



# 2026-2030 CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CMAQ) APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

UPDATED: JUNE 2025

APPLICATION SOLICITATION: JUNE 6, 2025 UNTIL SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

## Project Eligibility

From a federal law perspective, CMAQ-eligible projects must include all four of the following elements:

1. It must be a transportation project.
2. It must be located in or benefit a nonattainment or maintenance area.
3. It must generate an emissions reduction.
4. Be submitted by an eligible Local Sponsor.

## Before Applying

An application is required for each proposed 2026-2030 program cycle project. Please direct questions regarding the application process to the appropriate Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Region contact listed below.

WisDOT Region	Contact	Phone	Email
SE Region	Tyler Beinlich	(262) 548-5856	<a href="mailto:tyler.beinlich@dot.wi.gov">tyler.beinlich@dot.wi.gov</a>
NE Region	Kelsey Lorenz	(920) 492-0142	<a href="mailto:kelsey.lorenz@dot.wi.gov">kelsey.lorenz@dot.wi.gov</a>

Additional project information is available on the following WisDOT web page:

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/aid/cmaq.aspx>

## Submitting an Application

Please follow the following steps when submitting your CMAQ application:

1. Include the name of the local unit of government in the file name.
2. Email the completed application(s) to the appropriate WisDOT Region email address listed below:
  - SE Region [DOTDTSDETEBPFP@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTDTSDETEBPFP@dot.wi.gov)
  - NE Region [DOTDTSNETEBPFP@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTDTSNETEBPFP@dot.wi.gov)
3. If applicable, email a copy of the application(s) to the relevant Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) contact. Refer to page 18 of the CMAQ Local Program Guidelines for a list of MPO contacts.

## Application Highlights & Tips

- CMAQ is a reimbursement program where Project Sponsors cover upfront project costs and submit costs and material evidence to be reimbursed.
- Sponsors must fund a portion of total project costs. CMAQ project costs are generally funded with 80% federal and a minimum of 20% of local funds.
- The final project scope, cost, and delivery schedule are the responsibility of the Sponsor.
- Only one Project Sponsor is allowed per project.
- To assist in completing a/n application(s), print and use these instructions.
- The Tab key can be used in the application to move to the next box or field.

## Application Deadline

**Application submission deadline is no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, September 8, 2025.** Early submission prior to the application deadline is encouraged. This allows WisDOT staff the opportunity to review applications and communicate with applicants regarding outstanding questions. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

## Application Format

WisDOT will only accept applications in Microsoft Word format. Handwritten signatures are not required. Sponsors should send any necessary attachments in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, or Google Sheets.

### Project Description

**Name, Location of Public Sponsor, and Sponsor Type.** Provide the name of Sponsor. Indicate Sponsor type by checking the appropriate box. State agencies may apply for CMAQ funds. Projects that are sponsored by a State Agency for projects on state-owned land will be administered by the Department of Administration (DOA) Division of Facilities Development. Since the DOA must co-sign the Project Agreement, contact DOA immediately to coordinate on the project.

**Project Title.** Provide a clear and descriptive project title.

**Project Location.** Describe the location, boundaries, and distance of the project. Provide the county name and street address if the project is located on a highway or road.

**MPO Name.** Refer to the WisDOT Web site for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) contact information if your project is located in a metropolitan planning area (<http://wisconsindot.gov/Documents/doing-bus/local-gov/plning-orgs/map.pdf>). Select the name of the MPO your project is represented by, if applicable. MPO review applies only to projects within urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more.

*Note:* Projects located within Metropolitan Planning Areas (MPAs) must be included in the applicable MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) after approval. MPAs include the census-defined urbanized area plus contiguous areas expected to become urbanized within the 20-year forecast period of the MPO long-range transportation plan.

**Project Representative Contact Person(s) Information.** Provide contact information for the primary public sponsor agency. In cases where the Public Sponsor is acting on behalf of a private organization, also provide contact information for the secondary organization on the project application form.

## Project Activity

**CMAQ Category.** Indicate the most pertinent category by checking the appropriate box.

**CMAQ Improvement Type.** Indicate the appropriate improvement type(s) by checking all the boxes which apply to your project.

## Project Summary

In 100 words or less, describe the project in the space provided. A project summary should describe the project well enough that the reader can make a value judgment without reading the rest of the application. Include in your summary how your project will contribute to lower emissions and mitigate traffic congestion.

## Existing Plan

Does the proposed project adhere to a local transportation plan? Check Yes or No, then check the plan type: Regional, County, Municipal, or MPO and then briefly describe the plan and plan goal.

## Existing Facilities and Projects

### Known safety issues?

Check Yes or No.

