From: Pitstick, Mark <PitstickM@RTACHICAGO.ORG>

Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 10:52 AM

To: Holly Ostdick; Doug Ferguson; Joy Schaad

Cc: Stanciel, Kevin; Tumbali, Gerry; Morkunas, Vida; Anderson, Donna; Lenski, William

Subject: Advance CMAQ Funding Request for Regional Transit Signal Priority Integration Plan (CMAQ Application Number TI13123796, TIP ID Number 13-12-0002).

Holly, Doug and Joy:

The RTA hereby requests consideration by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee to advance the federal funding for the above referenced project. In order to facilitate implementation of this region-wide program of Transit Signal Priority corridors, it is our intention to obligate the entire FTA grant ($32 million federal, $8 million RTA match) in January 2012 – pending approval of the 2012 RTA Budget and 2012-2016 RTA Capital Program by the RTA Board in December. Therefore, we request that all of the CMAQ funding be advanced to FFY 2012.

Please include this on the agenda for the November 3rd meeting of the CMAQ Project Selection Committee.

Thank you,

Mark E. Pitstick, Ph.D. • Technical Advisor • Planning

Regional Transportation Authority • 175 West Jackson, Suite 1550, Chicago, IL 60604

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From: Doug Ferguson [mailto:DFerguson@cmap.illinois.gov]

Sent: Friday, October 21, 2011 2:37 PM

To: Tumbali, Gerry

Subject: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Proposal for Regional Transit Signal Priority Integration Plan, Five Year Implementation: Priority Corridors (CMAQ Application Number TI13123796, TIP ID Number 13-12-0002).

Subject: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Proposal for Regional Transit Signal Priority Integration Plan, Five Year Implementation: Priority Corridors(CMAQ Application Number TI13123796, TIP ID Number 13-12-0002).

Dear Mr. Tumbali:

The CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee have approved the Fiscal Year 2012-2016 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. Federal agencies subsequently found the subject project eligible for CMAQ funding. I am pleased to inform you that this project has been included in the approved program.

The project is approved for:

Implementation

2012

$5,043,543

Implementation

2013

$6,984,256

Implementation

2014

$8,856,750

Implementation

2015

$7,723,855

Implementation

2016

$3,391,596

Your project Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) ID is: 13-12-0002

Important Note: Please use this ID in all your correspondence regarding this project. If you don't, it may delay our response.

As you may be aware, the CMAQ program has over $250 million in unobligated funding. This is a liability for the region's much-needed congestion mitigation and air quality improvement projects. The unobligated balance may result in rescissions and lapsing of funds, in other words

– Congress can take back the funding and projects will be cancelled. To encourage project implementation and awareness, the CMAQ Project Selection Committee has implemented numerous program management policies, some of which are discussed briefly below. As the project sponsor you are responsible for the timely implementation of your project.

Mandatory Initiation Meeting

A mandatory CMAQ initiation meeting is required for all agency sponsors responsible for the accomplishment of bicycle/pedestrian, intersection improvements, signal interconnects, bottleneck elimination, and commuter parking projects included in the program. Sponsor agency staff is required to attend. Consultants may also attend, but may not substitute for sponsor staff. The meeting will be held on November 14, 2011 at:

IDOT District One

201 West Center Court

Schaumburg, IL 60196

Lower Level Classroom

9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. (attend one session)

For more information and to RSVP by Thursday November 7, 2011 please click here. If your agency is not represented by agency staff, the project will be considered for removal from the program.

If you are the sponsor of a transit project there will be a mandatory initiation meeting held on a different date. You will receive this meeting information in later correspondence.

CMAQ A list

Your project and all new projects in this program have been included in the CMAQ A list. Even though your project has a TIP ID, it is not included in the active TIP. If you request federal authorization for your project and it is shown in the TIP with CMAQ A as the fiscal year,

USDOT will not authorize the project.

In order to move your project into the current year of the TIP you must show progress on the project. For phase 1 engineering, phase 2 engineering, or ROW phases, when your local agency agreement is submitted from IDOT District 1 to IDOT Springfield for processing you should contact your Planning Liaison/Project Contact requesting they move that phase from the CMAQ A list into the active TIP. For construction, when pre-final plans are submitted to IDOT District 1 a request to move the phase into the TIP should be made to your Planning Liaison/Project Contact.

For transit projects, once the grant application is submitted to FTA, CMAP should be contacted requesting movement into the active year of the TIP.

May/October Status Updates

You are expected to pursue your project phases diligently in the year in which they are programmed. Every May and October your Planning Liaison/Project Contact will notify you to submit a status update on phases programmed in that year. If a May or October status update is not received your project will be considered for removal from the CMAQ program.

The May update is to confirm that new projects have been initiated through PPI submittal to IDOT or grant application submittal to FTA (transit projects). The October update is to gauge project accomplishment for phases programmed in that year. If the project phase is not accomplished within the year that it was programmed, a one-time move is allowable. If another move is requested the project can be considered for removal from the CMAQ program based on the reasons for delay and the sponsor's control over those reasons.

First Ready, First Funded

With the large amount of unobligated funds it is possible to move projects within the years of the five-year program. If your project has a phase in a year other than 2012 and you are prepared to begin that phase earlier, this can be done upon approval by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee. Projects that are ready first are funded first. If the unobligated balance is exhausted a more restrictive policy may be implemented; however for the time being, first ready, first funded.

If your phase is ready for implementation prior to the year in which it is programmed, please contact your Planning Liaison/Project Contact to request the CMAQ Project Selection Committee move it into the current year. This will not count as a one – time move, but you will be required to submit May and October status updates for that year.

Sincerely,

Douglas Ferguson

Senior Planner

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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