

# Carbon Reduction Program

TwinCATS and NATS

2026 – 2029 Call for Projects

Program Guidance Packet



A FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM MANAGED BY THE  
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

## Introduction

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) is announcing the availability of funding for transportation projects through the Carbon Reduction program (CRP). The CRP is a program funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), with oversight by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), that funds projects which will reduce carbon emission from transportation sources. The CRP is allocated to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), allowing funds to be used on projects anywhere within the planning area of the Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS) or the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS).

## Estimated Funding Availability 2026-2029

MPO	2026	2027	2028	2029
TwinCATS	\$151,000	\$154,000	\$158,000	\$161,000
NATS	\$65,000	\$66,000	\$68,000	\$69,000

## 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 within the TwinCATS and NATS planning areas. Townships wishing to apply must partner with their county road agency and list 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

CRP funding can be used for a variety of projects that will reduce transportation emissions.

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 CRP funding. Preliminary and construction engineering is the project sponsor's responsibility to complete without CRP funding.

## Local Match Requirements

A minimum match of 18.15 percent of the total participating construction cost is required for CRP projects. 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 Project Review 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

The selection process for CRP funded projects will be the same as process the MPOs use for STBG Funding

1. Eligible applicants submit projects using the 2026-2029 CRP application along with supporting documentation.
2. A Project Prioritization Subcommittee will develop a preliminary list of projects.
3. The prioritized list will be adjusted to remain fiscally constrained.
4. The recommended project list will be reviewed at the Technical Committee level.
5. The TwinCATS Technical Committee will then make a recommendation to the TwinCATS Policy Committee for approval.

The committees 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 9, 2024	Call for CRP 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	Project Review Subcommittee creates a fiscally constrained draft list of projects.	X
January 2025	TwinCATS/NATS TAC & Policy Committee discussion and vote on STBG and transit projects	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 CRP funds become available before the next call for projects occurs, the committee will award the CRP funds to a project from the illustrative list.

## General Considerations for Federal Funding

Projects carried out using CRP 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 CRP Program Call for Projects, one for road agencies, and the other for transit (this is the same application being used for the CMAQ funds). 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. A single application can include requests for both CMAQ and CRP funds. 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 emissions reduction. The same tool kits for CMAQ are used for CRP funding. Applicants must use the appropriate FHWA CMAQ toolkit to calculate the emission reduction which can be found here: [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/CRP Application”

**All CRP 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.