

Frequently Asked Questions

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

2021 Call for Projects

If you have questions about the CMAQ application process, scoring criteria, or anything else related to the CMAQ Call for Projects, please check below to see if it has already been asked. We plan to update this list on a regular basis. If you don't find your question below, don't hesitate to email us at cmaq@ewgateway.org.

Q1: How do I submit my application?

Submit the completed application, scanned signature pages, and necessary attachments electronically to EWG at cmaq@ewgateway.org. Please submit one application per email. Applications must be received by February 11, 2021. Note that hard copies cannot be accepted as East-West Gateway's offices are currently closed.

You may submit the application fee by electronic funds transfer (contact staci.alvarez@ewgateway.org for set-up instructions) or by check to:

East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Attn: Transportation Planning Department – CMAQ
One Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451

Application fees must be postmarked by February 11, 2021 or received electronically by February 18, 2021.

Q2: Can CMAQ funds be used to purchase police vehicles, or for municipal vehicles like garbage trucks or maintenance vehicles?

The CMAQ program supports the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure. Highway funds including CMAQ cannot be used to fund general government operations, including the acquisition of vehicles that perform such general functions, e.g., police and firefighting.

Q3: Can federal funds be used for local match?

Federal funds are generally not allowed to be used for local match, with the exception of funds from Federal Land Management Agencies (such as the Forest Service or National Park Service)

or HUD Community Development Block Grants. In all cases, confirm with MoDOT or IDOT prior to using any federal funds as local match.

Q4: What is the difference between submitting a project as STP-S traffic flow vs. CMAQ?

While the types of projects will likely be similar, the particular nature of the project may lead a sponsor to submit in one program rather than the other. For instance, while the focus of the CMAQ program is on reduced emissions, the focus of STP-S traffic flow is on system reliability/reduced delays, with emissions still accounted for, but given a smaller share of points. Additionally, a greater range of factors are taken into account with STP-S traffic flow, allowing a project to receive points for non-traffic flow aspects included in their project, such as improved safety, multimodal improvements, or freight significance. Any new roads or added through-lanes are ineligible for CMAQ funds, but eligible for STP-S.

Q5: If your project includes sidewalk slab replacements, does that trigger Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance on the entire sidewalk within the project limits?

Make sure to draft the scope of work so that it specifies what will be constructed. All new sidewalk must be ADA compliant. If the scope includes repairs to sections of sidewalk along the limits then ADA mandates that all the sidewalk be made ADA compliant. This will make your project costs increase due to potential right-of-way acquisition.

Q6: Are ADA transition plans required to submit an application?

The ADA requires public agencies with 50 or more employees to have an ADA transition plan. EWG does not require a transition plan to apply for funds.

Q7: Where can I find out more information about ADA requirements?

FHWA offers a Question and Answer on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). You can review this information at the following link:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/ada/ada_sect504qa.cfm.

Q8: What is the minimum amount of information that should be submitted with a preliminary application?

Enough information must be provided for EWG reviewers to understand the project's scope, schedule, and financial plan. This information is all included in the application document itself. However, the more information you provide in your preliminary application, the better able EWG will be to provide detailed comments. If you are attending a Project Review Workshop, you have the option of submitting either a preliminary application, or the Project Review Workshop Information Form which is a simplified form which only asks for the core information needed for the workshop.

Q9: What is the amount of the project funding cap for CMAQ?

There is not a cap on the amount of CMAQ funds that can be requested by an individual project.

Q10: What is the current link to MoDOT LPA Basic Training?

Missouri project sponsors are required to have an agency staff member who is certified under MoDOT's LPA Basic Training program. This training offers information on the Local Public Agency process. Please use this link: <https://www.modot.org/training-opportunities>.

Q11: How do I know if my Missouri Person of Responsible Charge certification is still current?

Sponsors in Missouri should check this link to ensure they have a current LPA Basic Training certification: <https://www.modot.org/media/29062>. If the name of the person at your agency who is to be the Person of Responsible Charge is not listed, they will need to use the link in Question 10 to take the class. Certifications are valid for two years.

Q12: Who do I send a request for a letter of coordination if my project is on a transit route?

A letter of support is only required if there is an impact to transit (i.e., bus stop improvements are part of a project).

Send requests to:

- Bi-State Development/Metro - Lance Peterson, Director of Service Planning and Jessica Gershman, Assistant Executive Director for Planning & System Development
- Madison County Transit District – Phil Roggio, Director of Planning & Capital Projects
- St. Clair County Transit District – Tony Erwin, Director of Facilities & Maintenance

A transit letter is not required if the project does not include transit improvements.

Q13: When are CMAQ funds available?

Illinois: preliminary engineering funds are available in FY 2022, right-of-way in FY 2022 or FY 2023, and construction/construction engineering in FY 2023 or FY 2024.

Missouri: preliminary engineering funds are available in FY 2022, right-of-way in FY 2022 or FY 2023, and construction/construction engineering in FY 2023 or FY 2024. Note: FY 2023 construction/construction engineering must be less than \$1 million federal.

Q14: There is a large development that will open before the CMAQ project. Can I use the expected volumes for the data inputs for the after?

If a sponsor anticipates a large development to open prior to the year of construction, it must provide its methodology to EWG staff no later than January 14, 2021 for approval to use proposed volumes based on the anticipated development.

Q15: My project I submitted last year was not recommended for funding and I am going to submit the same project this year (in Illinois). Do I need to submit a new Logical Termini Review Form?

Please contact EWG Staff to determine a new form is required. Generally, if the application is identical to last year (i.e. scope, limits), a new Logical Termini Review Form is not required. If the project is identical to last year, submit the approved Logical Termini Review Form in the application.