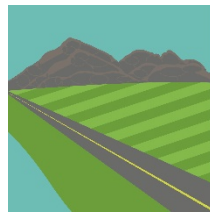


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TEHAMA COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Beginning Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2023/24 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Funding

General Overview

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program is a Federal funding program under the Fixing America's Transportation Act (FAST Act). The purpose of the CMAQ program is to fund cost-effective transportation projects that help attain federal air quality standards.

Applicants submitting for CMAQ funding must have an existing Master Agreement with Caltrans or be sponsored by a government agency that has a Master Agreement with Caltrans. Using CMAQ funds requires projects to follow federal requirements, including compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, and additional administrative and financial management requirements. As with other federally funded programs, some projects may not be the best fit for CMAQ funds due to the federal processes involved with project delivery.

Through this call for projects, the Tehama County Transportation Commission (TCTC) intends to program projects for CMAQ funding beginning in FFY 2023/24 on an annual basis.

The Tehama County Transportation Commission Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has elected to take advantage of the Caltrans Toll Credit Policy, which allows the required 11.47% match amount to be covered utilizing CMAQ Toll Credits. Note: Utilizing the Toll Credit Policy eliminates the need for local funding to cover the 11.47% required match, but has the effect of reducing the total amount of CMAQ funding available for projects, because 11.47% of TCTC's federal CMAQ apportionments is then utilized to cover the match requirement for each project.

To calculate the 11.47% match (CMAQ Toll Credits) required for projects requesting CMAQ funds, take the total project amount requested multiplied by 88.53% to get the federal participation amount and then subtract that amount from the total project request to get the 11.47% CMAQ Toll Credit match amount.

TCTC is requesting agencies interested in applying for CMAQ grant funds for beginning in FFY 2023/24 to notify TCTC staff of potential applications to verify project eligibility.

Eligible Projects

General project and program eligibility is defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and is available on the FHWA website at:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/policy_and_guidance/2013_guidance/cmaq2013.pdf.

A wide and diverse variety of projects and programs are eligible for CMAQ funding. The purpose of the program is to fund transportation projects which will contribute to attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Priority is given to certain diesel engine retrofits, and to cost effective congestion mitigation activities that help achieve NAAQS for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter.

All projects must complete NEPA requirements and meet basic eligibility requirements for funding under Titles 23 and 49 of the United States Code.

Eligible project types include:

1. Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) included in section 108 of the Federal Clean Air Act, except programs to encourage removal of pre-1980 light duty vehicles.
2. Extreme Low-Temperature Cold Start Programs
3. Alternate Fuels and Vehicles
4. Congestion Reduction & Traffic Flow Improvements (Roundabouts, Traffic Signals, etc.)
5. Transit Improvements
6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities and Programs
7. Travel Demand Management
8. Public Education and Outreach Activities
9. Transportation Management Associations
10. Carpooling and Vanpooling
11. Freight/Intermodal
12. Diesel Engine Retrofits & Other Advanced Truck Technologies
13. Idle Reduction
14. Training
15. Inspection/Maintenance (I/M) Programs
16. Experimental Pilot Projects

The following projects are ineligible for CMAQ funding:

1. Light-duty vehicles scrappage programs.
2. Projects that add new capacity for single-occupant vehicles, unless construction is limited to high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes.
3. Routine maintenance and rehabilitation projects (e.g., replacement-in-kind of track or other equipment, reconstruction of bridges, stations, and other facilities, and repaving or repairing roads).
4. Administrative costs of the CMAQ program.
5. Projects that do not meet the specific eligibility requirements of Titles 23 and 49 U.S.C.

For further information of CMAQ project eligibility, contact TCTC staff.

CMAQ Project Ranking Process

The initial project ranking process will be done by TCTC staff. Applications will be reviewed and ranked using scoring criteria described below. There are two main categories of criteria: Project Information (Section II of the application) and Project Benefits (Section III of the application).

Project Information: (50 Points Total)

Project Information will be scored against the criteria listed in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1
Project Information Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Maximum Points	Minimum Points
Description of Project Need (Maximum Points = 10)	Clearly describes the problem or deficiency the project is intended to address, existing conditions, and how project will address the deficiency	Project does not clearly describe the existing conditions and the problem or deficiency the project is intended to address
Current Status of Project Development (Maximum Points = 10)	Project has approved environmental clearance, completed design and is ready to advertise for construction	Project is still in conceptual phase and has completed little or no preliminary engineering, design, or environmental work
Consistency with Local/Regional Plans (Maximum Points = 10)	Project is consistent with and specifically listed in multiple adopted local or regional planning documents	Project is not listed in local or regional plans and has a weak nexus with general goals and objectives of local/regional plans
Demonstrated Public Support and/or Supported by Multiple Agencies (Maximum Points = 10)	Project is supported by the local community as evidenced in letters of support and/or public input received or supported or sponsored by multiple agencies	Community members are opposed to the project
Capacity to Maintain and Operate in the Future (Maximum Points = 10)	Funding source identified and committed for on-going maintenance and operations	No funding source identified for maintenance or operations

Project Benefits: (50 Points Total)

Scoring will be based upon the applicant’s narrative explanation in Section III of the application, addressing Project Benefits (25 Points) and Emission Reduction Cost-Effectiveness (25 Points).