

**Webinar: Information on the funding programs and eligible projects
Questions Log - January 6, 2021**

Q: What years of funding are open at this time?

A: For CMAQ and STP Shared Fund: FFY 2022-2026. For TAP-L: FFY 2022-2024

Q: local match (of 20% each phase) is required for ALL three programs?

A: Yes

Q: what is the website of this recording?

A: <https://cmap.is/2021callforprojects>

Q: If we are a Cohort 4 can we include phase 1 in our funding request?

A: Yes, Cohort 4 communities may request Phase 1 funding. However, if requesting phase 1 funds, funding for subsequent phases cannot be requested.

Q: For CMAQ - what years did you say are eligible for funding?

A: FFY 2022-2026

Q: If there is an STP-L funded project in FY2022 that has a funding shortfall, is it worth it submitting an application for STP-Shared? Understand there may not be funds available.

A: Yes. If any existing STP Shared Fund active program projects were to request a schedule change, funds could become available in earlier years.

Q: Are studies or the development of a municipal bicycle and pedestrian plans eligible for TAP-L?

A: No, planning activities are not eligible for any of the fund sources. Some possible sources of funding for planning work are CMAP's Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program, Invest In Cook, and IDOT's Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) program.

Q: We have a very specific eligibility question for the TAP-L program. Is this the appropriate venue for a specific question, or should we contact CMAP staff outside of this webinar?

A: You can follow up with us after

Q: Please clarify why interconnect projects are not eligible for Phase II engineering? Phase I CE processing is required based on several past projects I have completed for various public agencies.

A: In 2015 when the CMAQ Project Selection Committee made the decision not to fund Phase I Engineering, the committee decided that it was an unfair advantage for Signal Interconnect projects to not have to complete a full blown Phase I but still get funding for Phase II while other project types are required to locally fund Phase I. There are components of the Phase I that are completed during Phase II for Signal Interconnects.

Q: Are you allowed to start work on a CMAQ project prior to approval and later get reimbursed?

A: You should not start work prior to approval as you will not be reimbursed. Additionally federal funds must be authorized for a phase prior to work starting.

Q: What constitutes adoption of a policy such as green infrastructure? Documentation required with the application?

A: The local jurisdiction's Board or Council should have adopted the policy by resolution or ordinance, or it should be included in engineering, design, or development policies. A hyperlink to the policy should be provided in the application workbook, or a pdf copy of the policy should be attached to the application in eTIP.

Q: After projects are awarded, are applicants able to see their scores?

A: Yes, scores are provided to applicants following staff evaluation (STP Shared Fund) and are published as part of the staff recommendations to the STP and CMAQ Project Selection Committees.

Q: Does a bike project included in a CIP count toward being part of an approved plan?

A: Yes

Q: Will this session be recorded or the presentation be available?

A: Yes, this is being recorded and will be posted on the Call for Projects website

Q: Does a CMAQ project have to have a connection to transit?

A: No, however some project types will receive higher points for transit connections or proximity to transit.

Q: The CMAQ application workbook has several inputs related to ridership. Do these inputs call for a current or horizon year estimate? Would we report TOTAL trips on the Project, or only "new" transit trips attributable to the new project?

A: The ridership should be current unless the materials ask for "new ridership" then it should be an estimate of how many new riders will result from the project. If those estimates are expected to increase over time to the horizon year estimate, it is recommended to use the midpoint ridership number and explain how it was estimated in question 13 of the transit worksheet.

Q: This is a question for STP not CMAQ. Please answer when it makes sense (sorry to be out of order). In the 2019 STP Shared Fund booklet, there were tranches of priorities for each grant year. Has CMAP moved away from that specificity? It seems so, but I just want to confirm.

A: The concept of a "rolling focus" for project eligibility is no longer being pursued by the STP Project Selection Committee.

Q: Can we apply for all 3 types of funds for same project?

A: As long as the project meets eligibility requirements for each source, yes, you may apply for a combination of sources. This topic will be addressed in more detail during the second webinar to be held on January 15, 2021.

Q: If a bike project qualifies for both CMAQ & TAP will it be evaluated for both?

A: Projects will not "automatically" be evaluated for multiple fund sources. There are check boxes in the eTIP application form to indicate the fund sources you are applying for. To be considered for multiple fund sources, select multiple checkboxes.

Q: Over what area is air quality measured?

A: The emissions reduction estimates are based upon localized traffic improvement for an intersection/roadway segment or the vehicle trips eliminated by the project.

Q: Using the example of a rail extension project, would sponsors need to populate the Service Improvement Projects table (items 11-15) in the CMAQ application workbook? (This section refers to affected bus routes)

A: No, the rail extension project would not improve on-time performance as it is creating new service that does not currently exist.

Q: In CMAQ, is there a demonstration project category?

A: Yes.

Q: What defines completion of Phase 2 for eligibility?

A: Phase 2 does not need to be complete for eligibility, however "readiness" points are awarded in the STP Shared Fund and TAP-L programs as described in the respective application booklets.

Q: Do CMAQ and TAP require a minimum of \$5M construction cost or just STP?

A: Only the STP Shared Fund has a minimum cost requirement. This requirement is for the total project cost, for all phases, not just construction cost.

Q: I thought TAP-L could be used for Phase 2 engineering?

A: Yes, Phase 2 Engineering can be funded with any of the fund sources. The only exception is that Signal Interconnect projects in the CMAQ program are not eligible for Phase 2 funding.

Q: Can a municipality make multiple applications for different projects?

A: Yes. There is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted or selected for funding. Sponsors are cautioned to be sure that if multiple projects are selected, sufficient local match is available.

Q: Can you apply to both CMAQ and TAP-L for a bike project?

A: Yes.

Q: when will the booklet be released?

A: All application materials will be available on Friday, January 8, 2021 when the call for projects opens.

Q: Do Cohort 4 communities get to ask for 100% construction funding if they are also asking for Phase 1 engineering?]

A: No. If applying for Phase 1 Engineering, no subsequent phases will be considered during this call for projects. Once Phase 1 Engineering is complete, Cohort 4 communities can request up to 100% funding for subsequent phases during the next call for projects.

Q: Is there a separate (earlier) deadline for Cohort 4 communities applying for 100% funding?

A: No.

Q: Is the STP shared application booklet posted on CMAP's website final or will there be a new booklet.

A: The final FFY 2022-2026 application booklet will be posted on Friday, January 8, 2021.

Q: If a cohort 4 community gets 100% Phase 1 funding but decides not to continue after Phase I, do they have to fully reimburse?

A: If the result of the phase 1 engineering is selection of the "No Build" alternative, federal funds used do not need to be paid back. If a preferred alternative is selected during phase 1 and the project is not completed within the timeframes mandated by FHWA, then funds would have to be paid back. See [FHWA Order 5020.1A](#) for additional guidance on this federal policy.

Q: For a bike path submitted for CMAQ, do we need to also submit TAP? In the past it would be automatically submitted as both.

A: Projects will not "automatically" be evaluated for multiple fund sources. There are check boxes in the eTIP application form to indicate the fund sources you are applying for. To be considered for multiple fund sources, select multiple checkboxes.

Q: Will hard copies be required as well?

A: No. The application process is entirely online through the eTIP database.

Q: Will the power point be available?

A: Yes, the recorded webinar, presentation slides, and questions log will be posted on the call for projects web page within the next few days.