



January 26, 2015

MEMORANDUM: 012615

To: COG Members
From: Mark Nielsen, Planning Director
Pat Gallagher, Senior Planner
Subject: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program: Call for Applications
Cc: Town Engineers, Public Works Directors

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is soliciting applications for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. CMAQ funds projects that reduce congestion and help meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, carbon dioxide, and particulate matter set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

PROJECT APPLICATION

Prior to completing an application, please carefully review the CMAQ guidelines posted on the NVCOG website.

<http://nvcogct.org/content/congestion-mitigation-and-air-quality>

In order to pre-screen project proposals and assist NVCOG staff with ranking and evaluation, an NVCOG application form has been prepared. The form needs to be completed and submitted to the NVCOG by **Monday, March 9th at 4:30 p.m.** NVCOG staff will determine project eligibility and provide an initial evaluation of the appropriateness of the project concept. Sponsors will then be advised to complete the full CTDOT application.

To apply for the CMAQ program, please submit the following to NVCOG by **Monday, March 30th at 4:30 p.m.**

- Completed and signed copies of the CMAQ Application ([Link](#)).
- Letters of commitment or resolutions to identify who will own, operate, and maintain the project after it is completed.
- Letters of commitment or resolutions for all matching funds. The program funding ratio is 80% federal share and 20% local funds. Failure to submit these letters will cause the project to be dropped from consideration.
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) applications must also complete a System Engineering Analysis FORM (SEAFORM).

Applicants are encouraged to use CTDOT's Cost Estimating Guidelines for inflation multipliers, contingencies, and incidentals.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

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

For transit projects, the organization proposing the project must either be a designated grant recipient with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or there must be a designated grant recipient willing to apply on their behalf. Alternative fuel vehicle projects will not be accepted under this program. These projects should be submitted through the CTDOT's Clean Fuel Program.

FUNDING INFORMATION

CTDOT has an allocation of \$10 million annually for CMAQ projects. Two years of funding (\$20 million total) are available through this solicitation.

- The total project costs should be between \$200,000 and \$3 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 Federal share for CMAQ projects is generally 80%, although some projects may qualify for 100% Federal share.
- Project sponsors are responsible for the local share on all phases.
- Funds are provided on a reimbursement basis. The project sponsor is reimbursed for costs incurred after receiving funding authorization and a notice to proceed. Cost incurred prior to project selection and a notice to proceed will not be reimbursed.

PROJECT SELECTION AND RANKING

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by NVCOG staff in conjunction with the applicant's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) board. **CTDOT has indicated that each MPO may submit up to three ranked projects.** NVCOG's review/ranking criteria will be guided by CTDOT's project selection process with input from the Public Works Working Group and MPO boards.

NVCOG staff will present the project rankings to each MPO board for their endorsement. Applications must be forwarded to CTDOT by April 30, 2015. CTDOT will then analyze eligible projects for air quality benefits and will rate projects based on cost effectiveness (up to 60 points), regional rankings (up to 20 points), and operations and maintenance plan (up to 20 points).

For more information please contact Mark Nielsen (mneilsen@valleycog.org) or Pat Gallagher (pgallagher@cogcnv.org)

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

CMAQ applications must be endorsed by the applicant's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board prior to submission to CTDOT. Each MPO can submit up to three applications to CTDOT for consideration. NVCOG municipalities are members of three MPOs as listed below.

Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, Cheshire, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, Prospect, Southbury, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, Woodbury, and Wolcott.

Greater Bridgeport Valley MPO*

Ansonia, Derby, Seymour, and Shelton

** NVCOG will coordinate their applications through GBVMPO*

Central Connecticut MPO*

Bristol and Plymouth

**CCMPO municipalities will coordinate their applications through NVCOG, CRCOG, and NWHCOG.*