**Overview**

**Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)** is a federally funded program for surface transportation improvements such as preserving and improving the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and transit capital projects that are designed to improve air quality and mitigate congestion.

CMAQ funds are apportioned annually to each State and then further allocated to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and rural recipients according to the severity of its air quality problems. The program is jointly administered by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

**Current MPOs and Rural recipients**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MPO** | **Rural**  |
| Portland Metro | Klamath Falls |
| Salem-Keizer | La Grande |
| Central Lane | Lakeview |
| Rogue Valley (Medford) | Oakridge |
| Middle Rogue (Grants Pass) |  |

**Project Selection**

Each MPO conducts its own call for projects and selection process and determines how to meet MPO CMAQ targets. Decisions regarding project prioritization and final selection are the responsibility of the MPOs within the parameters of program eligibility.

Each rural recipient works with their Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region Contact to identify eligible projects for CMAQ funding.

**Eligible projects**

Each projectmust meet these five eligibility criteria and fit within the narrowed list of eligible projects as determined by ODOT and the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC).

1. Must be a transportation project.
2. Must generate a net emissions reduction for applicable pollutants.
3. Must be located in or benefit a [non-attainment](https://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/Pages/Nonattainment-Areas.aspx) or [maintenance area](https://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/Pages/Maintenance-Areas.aspx).
4. Conform to the requirements of the [Clean Air Act](https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-air-act).
5. Must be consistent with a long-range transportation plan and included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for MPOs or Statewide Transportation Improvements Program ([STIP](https://www.oregon.gov/odot/STIP/Documents/OnlineSTIP_Public.pdf)) for rural recipients.

**CMAQ Narrowed Eligible Activities** –FHWA identifies 20 different project types for eligible use of CMAQ funds, however ODOT and OTC narrowed the list to support state transportation policy goals.

**Application process**

All CMAQ recipients submit an [application](https://www.oregon.gov/odot/LocalGov/Documents/CMAQ%20Application.pdf) to ODOT detailing the project and its eligibility for CMAQ.

Submit CMAQ project applications to cmaq@odot.state.or.us for review and approval.[[1]](#footnote-1) Ideally, submit applications at least one year before funding is needed.

**Award Process**

MPOs will provide an application to ODOT, which includes emissions calculations. After ODOT review, the ODOT Program Manager will notify the MPO if the project meets all eligibility requirements. If so, the MPO will add the project to the MTIP. MTIP projects are then incorporated into the STIP.

**Agreement Process**

Once the project is entered into the STIP, Regions and recipients can begin working on the Agreements. Once the appropriate signatures are obtained, ODOT will request FHWA approval to obligate CMAQ funds.

**Contact:**

For project-level questions contact your region contact. For questions about the contents of this document or Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality policy, contact:

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**This document represents a brief overview – please refer to the full** [**CMAQ Guidelines**](https://www.oregon.gov/odot/LocalGov/Documents/2020_CMAQ_Guidelines.pdf) **for further details.**

1. The CMAQ Program Manager can provide examples of past projects as requested. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)