



# The New Direction of the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program at NCDOT

**-DRAFT PROPOSAL-**

Terry Arellano, PE  
Transportation Planning Branch  
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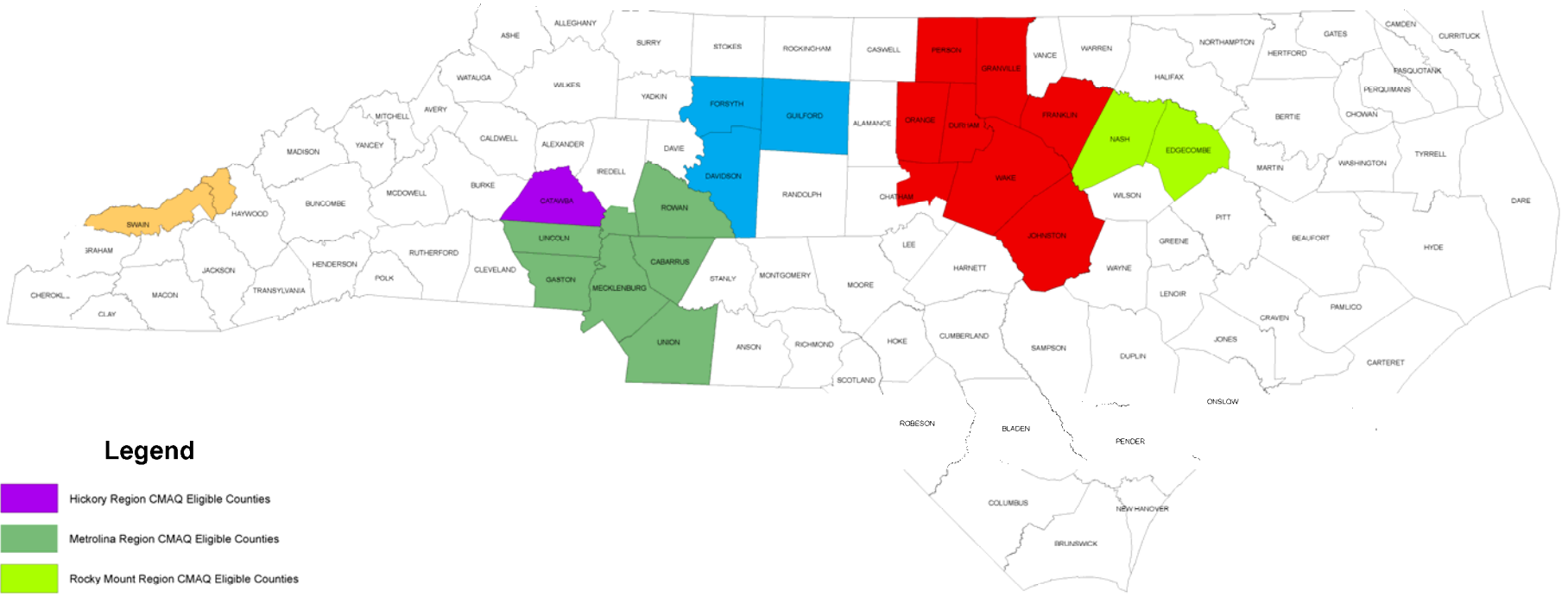
# Background on CMAQ

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- Federal program that provides funding for projects / programs in air quality nonattainment & maintenance areas to help achieve & maintain air quality standards
- Initially authorized by ISTEA, continued in TEA-21 & SAFETEA-LU
- Jointly administered by FHWA & FTA, in conjunction with EPA
- Funds apportioned to NC based on population in air quality non-attainment / maintenance counties & severity of pollutant problems
- Funds are considered outside of the Equity Formula

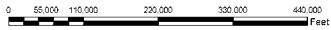


# CMAQ Eligible Counties in North Carolina



## Legend

-  Hickory Region CMAQ Eligible Counties
-  Metrolina Region CMAQ Eligible Counties
-  Rocky Mount Region CMAQ Eligible Counties
-  Triad Region CMAQ Eligible Counties
-  Triangle Region CMAQ Eligible Counties
-  Great Smokey Moutains National Park



