

SFY 2014-2018 WisDOT CMAQ Project Evaluation Process
August 2013

Applications for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) will receive evaluation from three independent scoring agencies: the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT); the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). This initial independent evaluation is consistent with the project evaluation process that has occurred in previous CMAQ award cycles. The CMAQ selection committee will recommend a group of projects for funding and ultimately will approve projects after vetting through the SEWRPC Transportation Improvement Program committee as well as the WisDOT Secretary's Office.

WisDOT will score CMAQ applications for the state fiscal year (SFY) 2014-2018 award cycle according to consensus from DTIM and SE Region staff. Neither WisDOT NE Region nor Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission will review or comment on applications as NE Region did not receive any applications for this award cycle.

WisDOT will evaluate each application primarily based upon ability of the proposed project to reduce emissions from transportation sources as measured by automobile trip, Vehicle Miles Traveled and congestion reduction or vehicle and fuel technology improvement as appropriate. The Department selected its primary evaluation factors to satisfy federal performance measures as outlined in the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21).

WisDOT staff will work with Federal Highway Administration Division staff to review eligibility of project applications per federal CMAQ guidelines. WisDOT will also continue to collaborate with SEWRPC and DNR staff to ensure that all selection committee members have a similar understanding of proposed projects.

WisDOT will, in accordance with historical CMAQ selection committee practices, assign projects scores on a scale with a maximum score of 5 points. Again, WisDOT will assign scores on a consensus basis rather than averaging scores from different reviewers. The scoring scale will allow assignment of full or half-point scores, i.e. an application can score 2.5 points but cannot score 2.25 points. WisDOT will rank projects that receive the same score according to the emissions reductions estimates provided by SEWRPC.

Traditionally, the Department's scoring methodology was not as rigorously quantitative as other scoring agencies. For example, WisDOT considered the unique nature of a proposed project as compared to other applications received for a particular award cycle. Although WisDOT will continue to consider certain qualitative factors, any such consideration will be minimal and will be done according to the rating and ranking criteria outlined below and as further detailed in the scoring spreadsheet populated by WisDOT for the SFY 2014-2018 CMAQ award cycle.

Emissions Reduction Score* (1-4, only full or half points permitted)	Project type emphasized by MAP-21:** if Y, add .5	Unique or innovative project type among applications rec'd (If Y, add .5)	Sponsor history of unsuccessful or untimely CMAQ Project Implementation (If Y, subtract up to 1 point)	Cumulative WisDOT Score (out of 5)
---	--	--	---	---

*WisDOT will determine emissions reductions scores utilizing the following scale:

SUM Reduction in Air Pollution Emissions per unit cost	Score 0-.5	Score .5-1	Score 1-5	Score 5-15	Score 15-30	Score 30-40	Score 40-50	Score 50+
Emissions Reductions Score	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4

** “[N]ew language plac[es] . . . considerable emphasis on select project types including electric and natural gas vehicle infrastructure and diesel retrofits.” Source: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidecmaq.cfm>.