



July Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks

9480 Watertown Plank Rd.

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 257-PARK

Date: June 25, 2021
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: **Permission to apply for CMAQ Grant – ACTION**

Issue

The Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks is seeking authorization to submit one or more Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) grant applications.

Background

The CMAQ Program is designed to provide funding for transportation-related projects that improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion in counties classified as air quality non-attainment areas for the federal criteria pollutant ozone. CMAQ projects generally fall into one of three broad categories:

- Projects that reduce emissions through improved vehicle and fuel technologies
- Projects that reduce emissions by improving traffic congestion
- Projects that reduce the number of vehicle trips and/or vehicle miles traveled (i.e., bike trail projects – new construction)

Examples of typical projects include efforts to enhance public transit, to construct bicycle/pedestrian facilities, to establish ridesharing programs and facilities, and to employ technologies that improve traffic flow and vehicle emissions. Parks has obtained and implemented a number of CMAQ grants for bike trail projects since the program's inception in the early 1990s, and those grants have enabled Parks to make steady progress in its efforts to expand and enhance the Oak Leaf Trail, one of the Parks' most popular facilities.

CMAQ is authorized and funded under the federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), the federal transportation act that was signed into law on July 6, 2012. It is



administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation with funds being made available through a competitive application process open to the eleven county non-attainment and maintenance areas in southeastern and northeastern Wisconsin. CMAQ is a reimbursement program and funds are awarded on an 80:20 federal:local cost-share basis.

SHORT PROJECT SUMMARIES AND TENTATIVE BUDGETS

1. Hampshire ramp access to enhance bike commuting and access to UWM (current access points are relatively far from UWM and the school and neighbors have requested a ramp here)
 - a. Estimate of \$1,600,000
 - b. Includes remediating an old tunnel that is under the trail and posing a structural issue. This project addresses two issues at once (potential trail failure and increased access)
2. Oak Leaf Trail Bridge over I-43 North of Hampton preservation painting and bike commuting advertising (large mural/billboard to advertise trail and bike commuting to interstate drivers)
 - a. Estimate in progress
3. Bring all OLT segments up to modern standards (width and pavement quality, wayfinding signage and counters) to enhance commuting use and evaluation
 - a. Budget under development and flexible based on exact segments chosen for focus, currently \$3,560,000
 - b. Note: CMAQ rules say that trail reconstruction is not eligible, but Parks is inquiring since these segments are currently below standard

Recommendation

The Executive Director of Parks respectfully recommends that the Parks Department be authorized to apply for one or more CMAQ grants, and to undertake all actions and activities necessary to accept and implement CMAQ grant awards offered to Milwaukee County.

Prepared By: Sarah Toomsen, Manager of Planning & Development

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Guy Smith _____



Attachments

- Resolution
- Fiscal Note

Copy

- David Crowley, County Executive
- Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
- Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
- Ryan Clancy, Supervisor District 4
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
- Aaron Herzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
- Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
- Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
- Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
- Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Lindsey Peterson, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB
- Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation

