

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION PACKAGE

FOR CANDIDATE PROJECTS FROM THE
2007 – 2012 TIP SET-ASIDE PROGRAMS

ITS for Local Signals

The Capital District Transportation Committee's 2007-12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes \$2.25 million in CMAQ funds for ITS for Local Signals. Projects should be on the local system. The intended purpose is to implement modest-sized projects that improve traffic flow, improve transit service, improve pedestrian crossings, and improve safety by using intelligent transportation system (ITS) features for traffic signals. Examples of ITS for traffic signals include signal coordination, transit signal priority (TSP), pedestrian actuated no-right-turn-on-red signs, flashing crosswalk lights, countdown signals, animated eyes, and ITS road lighting technologies for traffic signals.

Recommended Parameters:

Must be CMAQ eligible; see guidelines in this packet.
A local share of 20% is needed for each project
All intersection approaches should be on the local owned road system.
Minimum Total Cost: \$30,000
Maximum Total Cost: \$500,000
Total Available \$2.25 M

Submission Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:

Submission Information:

Five (5) copies of the completed PJP must be submitted to the Capital District Transportation Committee, attn: Set-Aside Program, One Park Place, Main Floor, Albany, NY 12205 by 5 PM on Monday March 31, 2008.

Evaluation Criteria:

CDTC staff will evaluate project candidates utilizing its established Transportation Improvement Program evaluation procedure. Below are some examples of the key evaluation criteria contained in that procedure that are directly related to this set-aside. For a description of the full evaluation procedure, please visit CDTC's website at <http://www.cdtcmpto.org/tipdoc07/tip07.pdf>.

- Does the project provide an air quality benefit? (required for use of CMAQ funds)
- Potential market and cost effectiveness of the project; calculated using CDTC's regional traffic model.
- Status of the Linkage project, or similar plan (i.e. adopted by municipality? And/or other study recommendations being funded/implemented by other means).
- Does the project meet the principles of New Visions 2030, the regional long-range transportation plan (<http://www.cdtcmpto.org/rtp2030/principles.pdf>)?
- Level of support from the community, elected officials and advocacy groups.
- Does the project improve vehicle flow, transit, pedestrian and bicycle access?

Congestion Mitigation, Air Quality (CMAQ) Program Summary

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program provides funding to State and local governments for transportation projects and programs that help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Funding for this program is available to state and local government entities within the Capital District by virtue of our regional status as a “non-attainment” area for certain pollutants.

In order to be approved for CMAQ funds, a transportation improvement project must demonstrate an emissions benefit. CDTC staff will conduct air quality analysis of proposed projects to determine the potential for emissions reductions of each. This information will be used in project evaluations and ultimately will help determine which projects are selected for funding. In addition, other types of benefits of eligible projects may also be considered during project selection, including greenhouse gas reduction, congestion relief, safety, or other elements.¹

CDTC is currently soliciting for three set-asides to be funded through CMAQ: Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects; Intersections/Roundabouts/Queue Jumpers; and ITS for Local Signals. Types of projects envisioned to be proposed for these set-aside categories can be found in the list of “Eligible Projects” as described in both the federal and NYSDOT CMAQ guidance as indicated in the guidance excerpts below:

Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) including Bike & Pedestrian Facilities

- restriction of certain roads or lanes to, or construction of such roads or lanes for use by passenger buses (i.e. queue jumpers);
- traffic flow improvement programs that reduce emissions;
- programs for secure bicycle storage facilities and other facilities, including bicycle lanes, for the convenience and protection of bicyclists;
- programs for new construction and major reconstructions of paths, tracks, or areas solely for the use by pedestrian or other non-motorized means of transportation when economically feasible and in the public interest. Such bicycle and pedestrian facilities are eligible if they are not exclusively recreational and result in reduced vehicle trips.

Congestion Reduction & Traffic Flow Improvements:

- traditional traffic flow improvements, such as the construction of roundabouts, HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes, left-turn or other managed lanes, are eligible if they demonstrate net emissions benefit;
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects, such as traffic signal synchronization projects and traffic signal control systems can be effective in relieving traffic congestion, enhancing transit bus performance, and improving air quality.

¹ Pg. 6, NYSDOT CMAQ Guidance, transmitted 11/27/07

ITS for Local Signals (CMAQ)

Section 1—General Project Information

Sponsor Information

Project Sponsor: _____
(i.e. City of X)

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Project Title: _____

NOTE: CDTC reserves the right to adjust the fund source or set-aside used based on the scope of work for the project and overall fit with the stated purpose of each set-aside.

Section 2—Detailed Project Information

If you are applying for the ITS for Local Signals set-aside, please answer the following questions.

1. Does the project implement a specific recommendation from a completed Linkage Study, or similar planning study or municipal program (i.e. Municipal comprehensive plan, bike/ped plan, sub area study, Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), etc.)? (Check one box below)

Yes

No

If yes, which one? On a separate sheet, or in the space below, please provide an excerpt to support your application (i.e. a photocopy of the appropriate page(s) from a final report).

2. Describe the nature of the problem the project is intended to solve.

3. Project Description. On a separate sheet(s) please describe the proposed project being as specific as possible and including:

- A narrative describing the project
- A map indicating the location and end points of the project.
- All elements of the project, their location, and quantity
- Does the project include drainage improvements, utility relocation, or curbing, or culvert installation or replacement?

4. Provide a detailed cost-estimate for the project. Include all costs to be incurred as part of the project. Please provide the source of the cost estimate.

Federal Funds Requested \$ _____
Local Share (20% min required) \$ _____
Other fund sources (if any) \$ _____
Total Project Cost \$ _____

5. How does the project enhance the intersection operations, including improved traffic flow, improved transit service, improved pedestrian crossings, and improved safety? (use additional pages as necessary)

6. Describe how the project is related to the principles of the regional long-range transportation plan, New Visions 2030? <http://www.cdtempo.org/rtp2030/principles.pdf>

7. Will any Right of Way need to be taken or purchased to complete this project? (Check one box below)

Yes (answer the following) No (go to question 8)

How many acres? _____

How many square feet? _____

What is the estimated cost? \$ _____

Where is it located within the project limits? _____

8. Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the completed project? Please include a statement of willingness from the responsible party to fully maintain the completed project.

9. Will the project impact any historic, environmental, or recreational sensitive lands?
(Check one box below)

- Yes No

If yes, please provide as much specific information as possible including location(s). If wetland (or other) mitigation is necessary are plans in place to implement the mitigation? Explain.

10. Are there other environmental issues not mentioned above?
(Check one box below)

- Yes No

If yes, please explain.

11. Describe the safety benefit(s) that the proposed project is expected to create.

12. Please list any physical constraints to implementing the project that may increase costs and affect project feasibility (grades, curves, utilities, sight distance, etc)

13. Please outline a timetable for completion of the proposed project by project phase (i.e. design, construction, etc.) and an estimated completion date.

Section 3—Attachments

Please attach any additional relevant information as required in the application material or that will support the project application.