

**CMAQ
PROJECT SELECTION GUIDELINES
FOR VENTURA COUNTY**

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds are used for projects which mitigate congestion and reduce vehicle emissions. A list of eligible projects can be found at the end of these guidelines. Types of eligible projects are as follows:

- o Clean Fuel Bus Fleets and Support Equipment
- o Improved Public Transit/Ridesharing
- o Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements
- o Clean Fuel Fleet Subsidy Programs
- o Other Projects that meet the screening criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to screening and selection criteria. **Screening Criteria** will be used to determine if a proposed project is an eligible candidate. Projects which do not satisfy all of the screening criteria will not be evaluated any further. Second, **Selection Criteria** will be used to evaluate the relative merits of each project to determine what its score/priority ranking should be. Based on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, half of the CMAQ funds will go toward transit projects and half will go to non-transit projects. Transit and non-transit projects will be subject to separate selection criteria and will be scored separately.

Screening Criteria

The screening criteria are divided into three categories. Proposed projects must meet **all** of these screening criteria in order to move to the next phase of the process.

1. Project Eligibility

- A. Proposed project is eligible for CMAQ funds per guidelines in the Federal Register Vol. 73, No. 203.
- B. Project applicant is a city, the County, a transit operator, or other public transportation agency, or a non-profit organization capable of funding and delivering the project, or is a private/public partnership (possibly with some private funding) subject to approval of FHWA and FTA.
- C. Proposed project measurably improves air quality.

2. Planning Consistency

- A. Project is consistent with the goals and policies of the adopted RTP (i.e. SCAG's 2012-2035 RTP/SCS).
- B. Project is consistent with the most-recently adopted general plan(s).
- C. Project is consistent with the most-recently adopted District Air Quality Management Plan.
- D. Transit improvement projects must be consistent with the policies and standards in the adopted Congestion Management Program or included on the Replacement Bus Schedule of the Short Range Transit Plan.

3. Financial Feasibility

- A. Recipient of funds must have the financial capacity to complete, operate and maintain the project.
- B. Funds required from other sources (for local match) must be reasonably expected to be available.
- C. Project can be implemented within Federal delivery requirements.
- D. Agency must commit to providing 11.47% local match. However, an agency can request to access toll credits to pay 100% of project cost, but VCTC approval of such request is not assured as it would have to come out of the total funds available to projects. In the event a local match is required, VCTC will allow use of Toll Credits to provide 100% of construction funds if an equivalent amount of non-federal funds are used for prior project phases.

Selection Criteria for Transit Projects

Points	Scoring Criteria
(0 to 20 points)	Project's Potential to Increase Transit System Capacity and/or Ridership Attract Active Transportation Users, Reduce Motor Vehicle Trips and Serve Destinations – This criterion is designed to evaluate how likely the project is to reduce trips and improve air quality by attracting transit users or increase transit system capacity.
(0 to 25 points)	Project's Necessity to Continued Operation of the Existing Transit System with Reliable Equipment – In recognition of the importance of a reliable transit system in maintaining ridership, this criteria assigned points to a project on the basis of how it addresses the need to replace or rehabilitate existing transit system equipment that if not replaced at this time will be considered beyond its useful service life based on the FTA definitions. In particular, 15 points will be given to replacing buses that are identified in a Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) or Fleet Maintenance Plan as scheduled to reach the end of their economic service life. Five (5) points will be based on whether the project extends the useful life benchmark of an asset, 5 points for a 25% increase and 2 points for a 10% increase. To be considered eligible for CMAQ an equipment replacement project must provide an air quality benefit such as the new or refurbished equipment having reduced emissions from what was previously in use.
(0 to 45 points)	Air Quality Improvements and Special Considerations – This criterion is evaluates the degree to which the project improves air quality for the CMAQ-defined pollutants namely ROG, NOx, PM10, and PM 2.5. The air quality improvement can be due to such factors as cleaner transit system equipment emissions, or reduced VMT due to transit improvements resulting in a diversion of trips from the private car. Up to 15 points will be awarded for a project's anticipated air quality benefit or for other special considerations. Up to 20 points shall be assigned based on cost effectiveness calculated by VCTC staff in consultation with APCD staff according to the "Methods to Find the Cost-Effectiveness of Funding Air Quality Projects" released by the California Air Resources Board (May 2005). 10 points shall be awarded if a project is eligible to be a Transportation Control Measure, as determined by the attached list. Such projects, once programmed will become a regional priority for achievement of air quality conformity.
(0 to 10 points)	Safety and Security – A project will receive 10 points if the application demonstrates that it will increase safety and/or security for transit patrons, transit employees, or the general public.

PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR CMAQ FUNDING

Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds can be used to fund projects expected to result in tangible reductions in CO and ozone precursor emissions, and under certain conditions PM-10 pollution. Eligible activities include:

Transportation Control Measures: TCMs are likely to be eligible, however the air quality benefits must be determined and documented before a project can be considered eligible. Two TCMs specifically excluded by legislation from CMAQ eligibility are reduction of emissions from extreme cold-start conditions and programs to encourage removal of pre-1980 vehicles. (TCMs are listed on Attachment.)

