



# Department of Transportation

## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

August 17, 2016

### Background

Pursuant to the new five-year State Transportation Plan, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is making available up to \$98.7 million in funding to support bicycle, pedestrian, multi-use path and transportation-related projects and programs that help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. These funds, made available to the State through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administered by NYSDOT, are provided through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ).

### Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible for funding:

Sponsor Entity	TAP	CMAQ
Local Governments (counties, towns, cities, and villages)	X	X
Regional Transportation Authorities	X	X
Transit Agencies	X	X
Natural Resource or Public Land Agencies (Department of Environmental Conservation, and Department of Parks and Recreation are eligible, as are local fish and game or wildlife agencies)	X	X
Tribal Governments	X	X
Local or Regional Governmental entity responsible for Transportation or Recreational Trails	X	X
New York State Department of Transportation		X

### Eligible Projects

TAP - TAP provides assistance to local governments for a variety of transportation projects that will increase options for non-vehicular transportation, including:

- On-road and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities;
- Projects for improving non-driver safety and access to public transportation and enhanced mobility;
- Projects that enable and encourage children to walk or bike to school (Safe Routes to School);
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for non-motorized transportation users;
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas; and
- Projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways.

TAP may also provide funding to support community improvement activities and environmental mitigation projects if they are a component of a project that is eligible under one of the primary categories above.

CMAQ - CMAQ supports transportation-related projects that reduce vehicle emissions and/or traffic congestion in designated areas that do not meet, or previously did not attain National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Eligible projects include:

- Travel demand management/rideshare programs;
- Congestion reduction and traffic flow improvements;
- Transit improvements, including operating support for new services;
- Freight intermodal operational improvements;
- Pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements; and
- Development of alternative fuel infrastructure and clean vehicle deployment projects.

For the purposes of this solicitation, CMAQ is available only for upstate counties that are air quality maintenance or non-attainment areas.

### **Funding Availability**

NYSDOT will be soliciting candidate projects for TAP and CMAQ funding. A total of \$98.7 million will be awarded:

- \$62.2 million in funding under TAP; and
- \$36.5 million in funding under CMAQ.

Project sponsors will be required to submit an application for candidate TAP/CMAQ projects detailing the proposal's scope, benefits, schedule, and costs. An optional pre-application process has been set up to help sponsors who choose to have NYSDOT staff pre-evaluate their project application(s).

### **Maximum Award/Matching Funds/Eligibility**

The minimum TAP/CMAQ project award shall be no less than \$250,000 and no greater than \$5.0 million for any single project. Eligible project costs may include planning, design/engineering, right-of-way, construction, and construction inspection costs. CMAQ projects may also include public outreach and education; and operating assistance for a new

transit services. Any costs beyond an authorized project award shall be the sole responsibility of the project sponsor.

NYSDOT will provide up to 80 percent of the total project costs with a minimum 20 percent match provided by the project sponsor.

### **Project Review Process**

TAP and CMAQ candidate projects will be subject to a two-step review process, including an initial screening for eligibility and a data driven scoring process conducted by NYSDOT subject matter experts. The TAP review team will also consider, in the decision making process, the statutory geographic limitation of funds.

Review teams will submit a formal recommendation of project priorities to the NYSDOT Commissioner for concurrence.

### **Project Evaluation Criteria - TAP**

**Step 1** - The following screening criteria must be met for the project to advance to the data driven scoring process.

- The project application is complete, submitted by the deadline, and all application attachments and supporting documentation are included.
- The project has an eligible sponsor.
- The project includes a minimum 20 percent match.
- The Sponsor has attended the DOT sponsored TAP/CMAQ Federal Aid Workshop.
- The project relates to surface transportation (not exclusively recreational).
- The project benefits the public interest through the provision of public access and use.
- The project has documented community support.
- The Sponsor demonstrated that the project can go to construction within 18 months of award.

**Step 2** - Once the application is determined to be eligible, submissions will be evaluated and scored based on the criteria below.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Available Points</b>
<b>Budget, Scope Accuracy, and Assurance of Match</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detailed budget/estimate of project costs.</li><li>• Scope of the project.</li><li>• Is ROW required and budgeted?</li><li>• Are the project elements cost-effective in relation to the problems identified as needing to be addressed?</li><li>• Are funds identified to complete project?</li></ul>	<b>20</b>
<b>Project Schedule, Process and Project Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will the project progress to construction within 18 months?</li><li>• Are the estimates reasonable for the scope and in relation to the schedule/timeline for completion?</li><li>• Does the schedule and budget reflect the steps needed to fully execute a federal-aid transportation project?</li></ul>	<b>20</b>