If yes, specify, and consider applying for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding, which will not count against local entitlement and is funded 90% federal and 10% local. Please refer to the following link for additional information on HSIP:

<http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-business/local-government/astnce-pgms/highway/hsip.aspx>

**Rail Facilities.** Does a railroad facility exist within 1000 feet of the project limits? Check Yes or No.

If yes, specify by selecting: *At-grade Crossing, Roadway Underpass/Overpass, Longitudinal Encroachment, or Parallel*. Does the project physically cross an existing railroad facility? Check Yes or No.

To ensure compliance with both state and federal law and policy, all projects with any of the following conditions must be evaluated for rail issues:

- A railroad crossing located within the project limits or within 1,000 feet of the project location and/or on the designated detour route.
- Grade separations between a highway and a railroad.
- Projects that parallel a railroad on adjacent right of way.
- Projects that use railroad properties.
- Projects that involve adjustments to railroad facilities.
- Projects that will impact a corridor reserved under an applicable recreational trails program.

Evaluation may require coordination with the railroad company at an early stage (sometimes even prior to submitting the project application). The WisDOT is available to assist with coordination.

To learn more, please contact Kris Sommers, Railroad Engineering and Safety Supervisor at (608) 266-3341 or [kristen.sommers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:kristen.sommers@dot.wi.gov). If the project crosses rail facilities, indicate the owner of the rail property/facility in the application.

### Is this project on or parallel to a local road or street?

If yes, provide the name of the road or street.

Does this project cross a state highway?

If yes, please specify.

Does this project run parallel to a state or federal highway?

If yes, please specify.

Is any part of this project on either the Interstate or Non-Interstate National Highway System (NHS)?

Check Yes or No. Please refer to the following link for maps of the current NHS:

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/data-plan/plan-res/nhs.aspx>

Will this project be constructed as part of another planned road project?

Check Yes or No.

Will any exceptions to standards be requested?

Check Yes or No. If yes, provide a brief description.

## Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (Non-SOV) Travel

What is the percent of non-Single Occupancy Vehicle travel within your community?

Write the percentage of non-SOV travel for the entire local unit of government (county, town, village, city, school district). Non-SOV travel is defined as any travel mode other than driving alone in a motorized vehicle (i.e., single occupancy vehicle or SOV travel), including travel avoided by telecommuting. To determine non-SOV travel there are three acceptable methods by which the data may be derived.

How was the non-SOV travel percentage derived?

**A—American Community Survey.** Populations by predominant travel to commute to work may be identified from Table DP03 of the most current American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2019 – 2023) using the totals by geographic area and transportation mode listed within the “Commuting to Work” subject heading under Economic Characteristics:

[Data Profiles | American Community Survey | U.S. Census Bureau](#)

**B—local survey.** The Percent of Non-SOV Travel may be estimated from a local survey focused on either work travel or household travel for the area and conducted within the last 2 years.

**C—system use measurement.** The volume of travel using surface modes of transportation may be estimated from measurements of actual use of each transportation mode. Sample or continuous measurements may be used to count the number of travelers using different surface modes of transportation. The method needs to include sufficient information to calculate the amount of non-SOV travel occurring in the area as a percentage of all surface transportation travel.

## Human/Natural Concerns

Check Yes, No or *Not Investigated* for each environmental/cultural issue. If yes is checked, provide a brief description of the issue in the *Comments* box.

**Section 4(f)** refers to the use of publicly owned park and recreational lands, wildlife, and waterfowl refuges, and significant historical or archeological sites in transportation project development.

**Section 6(f)** of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act refers to the conversion to other use of lands or facilities acquired with LWCF Act funds and requires replacement of used land with lands of equal value and use.

## Miscellaneous Issues

**Construction Schedule Restrictions (trout, migratory bird, local events).** Provide information and details concerning any natural or manmade events that may restrict when or how the project is constructed.

### Right of Way

Check *None*, *less than ½ acre*, *more than ½ acre*, *Parklands*, *Large parcels*, *Strips*, or *Temporary Interests* as they apply to the project.

*Note:* It is recommended that local funds be used to acquire right of way. Please refer to the Local Public Agency (LPA) Manual for Right of Way Acquisition for further information. This manual is publicly available through the WisDOT extranet site and/or please contact the appropriate WisDOT Region office for additional information.

### Has there been any real estate acquired or transferred in anticipation of this project?

Check Yes or No. If yes, please explain. WisDOT recommends Sponsors and applicants review the real estate webpage at: <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/aid/lpa-re-info.aspx>

### Other Concept Notes

Provide any additional relevant project information that has not been covered in another section of the application.