Transportation Activities in an Approved State Implementation Plan: Transportation activities in approved SIPs are likely to be eligible activities. The activity must contribute to the specific emission reductions necessary to bring an area into attainment.

Transit Projects: In general, CMAQ eligibility is determined on the basis of whether or not the project represents an expansion or enhancement of transit service. Eligible capital projects include new stations, transit centers, and preferential bus/HOV treatment on existing roads: new park-and-ride facilities adjacent to transit stops; and major new fixed-guide way and bus/HOV facilities and extensions; new alternative-fueled transit buses, vans, locomotives and rail cars; and operating subsidies for 3-year demonstrations of new service.

Alternative Fuels: Conversion or replacement of centrally-fueled fleets to alternative fuels is eligible provided that the fleet is publicly owned or leased, and the fleet conversion is in response to a specific requirement in the Clean Air Act or is specifically identified in the State Implementation Plan.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program: Include eligible projects are construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, non-construction projects related to safe bicycle use, and establishment and funding of State bicycle/pedestrian coordinator positions.

Management Systems: Projects required to develop, establish the management systems for traffic congestion, public transportation facilities and equipment, and intermodal transportation facilities and systems, as well as implementation of projects contained in them, are eligible where it can be demonstrated they are likely to contribute to attainment of air quality standards.

Traffic Management/Congestion Relief Strategies: Traffic management and congestion relief strategies for both highways and transit are eligible provided that they can be shown to improve air quality. Projects to modernize traffic signals to improve traffic flow and intelligent transportation systems are included under this category. Addition of mixed-flow travel lanes is ineligible.

Telecommuting: Planning, technical and feasibility studies, training, coordination and promotion for telecommuting are eligible activities under CMAQ. Physical establishment of telecommuting centers, computer and office equipment purchases and related activities are not eligible.

Travel Demand Management: Eligible activities include: market research and planning in support of TDM implementation; capital expenses required to implement TDM measures; operating assistance to

administer and manage TDM programs; and marketing and public education efforts to support and bolster TDM measures.

Intermodal Freight: CMAQ funds may be used for improved intermodal freight facilities where air quality benefits can be shown.

Public/Private Initiatives: The CMAQ program may be used to fund projects or programs that are owned, operated or under the primary control of the public sector, including public/private joint ventures. Under TEA-21, non-profit organizations are eligible as direct recipients of CMAQ funds.

Outreach Activities: Outreach activities, such as public education on transportation and air quality, advertising of transportation alternatives to SOV travel, and technical assistance to employers or other outreach activities for an Employee Commute Option program may be funded under the CMAQ program for an indefinite period. Transit “stores” selling fare media and dispensing route and schedule information which occupy leased space are also eligible and are not subject to the 3-year limit.

Fare/Fee Subsidy Program: CMAQ funds may be used for partial user fare or fee subsidies to encourage greater use of alternative travel modes (e.g. carpool, vanpool, transit, bicycling and walking), as part of a comprehensive, targeted program to reduce SOV use. The subsidized fare/fee must be limited to any one entity or location for a period not to exceed 2 years.

Other Projects and Programs: Other transportation projects and programs, even if they are not included under one of the categories above may also be funded under CMAQ. Innovative activities based on promising technologies and feasible approaches to improve air quality will also be considered for funding. Documentation of air quality benefits must be provided.

TCM PROJECT CATEGORIES

A. High-Occupancy Vehicle Measures

- New HOV Lanes
- HOV Bypasses, Connectors, and New Interchanges with Ramp Meters
- High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes and Pricing Alternatives

B. Transit and System Management Measures

Transit

- Rail Track – New or Expanded Lines
- New Rolling Stock Acquisition – Rail Cars and/or Locomotives
- Bus Rapid Transit and Dedicated Bus Lanes – Express Busways
- Buses – Fleet Expansion
- Shuttles and Paratransit Vehicles – Fleet Expansion

Intermodal Transfer Facilities

- Rail Stations – New or Expansion
- Park & Ride Lots – New or Expansion
- Bus Stations & Transfer Facilities – New or Expansion

Non-Motorized Transportation Mode Facilities

- Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities – New or Expansion (non-recreational)
- Bicycle Facilities – New or Expansion (non-recreational)
- Pedestrian Facilities – New or Expansion (non-recreational)

C. Information-Based Transportation Strategies

- Marketing for Rideshare Services and Transit/TDM/Intermodal Services
- Intelligent Transportation Systems/Control System Computerization
 - Traffic Signal Synchronization
 - Real-Time Transit or Rail Notification System
 - Traffic Management/Operations Centers
 - Changeable Message Signs
 - Closed Circuit Televisions
 - Ramp Metering Systems
 - Systemwide Signal Preemption
 - Traveler/Motorist Information Systems; Highway Advisory Radios
 - Vehicle Detection & Automatic Vehicle Classification Systems
- Telecommuting Programs/Satellite Work Centers