

June 8, 2009

## 2009 Regional Solicitation Responses to Questions and Encountered Problems

*What if my STP project does not fit into the safety improvement table shown in Appendix E and it is not in the FHWA Desktop Reference for Crash Reduction Factors?*

If your project has features or components that do not appear in the crash reduction table in Appendix E and it is not included in the FHWA Desktop Reference for Crash Reduction factors linked in Appendix E, please use the Kentucky Report. Here is a link to the Kentucky Report

([http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/safety/hes/kentucky\\_report.pdf](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/safety/hes/kentucky_report.pdf))

*CMAQ Appendix P: Incorrect year for budgeted costs*

You should supply current (2009) budgeted costs. This was not corrected from the last solicitation.

*CMAQ Transit Expansion refers to a non-existent appendix.*

Correction: The first prioritizing criterion of the CMAQ Transit Expansion application refers to an incorrect Appendix letter. The current version of the application is up to date but if you are working off of an old version, you should refer to Appendix G, the worksheets for which are all online.

*Clarify the eligible costs for the local match.*

The local match for any project submitted in the regional solicitation must be at least 20% of the federally-eligible project cost.

Preliminary engineering, design, environmental studies, permitting costs, construction engineering and all similar work is not eligible for federal funds and cannot be counted toward the local match for any of the federal programs in this solicitation.

Eligible costs vary somewhat by funding program. These costs are spelled out for STP projects in General STP Policies #2 and #3, for Transportation Enhancements projects in General Policy #3 and Qualifying Criterion #1, for CMAQ projects in Policies #2, #3, and #5, and BIR projects in Policy #2. The local match must apply to the eligible costs. Any costs outside of eligible costs are the responsibility of the applicant agency.

*Can I submit my application via email?*

You may submit your application via email in lieu of sending a hard copy. If you do so, the application must be submitted as one single file with all elements included and must include the relevant signature on the cover page. Please email applications to [james.andrew@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:james.andrew@metc.state.mn.us) and [Kevin.roggenbuck@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Kevin.roggenbuck@metc.state.mn.us).

June 8, 2009

*I have color graphics in my application. How many color copies do I need to submit?*

This procedure was not updated on the current version of the Solicitation. You do not need to submit multiple copies of color graphics. You only need to submit one copy of your application. If you email your application, it will be printed in color so there is no need to submit extra copies.

*On criteria that state that the Metropolitan Council will provide the data, do I need to do anything?*

You may request the data in advance if you would like but this information will be collected by Metropolitan Council staff once all applications have been received, and forwarded to the appropriate project evaluation group.

*If I don't have heavy commercial traffic data, how do I answer the freight question under Integration of Modes?*

If your project is on a trunk highway, you should use the volumes located at [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/traffic/data/maps/trunkhighway/2006/state\\_and\\_metro/metroflo.pdf](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/traffic/data/maps/trunkhighway/2006/state_and_metro/metroflo.pdf). If it is not on a trunk highway and you have not conducted any data collection, you may use a standard factor of 3% of AADT.

*I only want to work off one highway category in STP but the form is locked so I must use the entire document.*

You may “unprotect” the document by clicking on “Tools” and then scroll down and select “Unprotect document”. The application should then be editable and you can cut and paste and remove any unnecessary text. However, be careful that you do not delete any criteria that you need to answer.

*I am submitting an application for a Transportation Enhancements project. My project is in the Scenic/Environmental category. Which criteria do I need to respond to?*

You must respond to all qualifying criteria, all prioritizing criteria related to the Scenic/Environmental category, and the Maturity of Project Concept criteria located at the end of the application. Your total possible points should add up to 1000. You do not need to answer any of the questions related to the bicycle/pedestrian, historic, or streetscape categories. If your project has a mix of elements that might fit into more than one category, choose the category that fits it best and only answer those criteria. Your project will receive some additional credit for fulfilling more than one goal of the Transportation Enhancements program in the Relationship Between Categories criterion.

*Is Right-Of-Way purchasing eligible for applications submitted in the Regional Solicitation?*

June 8, 2009

Right of Way is an eligible project cost in the Transportation Enhancements program, the STP Bike/Walk program category and the CMAQ program. Right of Way is not an eligible project cost in any of the STP highway categories or the Bridge Improvement and Replacement program.