

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

AN ADVOCATE'S GUIDE TO PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION IN FUNDING DECISIONS

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds are available for projects that reduce congestion and vehicle pollutants, such as bicycling and walking projects, in parts of each state that are not, or have not been, in compliance with federal air quality standards. CMAQ funds may be, and often are, spent on a range of projects, including bike lanes, trails, bike racks on buses, bicycle storage, bike/ped master plans, and bike/ped coordinator salaries. This chart will help you figure out your role in the CMAQ process and how to get involved. The specific rules for the CMAQ process vary from place to place. Research the process in your region and get to know agency staff.

FUNDING FLOW

MAP-21 — Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Funds (CMAQ) (FY 2013)
\$2.2 billion nationally (after set-asides)

State's Share of CMAQ funds
\$9.5 - \$464 million per state

\$1.88 billion
 Funds for areas not meeting air quality standards

\$326 million
 Set-aside for certain (non-bike/ped) projects (PM2.5)

\$197 million
 Flexible funds to use as Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds

PROJECT SELECTION FLOW

1. Agency sets transportation vision

2. Projects are added to transportation plans

3. Agency reviews, prioritizes and selects

4. Agency publishes prioritized list of planned projects

5. Design and construction

AGENCY PROCESS

MPO and DOT sets long-term regional transportation priorities. Projects must be consistent with Long Range Plan and State Implementation Plan goals.

 Projects are added to local, regional, State Transportation Plan.

MPO (w/DOT) reviews and prioritizes the projects and selects projects to be funded. DOT writes state implementation plan, sets performance metrics, conducts outcome assessments. 

Regions update their Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) and they are combined with the state project lists to create the complete State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

ADVOCACY ACTIONS

Prioritize bicycling and walking.
 Provide public feedback on planning documents.
 Build political support.

Get great projects in local, comprehensive, and bike/ped planning documents.
 Demonstrate strong public support for bike/ped projects.
 Provide public feedback on planning documents.

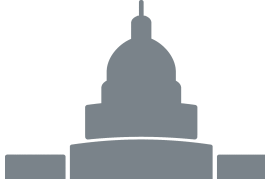
Find out what the rules are in your area, who makes the decisions, and when.
 Advocate for good policies, bike/ped friendly air quality measures, designated bike/ped funds, a seat at the table as a project reviewer and matching funds..

Don't stop once projects make the list.
 Push the agency to move the project forward.
 Maintain interest of elected officials in the project.

Celebrate! Host a ribbon-cutting event.
 Take your Members of Congress on a ride.
 Thank your DOT, MPO, Mayor and Governor.



ADVOCACY TIPS FOR CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



POLITICAL SUPPORT

Cultivate elected officials.

Let your political leadership know that bicycling and walking funds are available from a wide variety of funding sources, including CMAQ. The rest of your work will be easier if you have political champions on your side. Keep the message simple: Bicycling investments ease congestion and improve air quality; let's tap into funding for those types of projects.

Engage agency staff.

Get to know your region's CMAQ program staff.

Stay on message.

If all else fails, just keep saying, "bicycling is good for our communities," especially to your elected officials. Demonstrate the need, demand for, and popularity of bicycling infrastructure.



PLANNING

Good planning leads to good projects.

- Make sure your region's Long Range Plan prioritizes bicycling and walking.
- Get good projects on local plans. To be eligible for CMAQ funds, a project must be on an existing transportation plan, such as a state implementation plan, transportation master plans, bicycle master plans, greenway plans, pedestrian plans, and others.



PROCESS

Timeline.

Know when projects are being selected, so you can make your voice heard. Your new allies in the agency can help.

Work with local governments to produce good applications.

- Advocating for projects that shift single occupancy vehicles trips to bicycling and walking trips will increase your chances of being funded.
- Use population and employer numbers to show the project will see high use.

Be a part of the project selection process.

Get a seat at the table.

- Sit on the project selection committee, and/or
- Cultivate allies on the selection committee.



POLICIES

Institutionalize bike/ped friendly policies.

Examples include:

- Minimum set-asides for bicycling and walking projects
- "Apples to apples." Compare bike/ped projects to bike/ped projects, not other project types, to ensure the best projects are selected.
- Fair air quality improvement measures — "outcome assessment studies" and performance measures are coming to CMAQ.

Institutionalize good project selection criteria.

- Are bicycling and walking asked about in the application?
- Can bicycling and walking projects score well?

SOURCES

Advocacy Advance www.AdvocacyAdvance.org/MAP21

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program Interim Guidance <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidecmaq.cfm>

CMAQ Fact Sheet <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/cmaq.cfm>

23 USC § 149 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/23/149?quicktabs_8=1#quicktabs-8

See how much your state receives: Apportionment Notices <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/notices/n4510761/>

Congressional Research Service <http://map21.transportation.org/Documents/R42762.pdf>

Guide for Reviewing Public Road Design and Bicycling Accommodations (FABB) <http://www.fabb-bikes.org/guide/>

For project eligibility, see Find It, Fund It: http://www.advocacyadvance.org/site_images/content/Find_It_Fund_It_chart.pdf



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Advocacy Advance

A partnership of the Alliance for Biking & Walking and League of American Bicyclists