



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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December 7, 2020

To: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/Rural Council of Governments (COG) Directors

From: Maribeth Wojenski
Transportation Assistant Planning Director
Bureau of Policy and Planning

Subject: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program – Call for Applications

The purpose of this letter is to solicit applications for the Department of Transportation's (Department) CMAQ Program. It is requested that each MPO/Rural COG solicit applications from eligible stakeholders located within their boundaries. Project proposals must be submitted to the Department by **April 7, 2021** to be considered for funding.

Attached please find a copy of the November 2020 program guide entitled, "The CMAQ Program Guidance and Procedures for Connecticut's MPOs/Rural COGs." This Guide is being provided to assist your member municipalities and organizations. The Guide provides information on the Program, outlines the procedures used by the Department to select projects that are eligible for CMAQ funding, and provides instructions for completing the application. It also provides a link to FHWA's Final Program Guidance issued in November 2013 along with several guidance documents on specific issues. FHWA's guidance is quite comprehensive and discusses all aspect of the CMAQ Program. Project sponsors should review this guidance before developing proposals to ensure that the desired activities are CMAQ-eligible.

The MPOs/Rural COGs are responsible for soliciting and prioritizing projects from stakeholders located within their boundaries. Each MPO/Rural COG should review all projects for funding eligibility. Using its own ranking process, each MPO/Rural COG must then submit its top **applications** to the Department in priority order based on the criteria below:

- MPOs/Rural COGs with up to 10 member towns – 3 applications
- MPOs/Rural COGs with 11-20 member towns – 4 applications
- MPOs/Rural COGs with 21 + member towns – 5 applications

The MPO/Rural COG board must endorse the list of prioritized projects. Project applications received that are incomplete or deemed ineligible will not be considered.

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. Although private and non-profit groups may apply, the Department will only enter into an agreement with a public agency to fund CMAQ projects.

Therefore, a private or non-profit entity applying for CMAQ funds must coordinate with its respective municipality or another appropriate public sponsor.

The Department's CMAQ application must be used by project sponsors to provide project and applicant information. The Department's fillable PDF application can be found as a separate attachment to the Guide for the MPO/RURAL COGs. All applications, including all supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department's Bureau of Policy and Planning for eligibility review and rating by April 7, 2021. All applications should be sent to Mr. Grayson Wright, Transportation Planner 2, at grayson.wright@ct.gov.

Each project proposal received will be screened for eligibility and feasibility. Those found to be eligible and feasible will be analyzed for air quality benefits. The project will then be evaluated and prioritized using the Department's project rating criteria.

A copy of the application, along with the emissions report for those projects that are selected for funding, will then be submitted to the USDOT for final eligibility determination and approval. The MPO/Rural COGs will be notified of the results of the project selection process once completed and the selected projects will then be advanced to scoping. Those projects that are eligible, but not selected for funding, will need to be resubmitted for future consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Wright at grayson.wright@ct.gov.

Attachment

cc: Ms. Amy Jackson-Grove, FHWA
Mr. Kurt Salmoiraghi, FHWA
Ms. Jennifer Carrier, FHWA
Mr. Erik Shortell, FHWA
Mr. Peter Butler, FTA
Ms. Kristin Wood, FTA
Ms. Leah Sirmin, FTA