

MEMORANDUM

February 2, 2009

To: Potential STP/CMAQ Applicants
From: Karen Richter, Program Manager
Subject: 2009 STP/CMAQ Regional Competition Call for Projects

Due date for STP/CMAQ Regional Competition applications: 1 p.m., April 10, 2009



The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) invites public agencies in King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties to submit Regional Competition applications to compete for \$42.61 million in available federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The PSRC's Executive Board allocated these funds to the competition at its January 22, 2009 meeting, as part of the adoption of the *Policy Framework for the PSRC's Federal Funds* (Policy Framework). This invitation describes the steps required to apply for these funds. These are federal 2011-2012 funds, however they will be available for obligation as soon as the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is approved, currently anticipated to be in January 2010.

Submitting STP/CMAQ Regional Competition Applications

Important!! Please note the following:

- All Regional STP/CMAQ Competition applications are due no later than 1:00 p.m., April 10, 2009.
- Applications must be submitted through the appropriate countywide forum. Exceptions are Sound Transit, WSDOT, and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA), which may each submit two applications directly to the PSRC.
- The application form is available at <http://www.psrc.org/projects/tip/index.htm> or by contacting Chris Peak at 206-464-7536 or cpeak@psrc.org.
- You may submit additional pages with your completed application if necessary; however, please be as brief as possible and limit your application to a total of fourteen (14) pages, plus map(s) and any supporting documents requested.
- Attach your completed application to an e-mail and send to TIPRPEC@psrc.org. Please name the file "**STPCMAQ Competition-[Agency]-[Project title]**". Note: Emailed submissions are preferred.
- If you are unable to e-mail the application, please mail a copy of the electronic file on diskette, and fax or mail a corresponding paper copy. Electronic copies of all applications are required, as they will be posted to the PSRC's Web site. Mailed

materials should be sent to: Chris Peak, Puget Sound Regional Council, 1011 Western Avenue Ste 500, Seattle, WA 98104-1035 and/or faxed to 206-587-4825, Attn: Chris Peak. For questions or to confirm receipt of your application, contact Chris Peak at 206-464-7536 or cpeak@psrc.org.

Shared Regional and Countywide Recommendation Process

There will be two independent but coordinated processes for recommending projects to receive PSRC's STP/CMAQ funds. The first is through the Regional Competition process, described in this call for projects. The second is through the countywide processes in King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. **The purpose of this call for projects is to provide information and supporting materials needed for sponsors to request STP/CMAQ funds through the Regional Competition.**

Both the regional and countywide processes are briefly described in the following paragraphs. Additional information on both processes is provided in the Policy Framework, included as Section 2 of this call for projects. For more specific information on the countywide processes, see Section 7, entitled "Contacts."

STP/CMAQ Regional Competition

Summary of Process: The process used for recommending projects to receive the regional portion of PSRC's STP/CMAQ funds is competitive and includes an evaluation of all projects based on pre-established evaluation criteria. Following is a brief summary of the process:

- To request funding, sponsors must submit completed Regional Competition applications through the appropriate forum **to the PSRC by 1:00 p.m. April 10, 2009.**
- After this date, PSRC staff will score all submissions based on the Regional Project Evaluation Criteria included as Section 3 of this call for projects, and as described in the Policy Framework, Section 2.
- Project sponsors will be invited to make a project presentation to the Regional Project Evaluation Committee (RPEC) and the PSRC staff scoring team on April 24 and 27, 2009.
- Projects will be subject to the policies set forth in *Destination 2030*, copies of which have been distributed widely throughout the region. The document is also available on PSRC's web site at <http://www.psrc.org/projects/mtp/d2030plan.htm> or by contacting the PSRC's Information Center at 206-464-7532 or infoctr@psrc.org.
- Following the scoring process, RPEC will review all projects. Project scores will be used by RPEC as a tool to help determine which projects to recommend to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board (TPB) for its final recommendation to the Executive Board.

