



# 2026 – 2029 Call for Projects Program Guidance Packet

Berrien Cass, & Van Buren Counties

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A FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM MANAGED BY THE  
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

## CMAQ Introduction

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC), the regional planning organization for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties in southwest Michigan, is announcing the availability of funding for transportation projects through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program. This program is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), with oversight by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The CMAQ program funds projects that reduce transportation emissions, contributing to the attainment or maintenance of air quality standards under the Clean Air Act.

## Estimated Funding 2026-2029

County	2026	2027	2028	2029	2026-2029 Total
Berrien	\$874,485	\$883,789	\$901,466	\$919,49	\$2,659,740
Cass	\$71,965	\$72,731	\$74,185	\$75,669	\$294,550
Van Buren	\$105,627	\$106,751	\$108,886	\$111,064	\$432,328

CMAQ funding is intended to help improve air quality in counties designated as non-attainment or maintenance for Ozone (formed by NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions), CO, and PM 2.5. Currently, Berrien County is non-attainment for the 2018 ozone standard, while Cass and Van Buren counties are in maintenance under the 1997 standard. Applicants should be aware of the risk that FHWA could change its position on the eligibility of maintenance areas to use CMAQ funds. Applicants should also know that the funding amounts presented are estimates and may be modified if the Federal formula for State CMAQ apportionment changes.

## Application Deadline

**Applications are due to SWMPC by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 7, 2024**

## Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include cities, villages, county road agencies, regional planning agencies, and transit agencies. Townships wishing to apply must partner with their county road agency, listing the county road agency as the applicant on the application. The township may hire a consultant for the application and engineering, with the county road agency serving solely as a passthrough agency.

## Eligible Projects

CMAQ funding must be used for projects that provide an air quality or congestion reduction benefit without increasing single occupancy vehicle capacity and do not simply maintain an existing facility.

To view the list of eligible project types and find the corresponding emissions calculator toolkits for each type, please visit: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmag/toolkit/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmag/toolkit/)

## Eligible Costs

Only construction and implementation costs are eligible for CMAQ funding. Preliminary and construction engineering is the project sponsor's responsibility to complete without CMAQ funding.

## Local Match Requirements

A minimum match of 20 percent of the total participating construction cost is required for most CMAQ projects (*See Eligible Projects for a list of projects that do not require a local match*).

The project sponsor must have already committed matching funds when the project is submitted. Proposals which indicate that the sponsor will pay more than the minimum local match will be identified for the CMAQ Project Selection Committee and may be given extra consideration. The application includes a Certification of Matching Funds which must be signed, assuring that the sponsor will have the funds to cover the match and any cost overruns.

## Project Selection Process

CMAQ projects will be selected for each county, by committees for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties consisting of one representative from each agency that submitted at least one application. The selection will occur at an open public meeting. Before this meeting, all applications will be posted online at [swmpc.org](http://swmpc.org) for public comment.

The committee will base its selection on the FHWA evaluation criteria that include emissions reduction, cost-effectiveness, and how the project contributes towards other state and regional planning goals. For details on the selection criteria, please see: [Overview of CMAQ Project Selection and Funding Process \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/measures/)  
[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/measures/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/measures/)

## Key Dates

Date	Activity	Public Involvement
September 3, 2024	Call for CMAQ funded projects issued	X
Monday, October 7, 2024	Applications due to SWMPC staff	X
October 17, 2024	Submitted projects available for public review and comment	X
November- December, 2024	County CMAQ Committees select a fiscally constrained list of projects.	X
April 2024	MDOT CMAQ committee reviews locally approved CMAQ applications to confirm eligibility.	X

## Illustrative List of Projects

Projects that meet the selection criteria but were not chosen by the committee for the 2026-2029 fiscally constrained list will be added to an illustrative list. If additional CMAQ funds become available before the next call for projects occurs, the committee will award the CMAQ funds to a project from the illustrative list.

## General Considerations for Federal Funding

Projects carried out using CMAQ funds must comply with applicable provisions in Title 23 of the United States Code dealing with Federal-aid highways, such as project agreements, authorization to proceed before incurring costs, prevailing wage rates (DavisBacon), Buy America, competitive bidding, and other contracting requirements, regardless of whether the projects are located within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway.

## Application Instructions

There are two separate fillable PDF applications attached to the email sent out with the 2026-2029 CMAQ Program Call for Projects, one for road agencies, and the other for transit. The two applications can also be found at the links below:

- [Road Agency Application](#)
- [Transit Agency Application](#)

The applicant must fill out a separate application for each project. Although this is a call for 2026–2029, projects currently approved and programmed for 2026 do not need to reapply.

Part of the application requires an estimate of the project’s emission reduction. Applicants must use the appropriate FHWA CMAQ toolkit to calculate the emission reduction.

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/toolkit/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/toolkit/).

Applicants must email completed emission reduction forms with the application.

**Please save your completed application in the following format:** AgencyName\_ProjectName.dox.

**Please save your completed Toolkit in the following format:** AgencyName\_ProjectName.xlsm

*Note: Using the same name for both the application and toolkit will help us keep track of which toolkit corresponds to each application.*

Completed applications, CMAQ emissions toolkits, should be emailed to both Brandon Kovnat at [kovnatb@swmpc.org](mailto:kovnatb@swmpc.org) and Kim Gallagher at [gallagherk@swmpc.org](mailto:gallagherk@swmpc.org). The subject line should contain: “County Name CMAQ Application”

**All CMAQ Applications Are Due by: Monday, October 7, 2024**

**NOTE:** SWMPC staff will contact you with an email confirmation of your submitted application. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please contact us.