

# *Solicitation for Applications to CMAQ/TCAM Program*

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# NJTPA CMAQ/TCAM Program

## Program Solicitation Overview

**THE NJTPA IS ACCEPTING PROPOSALS** for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality/Transportation Clean Air Measures (CMAQ/TCAM) Program. Thumbnail sketches will be accepted and reviewed continuously, without deadlines. Applications will be accepted from counties, municipalities, regional agencies, non-profit, and for-profit companies.

### INTRODUCTION

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds have been allocated to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) metropolitan area for projects that contribute to the attainment of the National Clean Air Act standards by reducing emissions and congestion in the non-attainment and maintenance areas. The FY 2026-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the NJTPA region has set aside funding for a CMAQ program to fund eligible projects and services that help achieve these air quality

goals. Candidate projects will be evaluated, selected, and approved for funding by the NJTPA Board of Trustees, based on the program criteria described in this document.

### PROGRAM PURPOSE

The NJTPA is soliciting applications for its CMAQ/TCAM Program, to be supported by federal CMAQ funds allocated to the NJTPA region. The purpose of this program is to advance readily implementable and innovative projects that improve air quality and reduce congestion in the NJTPA's air quality maintenance and non-attainment areas.

This document details the application process and program guidelines for the submittal of a thumbnail and full proposal to the NJTPA.

### ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Proposed projects must be eligible under the federal CMAQ guidelines (see page 6), be ready to implement, demonstrate the potential for reductions in emissions and/or congestion, and meet or exceed the requirements for matching funds.

Proposals must link to needs identified in the NJTPA's Long Range Transportation Plan, *Connecting Communities*. see [njtpa.org/Connecting](http://njtpa.org/Connecting). Possible projects can draw from a variety of sources, such as local and regional plans and projects.

ALL PHOTOS BY ED MURRAY



## **TRANSPORTATION CLEAN AIR MEASURES (TCAMS)**

Proposals can include but are not limited to diesel reduction, idle reduction, traffic signal optimization, intelligent transportation systems, intermodal freight, bicycle and pedestrian projects, travel demand management, alternative fuels and vehicles and other projects which will reduce pollutant emissions and congestion in the NJTPA region. Successful TCAMs will augment existing environmentally beneficial programs with new and innovative approaches, take advantage of cross-jurisdictional partnerships, have the potential to inspire or support further actions, garner public support and interest, and leverage other funding sources.

## **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**

Eligible applicants for TCAMs funding include NJTPA subregions, municipalities, regional agencies, railway companies, and Transportation Management Associations (TMAs), Privately owned companies or other non-government entities may be eligible to participate as part of a public-private partnership.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

The CMAQ/TCAM Program application is a two-step process that begins with the submission of thumbnail sketches. The NJTPA will review thumbnail sketches, and successful submissions will be invited by the NJTPA to submit full proposals.

Applicants submitting proposals for the CMAQ/TCAM Program must submit thumbnails in accordance with the applicable category requirements. Thumbnail requirements for TCAMs are on page 5. Applicants may submit multiple thumbnails for the TCAM program. Applicants should rank their thumbnails in order of priority.

In preparing thumbnails, applicants should also review the full proposal guidelines and review criteria. These are also specific to the project categories and provide further program information and instructions for preparing proposals (after the thumbnail stage). Guidance is on page 8.

## **THUMBNAIL REVIEW AND FULL APPLICATION**

The NJTPA will review all thumbnails to ascertain eligibility under CMAQ and to identify the most promising and implementable projects. Thumbnails will be evaluated, and constructive suggestions will be offered to applicants as appropriate. Applicants will be notified of the thumbnail review results, and successful thumbnail applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. A Technical Review Committee will review full proposals based on identified criteria for the applicable project category.

# *NJTPA CMAQ/TCAM Program*

## Proposal Guidance and Instructions

### GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

#### **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program Provisions**

The Proposal Guidance (page 8) includes an overview of project type eligibility for federal CMAQ funding.

#### **Long Range Transportation Plan**

The NJTPA's Long Range Transportation Plan, *Connecting Communities*, is the guiding document for transportation investment policy for the northern New Jersey region. The complete document and appendices can be found at [njtpa.org/Planning/Plan-Update-to-2050](http://njtpa.org/Planning/Plan-Update-to-2050).



