

**2019 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program
Question and Answer for Full Proposals**

Question Type	Question	Response
APPLICATION	How do I handle multi-year budgets in the proposal?	TDOT expects the first year of a multi-year project to be funded out of FY 2017 - FY 2018 CMAQ funds.
APPLICATION	Is there a project maximum for funding?	There is no maximum funding amount set for individual projects.
APPLICATION	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 extent possible, based on reliable cost estimates for activities proposed in the project. Cost-effectiveness is an important part of the project selection criteria, and a high budget estimate will affect your proposal's score. Similarly a low estimate could artificially inflate cost-effectiveness. The amount of the grant award is based on the selected applicant's proposed budget, and any cost overruns will be the responsibility of the applicant.
APPLICATION	Can TDOT provide a list of consultants that are qualified to perform an emissions analysis?	TDOT maintains a list of pre-qualified consultants on the TDOT website (http://www.tn.gov/tdot/topic/consultantinfo). The list details the services offered by each consultant. Contact information is also provided.
APPLICATION	Can I submit two projects in one proposal?	It would be best to submit those as separate projects, as they could include different project types with different emissions benefits, budgets, etc.
APPLICATION	What if we can't fit our narrative within the word count?	The intent of using the eGrants software to limit word counts is to make the review process easier, and to standardize the narrative portion of the applications.
APPLICATION	Can one agency submit multiple applications?	Yes, there is no limit on how many applications an agency can submit for consideration.
APPLICATION	If I forget to include some information, can I submit it after the deadline?	Applications that are submitted missing any required information will not be considered.

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APPLICATION	In the project timeline you indicated that the applicant would need to walk the project through the TIP/STIP, NEPA, Buy America. Would you all coordinate with us to make that happen?	Yes, we work with awardees to help expedite these processes.
APPLICATION	Will there be a place for supporting documents?	Yes; supporting documents may be uploaded in the Site Map or emailed prior to the submittal deadline to TDOT.CMAQ@tn.gov .
ELIGIBILITY	Do the US steel requirements apply to specialist pre-manufactured items, such as bicycles, bike racks and bike shelters?	Yes, any iron and/or steel permanently incorporated into a project must meet Buy America requirements.
ELIGIBILITY	For projects that include no steel/iron (Education and Outreach, etc.) Is there any documentation you all would need to demonstrate that it doesn't apply to our project?	No, if your project clearly is not permanently incorporating any iron and/or steel, you will not need to demonstrate Buy America compliance.
ELIGIBILITY	Can you expand on the "non-federal" definition of the 20% local match?	You cannot match a federal funding source with another federal funding source. Therefore, the Local Match cannot include any additional federal dollars, in addition to the awarded CMAQ funding. This Local Match may include various State and Local resources.

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ELIGIBILITY	Please expand on the 100% eligibility of safety projects within the CMAQ program. Can you provide an example?	Safety Projects are an eligible project type under the CMAQ Guidance; however, these projects still must be a transportation-related project that clearly demonstrates emissions reductions and/or congestion mitigation.
ELIGIBILITY	You mentioned signalization and eligible for 100% funding. Would a roundabout be the same?	Yes, roundabouts may be eligible for 100% funding. However, ADA compliance associated with the project may require a local match.
ELIGIBILITY	Do non-intersection specific projects (fiber interconnect) require ADA compliance at each intersection along the route?	Yes. All intersections within CMAQ-funded projects must adhere to TDOT's Roadway Design Guidelines.
ELIGIBILITY	Can ROW acquisition be considered part of the local match?	ROW cannot be used as part of the required local match; however, ROW costs are an eligible expense under the CMAQ program.
ELIGIBILITY	Is my community eligible to receive CMAQ funding?	CMAQ funding is only available for use in non-attainment/maintenance areas for the 8-hour ozone and annual fine particulate matter (PM2.5) emission standards.
ELIGIBILITY	How are projects evaluated and ranked?	Projects in eligible areas across the state are ranked by a diverse Review Team, based off an evaluation scoring template .
ELIGIBILITY	Are freight projects allowed to be submitted?	Yes, projects targeting freight capital costs (rolling stock or ground infrastructure) are eligible provided that air quality benefits can be demonstrated. Freight projects that reduce emissions fall generally into two categories: primary efforts that target emissions directly or secondary projects that reduce net emissions.

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ELIGIBILITY	What if a municipality is interested in a CMAQ project, but is not able to apply during this call for projects; when is the next opportunity to apply?	TDOT typically releases a call for proposals annually. Please be sure to request your name be added to our solicitation list for announcements on the next round of funding opportunities.
ELIGIBILITY	What types of projects must also incorporate ADA Upgrades compliant with PROWAG standards?	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 be eligible for 100% federal funding; addressing such features will require 20% local match.
ELIGIBILITY	If a project is signal controller/ITS, we expected ADA compliance with TDOT Roadway Design. Would the entire project have to be funded 80-20 or is only the ADA-related items 80-20?	This will be determined on an individual project-by-project basis.
ELIGIBILITY	If my project is 100 % funded for Phase I, will other phases be 100% funded as well?	Not necessarily; funding matches and cycles are determined on an individual, project-by-project basis. Funding award amounts will also depend on meeting ADA compliance issues.