## Project Costs and Dates

### Application Project Costs Guidelines

Applicants must demonstrate an ability to provide at least 20% in matching funds and finance the entire project until the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reimburses the federal share of up to 80% of project costs. Higher local match levels may be appropriate for projects involving private sector participation. Applicants should clearly indicate any proposal that differs from the typical 80% federal, 20% local project cost share. Total dollar amounts must correlate to percentage totals.

Private sector grantees will receive reimbursement through their Public Sponsor. Most projects are reimbursed quarterly based on quarterly progress invoices. Projects for public transit services are funded as transfers to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as part of the annual transit capital and operating assistance grant administered by WisDOT.

**Minimum Project Funding Amounts:** To ensure efficient utilization of local and state administrative resources and promote projects with significant impacts, WisDOT established the following minimum project funding amounts for CMAQ projects:

- **A Construction Project must cost \$200,000 total or more**, including any design work. WisDOT has not set maximum funding amounts. These guidelines apply to both Locally Let and State Let projects. It is assumed projects will be Locally Let unless the Local Sponsor and WisDOT Region agree to undertake the project as a State Let. Equipment and materials acquisition are allowable but may be considered construction-related because federal reimbursement will only occur after installation of the materials to ensure that the project is completed. Because of the

major time and effort needed to comply with FHWA real estate requirements, Sponsors should plan on covering real estate costs under \$100,000 with 100% local funds.

- **A Planning Project**, such as system-wide bicycle planning activities, **must cost \$50,000 total or more**. Projects below \$50,000 will only be considered if reviewed and approved by WisDOT region or MPO staff before the application is submitted.

## Project Timelines

WisDOT makes multi-year programming commitments to ensure that projects can utilize federal funding immediately as it becomes available. WisDOT also establishes multi-year programming commitments to reflect the necessary timeline for selection and approval of projects.

For this funding cycle, WisDOT is programming projects primarily for state fiscal years (SFYs) 2028, 2029 and 2030, although the Department will consider requests for funding in an earlier fiscal year on a case-by-case basis. Once awards are made, there will be the opportunity to work cooperatively to balance and/or move projects within the cycle's five-year period to maximize the opportunity to advance higher priority projects and to allow designs to begin earlier where possible.

## Project Costs

You must attach a detailed breakdown of project costs in Microsoft Excel or another spreadsheet (like Google Sheets). This detailed breakdown must clarify assumptions made in creating the budget such that a third-party reviewer would be able to substantiate the assumptions. This will not count against the 3-page narrative report text limit.

If you are funding design 100% locally, do not include any design project costs in the project cost table in the application. Instead include these in the detailed cost breakdown attachment. Some important things to remember when completing both the project costs table and detailed cost breakdown attachment are to:

- Check with the WisDOT Region for oversight/ review and engineering costs.
- Check that inflation is accounted for in the construction estimate.
- Check your math more than once.
- Check that project costs are accurate and realistic; and
- Check that cost estimate detail attachment totals match project cost table totals.

*Note:* Enter your project costs based on what you think they will cost in the year you would like it scheduled.

## Project Priority

Priority for each project phase shall be relative to your entire 2026-2030 program cycle submittal. Enter priority numerically.

Check each phase of the project (e.g., design, construction) for which you are requesting federal funds. There can be no standalone design projects. If funding is requested for design, there must be a request for construction.

## Design Work

Check box to indicate if design will be 100% locally funded or 80% federally funded.

- Federally funded "state review only" projects are not allowed.
- 100% locally funded design projects must meet all applicable federal design standards.

**Schedule Preference:** Check the state fiscal year in which you request the phase be scheduled (i.e., FY 2026 is July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). Please note that WisDOT has final authority to select the year in which the project is scheduled.

**A. Design Plan Development:** Use the Subtotal Construction Costs (line A in the Construction section below) to determine the Construction Cost Estimate and apply the Plan Development (Design) percentage to calculate an estimated dollar amount. Enter both the percentage and the dollar amount in the application.

**B. State Review for Design:** Coordinate with your WisDOT Regional Local Program representatives to determine the State Review Cost Estimate Range. Work with your WisDOT Regional Local Program staff for percentages for Plan Development and State Review for Design. Design with State Review Cost Estimate Sum Lines A and B of the Design section.

### Construction Work

**Basis for Construction Estimate:** Indicate the method used for estimating the construction cost of the project by checking the appropriate box for *Itemized Costs*, *Cost per Mile*, *Past Projects Cost*, or if *Other*, specify. Please submit construction cost estimate documentation.

**Schedule Preference:** Check the state fiscal year in which you request the phase be scheduled (i.e., FY 2026 is July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). Please note that WisDOT has final authority to select the year in which the project is scheduled.