#### **Subregional Support**

Proposals from TMAs and municipalities must be supported by an NJTPA member subregion. This most often comes from a subregional representative to the NJTPA's Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC). The RTAC provides a forum for presentation and discussion on regional issues. It also performs a vital function in reviewing and disseminating information and making recommendations to the NJTPA Board and its individual Trustees to aid in decision-making.

The RTAC contact list, as well as contacts on other NJTPA committees, are available on the NJTPA website

here: [njtpa.org/About-NJTPA/Who-We-Are/Committees/Regional-Transportation-Advisory-Committee](http://njtpa.org/About-NJTPA/Who-We-Are/Committees/Regional-Transportation-Advisory-Committee).

#### **Templates/References**

The resources on page 16 offer standardized formats for estimating emissions benefits.

# *NJTPA Regional/Local CMAQ Initiatives Program Transportation Clean Air Measures*

## **Thumbnail Requirements**

**IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PROJECTS** that can be readily implemented to measurably reduce air pollutants and congestion, and that are eligible for federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding.

**Project Sponsor(s):** Include partner agencies, organizations/subcontractors, etc.

**Project Name:**

**Estimated \$ Requested:** \$ (including the required minimum local match: 20% for projects from public agencies; 50% for projects from private firms)

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**Identify Project:** How was this project identified? i.e., Federal, State or Local Plan, recommendation from a previous study, or additional phase from a previous project, etc.

**Description:** Describe project area & how project will be implemented.

**CMAQ Link:** Identify how this project is eligible for CMAQ funding.

**Estimated Results:** Identify estimated emissions and congestion reductions as well as any secondary benefits. Include both quantitative and qualitative results. Include secondary benefits to neighboring communities.

**Schedule:** Project duration (in six month increments i.e., 12, 18, 24, 30 or 36 months)

**Who:** Who will carry out the work, i.e., sponsoring agency, partner agency, private firm, subcontractors?

**Funds Requested:** Identify the total amount of funds requested including the local match. Also include a breakdown of the total funds identifying the CMAQ contribution and the match contribution.

**Local Match:** Identify the source of the local match as well as the amount. For public agencies, in general, the federal share for projects is 80%; 50% for projects from private firms.

**Where:** Where will the project take place and where will the estimated emissions and/or congestion reductions occur?  
(municipalities, counties, etc.)

# *NJTPA Regional/Local CMAQ Initiatives Program Transportation Clean Air Measures*

## **Thumbnail Requirements**

**Partners:** Who will the lead agency partner with, i.e., county, municipality, private firm, TMA, school board, etc.

**Products:** What products would result from this project?

**Contact Person:** Name, phone, e-mail and fax for additional information.

**Thumbnail Submission:** Thumbnail applications should be addressed to:

**Liz DeRuchie**

**Manager, Air Quality**

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

One Newark Center, 17th Floor

Newark, NJ 07102

*[liz@njtpa.org](mailto:liz@njtpa.org)*

973-639-8446

This outline should be a *maximum of two pages*.

# *Regional/Local CMAQ Initiatives Program Transportation Clean Air Measures*

## **Proposal Guidance and Instructions**

**THIS SECTION PROVIDES** detailed guidance on submitting a full proposal for Transportation Clean Air Measures under the NJTPA Regional/Local CMAQ Initiatives Program. Full proposals are to be prepared upon invitation by the NJTPA following successful submission and review of a thumbnail sketch as described in the Program Solicitation Overview section (starting on page 3).

Overall program eligibility and other attributes are described in the Program Solicitation Overview. Instructions on preparing a full proposal begin on page 10.

### **CMAQ PROVISIONS FROM BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL)/FAST ACT MAP-21 AND FEDERAL GUIDANCE**

Proposals for Transportation Clean Air Measures funding must be eligible for funding under federal CMAQ funds. Under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and continued under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) CMAQ funds continue to be available for a wide range of transportation projects. Eligible activities for this program include the following:

1. Vehicle/Fuel Technology
  - Alternative fuel vehicles
  - Electric vehicles and infrastructure
  - Diesel engine replacements/retrofits and zero emission vehicles
  - Medium or heavy-duty zero emissions vehicles and related charging equipment
2. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
  - Traffic signal optimization and adaptive traffic signal technology
  - Technology for transit signal priority
3. Travel Demand Management
  - Bicycle and pedestrian facilities
  - On and off-road multi-use trails
4. Vehicle Activity Programs
5. Modernization of a Lock and Dam, or a Marine Highway Corridor, Connector or Crossing

6. Projects and programs targeting freight capital costs-rolling stock or ground infrastructure are eligible if air quality benefits can be demonstrated.

