



**Memorandum**  
**December 12, 2018**

**To:** Our Partners in Transportation Planning  
**From:** Isidro (Sid) Martinez, Director  
**Subject:** Notification of a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding Call for Projects

The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has issued a call for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funded projects to implementing agencies in support of improving the region's air quality. The MPO Transportation Policy Board will select the projects that will be funded.

**Program Overview**

CMAQ funding is a federal funding source allocated by formula to MPOs designated non-attainment under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, with a population greater than 200,000. This is not a grant program. CMAQ is a reimbursable program only and all federal and state rules apply.

Only projects/programs within Bexar County are eligible for submittal.

Applicants can include municipalities, counties, regional mobility authorities, river authorities, and school districts.

Contingent upon the availability of federal funding, the estimated total amount of CMAQ funds available for this project call is estimated at \$60,000,000 for Fiscal Years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

**Examples of CMAQ Eligible Projects and Programs**

Examples of CMAQ eligible projects and programs include:

Projects

- Congestion reduction and traffic flow improvements
- Freight and intermodal
- Transportation control measures
- Transit improvements

- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Travel demand management
- Innovative projects

## Programs

- Diesel engine retrofits and other advanced truck technologies
- Idle reduction
- Transportation control measures
- Transit improvements
- Bicycle and pedestrian programs
- Travel demand management
- Public education and outreach activities
- Transportation management associations
- Carpooling and vanpooling
- Carsharing
- Extreme low temperature cold start program
- Training
- Inspection and maintenance programs
- Alternative fuels and vehicles
- Innovative projects

## **Program Requirements**

1. Infrastructure projects submitted for funding consideration must have a minimum construction cost of \$1,000,000. Projects that add to or reduce the capacity of a roadway are not eligible.
2. For infrastructure projects: only eligible items related to construction will be reimbursable; all project development costs (design, engineering, utility relocation and right of way acquisition, as examples) are the responsibility of the implementing agency.
3. There is no minimum funding level set for programs submitted for consideration.
3. A minimum 20% cash match on the project/program cost is required. Additional technical points are awarded for matching a project/program at 30% or more. An in-kind match is not allowed.
4. Although the MPO selects projects for CMAQ funding, TxDOT is the federally designated pass-through agency for this funding source. Entities awarded funding will enter into an agreement with TxDOT. TxDOT will require reimbursement of their costs for review and coordination of the project/program.
5. Implementing agencies (entities with which TxDOT is able to legally enter into a financial agreement such as cities, counties, regional mobility authorities, river authorities, and independent school districts) will be required to sign the project/program

understanding form and submit it along with the submittal form and other supporting documents.

6. If an implementing agency submits more than one project/program, the MPO requires the implementing agency to prioritize their projects/programs.
7. The projects/programs selected for funding will be placed in fiscal year 2020, 2021, or 2022 of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
8. The implementing agency commits to developing and letting selected projects in the year in which the projects are programmed in the TIP and MTP.

### **MPO/TxDOT Workshop**

Early in calendar year 2019, the MPO and Texas Department of Transportation will jointly host two informational workshops. The two workshops (at approximately 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) will be similar in content and format and will be held on the same day at the MPO Office to provide information and support to agencies submitting projects. Workshop attendance is required for all agencies who plan on submitting for this project call.

### **Project/Program Submittal**

One project/program submittal form is required for each project/program being submitted. The project/program submittal form will be available online with the opportunity to upload additional documentation.

The Project submittal package will consist of:

- Project submittal form (online)
- Project location map showing adjacent land use
- Detailed cost estimate
- Typical cross sections for the submitted project
- Emissions reductions analysis using the CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit
- Signed project understanding form
- Implementing agency resolution of support for the project and commitment of local match and overmatch (if applicable) of project
- Additional resolutions or letters of support from implementing partners

The Program submittal package will consist of:

- Program submittal form (online)
- Detailed cost estimate
- Timeline of deliverables
- Emissions reductions analysis using the CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit
- Signed program understanding form
- Implementing agency resolution of support for the program and commitment of

- local match and overmatch (if applicable) of program
- Additional resolutions or letters of support from implementing partners

The Project/Program submittal packages will be accepted electronically only by the stated deadline. Incomplete packages will not be accepted.

### **Project/Program Scoring**

The project scoring criteria for CMAQ funds is as follows:

- 50% reductions in emissions
- 20% cost/benefit in emissions reductions
- 10% congested corridor project
- 10% overmatch at 30% or higher (20% match is the minimum required)
- 10% multiagency partnerships or multimodal projects

The program scoring criteria for CMAQ funds is as follows:

- 50% reductions in emissions
- 20% cost/benefit in emissions reductions
- 10% overmatch at 30% or higher (20% match is the minimum required)
- 20% multiagency partnerships or multimodal programs

Submitted projects and programs will be evaluated and technically scored by a multiagency work group based on the adopted criteria. The scoring system is based on a 100 point system. Some projects may not be able to be technically scored.

To calculate the emissions reductions of submitted projects, implementing agencies will use the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit unless stated otherwise. During the project scoring process, a multiagency workgroup will review the assumptions made by the submitting agency to calculate emissions reductions. The toolkit is located here: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/toolkit/index.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/toolkit/index.cfm)

### **Public Involvement Process**

The MPO believes in the proactive involvement of citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, private providers of transportation, and other interested parties in the development and updates of transportation plans and programs. The MPO commits to public outreach that meets or exceeds its adopted Public Participation Plan. In addition to a public meeting held in Bexar County, an online public input opportunity will also be available.

## **Project Selection Process**

The MPO's Technical Advisory Committee will develop an initial funding recommendation. The Technical Advisory Committee will consider the calculated emissions reductions, implementing agency's priorities, project readiness, public input and technical score. When developing the funding recommendation, the Technical Advisory Committee may also set thresholds for emissions reductions, technical scores, public support, implementing agency priorities and project readiness. In addition to the funding recommendation, all submitted projects will be presented to the Transportation Policy Board and will include emissions reductions, technical score, public comments, implementing agency priorities, and additional notations. The Transportation Policy Board will select the CMAQ funded projects for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program and Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

This information and other resource documents are also available on the MPO's website at [www.alamoareampo.org](http://www.alamoareampo.org). It is the responsibility of the implementing agencies to visit the MPO's website regularly for any updated information on the project call. For additional assistance, please contact Jeanne Geiger at 210-227-8651 or at [geiger@alamoareampo.org](mailto:geiger@alamoareampo.org).