

CMAQ Project Selection Policy

Mission Statement:

Provide leadership in the State's efforts to demonstrate transportation conformity and attainment of air quality standards. To facilitate the development of the CMAQ program in nonattainment/maintenance areas while serving as a resource to the Georgia Department of Transportation, the State Air Quality Partners, the Statewide Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and the State of Georgia.

Statewide project initiatives

- Support Nonattainment/maintenance areas with CMAQ funding to implement highly beneficial, cost-effective projects that reduce emissions and improve air quality
- Consistent Statewide Messaging for Transportation Demand Management (and other CMAQ-funded Projects, as appropriate) through Public Relations, Advertising, Employer Services and Outreach to Schools

Effective use of CMAQ funds

- Ensure timely project implementation
 - Secure clear project timelines
 - Allow project sponsors to shift projects *one year* based on staff recommendation
 - Incorporate project completion history into selection process
- Prioritize projects that are identified as highly recommended in the State Project Selection Tool
- Prioritize projects that demonstrate higher emissions reductions at lower costs
- Encourage higher matches statewide – prioritize projects listed as highly beneficial in the State Project Selection Tool, cost-effective projects with matches exceeding 20%
- Target CMAQ funds for CST phase (local funding of PE and R/W)
- Attainment is a short range goal - projects must provide immediate, tangible, significant benefits.

The State Obligation Authority will be targeted to projects that fall within the Federal CMAQ guidelines. Failure to follow this policy could jeopardize project authorization.

If funds cannot be used for highly beneficial, cost-effective projects (as defined by criteria developed by the State Air Quality Partners) or implemented in a timely manner, the funds will be redirected.