

September 26, 2022

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Call for Projects

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is starting a new competitive selection round for projects under the federally funded Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

CMAQ is currently authorized under the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The amount of funding available for this round of CMAQ is \$30 Million Total with the project sponsor contributing a minimum of 20% match. The overall purpose of CMAQ is to improve air quality by reducing the amount of vehicular emissions. The following guidelines have been created by the Department for this round of CMAQ selection.

The CMAQ applications selected will be included in the next State Ten Year Plan. Funding is anticipated to be available for fiscal years 2025 through 2028. Selected projects are expected to be implemented in the same timeframe.

Funding Limitations:

- The maximum recommended project budget is \$3,000,000 (total dollars) – (\$2,400,000 federal)
- Project will require at least a 20% cash match provided by the applicant

Eligible Activities:

- Alternative fuel projects including participation in vehicle acquisitions, engine conversions, and refueling or charging facilities.
- Projects that improve traffic flow, including efforts to provide signal system optimization, construct HOV lanes, streamline intersections, add turning lanes, improve transportation systems management and operations, implementing ITS and other CMAQ-eligible projects, including efforts to improve incident and emergency response or improve mobility, such as through real time traffic, transit and multimodal traveler information
- Transportation-focused (non-recreational) bicycle transportation and pedestrian improvements that provide a reduction in single-occupant vehicle travel
- Transit investments, including transit vehicle acquisitions and construction of new facilities or improvements to facilities that increase transit capacity, as well as operating assistance for new services or the incremental cost of expanded services.

Application Guidelines:

The application process is broken into three distinct and mandatory steps.

1. Submission of a Letter of Interest (LOI)
2. Attendance at a mandatory pre-application informational meeting hosted by the Department (Virtual)
3. Submission of the CMAQ application

Step 1: Submission of LOI and Map (Due Date November 4, 2022)

Submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) and map if applicable to the NHDOT, Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance. This letter is mandatory to submit an application for CMAQ funding under step 3. The letter must:

- Identify the municipality or organization applying for funding;
- Identify the project contact person, mailing address, phone & email;
- Provide a brief description of the potential project for which you'll be applying.
 - For Infrastructure projects - Give detailed information like State Route number or local street name to identify the location of your project, approximate project limits and give an approximate length.
(Maps are required to help locate and define your project.)
 - For Capital Purchases give type of vehicle, basic capacity and approx. cost.
- Provide information regarding which of the eligible CMAQ activities you believe applies to your project.
- Estimate the total amount of funding necessary for the project, as well as your intended match percentage. All project applications require a minimum 20% match, but larger matches are allowed.

These letters are completely non-binding. Providing NHDOT with this information enables the department to perform a check for program eligibility. The Department will send copies of the LOI to your governing Regional Planning Commission. This will ensure that all potentially interested parties are placed in the communications loop with NHDOT & your RPC to move forward to Step 2.

All Letters of Interest Submissions MUST be emailed:

Scan and e-mail a .pdf copy of the LOI to:

thomas.e.jameson@dot.nh.gov and jodi.m.sottilaro@dot.nh.gov

Email file size must be limited to approximately 15MB.

Deadline for Letters of Interest is November 4, 2022

Failure to meet the LOI submission deadline will result in the application not being accepted.

Step 2: Mandatory Pre-Application Workshop (December 2022)

Within 1-2 weeks of the reception deadline for letters of interest, notification of the mandatory CMAQ workshop (Virtual) will be sent to project contacts. **Please Note: Someone who will be directly involved in the management of their project must attend the workshop. Previous LPA certification will not satisfy this eligibility requirement.**

Step 3 Submission of CMAQ Application (Due Date January 6, 2023)

Any municipality or organization that has fulfilled both Step 1 and Step 2 will be eligible to submit an application. The application will be available through the CMAQ website in October 2022. Applications will be submitted to NHDOT, Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance. Failure to submit an application by the deadline will result in the application not being accepted and considered.

If your project is selected, you must designate a full-time employee of your organization as the person in responsible charge. This person must have the authority to make financial decisions for your organization. This individual must also be LPA certified by the Department. Our next LPA Certification Training will be held on November 15 and 16, 2022, and there is no cost. The Department also offers a test option for re-certification. If you currently hold a valid LPA certificate, you can renew the certification by taking and passing an exam in place of attending the full day training.

If you have any questions on the CMAQ application process please feel free to call or e-mail.

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