



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 6.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAQ Project Selection Committee
From: CMAP Staff
Date: January 23, 2020
Re: Change to the Phase I Engineering Requirements

The STP Project Selection Committee at its November 21, 2019 meeting agreed to change the deadline for projects to have Phase I Engineering (or equivalent) substantially complete for the STP-Shared Fund (STP-SF) 2021 call for projects cycle. Instead of requiring a draft PDR (or equivalent) by June 1, applicants will now have to submit evidence of phase I engineering status at the same time as the application deadline in March 2021. CMAP staff would like to apply the same timeline to the CMAQ and TAP-L call for projects in 2021.

There are two main justifications for this change being made to the CMAQ and TAP-L programs:

- By making the phase I engineering decision earlier in the process, staff will not have to spend time evaluating projects that will not be considered because they do not meet the phase I engineering requirement.
- Since the STP-SF, CMAQ and TAP-L programs are handled in the same application cycle, keeping the process the same would reduce potential confusion by the applicants. Many applications were considered for both CMAQ and STP-SF.

The new requirement will no longer require project applicants to have submitted a draft PDR to IDOT but applicants should be prepared to submit proof that preliminary engineering is substantially complete. To help facilitate a consistently applied definition of substantially complete, additional application materials will be developed. CMAP staff will work with IDOT and transit agency staff to develop a form that will be completed with the application. CMAP staff envisions that this form may look very similar to the current [STP-SF quarterly status update form](#).

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

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