Category	Evaluation Criteria	Available Points
<b>Alignment with Transportation Plans, Projects and Systems, Relationship to TAP and Surface Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the project relate to the category under which it has applied?</li> <li>How does the project relate to surface transportation need?</li> <li>Does the proposed project expand travel choices and improve access for the traveling public?</li> </ul>	10
<b>Public Benefit (Local and Regional Impact)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there Public and Community Support for the project?</li> <li>What is the potential for positive social and economic impacts resulting from the proposed project?</li> </ul>	20
<b>Innovation and Creativity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does this project consider new approaches or use innovative techniques to address the problem?</li> <li>Is the proposed solution cost-effective?</li> </ul>	20
<b>Ability to Deliver the Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor's past performance using federal funds; capacity to implement/begin construction within 18 months of award.</li> </ul>	10
<b>Total Points:</b>		<b>100</b>

### Project Evaluation Criteria - CMAQ

**Step 1** - The following screening criteria must be met for the project to advance to the data driven scoring process.

- The project is located in one of the 19 eligible counties.
- The project fits into one or more of the eligible CMAQ categories.
- The project submission includes data so calculations of the estimated emission benefits for targeted pollutants may be performed.
- The project has an eligible Sponsor.
- The Sponsor has attended the DOT sponsored TAP/CMAQ Federal Aid Workshop.
- The project includes a minimum 20 percent match.
- The project application is complete, submitted by the deadline, and all application attachments and supporting documentation are included.

**Step 2** - Once the application is determined to be eligible, submissions will be evaluated and scored based on the criteria below.

Category	Evaluation Criteria	Available Points
<b>Project Benefits and Proposed Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How significant is the identified problem/benefit?</li> <li>How well does the proposed project address the stated problem?</li> <li>Is the proposed work technically feasible, and implementable?</li> </ul>	20

Category	Evaluation Criteria	Available Points
<b>Technical Benefits:</b> Emission Reduction & Congestion Mitigation	<p><b><u>Emission Reduction:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reductions in targeted CO, ozone precursors: NO<sub>x</sub> and/or VOC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> in the area.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Congestion Mitigation:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How well does the project reduce volume?</li> <li>• How well does the project improve travel time?</li> <li>• How well does the project improve modal options and accessibility?</li> </ul>	30
<b>Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does this project include unique characteristics, consider new approaches or use innovative techniques to address the problem?</li> <li>• Does the project include cost-effective solutions and/or creative/innovative ways to deliver the project?</li> <li>• Does the project leverage other partnerships or fund sources?</li> </ul>	20
<b>Project Schedule and Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the estimates reasonable for the scope and in relation to the schedule/timeline for completion?</li> <li>• Does the schedule and budget reflect the steps needed to fully execute a federal-aid transportation project?</li> <li>• Is the project timeframe to construction/implementation within 18 months?</li> </ul>	20
<b>Ability to Deliver the Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsor's past performance using federal aid; capacity to implement/begin construction within 18 months.</li> </ul>	10
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>100</b>

### Program Requirements/General Information

- All projects advanced through this process must:
  - Conform to all federal and State requirements and design specifications and standards;
  - Have an appropriate service life for the level of work being performed wherein the public has full and year-round access;
  - Be subject to the required federal DBE requirements for federal-aid projects; and
  - Begin construction within 18 months.
- Optional Pre-Application Review requests are due no later than September 30, 2016.
- Project sponsors will be required to submit applications to [TAP-CMAQ@dot.ny.gov](mailto:TAP-CMAQ@dot.ny.gov). Applications must be received by October 21, 2016.
- Eligible sponsors must also attend a 2016 TAP-CMAQ Informational Workshop. Information on these workshops can be found on the [www.dot.ny.gov/TAP-CMAQ](http://www.dot.ny.gov/TAP-CMAQ).

- Additional program guidance and information on the application, federal-aid process and other program resources for this solicitation are available at [www.dot.ny.gov/TAP-CMAQ](http://www.dot.ny.gov/TAP-CMAQ)
- All sponsors other than NYSDOT applying for funding must be registered in New York State's Grants Gateway <http://grantsreform.ny.gov/> and have a NYS SFS vendor ID which may be obtained at: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/vendors/>.
- Once project selections are made, applicants will be notified that their project was either accepted as submitted or not selected.

Comments and questions regarding this TAP-CMAQ solicitation may also be submitted via email to [TAP-CMAQ@dot.ny.gov](mailto:TAP-CMAQ@dot.ny.gov). NYSDOT will update the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) materials weekly.