	Regional Significance	Commitment, Readiness, Supp. Analysis	Overall Score	Regional Ranking	Regional Significance Notes
				60 points	20 points	20 points			
Hartford	Downtown Traffic Signal Improvements – Phase 3. Upgrade the traffic signal system at 12 intersections in downtown Hartford.	\$3,525,500	\$3,525,500	60 (\$92/kg)	15	20	95	1	Serves major regional employment center and connects with freeway ramp; expected to relieve congestion
Canton	Electric Vehicle Charging Station Project. Provide six (6) conveniently located vehicle charging stations.	\$50,775	\$40,000	60 (\$60/kg)	10	20	90	2	innovative technology; supported by CRCOG LRTP; open to the public
West Hartford	West Hartford’s First Municipal Electric Vehicles Project. Purchase the Town’s first electric vehicles (EVs) and install a charging station for the new vehicles.	\$72,250	\$57,800	55 (\$178/kg)	10	20	85	3	innovative technology; supported by CRCOG LRTP; open to the public
East Hartford	Silver Lane Bike Path and Sidewalks Project. Represents a phased implementation of the recommendations from CRCOG’s Silver Lane Corridor Study.	\$3,443,138	\$2,754,510	40 (2,334/kg)	20	18	78	4	Connects communities and employment center; identified in a Corridor Study; closes gaps in the East Coast Greenway
New Britain	Citywide Traffic Signal Modernization, Phase 3. Improve traffic signal at 10 intersections along Corbin Avenue and Farmington Avenue.	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	45 (\$958/kg)	10	20	75	5	Primarily local, but serves as inter-town connecting road

Cost Effectiveness Points (points for \$/kg emission reduction): 60 for 0-\$100, 55 for \$100-\$250, 50 for \$250-500, 45 for \$500-\$1000 and 40 for > \$1,000.