

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

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Date: August 16, 2019

To: Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chair, County Board of Supervisors

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

Subject: Retroactive Authorization to Apply for Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) 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**

Since 1991, the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has received federal funds to administer a variety of transportation improvement programs including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant program. 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.

In June of 2019 - after the deadline for the County Board's July committee cycle - the Department of Transportation (DOT) received notice of and application guidelines for the 2020 to 2024 CMAQ program. The DOT subsequently prepared and submitted two transportation services and four transit CMAQ applications prior to the August 1, 2019 deadline. These six projects were chosen based on departmental need and their eligibility for CMAQ program funding. For this grant cycle WisDOT will be awarding projects primarily for state fiscal years 2023 and 2024, although WisDOT may consider requests for funding in an earlier year.

The project applications submitted are as follows:

- Marketing Activities for MCTS.
- Expansion of MCTS Mobile App/Enhanced Fare Collection System.
- MCTS Bus Replacement Program – for replacement buses in 2023.

- MCTS Bus Rapid Transit Operating Funds for 2024.
- Traffic Signal Improvements on Silver Spring Drive.
- Traffic Signal Improvements on Oklahoma Avenue, S. 76<sup>th</sup> and S. 92<sup>nd</sup> Streets.

The Department of Transportation's applications exceed the approximately \$10.7 million of annual program funds available within the CMAQ program for the application period. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that all projects submitted will receive funding.

Consistent with past practice and state statutes, once the department is made aware of selected projects by WisDOT, a report and resolution will be provided to the County Board requesting acceptance of any WisDOT awarded grants. Projects selected for CMAQ funding will then be included in the appropriate operating or 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 2020.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department of Transportation Director requests retroactive authorization to submit six applications for federal CMAQ funding to aid in the financing of future MCTS operating and capital projects.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant program requires a local match of 20 percent for both operating and capital improvement projects.

The Department of Transportation will request formal Milwaukee County Board approval of the 20 percent local matching contribution should any of the CMAQ projects be approved for funding.

Prepared by: Steve Nigh, Sr. Manager Grants Development

Approved by:



Donna Brown-Martin, Director of Transportation

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