



# Transportation Alternatives (TA) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (GMAQ) Competitive Funding Proposal

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Competitive Funding Proposal?

*The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is administering a Competitive Funding Proposal (CFP) for Transportation Alternatives (TA) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement programs. This process is designed to streamline project intake and evaluation, simplifying the application process for locals seeking federal funding support.*

### 2. Is this Competitive Funding Proposal new?

*CMAQ and TA are both pre-existing, federally funded programs. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) manages the distribution of a portion of the TA program funds and regularly issues calls for applications. Based on the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) updated CMAQ guidance from November 2024, GDOT is assuming responsibility for managing the solicitation of CMAQ projects statewide. Per FHWA's updated guidance, CMAQ funds may be invested in all ozone, CO, and PM nonattainment and maintenance areas across the State, including former areas where the NAAQS has been revoked or the maintenance period has been satisfied. The CMAQ funds may also be invested in maintenance areas that have approved maintenance plans under CAA Section 175A (42 U.S.C. 7505a) and 23 U.S.C. 149(b)). This includes areas that previously were not eligible for CMAQ funding. Please reference this eligibility map to see if your project falls in a CMAQ eligible area before submitting.*

*If you have previously applied for CMAQ funding through your local MPO, those applications should now be submitted through this Competitive Funding Proposal. If you have any additional questions on this new process, please contact [CFP\\_Help@dot.ga.gov](mailto:CFP_Help@dot.ga.gov).*

### 3. What are the eligibility requirements for applicants and projects?

*To be eligible, projects must be located within a TA or CMAQ eligible area. Please refer to the [eligibility map](#).*

*In addition, only entities listed below may submit applications, and **each entity may submit up to two applications**:*

- *Cities*
- *Counties*
- *Transit Agencies*

- *Regional Transportation Authorities, including MPOs\**
- *Natural Resources or Public Land Agencies*
- *School Districts and individual Schools*
- *Tribal Governments*
- *Other local or regional governmental entities responsible for transportation or recreational trail oversight*

*\*Per federal guidance, MPOs in CMAQ eligible areas may apply as a direct applicant for funding support for projects in their area. MPOs classified as “small urbanized areas” (population under 200,000) are eligible to apply for TA funding support for projects in their area.*

**Eligible Applicant Types by Funding Program:**

- **CMAQ** – Any local, regional or state transportation authority in a federally designated air quality non-attainment or maintenance area. See [map](#) for geographic eligibility.
- **TA** – All eligible applicant types are eligible statewide with a distinction for MPOs in a Transportation Management Area (TMA - greater than 200,000 population) and non-Transportation Management Area (non-TMA - less than 200,000 population).
  - **Distinction for MPOs in TMA vs non-TMA areas:**
    - *Non-TMA MPO - Eligible as a direct applicant*
    - *TMA MPO - Ineligible as direct applicant. Note – this is because TMA MPOs have their own direct suballocation of federal TA funds to administer.*
      - *Atlanta Regional Commission*
      - *Augusta Regional Transportation Study MPO*
      - *Chattanooga-Hamilton/North Georgia MPO*
      - *Coastal Region MPO*
      - *Columbus-Phenix City MPO*
    - *All other eligible applicants within TMA MPO regions are eligible to apply for TA funding.*

**4. What types of projects are eligible for funding?**

**TA:**

*TA project types include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, pedestrian streetscape improvements, safe routes to school projects and other trail, transportation-related vegetation management, stormwater mitigation and historic preservation projects.*

**CMAQ:**

*CMAQ project eligibility is generally dictated by the required impacts of reducing congestion and improving air quality. CMAQ eligible project categories include-*

- *Roadway ITS/Operations and Incident Management*
- *Transit Start-up Operations and Expansion*
- *Managed Lanes*
- *Travel Demand Management*
- *Clean Fuel Technologies.*

*Each specific project type falling under these categories will have certain criteria needed to demonstrate emissions reduction.*

*Please visit FHWA [CMAQ](#) and [TA](#) websites for more information.*

5. Do I need to indicate whether I am applying for TA or CMAQ funding?

*No, if you are in an area that is both eligible for CMAQ and TA, your application will be considered across both programs and evaluated based on applicant eligibility and project type to determine eligibility.*

6. What is the application deadline and timeline?

*GDOT will accept funding applications from **September 15, 2025**, through **October 31, 2025**. Applications **submitted after October 31 will not be considered**.*

7. *If a portion of my project falls outside of my local jurisdiction, is it eligible to be considered for CMAQ/TA funding?*

