



MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: August 2014

Re: Update on CMAQ program

Over the past year, CMAP has been reviewing how it carries out the staff functions associated with the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program. A periodic review like this is important to look for ways to improve how CMAP serves the region and to achieve as much as possible with the funding. Staff has had extensive discussions with the CMAQ Project Selection Committee (PSC), a special purpose committee formed at the inception of the CMAQ program to guide programming decisions. The following are the outstanding issues:

- **CMAQ Programming and Management Policies.** This document spells out policies having mostly to do with cost increases, project accomplishment, etc. Staff proposed a number of changes to the last approved *Policies* document. The main sticking points discussed at the last PSC meeting were a new requirement that projects submitted for funding be found in a local or agency plan document and the handling of engineering for transit projects, but time was not available to discuss several other issues. The PSC will meet again to discuss the *Policies* later in August. The intent is to have the *Policies* document considered at the September Transportation Committee meeting and approved by the MPO Policy Committee in October.
- **Proposed scoring process.** After reviewing [CMAQ programming methods used by other MPOs](#), staff proposed a [multi-criteria system](#) for evaluating CMAQ projects. It largely standardizes the application of performance measures that had already been used by expert committees (the CMAQ “focus groups”) to guide project selection in previous funding rounds. The details of this scoring process are still being discussed with the PSC and individual stakeholders. The intent is to finalize the scoring process by mid-fall.

The FY16-20 call for projects is anticipated to open in January 2015 with consideration of program approval by the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee in October 2015. Sponsors will still be expected to have Phase I Engineering substantially complete before inclusion in the draft program developed mid-summer 2015.

Action requested: Information