

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Photos: FHWA

Public-Private Partnerships

A public-private partnership is an agreement between a government agency and non-government organization to work together to accomplish a goal that benefits both the taxpaying public and the private partner.

There must be a legal agreement between the parties that specifies the intended use of the CMAQ funding, partners' roles and responsibilities, any cost-sharing arrangements for capital investments and operating expenses, and owners of any physical property. Eligible public partners include metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), State or local transportation departments (DOTs), transit providers, and any other organization that can accept Federal transportation funds.

Benefits of Public-Private Partnerships

A private partner can be a company or other non-government entity that wishes to deliver transportation-related projects to reduce emissions but may not be able to bear the full cost of the project independently. By partnering with a public agency, a private entity can access technical and regulatory expertise, receive public acknowledgement for its contribution, and benefit from CMAQ funding.

Public agencies can gain environmental benefits, technical expertise and financial assistance by partnering with private parties that are interested in air quality improvements and congestion mitigation.

A variety of projects lend themselves to partnerships, including fleet conversions to alternative fuels, intermodal freight facilities, diesel retrofits, and ferry services, to name a few.

Public-Private Projects CMAQ Eligibility

To be eligible for CMAQ funds, a public-private partnership project must reduce transportation emissions in current or former nonattainment or maintenance areas. Funds may also be used for projects in proximity to nonattainment and maintenance areas if the benefits will be realized primarily within the nonattainment or maintenance area. Such projects generally reduce emissions by reducing area vehicle travel, or reduced vehicle emissions.

Examples of Successful Public-Private Partnerships

Auburn, ME: Owned by the City of Auburn and leased to an intermodal transportation firm, the Intermodal Freight Transfer Facility is expected to redirect substantial truck traffic to rail. The construction of the facility cost approximately \$2.3 million in CMAQ funds, \$600,000 in local funds, and \$200,000 in private funds.

- *Estimated emission reductions (first phase): 7 kg/day volatile organic compound (VOC) and 77 kg/day nitrogen oxides (NO_x)*

Knoxville, TN: The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization partnered with an idle reduction firm and used \$1 million in CMAQ funds to install 100 advanced truck stop electrification units to stop diesel engines idling along I-40/I-75.

- *Estimated emission reductions: 25 kg/day carbon monoxide (CO), 60 kg/day NO_x, 1.6 kg/day particulate matter (PM), and 3 kg/day VOC*

Houston, TX: The Houston-Galveston Area Councils Alternative Fuel Vehicle Program (AFVP) provides funding to government and private entities to assist them in purchasing and using alternative fuel vehicles. \$2.5 million in CMAQ funding were used.

- *Estimated emission reductions: 197 kg/day ozone (O₃)*

Photo: www.istockphoto.com



For more information, please contact:

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