

Update on North Carolina's Congestion Management & Air Quality Program

NCDOT is happy to once again work with our planning partners to advance North Carolina's CMAQ program. This document contains details outlining the process and deadlines to schedule CMAQ projects for funding within or beginning in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2016, which runs from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, and FFY 2017, which runs from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. Our goal is to work with you to identify, program and begin implementing eligible projects in a timely manner.

There are several steps that will be required to ensure successful completion of this process, as laid out in the following paragraphs. Steps requiring your attention have been identified as "**Action Items**."

Schedule for FFY 2016 & 2017 CMAQ Projects

Below is the schedule for CMAQ projects to be funded in FFY 2016 and 2017. The schedule for FFY 2016 projects is somewhat aggressive, due to the late start of the process this year. In general, NCDOT is committed to scheduling projects proposed for funding in FFY 2016 provided we have an up-to-date application on file that has been deemed eligible per interagency review and feasible per NCDOT Division review no later than October 1, 2015. Any FFY 2016 target allocation that cannot be programmed due to lack of time to implement projects may be carried forward and applied to projects commencing during FFY 2017.

Schedule for FFY 2016 & 2017 CMAQ Projects

- Pertains to FFY 2016 proposals/projects
 Pertains to FFY 2017 proposals/projects

Who?	What?	When?
TPB	Initial Communication to MPOs/RPOs	By 4/30/15
MPO/RPO	Action Item 1 – Review CMAQ website contact & submit needed changes	ASAP
MPO/RPO	Action Items 2 & 3 – Develop applications for funding in FFY 2016 and submit through CMAQ website	4/30/15 – 7/15/2015
TPB	Review FFY 2016 project proposals	By 7/31/2015 <i>See Note (1)</i>
IRT	Conduct interagency review for FFY 2016 project proposals	By 8/31/2015 <i>See Note (1)</i>
TPB	Conduct follow-up coordination to address IRT comments/questions on FFY 2016 proposals	By 9/15/2015 <i>See Note (2)</i>
TPB	Send letters of approval for final FFY 2016 projects to MPOs/RPOs	By 10/1/2015 <i>See Note (3)</i>
MPO/RPO	Notify Local Government Agency (LGA) of approval of final FFY 2016 projects	<i>At MPO/RPO discretion</i>
TPB	Request funding set up in SAP for FFY 2016 projects	By 10/1/2015 <i>See Note (3)</i>
MPO/RPO	Action Items 2 & 4 – Develop applications for funding in FFY 2017 and submit through CMAQ website	4/30/2015 – 10/15/2015

TPB	Review FFY 2017 project proposals	By 11/2/2015 <i>See Note (4)</i>
IRT	Conduct interagency review for FFY 2017 proposals	By 12/1/2015 <i>See Note (4)</i>
TPB	Conduct follow-up coordination to address IRT comments/questions on FFY 2017 proposals	By 12/15/2015 <i>See Note (5)</i>
LGA	Request local agreement for FFY 2016 projects	By 1/15/2016 <i>See note (6)</i>
TPB	Send letters of approval for final FFY 2017 projects to MPOs/RPOs	1/15/2016
MPO/RPO	Notify Local Project Sponsors of approval of final FFY 2017 projects	<i>At local discretion</i>
TPB	Request funding set up in SAP for FFY 2017 projects	By 1/15/2016
LPMO	Request funding authorization to begin FFY 2016 projects	By 8/31/2016
LGA	Request local agreements for FFY 2017 projects	By 1/15/2007
LPMO	Request funding authorization to begin FFY 2017 projects	By 8/31/2017

Notes:

- (1) TPB will begin reviewing FFY 2016 applications as they are received and will send complete applications out once every two weeks to the IRT for interagency review.
- (2) TPB will conduct follow-up coordination with MPO/RPO/LGA as comments/questions arise from the IRT.
- (3) TPB will notify MPO/RPO of project approval and request funding set up every two weeks.
- (4) TPB will begin reviewing FFY 2017 applications as they are received and will send complete applications out once each month to the IRT for interagency review.
- (5) TPB will conduct follow-up coordination with MPO/RPO/LGA as comments/questions arise from the IRT.
- (6) Once the MPO/RPO has notified the LGA of project approval, the LGA may request preparation of agreement through the Local Program Management Tool.

