

To: Chief Administrative Officials
From: Pramod Pandey, CRCOG - Principal Planner II
Date: December 11, 2020
c: Transportation Committee, Town Engineers, Town Planners, Directors of Public Works
Lyle Wray, Rob Aloise, Cara Radzins, Tim Malone
Subject: ***Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ): Request for Proposals***

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is inviting member municipalities to submit **proposals for projects** to be funded under the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. For each solicitation, which typically covers a two-year period, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) earmarks \$12 million each year in CMAQ funds, 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 for consideration.

CMAQ NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY

Please submit the linked [CMAQ Notice of Intent to Apply](#) by **4:00pm on Friday, January 8, 2021** to Pramod Pandey (ppandey@crcog.org).

PROJECT APPLICATION

To aid in application preparation, please download and review the following CMAQ documents via a link under the [News](#) section of the CRCOG website. Materials can also be found on the [CMAQ](#) page.

- CMAQ Letter from CTDOT to COGs (December 7, 2020)
- CMAQ Program Guide (November 2020)
- CMAQ Program Application (Fillable PDF)
- Federal Highway Administration Program Guidance

To apply for CMAQ program funding, please supply electronic copies of the following materials to CRCOG by **4:00pm on Friday, February 19, 2021** to Pramod Pandey (ppandey@crcog.org):

- Completed and signed electronic copy of the Program Application
- Copies of any other additional materials being submitted with the application, as appropriate
- Copies of letters of commitment or resolutions to identify who will own, operate, and maintain the project after it is completed, and for all matching funds. *Failure to submit these letters will cause the project to be dropped from consideration.*

When estimating project costs, towns are encouraged to use multipliers for inflation, contingencies, and incidentals per CTDOT guidelines linked [here](#).

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

This program is for *congestion management and air quality projects* that relate to the transportation system by reason of function or impact and that fall into one of the federally defined categories. A wide variety of projects and programs are eligible for CMAQ funding. CMAQ projects and programs fall into one of the following general project types:

- Diesel Engine Retrofits & Other Advanced Truck Technologies
- Transportation Control Measures (TCMs)
- Extreme Low-Temperature Cold Start Programs
- Transit Improvements
- Transportation Management Associations
- Carpooling and Vanpooling
- Carsharing
- Training
- Congestion Reduction & Traffic Flow Improvements
- Travel Demand Management
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities and Programs
- Public Education and Outreach Activities
- Freight/Intermodal
- Idle Reduction
- Inspection/Maintenance (I&M) Programs
- Innovative Projects
- Alternative Fuel and Vehicles

FHWA's Final Program Guidance (available on the CRCOG website, linked above) provides an explanation of the types of projects likely to be implemented in each of the categories as well as a list of ineligible activities.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Information received from CTDOT indicates that:

- Generally, the Federal share for CMAQ projects under this program is 80%. Projects that qualify for 100% funding per federal guidance will be funded with 100% federal share.
- The project sponsor is responsible for the local share for all phases.
- Total project cost should be between \$200,000 and \$4 million. The total cost of the project (federal and local share) includes design, ROW acquisition, construction engineering, and operating cost if applicable. Non-construction projects, such as purchasing equipment, must have a total cost of at least \$50,000 (\$40,000 federal share).
- The funds provided under this program are on a cost reimbursement basis.
- CTDOT expects to solicit CMAQ projects from the regions every two years.
- CTDOT's Census / Modeling unit will analyze each project submitted to CTDOT for air quality benefits.

CRCOG'S EVALUATION & SELECTION PROCESS

To submit the most competitive projects, CRCOG staff proposes rating project proposals utilizing CTDOT's project selection criteria as a general guideline. These criteria and their components listed below will be discussed during the Transportation Committee meeting on January 25, 2021.

Ranking Criteria

- **Cost Effectiveness:** 60 points
- **Regional Significance:** 20 points
- **Operations and Maintenance:** 20 points

CRCOG staff will present recommendations regarding proposal rating and ranking at the Transportation Committee meeting on **March 22, 2021**. Transportation Committee members will discuss these recommendations and either endorse as presented or revise. Endorsed recommendations will be forwarded to the Policy Board for approval at its meeting on **March 24, 2021**. The approved projects will be forwarded to CTDOT by **April 7, 2021** per CTDOT's deadline.

If you have any questions regarding the CMAQ program or process, please contact Pramod Pandey (ppandey@crcog.org or 860-724-4216) or Tim Malone (tmalone@crcog.org or 860-724-4221).