MAP-21 initiated, and the FAST Act and BIL continue performance-based planning provisions with State and MPO requirements including CMAQ performance plans, air quality and traffic congestion performance measures and targets, and associated reporting. MAP-21 and the FAST Act and BIL also contain specific emphasis on applying CMAQ funds to reduce emissions of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

*References:*

*<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/cmaqfs.cfm>*

*[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/policy\\_and\\_guidance/2024\\_cmaq.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/policy_and_guidance/2024_cmaq.cfm)*

## TRANSPORTATION CLEAN AIR MEASURES (TCAM) *Full Proposal Format*

Thank you for your interest in the NJTPA's competitive TCAM program supported by local Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. This application is to be completed ONLY by sponsors who submitted a successful thumbnail sketch and have been asked by the NJTPA to advance their project to full proposal.

### SECTION 1: GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location: (including map) \_\_\_\_\_

County(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Municipality(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Implementing Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* If a municipality or TMA is applying on its own, a letter of support is required from the county.*

Project Type: Retrofit\_\_\_\_\_ Replacement\_\_\_\_\_ Program\_\_\_\_\_

Project Duration: (start and end dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Project Description: (limit to 10 lines) (Include an estimate, in years, of the useful life of this project.)

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Project Need: Explain the need for this project. Which goals & strategies in the NJTPA's Connecting Communities Long Range Transportation Plan does it address? (limit to 6 lines)

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How does this project connect to other plans or efforts at the local, regional, or state levels?

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Project Benefits: Explain the expected quantitative and qualitative benefits from this project, such as pollutant emissions, traffic congestion, noise, fuel savings, community issues, environmental justice, etc. Identify methodology used. See page 26 for further guidance.

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Project Benefits: When will the above benefits occur? (immediate, mid-term, long-term)

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Is this project part of a larger strategy to reduce emissions and recognize other environmental, social, and economic benefits? If so, please describe.

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Do you anticipate any future projects resulting from the success of this one?

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Primary Mode Supported: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the project multi-jurisdictional beyond the NJTPA region? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, has the applicant received concurrence or funding from the other jurisdiction(s)? (Please include documentation) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Does this project advance a recommendation(s) from a specific plan, study or legislation?

Please list and include the date (e.g., MAP-21 / FAST Act/ BIL; L RTP, etc.)

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Describe any supportive local policies/regulations that this project addresses?  
(e.g., specific air quality emissions goals etc.)

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Please provide any additional information that supports this project.

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How will all equipment acquisitions (if applicable) for this project meet the Buy America requirements (See [fhwa.dot.gov/construction/contracts/buyam\\_qa.cfm](http://fhwa.dot.gov/construction/contracts/buyam_qa.cfm)) of the CMAQ program?

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Describe how any proposed technology (if applicable) meets EPA standards.

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## SECTION 2: PROJECT DETAILS

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Funding (\$): Indicate the amount of funding requested from the NJTPA. Note that the greater the contributions from other sources, the greater the likelihood of a successful application. The remaining funding must be clearly identified and committed. Please include commitment letters from other sources.

- a. NJTPA        \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Applicant    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Other        \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- TOTAL         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Can the applicant guarantee that if this proposal is funded, the benefits of this project will occur in northern and central New Jersey?

**Please note that matching funds for the CMAQ program must come from non-federal sources.**

**Cost Effectiveness:** Is this project cost-effective based on fair market value for similar projects? If a cost-effective measure is applicable to the project, please include it here. For example, how much will the project cost per ton per year of pollutant emissions reduced?

**Project Timeline:** A project timeline must be included identifying start and end dates as well as key milestones as the project advances.

