

Fact Sheet: Air Quality Analysis

In order for a project to be eligible for CMAQ funding, it must have an air quality benefit that will be realized in a designated nonattainment area. A map of the New Hampshire nonattainment area can be located on this site.

A benefit to air quality is demonstrated through the development of an Air Quality Analysis (AQA):

“A quantitative evaluation of the potential impacts that a project will have on specific air pollutants; Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x). The analysis may also include Carbon Monoxide₁ (CO), fine Particulate Matter (PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}), or Greenhouse Gases (GHGs).”

All AQAs for locally or regionally-administered projects must be completed in consultation with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or planning commission for your area (*visit www.nharpc.org*). For statewide projects, either the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) or the NH Department of Transportation (NH DOT) will prepare the AQA.

As each project is unique, the information required to develop a particular AQA will differ by project, but should be of sufficient detail to be able to show the “before” and “after” air pollution emissions associated with the project. Early communication with the agency assisting with the development of the AQA will help determine what information will be necessary. The following list provides examples of the types of information necessary:

- Traffic volumes, including turning volumes at intersections;
- Signal timings and/or delays;
- Travel distances and speeds;
- Number of transit vehicles, frequencies, distances, ridership information, both current levels and forecasts;
- Vehicle types impacted (passenger cars, heavy trucks, etc.) and model years if relevant;
- Idle time and vehicle starts affected;
- Current and forecasted usage (park & rides, bike/ped lanes); and
- Documentation of all assumptions.

Early coordination with the agency that will assist with the development of the AQA will also help ensure that all application deadlines are met. A failure to conduct a thorough AQA and provide it in a timely manner will disqualify a project from competing for CMAQ funding.

Any questions concerning the development of an AQA for statewide projects should be directed to either:

NH DOT – Bureau of Environment

<https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/environment/index.htm>

(603) 271-3734

NH Department of Environmental Services

<https://www.des.nh.gov/index.htm>

(603) 271-3503