2019 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program:
Introduction/Question and Answers Webinar

Thursday, September 26th, 2019
TDOT Long Range Planning Division
WebEx Meeting:
Meeting number (access code): 646 852 937
Meeting password: nMpPdQMy
Join by Phone: 1-415-655-0003
Agenda

• CMAQ 2019 Overview – Timeline
• What is CMAQ?
• Eligibility – Project Areas
• Eligibility – Project Specific
• Funding
• Buy America
• ADA Compliance
• eGrants Application Process
• Questions and Answers
2019 CMAQ Overview – Timeline

- Letters of Intent Due
  - September 18, 2019
- Approvals/Rejections Provided to Applicants
  - September 20, 2019
- Full Proposals Open
  - September 24, 2019
- Full Proposals Close
  - October 22, 2019
- Awards Announced
  - January 2020
What is CMAQ?

Overview:
• The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program was established to help fund transportation projects or programs that contribute the non-attainment or maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
Eligibility – Project Areas

Eligible Particulate Matter (PM$_{2.5}$) Non-Attainment Areas:
- Anderson (Whole), Blount (Whole), Hamilton County (Whole), Knox (Whole), Loudon County (Whole), Roane County (Partial)

Eligible Ozone (O$_3$) Maintenance Areas:
- Davidson (Whole), Cocke (Partial), Jefferson (Whole), Montgomery (Whole), Rutherford (Whole), Sevier (Whole), Shelby (Whole), Sumner (Whole), Williamson (Whole), Wilson (Whole)
Eligibility – Project Specific

All CMAQ projects **must meet three basic requirements**. Each project must:

1. Must be a transportation project;
2. Must be located in (or provide benefits to) either a non-attainment or maintenance area; and,
3. Must have an emissions reduction benefit.
## Eligibility – Project Specific

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 CMAQ Interim Guidance – Eligibility Categories</th>
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Funding

100% of Federal Share (No Match Required):
• Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)*
• Carpool
• Vanpool
• Traffic Signalization
• Other safety projects

80% of Federal Share (20% Local Match Required):
• All other CMAQ Projects

50% of Federal Share (50% Local Match Required):
• Funds that involve a public/private partnership (PPP)
  – A legally binding, written PPP agreement must be in place if awarded
Buy America Requirements

- 23 CFR 635.410 and 23 U.S.C. 313

- If steel and/or iron materials are to be permanently incorporated into any CMAQ project, all manufacturing processes, including application of a coating, for these materials **must occur in the United States**. Coating includes all processes which protect or enhance the value of the material to which the coating is applied. This is a **Federal Highway Administration requirement**. Regulations do permit a **minimal use** of foreign steel and/or iron in a Federal-aid project in the amount of $2,500 or one-tenth of one percent, whichever is greater.

- A waiver process based on public interest or the availability of domestic products *
ADA Compliance

- All CMAQ funded projects shall be developed to comply with TDOT roadway design standards. Additional work required to address accessibility deficiencies within the limits of project and any ADA upgrades if required may not eligible for 100% federal funding, addressing such features will require 20% local match. All projects seeking for CMAQ funding shall scope addressing accessibility related issues when putting together project estimates. Refer to roadway design guidelines for additional guidance.

- Projects developed by locals and let by locals are also under obligation to follow the same guidance since local agencies are obligated to comply with the FHWA ADA Transition plan requirements by end of 2019. For more guidance, refer to the Roadway Design Division’s ADA Office.
eGrants Application Process

Click **Here** to submit Application.
Questions and Answers
Can a project extend beyond a non-attainment/maintenance area?

- Yes. However 50% or more of the primary air quality benefit must be in the eligible non-attainment/maintenance area.

- Counties adjacent to the eligible area can be included in the application, but should not be the primary focus of the emissions reductions.
How detailed should the project budgets be?

- Project budgets should provide an accurate picture of the activities that are necessary to carry out the project. Submitted budgets should be detailed, and to the degree possible, based on reliable cost estimates for activities proposed in the project.
Can CMAQ awards be used to hire full time employees?

• Personnel costs could be an eligible item for some projects that require personnel to do the work of the grant-funded activities.

• Eligible billable time is based on an employee’s time directly spent conducting activities for the project. This must be documented as part of the project’s reporting.

• Examples:
  – Outreach Coordinator of a rideshare or transportation demand management project.
  – Preliminary Engineering
  – Operating Assistance
How are projects evaluated and ranked through project selection process?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emission Reduction Estimates</td>
<td>1-20 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost-Effectiveness of Project Emission Reductions</td>
<td>1-20 Points</td>
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<td>Quality of Emissions Reduction Estimation Methodology and Analysis</td>
<td>1-20 Points</td>
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<td>Regional Efforts and Complementary Projects</td>
<td>1-10 Points</td>
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<td>Regional Priorities</td>
<td>1-10 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Readiness</td>
<td>1-10 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Schedule and Project Management</td>
<td>1-10 Points</td>
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Total Possible Points: 100
What establishes a Public-Private Partnership?

- Before a CMAQ-funded project may be implemented, a legally binding partnership must be developed. A written agreement must be in place between the public agency and the private or non-profit entity.

- Usually, TDOT accepts a letter of support from a public sector indicating – if in the event of a ownership change, issues related to insolvency, etc., - the federal investment is protected.
What if I cannot fit the narrative within the word count?

The eGrants software limits the word count to help make the review process easier, and to standardize the narrative portion of all applications.
What are some tools to calculate emissions metrics?

- [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/toolkit/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/toolkit/)

- FHWA’s Office of Natural Environment has developed various tools helpful for the implementation of the CMAQ Program.
How long will it take to obtain funding after my project is awarded?

- TIP/STIP will need to be amended and approved
- Initiation Packet completed and submitted
- NEPA/Buy America
- Contract
- Request funding to be obligated
- Funding is obligated
- Notice to Proceed is issued
How will the pending rescission affect my project?

• We do have about $35 million available to award in this call for projects; however, the final awards made will be dependent on the number of applications we receive.

• We are aware of the Rescission and do plan to accommodate that in the final decision we make on awards.

• The FHWA will issue a Notice signed by the FHWA Administrator outlining the FAST Act rescission and including preliminary rescission amounts by State and program/fund source by October 2019.
Who should I contact if I’m having trouble with the eGrants software?

- **Brianna Benson @ TDOT**
  - Brianna.Benson@tn.gov
  - 615-532-8589

- **Help Desk**
  - helpdesk@agatesoftware.com
  - 1-800-820-1890
What questions do you have today?
Air Quality Office

- **Brianna Benson | Supervisor**
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- **Susan Steffenhagen | Planning Specialist**
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