

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

Date: June 25, 2021

To: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

From: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

Subject: Authorization to Apply for and Receive (if awarded) Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Program (STP) Grant Funds

POLICY

Per Section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances, authorization is required from the County Board to apply for and execute discretionary federal or state grants that require a local match.

BACKGROUND

WisDOT administers CMAQ grants on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration to fund transportation-related projects that improve air quality and reduce congestion in air quality non-attainment areas including Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County has successfully applied for, and received, CMAQ grants in the past for various transit and transportation services related projects.

STP provides fiscal assistance to various local transportation projects that meet the appropriate requirements. Milwaukee County has been awarded STP funds in past program cycles.

The application deadlines are as follows:

- 2022-2026 CMAQ due date: August 2, 2021
- 2022-2027 STP due date: October 15, 2021

The project applications MCDOT plans to submit are:

- MCTS Bus Replacement Program
 - 41 buses under CMAQ (approx. \$18 million federal, \$4.6 million local)
 - 23 buses under STP (approx. \$10 million federal, \$2.6 million local)

The Department of Transportation's applications may not be awarded in full, thus the exact amount of the local funding required may be less than the estimates provided herein.

Projects selected for CMAQ and STP funding will be included in the appropriate year capital budgets or authorized by fund transfer process over the grant period along with the required 20 percent local matching contribution. The department expects to be notified of selected projects in early 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Transportation Director requests authorization to submit applications and receive any awards for federal CMAQ and STP funding to aid in the financing of future MCTS bus purchases consistent with this request.

FISCAL NOTE

The CMAQ and STP grant programs require a local match of 20 percent for both operating and capital improvement projects. These matching funds will be requested in the appropriate capital budget request or via fund transfer should either of the CMAQ or STP projects be approved for funding. The estimates in this report are based on current clean diesel bus prices. A new RFP and vendor selection process will likely be necessary before these purchases are made, and thus the specific numbers of buses purchased and/or the local match component may differ from the estimates.

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Approved by:

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Donna Brown-Martin, Director of Transportation