CMAQ Target Allocations

Target allocations for each eligible area have been developed using an assumed yearly CMAQ allocation equal to \$45,000,000 for North Carolina. This amount is based on the authorizations that were included for FFY 2013 – 2014 in MAP-21 and account for the 90% obligation limit that is typically used by NCDOT's Program Development Branch. Target allocations also account for boundary changes in response to the 2010 Census. As a result of these changes, some areas (such as the Piedmont Triad RPO) no longer include areas that are CMAQ-eligible and other areas (such as High Point MPO) have picked up additional CMAQ-eligible areas.

For areas whose calculation yearly target allocation is less than \$100,000, as in the past, a guaranteed minimum yearly target of \$50,000 in FFY 2016 and 2017 will be provided. This will ensure that these areas are able to program at least one CMAQ project meeting the \$100,000 minimum project amount during this cycle. This includes the following areas:

- Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Land of Sky and Southwestern RPOs)
- NW Piedmont RPO

The target allocations for FFY 2016 and 2017 are summarized in the following table and will also be reflected in the final 2016-2020 STIP. Please refer to the columns entitled "Adjusted FFY 2016 Target" and "Adjusted FFY 2017 Target" to determine the amount of CMAQ target allocation available to your particular MPO/RPO.

CMAQ Target Allocations: Federal Fiscal Years 2016 & 2017

Total Assumed Yearly CMAQ State Allocation ¹						\$ 45,000,000					
Area	Pollutants	2010 Estimated	Weighting Factors ³	Adjusted Population	Percent (%)	Yearly CMAQ			Adjusted	Adjusted	Blanket STIP Project
		NA Area Population ²				Target Allocation	FFY 2016 Target	FFY 2017 Target	FFY 2016 Target	FFY 2017 Target	
Statewide ⁴						\$ 15,750,000	\$ 15,750,000	\$ 15,750,000	\$ 15,670,570	\$ 15,670,570	C-5600
Regional ⁵						\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	C-5601
Subregional ⁶						\$ 27,000,000	\$ 27,000,000	\$ 27,000,000	\$ 24,437,304	\$ 25,481,155	
Catawba Region											
Hickory MPO	PM2.5	158,524	1.00	158,524	2.86%	\$ 772,342	\$ 772,342	\$ 772,342	\$ 772,342	\$ 772,342	C-5608
Great Smoky Mountain National Park Region											
Land of Sky RPO	Ozone (1997)	554	1.00	554	0.01%	\$ 2,699	\$ 2,699	\$ 2,699	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	C-5612
Southwestern RPO	Ozone (1997)	3,342	1.00	3,342	0.06%	\$ 16,283	\$ 16,283	\$ 16,283			
Metrolina Region											
Cabarrus-Rowan MPO	Ozone (2008,1997)	323,384	1.00	323,384	5.84%	\$ 1,575,554	\$ 1,575,554	\$ 1,575,554	\$ 1,575,554	\$ 1,575,554	C-5603
Charlotte Regional TPO	Ozone (1997, 2008), CO					\$ 7,948,235	\$ 7,948,235	\$ 7,948,235	\$ 7,512,935	\$ 7,512,935	C-5613
Mecklenburg County	Ozone (1997, 2008), CO	919,628	1.44	1,324,264	23.90%						
All Other Areas	Ozone (1997, 2008)	255,932	1.20	307,118	5.54%						
Gaston Cleveland Lincoln MPO	Ozone (1997, 2008)	287,839	1.00	287,839	5.19%	\$ 1,402,376	\$ 1,402,376	\$ 1,402,376	\$ 1,402,376	\$ 1,402,376	C-5606
Rocky River RPO	Ozone (1997, 2008)	19,469	1.00	19,469	0.35%	\$ 94,855	\$ 94,855	\$ 94,855	\$ 94,855	\$ 94,855	C-5617
Rocky Mount Region											
Rocky Mount MPO	Ozone (1997)	88,797	1.00	88,797	1.60%	\$ 432,626	\$ 432,626	\$ 432,626	\$ 432,626	\$ 432,626	C-5616
Upper Coastal Plain RPO	Ozone (1997)	128,751	1.00	128,751	2.32%	\$ 627,286	\$ 627,286	\$ 627,286	\$ 627,286	\$ 627,286	C-5619
Traid Region											
Burlington-Graham MPO	Ozone (1997), PM2.5	16,844	1.00	16,844	0.30%	\$ 82,065	\$ 82,065	\$ 82,065	\$ 82,065	\$ 82,065	C-5602
Greensboro MPO	PM2.5	376,308	1.00	376,308	6.79%	\$ 1,833,404	\$ 1,833,404	\$ 1,833,404	\$ 1,833,404	\$ 1,833,404	C-5607
High Point MPO	PM2.5	254,257	1.00	254,257	4.59%	\$ 1,238,762	\$ 1,238,762	\$ 1,238,762	\$ 1,238,762	\$ 1,238,762	C-5609
Winston-Salem MPO	CO, PM2.5	382,904	1.00	382,904	6.91%	\$ 1,865,541	\$ 1,865,541	\$ 1,865,541	\$ 1,865,541	\$ 1,865,541	C-5620
NW Piedmont RPO	Ozone (1972)	326	1.00	326	0.01%	\$ 1,588	\$ 1,588	\$ 1,588	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	C-5614
Triangle Region											
Capital Area MPO	Ozone (1997), CO					\$ 6,082,615.38	\$ 6,082,615.38	\$ 6,082,615.38	\$ 5,462,389	\$ 5,442,640	C-5604
Wake County	Ozone (1997), CO	900,993	1.20	1,081,192	19.51%						
All Other Areas	Ozone (1997)	167,271	1.00	167,271	3.02%						
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO	Ozone (1997), CO					\$ 2,281,467.61	\$ 2,281,467.61	\$ 2,281,467.61	\$ 694,868	\$ 1,758,468	C-5605
Durham County	Ozone (1997), CO	267,587	1.2	321,104	5.79%						
All Other Areas	Ozone (1997)	147,169	1.00	147,169	2.66%						
Kerr Tarr RPO	Ozone (1997)	107,840	1.00	107,840	1.95%	\$ 525,406	\$ 525,406	\$ 525,406	\$ 525,406	\$ 525,406	C-5610
Triangle RPO	Ozone (1997)	44,518	1.00	44,518	0.80%	\$ 216,895	\$ 216,895	\$ 216,895	\$ 216,895	\$ 216,895	C-5618
Totals		4,852,237		5,541,776	100%	\$ 45,000,000	\$ 45,000,000	\$ 45,000,000	\$ 42,357,874	\$ 43,401,725	

Footnotes:

- 1 Assumed yearly CMAQ allocation for North Carolina based on the FFY 2013-2014 MAP-21 authorizations, accounting for the 90% obligation limit.
- 2 Source - GIS Analysis of 2010 Census Population, 2010 Census Adjusted MPO & RPO Boundaries & EPA Pollutant Shapefiles
- 3 See "Table 2: SAFETEA-LU CMAQ Apportionment Factors " tab; Source - http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ENVIRonment/air_quality/cmaq/policy_and_guidance/2013_guidance/index.cfm
- 4 35% of NC CMAQ Apportionment, per NCDOT Guidelines
- 5 5% of NC CMAQ Apportionment, per NCDOT Guidelines
- 6 60% of NC CMAQ Apportionment, per NCDOT Guidelines
- 7 At the date of publication, plans are underway for Hickory MPO to incorporate the entire Hickory MSA into its planning boundary. In anticipation of this change, all of the Catawba County nonattainment area is being associated with Hickory MPO.
- 8 Per minimum CMAQ target allocation guidelines, a minimum yearly allocation will be guaranteed for any AQ region whose yearly allocation resulting from this formula is less than \$50,000 to ensure that each AQ region can program at least one CMAQ

Updated 4/24/2015 (TCA)

Group CMAQ Projects

In the past, each CMAQ project has been programmed under a unique STIP number. In order to streamline the STIP development and revision process where it concerns CMAQ projects, we are moving to the “group project” process. A single group project has been programmed in the STIP for each eligible MPO/RPO, along with separate group projects for statewide CMAQ funding and regional CMAQ funding. New projects will be programmed as sub-awards of these group projects.

