

MEMORANDUM

March 25, 2016

TO: Joe Henne, City of Selah; Dennis Henne, City of Union Gap; Brett Sheffield, City of Yakima; Gary Ekstedt, Yakima County; Byron Adams, City of Moxee; Alvie Maxey, Yakima Transit; Brian Curtin, YVCOG; Madelyn Carlson, People For People.

FROM: Larry Mattson, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2017-2020 CMAQ Call for Projects

The Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO has issued its 2017-2020 Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality (CMAQ) call for projects. CMAQ provides funding that may be used by states, local agencies, non-profits and private businesses for projects and programs that reduce transportation related emissions in federally designated non-attainment and maintenance areas. There are specific federal requirements that must be satisfied prior to implementing a CMAQ project by a private entity. Funds are allocated to eligible MPOs by WSDOT for regional prioritization and selection.

AIR QUALITY MODELING REQUESTS DUE TO YVCOG – May 13, 2016

Please call YVCOG to arrange a pre-application meeting to discuss whether your project will require a YVCOG modeling request.

PROJECT APPLICATIONS DUE TO YVCOG – By 12:00 noon on June 30, 2016.

Program Requirements

To be eligible for federal CMAQ funding in the Yakima Valley region, the project or program must take place within the boundary of, or provide measurable air quality benefits within, the PM₁₀ limited maintenance area and demonstrate a reduction in PM₁₀ or other air pollution emission.

Projects showing an air pollution reduction other than PM₁₀ may submit a 2017-2020 application according to consensus between YVCOG and WSDOT as of October 4, 2012. If new FHWA or FTA guidance restricts air pollution reductions in the PM₁₀ maintenance area to PM₁₀ reduction exclusively, the prioritization or awarding of projects may change. Exclusive consideration of PM₁₀ reductions by FHWA or FTA will result in YVCOG removing from the selection process those projects primarily showing PM_{2.5}, CO, VOC, NO_x, SO_x, or NH₃ reductions in their evaluations. If pollutant reduced is other than PM₁₀, explicitly identify which and explain why specific pollutants are to be evaluated.

Some of the projects or programs eligible for CMAQ funding are, but not limited to:

- Traffic Flow Improvements
- Non-recreational bicycle transportation and pedestrian improvements that provide a reduction in SOV.)
- Transit Investment Projects (not operating assistance.)
- Workforce development, training, and education activities.
- Projects or programs that shift travel demand to non-peak hours or other transportation modes (teleworking, ridesharing, pricing, and others.)
- Alternative Fuel Projects (vehicle acquisitions, engine conversions, refueling facilities.)
- Diesel Retrofits
- Intermodal Equipment and Facility Projects (that target diesel freight emissions)
- Vehicle inspection and maintenance programs.
- Establishment or operation of a traffic monitoring, management, and control facility.

Legislative prohibitions exclude capacity expansion projects except for HOV facilities that are available to SOVs only at off-peak times. Some project examples can be found at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/cmaqfs.cfm>

Funding
YVCOG will program CMAQ projects for **\$1,500,000** in federal funds. The TAC CMAQ sub-committee recommends to the TAC that: 1) each jurisdiction be allowed to submit one project for this Call for Projects, 2) and that no single project application submitted for consideration may request more than **\$500,000** in federal CMAQ funds.

Match requirement

The lead agency/jurisdiction will be responsible to provide a minimum required 13.5% match for CMAQ funds; the maximum federal CMAQ participation on any project is 86.5%.

Selection Process

All proposals will be reviewed to ensure that they are complete, eligible for funding, and ranked in order by YVCOG staff based on the established scoring criteria. The TAC will make a prioritized list of projects and funding distribution recommendation during the July 14, 2016 meeting and submit the list to the MPO/RTPO Policy Board. The MPO/RTPO Policy Board will make final determinations on projects and grant awards at their regularly scheduled meeting on July 18, 2016. Announcements are expected by July 22, 2016.

The sponsoring jurisdiction or agency receiving an award letter from YVCOG needs to respond by letter to accept the CMAQ award and all the awarding conditions. If a sponsoring jurisdiction or agency declines the award, the next prioritized applicant on the ranking list will be offered a CMAQ award. The intention is to allocate the full \$1,500,000 to be obligated over the years of 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Project Proposals

Proposals must include the following in order to be considered:

- A completed and signed application – can be electronic

- One-page project vicinity map (8.5” x 11” or 11” x 17”)
- A project aerial photo of the project location
- Any necessary supporting documentation
- The CMAQ application asks for detailed modeling of the estimated PM₁₀ emission reductions. Project sponsors must provide verifiable PM₁₀ emission reductions at their own expense for projects that cannot be modeled using YVCOG’s travel demand model or calculated using the air quality benefit methodologies as described in the reference at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/research/mpe_benefits/mpe01.cfm. **Modeling requests for projects that can be modeled by YVCOG are due to the YVCOG office by May 13, 2016.** The applicant must provide documentation (e.g. Council meeting minutes, a letter from the Mayor or City Manager, or some other evidence) that the legislative body is aware that CMAQ funds are being applied for on the application. **YVCOG must receive the documentation with the application in order for the application to be complete.**

Submittal Process

Paper or electronic applications will be accepted. Paper application materials must be submitted with one (1) original signed copy. Electronically submitted applications must have all application materials attached electronically. YVCOG must receive applications and all materials by **12:00 noon, June 30, 2016**. Completed applications may be mailed, delivered or emailed to YVCOG at the following address:

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments
 311 North 4th Street, Suite 204
 Yakima, WA 98901
 email: deborah.lacombe@yvcog.org

Timeline

Date	Action
3/25/2016	Call for projects issued. Application materials distributed.
5/13/2016	Air quality modeling requests due to YVCOG.
6/10/2016	YVCOG staff returns modeling results and completed application to project lead for review.
6/30/2016 at 12:00 noon	Completed applications with modeling data due to YVCOG.
7/1-7/2016	TAC subcommittee meets to prioritize the list for full TAC to review.
7/14/2016	TAC meeting to formulate recommendation to MPO/RTPO Policy Board.
7/18/2016	MPO/RTPO Policy Board meeting to consider TAC recommendations.
7/22/2016 Target	2017-2020 award letters mailed to funded project applicants.

Program Contacts

Deb LaCombe at 509-574-1550 or deborah.lacombe@yvcog.org

cc: Roger Arms, WSDOT SCR Local Programs