

**SOUTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

# **CMAQ**

## **CONGESTION MITIGATION & AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

### **FY 2012 PROJECT APPLICATION GUIDE**

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**South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization  
782 S. Brewster Road, Unit B6  
Vineland, New Jersey 08361  
Tel: 856-794-1941  
Fax: 856-794-2549  
Website: [www.sjtpo.org](http://www.sjtpo.org)**

# PROJECT APPLICATION GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) is a federal program which funds projects and programs that improve air quality and reduces traffic congestion. It is jointly administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In SJTPO's FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, \$1.9 million in CMAQ funds is expected to be allocated for each of the next four years. These funds will be available for projects and programs throughout the SJTPO region via a competitive process. The schedule for SJTPO's selection and evaluation of CMAQ projects is set as follows:

Call for projects	December 2010
Applications due	March 7, 2011
Policy Board action	June 27, 2011

Applications must be received at the SJTPO office (e-mail [dheller@sjtpo.org](mailto:dheller@sjtpo.org) , fax, and hard copy versions are acceptable) by the above date.

## ELIGIBILITY

The CMAQ program can fund projects that reduce air-polluting emissions, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and projects that reduce traffic congestion. Programs that educate and encourage public use of alternative transportation modes, showing qualitative benefits, through not quantitatively measurable, may also be CMAQ - eligible. Qualifying projects include:

1. Traffic Flow – Traffic signal synchronization, ITS, HOV lanes, turn lanes
2. Traffic Reduction – Ridesharing, shuttle service, reduced transit fare
3. Pedestrian & Bicycle – Paths, facilities
4. Education & Outreach – Presentations, brochures, advertising
5. Clean Fuels – Natural gas, LPG, ethanol, electricity, replacement vehicles
6. Innovation – Experimental pilot programs, Emergency Service Patrol

### **Projects that do not qualify for CMAQ funding:**

1. Highway Capacity Expansion
2. Vehicle Retirement
3. Maintenance & Rehabilitation
4. Economic & Demographic Studies

The minimum funding amount for a CMAQ project in a given year is \$100,000, and there is no limit on the number of proposals a sponsor may submit. CMAQ funds are available for projects involving government, non-profit, and private entities. However, SJTPO's county and municipal members must act as project sponsors. In order to generate project proposals, counties and municipalities may solicit and gather CMAQ project ideas from various local sources, or collaborate with other local governments in

pursuing complementary or regional projects. Preference will be given to proposals that indicate ease of project implementation and deliverability.

## **Level of Funding**

**While a project may be CMAQ-eligible, the level of funding may not be 100%. For vehicle acquisitions, only the incremental cost of the difference in price between the alternative-fueled vehicle and a comparable conventional fuel vehicle will be covered. Until recently, this applied only to *private* vehicles, but now FHWA is applying the policy to all vehicles. According to recent FHWA correspondence, the estimated eligible portion of future vehicle purchases must be prorated based on the projected share of costs attributable to generating air quality benefits. All applicants should be aware of this nuance in providing their cost estimate.**

## **SELECTION**

**Steps in the selection process:**

1. SJTPO staff checks applications for clarity, completeness, and CMAQ conformity.
2. Proposals are evaluated & ranked based upon the following goals:
  - a. Deliverability
  - b. Regional compatibility
  - c. Intermodal connectivity
  - d. County & municipal cooperative efforts
  - e. Potential air quality benefits
  - f. Costs
  - g. Time constraints
  - h. Environmental issues
  - i. Public involvement
  - j. Geographic equity
3. SJTPO consults with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on its recommended project list. TAC forwards the recommendations to the Policy Board.
4. SJTPO Policy Board acts upon the recommended CMAQ project list.

Approved projects requiring quantitative air quality analysis are then processed.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

After final approval and notification of CMAQ proposals, the sponsor is responsible for implementing and completing the project. This includes any public involvement, planning, design, construction, etc. All project phases are eligible for CMAQ funds, and costs are 100% reimbursable. Projects not implemented in a timely manner run the risk of losing funds. In the case of an uncompleted project, the return of any federal funds used may be required.

## **RESOURCES**

Please refer questions regarding project eligibility, application procedures, or other CMAQ related questions to David Heller at SJTPO, [dheller@sjtpo.org](mailto:dheller@sjtpo.org).

## **USEFUL CMAQ INFORMATION**

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaqpgs/>

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/laws\\_and\\_regs/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/laws_and_regs/)

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