

CMAQ Goals and Funding

The main goal of the CMAQ Program is to fund transportation projects that reduce emissions in nonattainment and maintenance areas. Congestion mitigation is also a goal of the CMAQ Program. Congestion relief can contribute to improvements in air quality by reducing travel delays, engine idle time and unproductive fuel consumption. The CMAQ program is one source of funds for Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) employed for the purposes of reducing congestion and improving air quality.

The CMAQ program, jointly administered by the FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), was reauthorized in 2005 under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The SAFETEA-LU CMAQ program provides over \$8.6 billion dollars in funds to State DOTs, MPOs, and transit agencies to invest in projects that reduce criteria air pollutants regulated from transportation-related sources over a period of five years (2005-2009). In Washington State, 100 percent of CMAQ funding is targeted to local jurisdiction projects and programs.

Funding is available for areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (nonattainment areas) as well as former nonattainment areas that are now in compliance (maintenance areas). The formula for distribution of funds, which considers an area's population by county and the severity of its ozone and carbon monoxide problems within the nonattainment or maintenance area, with greater weight given to areas that are both carbon monoxide and ozone nonattainment/maintenance areas, is continued.

SAFETEA-LU requires States and MPOs to give priority in distributing CMAQ funds to diesel engine retrofits, and other cost-effective emission reduction and congestion mitigation activities that provide air quality benefits. SAFETEA-LU also requires the Secretary to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of a representative sample of CMAQ projects to determine the direct and indirect impact of the projects on air quality and congestion levels, and to ensure the effective implementation of the program

CMAQ funds continue to be available for a wide range of transportation projects, including:

- Public Transportation Improvements
- Traffic Flow Improvements
- Transportation Demand Management
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects
- Alternative Fuel Projects
- Inspection and Maintenance Programs
- Intermodal Freight Transportation
- Public Education and Outreach
- Idle Reduction Technology
- Intelligent Transportation Systems