# 2004 Call for Projects

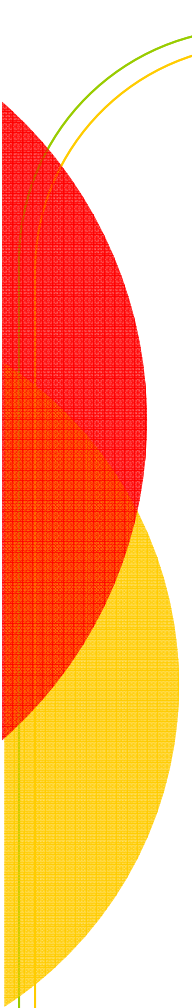
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- Solicited proposals for CMAQ projects for local administration within eligible counties
- Budget of approximately \$20 million per year (2006 – 2012) allocated to individual MPO / RPOs based on BOT-approved formula
- Interagency Review Committee evaluated proposals based on eligibility rules, emissions benefits, cost & other criteria
- BOT had final approval of projects programmed in TIP
- Approximately 100 projects programmed at the state and local levels

# 2004 Call for Projects

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- Issues encountered:
  - MPO / RPO balances still remain
    - *About \$32 million total*
  - Implementation delays due to local areas' unfamiliarity with Federal funds process
    - *To date, less than 5 projects fully completed*
  - Burdensome project management
    - *Overseeing development of local agreements, requesting Federal authorizations, approving environmental documentation, overseeing local procurement of consultants/contractors, managing individual contracts & reimbursements, etc.*
  - Similar level of NCDOT management required for each project regardless of project cost
    - *Requires involvement of other divisions, not just TPB*



This process was good  
(it won an award!),  
but it does need some refinement...

# Goals of Revised Process

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- To program unused funds remaining from 2004 Call for Projects allocations
- To better utilize remaining CMAQ balance
- To revise 2004 call methodology for allocating funds and programming projects, beginning with those funds authorized for FY 2013 and beyond
- To keep in mind the goal of the CMAQ program by focusing on the highest & best use of funds

# Programming Unallocated Funds

Process allowing MPO/RPOs to allocate \$32 million balance of funds from 2004 call for projects

- Process to begin **Fall 2008**, after BOT approval
  - Solicitation letter will be sent to non-attainment/maintenance MPO/RPOs having a CMAQ balance
- Project proposals will be due to NCDOT **Winter 2009**
  - Requires completed CMAQ application
  - Requires MPO/RPO endorsement
  - Project minimum cost threshold = \$250,000 or funds remaining in MPO/RPO allocation, whichever is less

# Programming Unallocated Funds

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- Project proposals will be reviewed by Interagency Review Team (IRT) for CMAQ eligibility
  - IRT comprised of NCDOT, NCDENR, EPA, FHWA & FTA
  - IRT will not include MPO/RPO Association since all eligible projects should be programmed in TIP, up to funding availability of the MPO/RPO
- Eligible projects will be forwarded to STIP Unit for inclusion in 2009 - 2015 STIP by amendment in **Spring/Summer 2009**
- Any funds not programmed through this process will revert to the general CMAQ balance and be subject to revised CMAQ guidelines
- Requests for new statewide projects will be submitted through the new process

# CMAQ Project Fast-Tracking

Process to better utilize remaining CMAQ balance by fully funding existing projects

- Process to begin **Fall 2008**, after BOT approval Solicitation letter will be sent to MPO/RPOs and Project Sponsors for currently programmed projects
  - Offer will extend to any currently programmed CMAQ project or any project resulting from the process to program unallocated funds (as previously discussed)
- Project Sponsors to evaluate if preliminary engineering (PE) can be completed in time for construction authorization request by **September 15, 2009**
  - Must submit documentation of projects and sponsor's commitment to complete PE by deadline to the associated MPO/RPO