### Construction Costs

Enter the Federal Share of the Participating Construction Cost (80%), the Local Share of the Participating Construction Cost (20%), and the Non-Participating Construction Cost (100% Local) for the Roadway category. Temporary traffic/pedestrian control items should be included in the construction estimate.

- A. **Subtotal Construction Costs.**
- B. **Construction Engineering Costs.** Coordinate with your WisDOT Regional Local Program representatives.
- C. **State Review for Construction.** Coordinate with your WisDOT Regional Local Program representatives to determine the State review Cost Estimate Range.
- D. **Total Construction Cost Estimate.** Sum lines A, B, and C of each column of the Construction section.

### Real Estate

**Schedule Preference:** Check the state fiscal year in which you request the phase be scheduled (i.e., FY 2026 is July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). Please note that WisDOT has the final authority to select the year in which the project is scheduled.

**Total Real Estate Costs:** Provide a total cost for the real estate project.

**Note:** Applicants are encouraged to cover real estate acquisition through the leverage of local funds. In addition, any proposals that request federal reimbursement for real estate will also need to adjust the total cost to include regional oversight. Contact your DTSD regional contact for more information.



## Utility

Check the state fiscal year in which you request the phase be scheduled (i.e., FY 2026 is July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). Please note that WisDOT has final authority to select the year in which the project is scheduled.

Note: Compensable utility costs must be a minimum of \$50,000 per utility. Link to WisDOT Utility Policy: <https://wisconsindot.gov/dtsdManuals/utility/chapter17.pdf>

**Total Utility Costs.** Provide total cost for the utility project.

## Other

This includes Transit Capital Purchase and Operations, Public Education and Outreach Programming.

Check the state fiscal year in which you request the phase be scheduled (i.e., FY 2026 is July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). Please note that WisDOT has final authority to select the year in which the project is scheduled.

**Total Other Cost.** Provide total cost for the planning, administration, or other non- infrastructure project.

## Narrative Response

Provide up to **three double-spaced pages** of narrative (**minimum 11-point font size, 1-inch margins**) describing the proposed project. Respond to questions one through seven as the questions relate to the proposed project.

Proposals for CMAQ funding must include a precise description of the project, providing a thorough description of the project scope, specific location and limits, and timetable for implementation. In addition to the information in the enclosed application, all applications must include information to enable the evaluating agencies to prepare emissions reduction estimates. Applicants should attach up to three narrative pages addressing questions 1-7. This will help with calculating emissions estimate in an urbanized area by the MPO, or if in a non-metropolitan planning area by WisDOT. In addition, it will provide the information the selection committee needs to review your project application.

## Key Program Requirements Confirmation

Confirm understanding of project conditions by typing name, title, and initials in the boxes at the bottom of the page. The individual providing initials and signature on the application (i.e., Head of Government or Designee, not a consultant) must have fiscal authority for the Project Sponsor. Note: Item O regarding special assessments is provided for informational purposes only. WisDOT is not recommending a specific course of action but is alerting applicants to potential legal risks associated with special assessments for transportation construction projects using federal funds.

## Fiscal Authorization and Signature

**Was the application prepared by a consultant?** Check Yes or No. If yes, please provide the Consultant Company Name and Company Location (City, State), Consultant Signature, and signature Date. An electronic typed signature is all that is required to apply. A handwritten signature in PDF format is NOT necessary. On Local Program projects, it is not permissible for a consultant to fill out applications gratis (or for a small fee) for a municipality and then be selected to do the design work on a project unless the municipality either:

- A. uses a one-step QBS process with the scope of work to include the grant application and the



design services, if authorized; or

- B. uses a two-step QBS process with the scope of work for the first selection for the preparation of the grant application(s) and the second selection for the actual design(s).

In either case, all costs incurred prior to WisDOT project authorization are the responsibility of the municipality. See FDM 8-5-3 for additional information: <https://wisconsindot.gov/rdwy/fdm/fd-08-05.pdf#fd8-5-3>

**Sponsor Agency.** Sponsor is responsible for completing the application. The Sponsor Agency is the local unit of government that is financially responsible for the federal-aid improvement.

**Contact Person.** Must be a Head of Government or Designee (e.g., County Highway Commissioner).

**Title** of the Contact Person.

**Address** of the Contact Person.

**Telephone** number of the Contact Person.

**Email** address of the Contact Person.

**Head of Government/Designee Signature.** A local official, not a consultant, must sign the application. An electronic typed signature is all that is required to apply. A handwritten signature in PDF format is NOT necessary.

**Date** the application was signed.

## Application and Attachments Checklist

Refer to application form for details. Check the appropriate boxes to indicate that attachments are annexed to the application.

## WisDOT Information

The shaded area is to be completed by WisDOT staff only WisDOT staff will enter the information in the top portion at application review and enter the project ID(s) after project approval.