**Project Outcomes:** Identify the expected outcomes of the project.

**Submission and Questions to:**

Liz DeRuchie  
Manager, Air Quality  
North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority  
One Newark Center, 17th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102  
[liz@njtpa.org](mailto:liz@njtpa.org)  
973-639-8446

## HOW TO APPLY

See page 8 for specific instructions on how to apply.

The NJTPA will review applications to verify eligibility for federal CMAQ funding. This includes requirements discussed in the guidance above, such as specific FAST Act, MAP-21, BIL and CMAQ program regulations (including Buy America requirements and implementation in NJTPA region maintenance, or non-attainment areas).

A Technical Review Committee will review applications based on the criteria below. Recommendations will be presented to the NJTPA Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Development Committee for endorsement and then to the NJTPA Board of Trustees for approval. Approved projects will be submitted to the FHWA via NJDOT for federal authorization of funds.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Achieves primary CMAQ goals of reducing air pollutants and/or traffic congestion

- Has an immediate impact on pollution reduction and congestion mitigation
- Reduces fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pollution
- Complements (not duplicates) other environmentally beneficial public/private sector projects/activities
- Achieves secondary goals, e.g., fuel costs, reduce VMT, noise, community issues
- Advances a recommendation(s) from a specific plan, study or legislation
- Potential for cross-jurisdictional partnership
- Support by appropriate sponsors/stakeholders and public
- Reasonable cost/cost-effectiveness
- Ability to realistically implement in the specified timeframe
- Project sponsor/manager has demonstrated successful implementation of programs/projects as contracted with the NJTPA

### Pollutant Key

<b>O<sub>3</sub>:</b>	<b>Ozone</b>
<b>VOCs:</b>	<b>Volatile organic compounds (contributes to ozone/smog)</b>
<b>NOx:</b>	<b>Nitrogen oxides (contributes to ozone/smog)</b>
<b>CO:</b>	<b>Carbon monoxide</b>
<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub>:</b>	<b>Fine particulate matter</b>
<b>GHG:</b>	<b>Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide</b>

## EMISSIONS ESTIMATE GUIDANCE

Transportation Clean Air Measures applications must provide quantitative and/or qualitative estimates (as quantitative as possible) of the emissions benefits of proposed projects in terms of air pollution from mobile sources in the NJTPA region. This should particularly refer to the reduction of pollutants with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) identified by EPA and for which portions of the NJTPA region are in non-attainment or maintenance status: ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)—with VOC and NOx precursors, carbon monoxide (CO), and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

For the TCAM portion of the program, all projects that advance past the thumbnail phase must submit emissions reduction analysis as part of their full application. Projects will be evaluated on their air quality benefits using the methodology of the applicant's choice subject to acceptance by the NJTPA. Applications must fully describe the methodology used for the analysis. As appropriate and feasible, factors that would contribute to identified benefits, such as shifts in travel modes, reductions in vehicular trips, ridesharing, vehicular speeds, or amount of vehicle idle time, should be quantified.

The NJTPA can provide directions to applicants wanting to run their own emissions reductions calculations. For applicants unable to run emissions reduction calculations, the NJTPA can provide assistance with tools developed for NJDOT, FHWA and USEPA. The appropriate tool to use will depend on the project type. Each project type has a specific set of inputs and applicants will be expected to provide the NJTPA with these inputs specific to the project. The results of emissions analysis will enable projects to be rated based on reductions in pollutants (see key) and other factors noted above.

It is recognized that reliable quantitative analysis of emissions reductions may be challenging for some projects. A variety of standard resources in the literature may be helpful. One comprehensive resource is an FHWA study on evaluating CMAQ projects available at: [fhwa.dot.gov/ENVIRONMENT/air\\_quality/cmaq/research/safetea-lu\\_phase\\_1/appendix\\_c/index](http://fhwa.dot.gov/ENVIRONMENT/air_quality/cmaq/research/safetea-lu_phase_1/appendix_c/index)

Applicants can also research the relative effectiveness of CMAQ projects, at: [fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/cost\\_effectiveness\\_tables](http://fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/cost_effectiveness_tables) and accompanying recorded webinar: (SR500A) CMAQ\_0.

FHWA developed an introduction to the CMAQ program online video with useful information: [youtube.com/watch?v=XKXcs0WtNHA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=XKXcs0WtNHA)