# CMAQ Project Fast-Tracking

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- MPO/RPOs will submit a list of projects to be fast-tracked to TPB, by **January 30, 2009**
  - Submittal should include the anticipated completion date for PE items
- Supplemental agreement needed to address provision that if PE is complete by specified completion deadline, NCDOT will request construction authorization with 100% Federal funding
- Project Sponsor will submit required PE items by their specified deadline, enabling TPB to request construction authorization at 100% Federal funding
- If PE is not complete by deadline, project will not be funded with 100% Federal funding and will be funded according to the original local agreement
- Subject to cash flow availability

# New CMAQ Guidelines

Process to program future CMAQ projects in conjunction  
With the STIP update process

- Process to commence **September – Year 1** of TIP update cycle
  - Solicitation letter will be sent to eligible MPOs/RPOs outlining new process and their regional monetary CMAQ allocation for TIP under development
  - There will be Statewide allocation and regional allocation
- MPO/RPOs will submit CMAQ project proposals with project priority list submitted to TIP Unit
  - Project proposals subject to minimum cost threshold of \$250,000 in order to meet the highest & best use of CMAQ funding
  - MPO/RPOs should coordinate with others in their region to develop requests

# New CMAQ Guidelines

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- TIP Unit will forward all CMAQ applications to TPB to be distributed to IRT for review
  - IRT comprised of NCDOT, NCDENR, EPA, FHWA & FTA
  - IRT will meet in **early January – Year 1** to select Statewide projects & discuss any outstanding issues with local project proposals
- Based on IRT recommendations, TPB will forward eligibility decision on proposed projects to TIP Unit
- Final Statewide CMAQ projects will be determined based on coordination between the TIP Unit and the BOT/Secretary/Governor
- Final MPO/RPO projects within a region will be determined based on consultation between BOT Members and MPOs/RPOs in their region.

# New CMAQ Guidelines

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- Approved CMAQ projects will be included in the Draft TIP (June – Year 1)
- Any funds not programmed after final adoption of the STIP revert back to the overall balance & are reallocated per formula for the next update cycle
- Updated version of application used for 2004 call for projects will be used

# New CMAQ Guidelines – Allocations

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- Allocations are based on a revamp of the distribution formula used in the 2004 call for projects
- New formula allocates funds by AQ region, rather than MPO/RPO
- New formula includes 2000 Census population within AQ area as established by EPA
- New formula includes factoring for severity of AQ pollutants – ozone, carbon oxides and particulate matter

# New CMAQ Guidelines – Allocations

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$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Yearly} \\ \text{Regional} \\ \text{CMAQ} \\ \text{Allocation} \\ (\$) \end{array} = \frac{\text{Factored NA Population for Region}}{\text{Total State NA Population}} \times \begin{array}{l} \text{Total NC} \\ \text{Yearly} \\ \text{CMAQ} \\ \text{Allocation} \\ (\$) \end{array}$$

# New CMAQ Guidelines – Allocations\*

	<b>Yearly</b>	<b>2011-2017 TIP</b>
Statewide	\$4,000,000	\$20,000,000
Metrolina	\$9,882,840	\$49,414,200
Triad	\$5,864,458	\$29,232,290
Hickory	\$1,009,177	\$5,045,885
Triangle	\$8,394,584	\$41,972,920
Rocky Mount	\$848,940	\$4,244,700
Great Smoky Mtn Nat'l Park	\$125,000	\$625,000

*\*Subject to funding & cash flow availability*

# Summary

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- To program unused funds remaining from 2004 Call for Projects allocations  
➔ **Programming Unallocated Funds**
- To deplete a significant portion of the NCDOT CMAQ balance  
➔ **Project Fast Tracking**
- To revise 2004 call methodology for allocating funds and programming projects, beginning with those funds authorized for FY 2013 and beyond  
➔ **New CMAQ Guidelines**
- To keep in mind the goal of the CMAQ program by focusing on the highest & best use of funds  
➔ **Minimum Project Cost**



We are seeking your input...

Questions?  
Suggestions?  
Recommendations?