



# CMAQ PROGRAM - PROGRAMMING UNALLOCATED TARGET FUNDS (2006 - 2012)

NOVEMBER 26, 2008

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The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is soliciting proposals for candidate transportation projects to be considered for funding under the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program in an effort to expend the remaining balance of target allocations established in October 2004. Any Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or Rural Planning Organization (RPO) currently retaining a balance is invited to work cooperatively with their member jurisdictions to develop & submit candidate project proposals to expend this balance.

Please note the following requirements for all candidate projects:

- **APPLICATION** – All candidate project proposals require a completed CMAQ application and supporting details. This information is necessary to adequately determine the CMAQ eligibility of each proposal based on Federal guidance.

A copy of the CMAQ application is attached; in addition, the application may be downloaded in Microsoft Word format from the [NCDOT E-forms database](#) (search for "CMAQ Application").

- **FEDERAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS** - Since the CMAQ program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), all CMAQ projects must follow Federal laws and regulations. The *CMAQ Program Implementation Project Manager's Guide*, which can be found on the [Transportation Planning Branch website](#), explains these requirements.

**MPO/RPO ENDORSEMENT** – All candidate project proposals require endorsement by the associated MPO/RPO. Endorsement may be demonstrated through resolution or letter of support. A single letter or resolution endorsing all candidate project proposals within the MPO/RPO is acceptable. An example resolution is attached.

It is the responsibility of each individual MPO/RPO to evaluate candidate project proposals and prioritize them based on the anticipated air quality emissions benefits; cost of construction or implementation and/or priorities of the MPO/RPO.

Candidate statewide project proposals also require endorsement of the associated MPO(s) or RPO(s). Sponsors of candidate statewide project proposals should coordinate directly with these groups for endorsement. The current contact for each MPO/RPO in North Carolina can be found in the directory on the NCDOT website ([Metropolitan Planning Organizations - MPO](#) or [Rural Planning Organizations - RPO](#)).

- **PROJECT LOCATION** – CMAQ funds may only be expended within air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas, as listed below. Counties marked with an asterisk (\*) are only partially designated non-attainment or maintenance; candidate project proposals within these counties must be within the non-attainment or maintenance portion of the county.

Cabarrus	Davidson	Edgecombe	Gaston	Haywood*	Lincoln	Orange	Swain*
Catawba	Davie	Forsyth	Granville	Iredell*	Mecklenburg	Person	Union
Chatham*	Durham	Franklin	Guilford	Johnston	Nash	Rowan	Wake

**THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF CANDIDATE PROJECT PROPOSALS BY NCDOT IS FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009**



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- **MINIMUM PROJECT COST** – Individual candidate project proposals will be subject to a minimum cost threshold of **\$100,000 or amount remaining in MPO/RPO target**, whichever is less.
- **SUBMISSION OF PACKAGES** - All candidate project proposal packages must be submitted in hard copy format. Email submissions are not allowed. The deadline for receipt of packages is **May 1, 2009**.
- **FAST-TRACKING FOR NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS** – Proposed projects identified through this process may be eligible for full funding under the Fast-Tracking Guidelines. If a Local Project Sponsor in an MPO/RPO wishes to fast-track a proposed project, then documentation of MPO/RPO approval and a completed CMAQ application must be received by January 29, 2008. This deadline supersedes the submission deadline above. See the [Programming Unallocated Target Funds Guidelines](#) for more details.
- Any remaining funds not programmed for eligible projects through this process will revert to the general balance of CMAQ funds and be subject to the new NCDOT CMAQ Project Selection & Programming Guidelines.

## TIMELINE FOR PROGRAMMING UNALLOCATED TARGET FUNDS (2006 -2012)

November 26, 2008	Proposal solicitation process begins
December 1, 2008 – February 1, 2009	Informational sessions held upon request to educate potential project sponsors on CMAQ awards with respect to Federal Aid funding process & requirements
January 29, 2009	Deadline for NCDOT receipt of documentation of MPO/RPO approval and completed CMAQ application for new proposed fast-tracked projects by MPO/RPO (FAST-TRACK PROJECTS ONLY)
May 1, 2009	Deadline for receipt of candidate project proposals by NCDOT
May 11, 2009 – July 13, 2009	Interagency review of submitted proposals & follow up coordination with sponsors, as needed.
July 15, 2008	Approved CMAQ project list submitted to TIP Development Unit for handout at August 2009 Board of Transportation meeting
September 3, 2009	Approved CMAQ projects added to 2009 -2015 STIP by amendment

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**[Insert MPO/RPO Name]**  
**Resolution Endorsing Candidate CMAQ Project Proposals**

**WHEREAS**, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA) (Public Law 109-59, August 10, 2005) continues the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) (23 U.S.C. § 149); and

**WHEREAS**, CMAQ is a Federal program that funds transportation projects and programs in air quality nonattainment and maintenance areas to help achieve and maintain national standards for pollutants; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) administers the CMAQ program on behalf of non-attainment and maintenance areas within North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, [Insert MPO/RPO Name] has administered a CMAQ project selection process among local area jurisdictions in air quality non-attainment and maintenance counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the resulting candidate project proposals meet the requirements of CMAQ and the guidelines established by NCDOT to administer the program;

**WHEREAS**, upon approval of the candidate project proposals for CMAQ funding by the NCDOT, the [Insert MPO Name] will amend its Long-Range Transportation Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program to include these projects (INCLUDE FOR MPO ONLY)

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that by the [Insert MPO/RPO Name] endorses the attached listing of proposed CMAQ candidate projects provided here on this, the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, TAC Chair, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the TAC duly held on this, the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Transportation Advisory Committee

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Subscribed and sworn to me on this, the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_.