*Yes, but each impacted jurisdiction must provide a letter of support.*

8. *Is a 20% local match required to apply?*

*For most projects a 20% local match is required. There are some exceptions where a jurisdiction with a population under 5,000 may apply to receive additional funding support. Some eligible projects may qualify for a higher share of federal dollars based on project type, population, and roadway classification. Please visit FHWA [CMAQ](#) and [TA](#) websites for more information.*

*The level of local match will be considered in project evaluation. The greater the local match, the more competitive the project becomes.*

9. What funding sources can be used for local contributions?

*Multiple sources, including private funds, may be used for local contributions, provided there is current documentation of the commitment.*

10. What is needed to illustrate a local commitment?

*Local funding commitments may include, but are not limited to, City or County funding resolutions, documentation of funding through an approved SPLOST, or an award letter through another program. Documentation of this funding must be provided at the time of application.*

11. Is there a maximum or minimum fund request?

*There is no maximum funding request. Minimum requests may apply for GDOT-sponsored projects depending on the project phase (Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way, Construction).*

12. Do I need Local Administered Projects (LAP) certification in order to apply?

*You do not need LAP certification to apply, though it is preferred. You can partner with another local entity with LAP certification to deliver the project; however, we would ask that you include in your application a letter of support from the entity delivering the project indicating they are supportive of the arrangement and include their LAP certification information in the application. If you would like Georgia DOT to deliver the project, you may indicate that in the application, but you may need to consider additional project administration costs in your estimates.*

13. What is the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) Loan?

*The Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) is a grant and low-interest loan program administered by the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA). Please visit their [site](#) for more information.*

14. What phases of a project are eligible for funding?

*Preliminary Engineering (PE), Right-of-way (ROW) acquisition, and Construction (CST) phases are eligible to be considered for funding. Applicants seeking ROW funding support should also include construction costs.*

15. If applying for construction funding, is it necessary for previous work to have been done in compliance with federal funding requirements??

*Yes- to be eligible for either TA or CMAQ construction funding you must complete preliminary engineering and other work in compliance with federal requirements- this includes expanded environmental review and documentation, project alternatives analysis and public engagement to meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Additionally, to be awarded construction funds in the current fiscal year, the project needs to be underway and already have a Georgia DOT Project Identification (PI) number.*

16. Are scoping studies eligible for funding?

*Scoping studies are eligible for funding consideration, but applications for projects that have advanced to Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way acquisition and Construction may be prioritized.*

17. What will I need to submit my application?

*What you'll need to complete the application:*

- **Applicant information**
  - General contact information

- *If a project being submitted falls in multiple jurisdictions, provide documented letters of support from those jurisdictions. Note: this is not required to be submitted at the time of application; applicants have until December 31 to submit this supporting documentation.*
- **Project information**
  - *Project type and detailed description*
  - *Project justification*
  - *Documentation of previously completed work on the project*
  - *Project and phase cost estimates*
  - *Documentation of local funding commitment – a minimum of 20% local match is required in most instances to qualify. (Some exceptions apply.)*
  - *Detailed description of project location (including project limits, mile markers, and other route ID numbers)*
  - *Reference to local, regional, and state plans in which this project is included*
  - *Documentation of local/public support for the project (letters of support).*
  - *CMAQ eligible projects will need to provide emissions and congestion reduction estimates*

18. How and when will applicants be notified of the result of their application?

*The application review and evaluation process will take approximately 4-5 months. Applicants will be notified if additional information is needed after the application period closes. Funding decisions will be made in the spring of 2026 and will be announced via the [CFP website](#).*

19. Is the application the same for all project types?

*Yes, the base application is the same. Specific questions may appear based on project type to gather information for costing analysis and further evaluation of the project.*

20. How are ineligible projects handled?

*Once a project has been evaluated and is considered ineligible, GDOT will notify the applicant.*

21. Will applications be reconsidered in the next round if it is not considered in this round of applications?

*Applications are only considered for one round/one year. Applicants will need to reapply in the next round/year to be considered again.*

22. If I have previously applied for funding through a GDOT competitive funding proposal, will I need to apply?

*Yes, if you have applied for a previous competitive funding program and were not awarded, you will need to submit an application for consideration.*

23. How does this relate to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process?

*This process will inform STIP development by advancing local priority projects that maximize the return on state and federal investment.*

24. Am I able to save my application and return to it later?

*The application does save your progress, but this feature has limitations. Progress is saved only if you complete the application on the same desktop and within the same browser. If your cache is cleared, you may lose the responses you have entered so far. We recommend using the [sample application](#) to draft and compile your responses. When you're ready to submit, simply copy and paste your completed responses into the application portal.*