

## **Solicitation Questions and Answers**

Responses to questions, issued on 3/16/2020

Question 1: Are county colleges eligible to apply for CMAQ Local Mobility Initiatives?

Response 1: Yes. As a county entity, county colleges are eligible to apply. Note that the proposed shuttle service must be open and advertised to general public. If the college does not currently provide transportation, it may be beneficial for the applicant to partner with their county transportation agency or transportation management association with experience providing transportation and administering a federal grant.

Question 2: Is pricing information available for electric shuttle vehicles?

Response 2: There are currently no electrically powered shuttle buses available under the CMAQ Local Mobility Initiatives. No vehicles are available that meet FTA requirements for Buy America and safety testing.

Question 3: Can a county apply for CMAQ Local Mobility Initiatives?

Response 3: Yes, eligible applicants for Local Mobility Initiatives funding include Transportation Management Associations (TMAs), municipalities, and county transportation system operators in the NJTPA region.

Question 4: Should an applicant submit separate thumbnails for Transportation Clean Air Measures and Local Mobility Initiatives?

Response 4: An applicant should submit separate thumbnails for each individual project. You may submit multiple thumbnails for both the Transportation Clean Air Measures and Local Mobility Initiatives.

Question 5: Is the \$7.5 million per year funding amount shared between Transportation Clean Air Measures and Local Mobility Initiatives?

Response 5: Yes, a total of \$7.5 million per year is available over the period of FY 2021 – FY 2023 for the CMAQ Program, which consists of Transportation Clean Air Measures and Local Mobility Initiatives.

Question 6: Is there a local match for replacing vehicles in Local Mobility Initiatives Program?

Response 6: There is no local match requirement for vehicle replacement.

Question 7: Can CMAQ funds be used for the design phase of a Transportation Clean Air Measures project?

Response 7: Yes, a portion of the CMAQ grant can be used for design to support project implementation. In addition, a portion of the CMAQ grant can be used for training staff to operate new technology. However, CMAQ grants cannot be used to maintain a project upon completion. The local match or another source of funding must be used for ongoing maintenance.

Question 8: Can CMAQ funds be used to support the conversion of a county fleet from gas powered vehicles to electric/hybrid vehicles and to implement the necessary charging infrastructure.

Response 8: Yes, CMAQ funds can be used to supplement the cost of fleet conversion, however, CMAQ will only pay the differential cost of the electric/hybrid vehicles over the gas-powered vehicles. It does not support the complete cost of the new fleet. It is expected that regular fleet replacement and maintenance costs are already built into the county budgets. CMAQ funds can be used to implement the necessary charging infrastructure.

Question 9: Can CMAQ funds be used to implement charging infrastructure within a county for public use?

Response 9: Yes, CMAQ funds can be used to implement charging infrastructure within a county for public use. It should be noted that the NJTPA has awarded CMAQ funds to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for electric vehicle infrastructure for the entire NJTPA region. County and municipal governments are eligible to receive grants under the program. <https://drivegreen.nj.gov/plugin.html>

Question 10: When does the local match have to be used?

Response 10: The local match can be used at any time during the project. It is up to the discretion of the project manager.

Question 11: Can a TCAM grant be matched with in-kind contributions? For example, the installation of equipment has a labor cost. If County staff performs the installation, can that count as, or towards a match?

Response 11: No, it has to be a hard match, non-federal funds.

Question 12: Does NJTPA have any emissions or congestion calculators for bike and ped programs/projects or suggestions on how to calculate a reduction in emissions or congestion?

Response 12: Yes, the NJTPA can assist you in calculating emissions reductions for bike/ ped projects using an assortment of tools. Please keep in mind, such calculations are not required for the thumbnail submission. They would only be required in the full proposal by invitation from the NJTPA.

Responses to questions, issued on 3/19/2020

Question 13: How would an applicant calculate the estimated emissions and congestion benefits associated with a vehicle replacement?

Response 13: Vehicle Replacement is available for existing transit shuttle services that provide an alternative to driving alone or reduce congestion. Therefore, applicants should calculate the current emissions and congestion benefits of the existing service that the new vehicle(s) will serve, using the Emissions Reduction spreadsheet. Be sure to take into account what proportion of riders would otherwise be driving alone, which may be less than 100% of riders. NJTPA staff are available to assist individual applicants with their emissions and congestion reduction estimates.

Question 14: Will the program deadlines be revised in response to COVID-19 (coronavirus)?

Response 14: Yes. In response to the workplace disruption caused by COVID-19 (coronavirus), the NJTPA is extending the deadline of the FY 2021 – FY 2023 CMAQ Program.

Key dates:

Inquiries due, April 1, 2020

Thumbnail sketches due, May 6, 2020

Full proposals due, July 23, 2020

Response to question issued on 3/31/2020

Question 15: Is there more specific information on the types of EVSE that are eligible, or the level of funding that is available for such projects?

Response 15: The current solicitation covers three years of funding @ \$7.5M for a total of \$22.5M for

the three year period of the solicitation. This covers both elements of the program, the Local Mobility Initiatives and the Transportation Clean Air Measures. Funding levels are not assigned by project type. The federal guidelines do include EV projects as eligible for CMAQ funding.

We encourage you to submit your thumbnail(s). After an initial review, the NJTPA will work closely with selected applicants to develop the full proposals.

**Contacts:**

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