The draft 2016-2020 STIP includes these group projects with funding for FFY 2016 and 2017. However, it should be noted that the funding amounts in the draft STIP do not match the target allocations shown on page 3. We have updated the target allocations to account for some inconsistencies in our initial calculations and to account for some advance-funded projects. Unfortunately, the draft STIP could not be updated with the revised target allocations prior to its release. The final STIP will reflect the corrected final target allocations.

There may be some cases where funding is proposed for existing STIP projects. In these cases, funding will be added to the existing STIP project, rather than programming as a sub-award under a group CMAQ project.

New CMAQ Website & Contact Information

NC DOT has developed a website to facilitate the submittal of proposals and tracking of projects for North Carolina's CMAQ process - <https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/cmaqprojects/Pages/default.aspx>. This CMAQ website will be the main repository for CMAQ information for eligible MPO/RPOs. The website contains folders for Statewide CMAQ, Regional CMAQ and Subregional CMAQ. The Subregional CMAQ folder is broken down further and includes a folder for each eligible MPO and RPO. Access to this website is limited to registered users having NCIDs. Based on coordination last year, CMAQ-eligible MPOs and RPOs designated one or more points of contact for this site, as detailed in the table on page 5.

- **ACTION ITEM 1: Review the contact list to ensure the appropriate person(s) are registered users and have valid NCIDs to access the CMAQ website. Those that are listed should attempt to log in to the site using the above weblink. If additional logins are needed or there are any issues logging in to the site, please notify [Derry Schmidt \(daschmidt@ncdot.gov\)](mailto:daschmidt@ncdot.gov) via email as soon as possible and he will work to resolve those issues. There is no deadline for this review; but if it is not completed, your MPO/RPO will not be able to submit project proposals. CMAQ applications will only be accepted through the CMAQ website.**

CMAQ Website Designated Points of Contact

MPO/RPO	Contact(s)
Burlington-Graham MPO	Mike Nunn
Cabarrus-Rowan MPO	Phil Conrad
Capital Area MPO	Chris Lukasina
	Shelby Powell
	Alex Rickard
	Amy Ward
	Danna Widmar
Charlotte Regional TPO	Bob Cooke
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO	Contact Needed
Gaston Cleveland Lincoln MPO	Hank Graham
	Bjorn Hansen
Greensboro MPO	Lyida McIntyre
	Tyler Myer

MPO/RPO	Contact(s)
Hickory MPO/Unifour RPO	John Marshall
High Point MPO	Greg Venable
Kerr-Tarr RPO	Ann Stroobant
	Brandie Elliott
Land of Sky RPO	Vicki Eastland
NW Piedmont RPO	Contact Needed
Rocky Mount MPO	Bob League
Rocky River RPO	Dana Stoogenke
Southwestern RPO	Phillip Moore
Triangle RPO	Matt Day
Upper Coastal Plain RPO	James Salmons
Winston-Salem MPO	Greg Errett

Previously Submitted Applications

The MPO/RPO folders on the CMAQ website contain PDF copies of the applications that were submitted in 2011 for CMAQ funding in FFY 2016 and 2017 that were deemed eligible per interagency review that have not yet been programmed. (Please note that not all areas submitted applications.) Some of the information included on these applications, such as the funding amounts, proposed delivery dates and local contact information, may no longer be accurate due to the time elapsed since their original submittal.

