

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION PACKAGE

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

Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects

The Capital District Transportation Committee's 2007-12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes a \$1 million Bicycle/Pedestrian set-aside to enhance the Capital District's bicycle and pedestrian travel environment. The intended purpose is to implement modest-sized bike/ped specific recommendations that were developed as part of a Linkage Program planning 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.)

CDTC is now ready to solicit for applications for a total of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) of projects on an 80%/20% basis (\$800,000 federal plus \$200,000 local match). There are no minimum or maximum funding levels associated with the set-aside, although the overall budget is modest. It should be kept in mind that projects using CMAQ funds have specific eligibility requirements. Please see the CMAQ program summary that is a part of this package.

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.cdtempo.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.
- Established counter measures and crash reduction factors will be used to determine the safety benefit of each project.
- Does the project meet the principles of New Visions 2030, the regional long-range transportation plan (<http://www.cdtempo.org/rtp2030/principles.pdf>)?
- Is the project on CDTC's Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network (not required but will add merit to the evaluation)?
- Does the project have logical termini?
- Level of support from the community, elected officials and advocacy groups.
- Can the project be implemented within the timeframe specified?

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

Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects (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 Bicycle/Pedestrian 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). If non-Linkage, describe the public involvement process undertaken, the status of the plan, and how it relates to the principles of New Visions 2030.

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 projects.
- All elements of the project, their location, and quantity (ex. 500 linear feet along the north side of Main Street between Avenue A and Park Rd and four high visibility crosswalks on all legs of the intersection with Avenue A and Main Street)
- 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 overall bike/ped regional transportation system? (use additional pages as necessary)

6. Describe how the project is related to the regional long-range transportation plan, New Visions 2030 and the goals and objectives outlined in the updated Bike/Ped Toolbox? (www.cdtcmpto.org/rtp2030/materials/bp-doc.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 (snow removal, grass trimming, repair, wiring, lights, etc)? Please include a statement of willingness from the responsible party to fully maintain the completed project.

9. Is the project on the CDTC Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network (www.cdcmpo.org/bike/prioritynetwork.pdf) (Check one box below)

Yes No

10. 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.

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

Yes No

If yes, please explain.

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

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

14. 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.