

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

Statutory Authority: 23 USC § 149 (federal); [§ 85.245](#) (state)

Admin. Rule: N/A

Program objective

To provide federal funding for transportation projects that improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion in counties classified as air quality non-attainment or maintenance areas for the federal criteria pollutants ozone and fine particulate matter.

Program eligibility

CMAQ funds are available to counties, local units of government, transit operators and state agencies. Private entities interested in applying for funds must find a public sponsor with taxing authority to sponsor a project application. Applicants must provide at least a 20% match of the project's total cost. Project sponsors must pay project costs and then seek reimbursement through WisDOT. Construction projects costing \$200,000 or more are eligible for funding, as are non-construction projects costing \$50,000 or more. Projects must comply with applicable federal and state requirements. Please call or email the WisDOT Program Contact listed at the end of this document with any questions regarding applicable laws and regulations.

Examples of eligible CMAQ projects include:

- Capital and operating assistance for new transit services
- Rideshare promotion, vanpool purchases and park & ride lots
- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Alternate/clean fuel vehicles and fueling facilities
- Diesel engine idling reduction and retrofit projects
- Marketing programs designed to increase the public's awareness of air quality and transportation issues

Program definition

CMAQ was created by the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and continued most recently by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). CMAQ provides funding for transportation projects that improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. The funds are made available through a competitive application process that generally takes place in odd-numbered calendar years.

Program description

Federal CMAQ funds are available in counties that are classified as air quality non-attainment or maintenance areas for the federal criteria pollutants ozone and fine particulate matter. In

Wisconsin, the affected counties include Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, Walworth, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee and Door.

To be eligible for funding, transportation projects must demonstrate emission reductions. Furthermore, all projects funded under the CMAQ program must be included in an urbanized area's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

CMAQ projects generally fall into one of three broad categories:

- Projects that reduce the number of vehicle trips and/or vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Projects that reduce emissions by improving traffic congestion
- Projects that reduce emissions through improved vehicle and fuel technologies

Program history

CMAQ is currently authorized and funded under FAST Act, which was signed into law in December 2015. FAST Act CMAQ funding is eligible for use only in counties that are current or historic nonattainment or maintenance areas for ozone and/or fine particulate matter. The state biennial budget approves an amount of CMAQ funds available for eligible applicants to compete for in the competitive application process.

Application cycle

Projects are solicited in odd-numbered years. Multiple years of funding is made available to projects in the fiscal years that follow the calendar year of project approval. For example, in 2015 the CMAQ selection committee recommended projects for state fiscal year 2016-2020 funding. In 2017, the CMAQ selection committee is recommending projects for state fiscal year 2018-2022 funding.

Annual federal amount appropriated in current state budget

State Fiscal Year 2016	\$10,719,000
State Fiscal Year 2017	\$10,719,000

WisDOT Program Contact for CMAQ

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