- ☐ **ACTION ITEM 2: Work with local project sponsors to review, validate and update any of the previously submitted applications for your area that should be considered for funding in FFY 2016 and FFY 2017, using the deadlines established in Action Items 3 and 4 below.**

If the local sponsor no longer desires the proposed project, please advise so that we may remove the application from the CMAQ website. If revisions are needed to costs, delivery dates, contacts, or other information, then complete a new application and upload it to the CMAQ website. A modifiable copy of the CMAQ application can be downloaded from the *Resources* folder on the CMAQ website. Please note that proposed changes in scope will be considered to be new project requests and will require review by the IRT for CMAQ eligibility.

Develop Additional FFY 2016 & FFY 2017 CMAQ Funding Requests

The MPO/RPO folders on the CMAQ website also contain PDF documents that summarize the FFY 2016 & 2017 target allocations for each area along with a summary of previously submitted FFY 2016 & 2017 applications. If, after considering previously submitted applications, your MPO/RPO still has target allocation funding remaining, you may submit additional requests.

- ☐ **ACTION ITEM 3: Review the summary sheet for your MPO/RPO and develop a final list of proposals with funding completely in or beginning in FFY 2016 (October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016) and develop applications, as needed, no later than July 15, 2015.**

□ ACTION ITEM 4: Review the summary sheet for your MPO/RPO and develop a final list of proposals with funding completely in or beginning in FFY 2017 (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017) and develop applications, as needed, no later than October 15, 2015.

If multiple phases for a project proposal are necessary, then the request should indicate the funding needed for years beyond the initial year. If programmed, the funding for years beyond FFY 2017 will be taken from future year target allocations. The total funding requested in FFY 2016 and FFY 2017, however, should not exceed the target allocations for those years. The proposal lists should be saved as PDF documents and uploaded to the folder for your MPO/RPO on the CMAQ website.

CMAQ applications will need to be developed for any new proposals or any proposals revised as part of **Action Item 2**. A modifiable copy of the CMAQ application can be downloaded from the *Resources* folder on the CMAQ website. CMAQ applications should be uploaded to the folder for your MPO/RPO on the CMAQ website. Each application, including additional project information and/or resolutions of support, must be saved as a single PDF document.

Review Process & Project Implementation

As CMAQ applications are uploaded, NCDOT will begin the process of reviewing new and revised applications and conducting the interagency review, as needed. If there are questions or additional information is needed, NCDOT will contact the MPO/RPO prior to contacting individual project sponsors. All approved proposals will be forwarded to the Program Management Unit so that funding may be set up for the subawards as follows:

- Projects with funding beginning in FFY 2016 – by October 1, 2015
- Projects with funding beginning in FFY 2017 – by January 15, 2016

TPB will notify each MPO/RPO of the final list of projects approved for CMAQ funding and requests that each MPO/RPO notify the affected local project sponsors of project approval.

As outlined in the schedule on page 1, local project sponsors will be responsible for initiating requests for local agreements from the NCDOT Local Program Management Office (LPMO). This request may occur as soon as the sponsor receives notification of the project award. To ensure that sufficient time is allowed for completion of the agreement and funding authorization by the end of the federal fiscal year, requests for agreements must be received by the following deadlines:

- Projects with funding beginning in FFY 2016 – by January 15, 2016
- Projects with funding beginning in FFY 2017 – by January 15, 2017

The LPMO has recently begun using the Local Projects Management Tool to manage the local projects process. All LGAs who are awarded CMAQ projects should be sure to coordinate with LPMO to complete required training on this tool before they will be able to request agreements. LPMO contacts are as follows:

Divisions 1 – 7:

Sheila Gibbs, Transportation Consultant
sgibbs@ncdot.gov
919-707-6625

Divisions 8 – 14:

Marta Matthews, Transportation Consultant
mtmatthews@ncdot.gov
919-707-6626

Conclusion

Completion of the steps outlined in this document should lead to successful selection, implementation and delivery of CMAQ projects in the FFY 2016 & FFY 2017 time period in a timely manner. If you have any questions about the information contained within this document or the CMAQ program in general, please contact **Derry Schmidt with the Transportation Planning Branch (919-707-0965 or daschmidt@ncdot.gov)**.