

2026 CMAQ Grant Application Instructions and Program Guidelines

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program

Overview

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is making **\$500,000 in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding** available to public transit providers across Oregon for projects that accelerate **transit fleet electrification**.

This funding opportunity is exclusively for:

- **Purchase of new zero-emission transit buses** (battery electric or hydrogen fuel cell), and/or
- **Installation of charging or fueling infrastructure** that directly supports zero-emissions transit operations.

CMAQ funds are intended to reduce transportation-related emissions in areas that are in, or have previously been in, nonattainment or maintenance for federal air quality standards. Transit electrification is an effective and measurable strategy for reducing diesel particulate matter, also known as PM2.5), nitrogen oxides, or NOx, and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

In Oregon, a portion of CMAQ funding is directed to DEQ to support diesel emissions reduction strategies. Transit electrification aligns strongly with:

- Reduction of PM2.5, greenhouse gas and NOx emissions
- Protection of public health
- Deployment of zero-emissions technologies
- Oregon's broader climate and clean transportation goals

Available Funding

- **Total Federal CMAQ Funding Available:** \$500,000
- **Eligible Applicants:** Oregon public transit providers
- **Minimum Match Requirement:** 20% non-federal match
- **Funding Structure:** Reimbursement-based through [Federal Transit Administration](#)
- **Obligation Requirement:** Projects must be incorporated into the appropriate Statewide Transportation Improvement Program or Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and receive approval from Oregon Department of Transportation to transfer Federal Highway Administration-based funds to the Federal Transit Administration prior to reimbursement.

DEQ expects to award one or more grants under this solicitation. Applicants are encouraged to request funding proportional to project scale and readiness. Projects that demonstrate clear deployment pathways and realistic procurement timelines will be prioritized.

Eligible Projects

This funding opportunity is limited to transit electrification projects.

Eligible Vehicle Purchases

- New battery electric transit buses
- New hydrogen fuel cell transit buses

Eligible Infrastructure

- Depot charging systems
- Hydrogen fueling infrastructure serving transit fleets*

*Infrastructure must directly support zero-emissions transit operations and be clearly connected to fleet electrification.

Project Priorities

DEQ will prioritize projects that:

- Serve communities with elevated diesel emissions.
 - See [Diesel Pollution Priority Areas Map](#)
- Demonstrate strong project readiness and ability to obligate funds.
- Coordinate with electric utilities for grid capacity and interconnection planning.
- Integrate with long-term fleet transition strategies.

While geographic distribution will be considered, **emissions reduction will be a primary evaluation criterion.**

Application Requirements

Applicants must complete the [DEQ 2026 CMAQ Application form](#) and submit pages one through three, along with supporting materials. The application is structured to provide DEQ with the information necessary to confirm CMAQ eligibility, quantify emissions reductions and assess project readiness for federal obligation.

The first section of the form collects basic project and agency information, including the project title, applicant agency, primary contact and if the project will require Metropolitan Planning Organization

coordination. Also, it establishes the responsible entity for federal compliance and ensures the project can be properly programmed in the STIP or MTIP.

The application requires a description of the project location and a detailed cost estimate showing all major project phases and funding sources. Applicants must clearly identify the amount of CMAQ funding requested and document the required 20% non-federal match. Applicants should also indicate anticipated project timelines and expected reimbursement schedules.

The narrative portion of the application should provide a concise and thorough description of the project, including the existing diesel fleet being replaced (if applicable), the proposed zero-emissions vehicles or infrastructure, and the operational context in which the equipment will be deployed. Applicants should explain how the project will reduce emissions, who will benefit from the investment, and how the agency will track performance once the project is implemented.

A central component of the application is the emissions reduction estimate. Applicants must quantify projected reductions in kilograms per day using the [Federal Highway Administration CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit](#) or an equivalent approved methodology. These calculations form the basis for determining CMAQ eligibility and overall project competitiveness.

Supporting documentation should demonstrate that the project will result in measurable air quality improvements and that the agency has identified a reliable source of matching funds. Applications must be signed by an authorized representative and submitted electronically to DEQ by the stated deadline.

This application process is intended to be straightforward and focused on project readiness, measurable emissions reductions and clear documentation of funding commitments. Agencies are encouraged to contact DEQ early if technical assistance is needed.

Timeline

- **Funding Announcement:** Sept. 9, 2026
- **Applications Due:** Oct. 21, 2026
- **Award Notification:** Winter 2027
- **STIP/MTIP Programming:** Spring 2027

DEQ may adjust dates as necessary.

Award and Contracting Process

Following project selection and award notification from DEQ:

- DEQ will transmit CMAQ awards information to ODOT.
- ODOT will coordinate STIP/MTIP inclusion.
- ODOT will transmit CMAQ award information to FHWA.

- FHWA will provide final approval.
- CMAQ funds will be obligated and transferred to FTA.
- FTA will take responsibility for administering CMAQ funds.
- Reimbursement may begin following FTA obligation.

The process reflects the ability for transit agencies receiving CMAQ funds to transfer them to the Federal Transit Administration where applicable.

Technical Assistance

DEQ recognizes that transit electrification projects involve complex fleet planning, utility coordination and emissions modeling. DEQ staff are available to assist applicants with:

- Emissions reduction calculations
- CMAQ eligibility questions
- Coordination with MPOs and ODOT
- Understanding federal requirements

Agencies are encouraged to reach out early in the process.

Contact Information

For questions regarding this funding opportunity, please contact:

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Non-discrimination statement

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