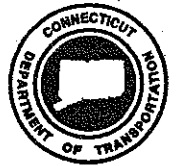


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone:

October 14, 2011

To: Regional Planning Organization (RPO) Directors

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

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

In cooperation with the RPOs and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Department of Transportation (Department) has updated the program guidelines for the federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. Attached, please find a copy of the program guide entitled "Connecticut Department of Transportation's CMAQ Program Guide for the Regional Planning Organizations" (Guide).

This Guide is being provided to assist your member municipalities and organizations that are interested in the CMAQ Program as a potential funding source. The Guide provides information on the CMAQ Program, outlines the procedures used by the Department to select projects that are eligible for CMAQ funding, and also provides instructions for completing the Department's CMAQ application. It also provides a link to FHWA's Final Program Guidance issued in October 2008. FHWA's guidance is quite comprehensive and discusses all aspect of the CMAQ Program. Project sponsors should review this guidance before developing project proposals to ensure that the desired activities are CMAQ-eligible.

It is requested that each RPO solicit applications for the Department's CMAQ Program. CMAQ Project proposals must be submitted to the Department by **December 30, 2011** to be considered for funding.

The RPOs are responsible for soliciting and prioritizing projects from stakeholders located within their boundaries. Each RPO should review and verify project eligibility for CMAQ funding. Using its own ranking process, each RPO must then submit its top **three applications** (three copies of each) to the Department in priority order. The RPO 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 CMAQ application can be found in the attached Guide for the RPOs in Attachment A on page 10. All applications, including all supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department's Bureau of Policy and Planning for eligibility review and rating by December 30, 2011. All applications should be addressed to:

Mr. Grayson Wright
Transportation Planner 2
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Bureau of Policy and Planning
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06111

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 by the Department's Census/Modeling unit. The project will then be evaluated and prioritized by the Department 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 RPOs will be notified by March 31, 2012 of the results of the Department's project selection process. Selected projects will be advanced to scoping. Project proposals that are eligible for the CMAQ program but not selected for funding will have to be resubmitted for future consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Grayson Wright at (860) 594-2154.

Attachment

cc: Ms. Amy Jackson-Grove, FHWA
Ms. Eloise Powell, FHWA
Mr. Kenneth Shooshan-Stoller, FHWA
Mr. Erik Shortell, FHWA
Ms. Mary Beth Mello, FTA
Mr. Peter Butler, FTA
Ms. Joanne Weinstock - FTA
Mr. William Gordon, FTA