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ELIGIBILITY	Can CMAQ funds be used to build corridor infrastructure OUTSIDE of current or former non-attainment areas?	Yes. The Fast Act adds a CMAQ priority for EV and Natural gas stations along designated corridors
ELIGIBILITY	What is expected when covering language related to Public Private Partnerships (PPP)?	<p>What TDOT/FHWA will be looking for are that the roles of each party, and how the federal investment be protected to ensure the project is completed as proposed. From TDOT's and FHWA's perspective, the partnering agency will need to provide some level of protection for the federal investment.</p> <p>Additionally, the PPP agreement would need to follow State and Federal law. Section VII.C. in the 2013 CMAQ Guidance identifies some requirements as they relate to CMAQ.</p>
ELIGIBILITY	Can CMAQ awards be used to hire full time employees?	For some projects that require personnel to do the work of the grant-funded activity, personnel costs could be an eligible item. For example, an outreach coordinator for a rideshare or transportation demand management project. However, only the portion of the employee's time directly spent conducting activities for the project is eligible. Time and activities must be documented as part of project reporting.
ELIGIBILITY	Would a competitive bid be required if replacement vehicles are on a state bid list?	No. Replacement vehicles that are already included on the State Bid List do not require a separate competitive bid.
ELIGIBILITY	Should the value of the old vehicle being replaced be listed as well?	The value of the old vehicle should be included if the applicant intends to sell or scrap the old vehicle. Revenue from the old vehicle will be counted against the federal award for the project. Destruction of the old vehicle's engine is required and must be documented to TDOT prior to reimbursement.

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ELIGIBILITY	Are bi-fuel conversions or replacements allowable under CMAQ?	Yes. Bi-fuel projects are allowed under the CMAQ program. Projects that include a bi-fuel system must use a minimum of 80% alternative fuel and must document the amount of each type of fuel used throughout the project term.
ELIGIBILITY	What types of projects qualify for operational assistance?	<p>Operating assistance is limited to new transit, commuter and intercity passenger rail services, intermodal facilities, and travel demand management strategies, including traffic operations centers, inspection and maintenance programs, and the incremental cost of expanding these services.</p> <p>In using CMAQ funds for operating assistance, the intent is to help start up viable new transportation services that can demonstrate air quality benefits and eventually cover the costs as much as possible. Operating assistance includes costs of providing new transportation services, including but not limited to labor, fuel administrative costs and maintenance. Projects that include acquisition, operation or development of models or monitoring networks are not eligible under this grant competition.</p> <p>More information on using CMAQ for operating assistance can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/cmaqfs.pdf</p>
ELIGIBILITY	How will NAAQS designations affect eligibility?	<p>Projects must benefit areas that are non-attainment/maintenance as designated by US EPA:</p> <p>https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo_tn.html</p>
EMISSIONS	If I want to submit an attachment (emissions methodology, letters of support), where can I do so?	<p>Only as absolutely critical to reviewing the project, we will accept PDF documentation as submitted under the Budget Summary page.</p> <p>Please indicate somewhere in the narrative, where this material is posted.</p>

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EMISSIONS	Is cost-effectiveness calculated based on entire project cost, or amount of award requested?	This cost should be calculated based on total CMAQ funding requested.
EMISSIONS	Does TDOT maintain a reference list of emission reduction factors for use in CMAQ applications?	<p>TDOT does not maintain a reference list for emissions factors; however, the criteria pollutants are: CO, VOCs, NOx, and PM2.5. Emission rates for different source types can vary by county based on a number of factors.</p> <p>The local MPO in the location of the project may be able to provide assistance based on previous, similar projects.</p>
EMISSIONS	Can a project extend beyond non-attainment/maintenance area?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>However, 50% or more of the primary air quality benefit must be in the eligible non-attainment/maintenance area. Counties adjacent to the eligible areas can be included in the application, but should not be the primary focus of the emissions reductions.</p>
EMISSIONS	What are the limitations on the emissions methodology?	<p>While we are recommending US EPA MOVES 2014a software, we realize there may not be practical applications for all of the project types that are eligible under CMAQ.</p> <p>However, you are free to use any methodology you choose, but it must generate values for the required pollutants (CO, VOCs, NOx, and PM2.5) and for the required duration of time. These values will be used to look at cost effectiveness (i.e., \$/unit of pollutant reduced)</p> <p>Additionally, please be clear about any assumptions or calculations used.</p>
EMISSIONS	What are some other tools we can use to generate emissions metrics?	https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/toolkit/
EMISSIONS/ SOFTWARE	What methodology should I use for hybrid buses?	<p>We have recommended applicants use the EPA's Diesel Emissions Quantifier:</p> <p>https://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/diesel-emissions-quantifier-deq</p>

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SOFTWARE	Is there a way to add organization members in eGrants?	Yes. My Organization(s) > Organization Members: in purple letters > Add Members: purple letters > Enter name into person search > select Agency Staff as role.
SOFTWARE	How do I change the status of my Full Proposal?	Login into eGrants > Select My Application along Header Bar>Select CMAQ from drop down menu for Application Type> Select the Hyperlink under Name> Select the View Forms button under View, Edit and Complete Forms> Make sure each of the Application Forms have the below icon to the left with the pencil/paper> Select Click here to submit – this will bring you to a new page > here, Click Application Submitted status.
SOFTWARE	Using the on-line application form, is it possible to save an incomplete application and finish at a later time or return to a completed application to make edits?	Yes. Additionally, if TDOT deems any/all portions of the project to be insufficient, we will send back to the entity via the eGrants software. The entity should receive an email that the application has been sent back for revisions.
