



September 18, 2008

Mr. Mike Bruff, P.E.  
Manager, Transportation Planning Branch  
NCDOT  
1554 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1554.

**Subject: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) policy changes**

Dear Mike:

On September 11 and 12, 2008 the NCAMPO Board discussed the proposed CMAQ policy changes. The NCAMPO Board passed a resolution, here attached, detailing its positions on the proposed changes.

These positions include support for moving forward at this time with some aspects, requested modifications of others, and additional suggestions for an enhanced process. One request is that NCDOT defer a decision on new CMAQ guidelines for future TIP cycles pending consultation involving the Department and the MPOs. NCAMPO intends to provide additional information regarding concerns with the current formulation of this last item prior to the October Board of Transportation meeting.

Please take these positions into account in considering action on this item at the October Board of Transportation meeting. Please feel free to contact me at (910) 342-2781 for more information and regarding follow-up on this action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Kozlosky", is written over the typed name and title.

Mike Kozlosky  
NCAMPO, President  
Executive Director, Wilmington MPO

CC: Susan Coward, Deputy Secretary of Transportation  
Doug Galyon, Board of Transportation, Chairman and Division 7

Conrad Burrell, Board of Transportation, Division 14  
Bob Collier, Board of Transportation, Division 12  
Marion Cowell, Board of Transportation, Division 10  
Nancy Dunn, Board of Transportation, Division 9  
Cam McRae, Board of Transportation, Division 2 At Large  
Andrew Perkins, Board of Transportation, Division 9 At large  
Kenneth Spaulding, Board of Transportation, Division 5  
Nina Szlosberg, Board of Transportation, At Large Environment  
Lanny Wilson, Board of Transportation, Division 3  
Wally Bowman, P.E., Division Engineer, Division 5  
Mike Holder, P.E., Division Engineer, Division 12  
Pat Ivey, P.E., Division Engineer, Division 9  
Neil Lassiter Jr., P.E., Division Engineer, Division 2  
Mike Mills, P.E., Division Engineer, Division 7  
Barry Moose, P.E., Division Engineer, Division 10  
Allen Pope, P.E., Division Engineer, Division 3  
Joel Setzer, P.E., Division Engineer, Division 14

## NCAMPO RESOLUTION ON "A NEW DIRECTION FOR CMAQ AT NCDOT"

WHEREAS, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program is key to delivering transportation projects and programs in nonattainment and maintenance areas which reduce transportation-related emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Department has identified a series of issues related to program administration and project delivery that could be improved through process enhancements; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Planning Organizations are key stakeholders and partners in CMAQ program implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Transportation is considering a "New Direction for CMAQ in North Carolina" proposal developed by NCDOT Staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on September 12, 2008, that the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations:

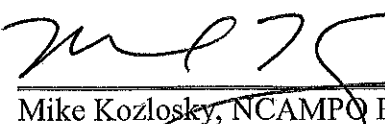
**I. Supports implementation of the proposal to fast-track program expenditures through CMAQ projects and project phases in Federal FY 2009 with a 100% federal share.**

**II. Supports moving forward with the proposal to program unallocated funds remaining from the 2006-2012 TIP cycle, with modifications as follows:**

- NCAMPO supports establishing a minimum project cost threshold of \$50,000 with no minimum threshold for flexing CMAQ funds to FTA projects.
- NCAMPO recommends agreement templates, streamlined agreement processes, and bundling smaller projects where possible to reduce administrative burden and associated delay.
- NCAMPO welcomes guidance on project selection and scheduling as needed to advancing CMAQ program goals and delivery.

**III. Encourages NCDOT to work with MPOs** that can demonstrate an ability to deliver specific projects in advance of 2013 **to fast-track program expenditures** to spend against future year allocations or unclaimed balances as a way to spend down the state CMAQ balance and advance program objectives.

**IV. Requests NCDOT defer a decision on new CMAQ guidelines for future TIP cycles pending consultation involving the Department, MPOs, and affected RPOs.** Consultation should include a review of issues with program administration, project selection, and program delivery and the development of more effective CMAQ guidelines by Spring 2009.

  
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Mike Kozlosky, NCAMPO President

7/17/08  
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Date