

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

DATE: 4/22/2022
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: From the Director of the Department of Transportation Requesting Authorization to Apply for funding under the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Urban Program (STP-U).
FILE TYPE: Action Report

REQUEST

Authorization to apply for and accept funding under the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program and the Surface Transportation Urban Program (STP-U).

POLICY

Per section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances, authorization is required from the appropriate county board standing committee prior to applying for discretionary federal or state grants that require a local match.

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) announced on February 28, 2022, the opportunity to apply for funding under the 2023-2026 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This includes funding for the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Urban Programs (STP-U). Grant awards require a minimum 20% local match and applications are due June 3, 2022.

The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) presently intends to request funding for 20 battery electric buses under the CMAQ program at an estimated per-unit cost of \$1,500,000 and funding for 30 clean diesel buses under the STP-U program at an estimated per-unit cost of \$600,000. The grant amounts to be requested are \$24,000,000 for CMAQ and \$14,400,000 for STP-U (80% of the estimated total). If approval to apply is granted, and if an award is received, the funding will be used in a future capital budget request depending on the specific needs of the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) at that time.

In addition to the MCTS requests for buses, MCDOT Transportation Services Division is requesting \$1,488,000 in funding under the CMAQ program for the following three projects:

1. CMAQ – Signals – CTH Y (E. Layton Ave.) – S. Pine Ave. to S. Packard Ave.

The project addresses the need to replace aging equipment and improve congestion and air quality at intersections by upgrading detection and improving signal timings. Better signal timings also can improve safety along the corridor. These actions lead to reduced waiting at intersections for vehicles and pedestrians along County Trunk

Highways (CTH), improving the overall efficiency of the Milwaukee County Highway System.

The project will design and construct signal improvements at eight intersections. The improvements will include new communications equipment between intersections, flashing yellow arrow signals, new detection at intersections, improved traffic signal timings and other equipment associated with these upgrades. The intersections included in the project are on E. Layton Ave. at S. Pine Ave., S. Brust Ave., S. Pennsylvania Ave., S. Whitnall Ave. (West), S. Whitnall Ave. (East), S. Nicholson Ave., S. Sweet Applewood Dr., and S. Packard Ave.

The estimated project cost is \$870,000 and is the #1 priority for Transportation Services.

2. CMAQ – Signals – CTH Y (W. Layton Ave.) – 68th to 47th

The project addresses the need to replace aging equipment and improve congestion and air quality at intersections by upgrading detection and improving signal timings. Better signal timings also can improve safety along the corridor. These actions lead to reduced waiting at intersections for vehicles and pedestrians along County Trunk Highways (CTH), improving the overall efficiency of the Milwaukee County Highway System.

The project will design and construct signal improvements at five intersections. The improvements will include new communications equipment between intersections, flashing yellow arrow signals, new detection at intersections, improved traffic signal timings and other equipment associated with these upgrades. The intersections included in the project are on W. Layton Ave. at S. 68th St., S. 60th St., S. 57th St., S. 51st St., and S. 47th St.

The estimated project cost is \$550,000 and is priority #2 for Transportation Services.

3. CMAQ – Signals – N. Lincoln Memorial Drive – Lagoon to Watertower

The project addresses the need to replace aging equipment and improve congestion and air quality at intersections by upgrading detection and improving signal timings. Better signal timings also can improve safety along the corridor. These actions lead to reduced waiting at intersections for vehicles and pedestrians along County Trunk Highways (CTH), improving the overall efficiency of the Milwaukee County Highway System.

The project will design and construct signal improvements at three intersections. The improvements will include new communications equipment between intersections, flashing yellow arrow signals, new detection at intersections, improved traffic signal timings and other equipment associated with these upgrades. The intersections included in the project are on N. Lincoln Memorial Dr. at E. Lagoon Dr., E. Lafayette Hill Rd. and E. Watertower Pl.

The estimated project cost is \$440,000 and is priority #3 for Transportation Services.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation recommends authorization to submit requests to the CMAQ and STP-U programs for \$24,000,000 and \$14,400,000, respectively, for the purchase of up to 20 battery-electric and up to 30 clean diesel buses for MCTS, and a \$1,488,000 request under CMAQ for signal improvements at up to 16 intersections.

FISCAL EFFECT

The direct fiscal impact is dependent on the grant amounts (if any) that are ultimately awarded. In the event of a full award for MCTS, the local share requested in the applicable county capital budget would be \$6,000,000 for CMAQ and \$3,600,000 for STP-U. The total requested MCTS capital amounts will not be impacted by this submission because MCTS' needs are independent of whether an award is received. The Transportation Services Division's local share in the event of a full award would be \$372,000.

TERMS (If applicable)

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
Julie Esch, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY:

Anthony Geiger, Grants Development Manager, MCDOT Director's Office

APPROVED BY:

Donna Brown-Martin

Donna Brown-Martin
Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution/Ordinance, Fiscal Note

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk