RSTBG/CMAQ Guidelines

April 12, 2021

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Final Draft

Comments & Review

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Comments - VDOT

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

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