RSTBG/CMAQ Guidelines
April 12, 2021
Comments - Subcommittee

Received comments from one locality:

1. Use SMART Portal for applications or provide sample application – Options to be reviewed this summer
2. Note in guidelines that VDOT concurrence not required in screening for locally administered – DONE
3. Include timeline/guidelines for VDOT validation of construction projects
4. Add Interchange Access Request (IAR) to examples of planning studies – DONE
5. Clarify what a “single funding swap” means for leveraging – DONE
Comment #3

- Validation is run through the Richmond District and requires coordination with VDOT
- RRTPO and VDOT staff have a proposed schedule based on other VDOT obligations
- To ensure flexibility to change from round to round, these guidelines will remain outside of the main framework
Program Schedule

July* to Oct: Sponsor/VDOT Coordination
Oct to Nov: Applications, Sponsor Presentations
Nov to Jan: Scoring & allocations plan development
Feb/Mar: Draft allocations to TAC
Mar/Apr: TPO Approval
Apr/May: Draft SYIP review & changes
June: CTB SYIP adoption

*Coordination can start any time but no later than 3 weeks before application due date
Validation Process

1. Project Sponsor emails RRTPO staff of intent to submit RSTP/CMAQ project
2. RRTPO staff verifies eligibility; reports back to sponsor, VDOT
3. Sponsor reaches out to VDOT planning point of contact to begin coordination. Options include:
   1. Validation (estimate, schedule, sketch) - required
   2. Concept development/refinement
   3. Studies (safety, operations, STARS/AMP, etc.)
4. Validation – 3 weeks; studies – 12 months
Comments - VDOT

Received comments from VDOT:

1. Consider requiring local assistance schedule tool
   Can be incorporated into validation process; templates currently provided in application form

2. VDOT requires estimate for full project even if TPO only requested to fund part of the project
   Full estimate required in current application; will be continued with new application forms
Comments - VDOT

3. Add caveat to allocations process if a project cost or schedule is not compatible with available funding

Draft states new project allocations are based on priority and available funding

4. Remove references to 101492 for balance entry; TPO to split RSTP/CMAQ balances as best practice

References under “Surplus Funds” and “Order of Allocations” to be removed before TAC review
5. Consider setting a dollar threshold in addition to or instead of a percentage threshold for splitting phase allocations

Staff open to either approach, dollar amount would be more straightforward to administer. Recommended amounts CMAQ - $2M; RSTP - $4M
Requested Action

• Review draft document
• Recommend draft guidelines to TAC