

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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To: Transportation Committee Members
From: Jennifer Carrier
Karen Olson
Date: December 6, 2011
Subject: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program

Attached is a copy of the Notices of Intent to Apply for CMAQ project proposals that were submitted to CRCOG. Preliminary information about eight projects was received: one for an electric car charging station, four for traffic signal improvements, and three for roadway improvements. The total cost for projects submitted was \$12,345,600.

Per the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) guidelines, CRCOG can submit up to three prioritized projects. ConnDOT will base their final project selection on the following criteria:

1. Cost Effectiveness, 50 points
2. Congestion Mitigation, 30 points
3. Regional Rankings, 10 points
4. Operation and Maintenance Plan, 10 points

In an effort to submit projects that will rate highly in the statewide competitive program, we are suggesting that our priorities be determined using selection criteria that closely aligns with the criteria that ConnDOT will be using. Table 1 summarizes how staff expects to review and rate proposals.

A couple of other suggestions to consider as the solicitation process advances:

- Given the concurrent solicitation for funding under the STP-Enhancement Program, the Committee may elect to limit a town to either one CMAQ project or one STP-Enhancement project award. This may be impacted by the fact that both STP-E and CMAQ project lists are due to ConnDOT by February 1, 2012.
- Depending on the final applications received, ratings and project cost estimates, the Committee may elect to ask ConnDOT to consider more than three applications given the size of our region and the merit of the projects received.

Final applications are due to CRCOG on January 9, 2012. CRCOG will rate the proposals and provide them for consideration by the Transportation Committee on January 23 and the Policy Board on January 25, 2012.

Table 1

Rating Criteria	Per ConnDOT Guidelines	CRCOG Suggested Approach to Rating
Cost Effectiveness	Cost effectiveness will be assessed on the basis of annualized project cost/annual emission benefits. The cost used in this calculation will be limited to the federal share of the project.	The anticipated annual emission benefits will be reviewed and evaluated in coordination with the proposed cost estimates. CRCOG will attempt to develop a common platform for rating project (i.e. ensuring uniform multipliers and emissions assumptions for similar-type projects).
Congestion Mitigation	Points will be awarded to projects that provide congestion mitigation.	CRCOG will review project specifics (i.e. Level of Service improvements, estimated reduction of vehicular trips) to measure the level of congestion relief.
Regional Ranking	Projects will be given points based on the priority ranking by the RPOs.	CRCOG will review the proposal and identify its regional significance (how widespread or localized the benefits are). CRCOG will also review the project to determine if the proposal is the result of a CRCOG planning study or Regional Plan.
Operation and Maintenance Plan / <u>Project Readiness (CRCOG addition)</u>	A proposal can only be effective if the agencies responsible for permitting, implementing, operating and maintaining the project have agreed to advance it. Points will be awarded based on the sponsor’s commitment to operate and manage the project/program beyond the construction and/or implementation stage.	CRCOG will mimic ConnDOT guidelines, ensuring the municipal commitment is properly documented. We will also look at the project’s readiness and ability to meet schedules.