IMPORTANT: Policy Focus—Support for Centers and the Corridors that Serve Them

The Policy Framework supports projects that focus on the development of centers and the corridors that serve them. "Centers" are defined for the regional competition as regional growth centers and regional manufacturing/industrial centers, as identified in VISION 2040 and the corridors that serve them. For a map of designated centers, see Attachment 6 of the Policy Framework (Section 2 of this call for projects). For the countywide processes, the policy is broadened beyond the regional growth and regional manufacturing/industrial centers to include centers as designated through countywide processes, town centers, and other local centers and the corridors that serve them. The centers policy also establishes a direct connection to the

adopted Regional Economic Strategy by recognizing the employment clusters in the Strategy as part of the centers focus. See PSRC's Prosperity Partnership website at www.Prospertypartnership.org/clusters/index.htm. The most recent additions to the policy framework and project-selection criteria are health benefits and reduction of greenhouse gases. Lastly, the Policy Framework contains an Accountability policy to effect the timely use of PSRC's federal funds by encouraging the full funding of project phases. Project sponsors are accountable to the requirements of the adopted project tracking policies contained in Attachment 5 of the adopted Policy Framework, included in this call for projects.

Application for STP/CMAQ Regional Competition: The application for the STP/CMAQ Regional Competition is attached to this call for projects.

Number of Projects Submitted: Each of the countywide forums may submit up to six projects for the regional project competition, with the exception of King County, which may submit up to twelve. Except as noted below, all applications for regional projects are sent through countywide organizations for their endorsement prior to submission to the Regional Council.

Exceptions to Project Submittals Through Countywide Organizations: WSDOT, Sound Transit, and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency may submit projects and participate in countywide forums. Also, each may submit two additional projects independent of the countywide forums. It is highly recommended that requests from agencies within each county are coordinated through their countywide organization to assure compliance with these limits; countywide endorsement is encouraged as it clearly strengthens the chances for such project applications.

Workshops: Workshops have been scheduled in each of the four counties, between February 11 and February 19, 2009 (see Section 6), to assist project sponsors in completing the application. Several steps in the development of a project must be completed or underway at the time of submitting any application for SAFETEA-LU funds, including public involvement and policy support from affected local or state agencies; these steps will be reviewed at the workshops.

STP/CMAQ Countywide Processes

Approximately \$59.54 million in PSRC's STP/CMAQ funds are available for recommending projects through the 2009 countywide processes. For these processes, the policy focus is broadened beyond the designated urban centers for the regional competition, to include centers as identified in local jurisdictional plans, and/or corridors that serve centers. The countywide organizations are scheduled to complete their countywide project development, evaluation, and prioritization process in June 2009, with a final funding recommendation to the PSRC's Transportation Policy Board for review no later than 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, 2009. The overall schedule for preparing the 2010-2013 Regional TIP is included as Attachment 3 of the Policy Framework (Section 2 of this call for projects).

Regional TIP Eligibility Requirements

Briefly summarized, the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes all regionally significant transportation projects, regardless of their funding sources. Prior to inclusion in the TIP, projects must meet specific federal and state requirements as follows:

- All projects in the TIP must be consistent with the adopted *VISION 2040* and *Destination 2030*.

- Projects must be financially feasible with funds reasonably expected to be available (for more information, refer to Section 5, “Definitions of Secured and Reasonably Expected to be Secured Funding” of this call for projects).
- The package of projects must be analyzed and modeled by the PSRC and found to conform to federal and state air quality requirements.
- STP and CMAQ funds have certain eligibility requirements. All project applications will be reviewed to assure they meet these requirements. Information on the eligibility for STP and CMAQ funds is provided in Section 4 of this call for projects.
- Projects submitted by cities and/or counties to the PSRC for inclusion in the draft 2010–2013 Regional TIP will be included only if they are consistent with the most recently amended transportation element of a city/county plan that was certified by PSRC action as consistent with *Destination 2030* on or before April 24, 2008. All other agencies (e.g. transit agency, WSDOT, tribal nations, etc.) must show that their project is consistent with the applicable city and/or county comprehensive plan(s), and with *VISION 2040* and *Destination 2030*. **Cities whose transportation elements were not certified as of April 24, 2008 must submit adopted plan amendments or updates to the PSRC on or before March 31, 2009 for their projects to be considered for inclusion in the Regional TIP. Contact Rocky Piro, 206 464-6360.**