



North Central Texas Council Of Governments

TO: Mayors and County Judges  
City Managers and County Administrators  
North Texas Tollway Authority  
Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport  
Public Transportation Authorities

DATE: January 18, 2006

FROM: Michael Morris, P.E.  
Director of Transportation

SUBJECT: RTC Partnership Program #3 - Local Air Quality Program

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC), serving as the transportation policy board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, is initiating the Partnership Program #3 - Local Air Quality Funding Program. Through this funding program, the RTC will fund projects and programs that address the new federal 8-hour ozone standard. Eligible project types include traffic signals, bicycle/pedestrian regional connections, park-and-ride facilities, and regional/innovative projects and programs to improve air quality (i.e., employer trip reduction programs, air quality outreach and marketing programs, vanpool programs, special studies, and other air quality control strategies).

All projects submitted through this program must have a public agency sponsor and a minimum local cash match of 20 percent of the total project cost. Due to limited availability of local funding, the RTC will not fund cost increases on any projects selected through the Local Air Quality Program. In addition, projects submitted under this program must be completed and/or operational by June 2009. Projects selected under this program will be monitored for timely implementation in accordance with the RTC Milestones Policy. Attachments 1 through 4 contain more specific guidance regarding emphasis areas and proposal content for each program element.

To be considered under the Local Air Quality Program, project sponsors must submit proposals to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation Department no later than **Friday, March 3, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.** Send applications to Christie Jestis, Principal Transportation Planner, NCTCOG, P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005-5888. Project proposals must consist of five hard copies and one copy in electronic format (not via email). Electronic submissions should be provided as a compact disc or floppy disc in Microsoft Office software. Graphics, such as maps or photographs, can be submitted as portable document format (PDF) files, unless another type of file is specifically requested in the proposal content.

In accordance with the Call for Projects Procedures established in the RTC Bylaws, NCTCOG must have the submitted application "in hand" at the NCTCOG offices by the application deadline. Applications that are postmarked by the deadline do not constitute an on-time application. In addition, supplemental information will not be accepted after the application deadline. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications far enough in advance of the submission deadline to allow NCTCOG staff to review applications for completeness. If desired,

agencies can submit the enclosed "Intent to Submit" response card to NCTCOG, which entitles the agency to receive a reminder notice approximately two weeks before the deadline.

Please note that this funding program is one of several underway at this time. The Sustainable Development Call for Projects submittal deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, January 20, 2006. The deadline for Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program submittals in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is February 17, 2006, at 5 p.m. In addition, the Clean Fleet Vehicle Funding Initiative will be announced in April 2006 and will have a submission deadline of 5 p.m. on June 30, 2006.

For more information on the Local Air Quality Funding Program, please contact Christie Jestis, Principal Transportation Planner, at (817) 608-2338 or [cjestis@nctcog.org](mailto:cjestis@nctcog.org).



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Michael Morris, P.E.

Enclosures

OB:lp

cc: Regional Transportation Council Representatives  
Surface Transportation Technical Committee Representatives  
Natalie Bettger, Sr. Program Manager, NCTCOG  
Ken Cervenka, Sr. Program Manager, NCTCOG  
Ken Kirkpatrick, Sr. Program Manager, NCTCOG  
Dan Lamers, Sr. Program Manager, NCTCOG  
Mike Sims, Sr. Program Manager, NCTCOG  
Chris Klaus, Sr. Program Manager, NCTCOG  
Michelle Bloomer, Principal Transportation Planner, NCTCOG  
Alicia Hopkins, Sr. Transportation Planner, NCTCOG  
Christie Jestis, Principal Transportation Planner, NCTCOG  
David Jodray, Principal Transportation Planner, NCTCOG  
2005-2006 UPWP Element 3.01 Project File

**TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROJECTS  
ELIGIBILITY, EMPHASIS AREAS, AND PROPOSAL CONTENT**

**Eligible Project Types:** Traffic signal retiming, which can include the following eligible costs:

- Installation of new traffic signal controllers
- Replacement of existing traffic signal controllers
- Replacement of vehicle detectors (loop, video, etc.)
- Installation of communication equipment
- Installation of communication software

**Emphasis Areas:**

- Projects that yield air quality benefits
- Projects that improve mobility and safety
- Projects that reduce travel time, delay, and/or accidents due to implementation of low-cost improvements
- Projects that target resources to most congested areas
- Projects that involve coordination with neighboring jurisdictions
- Projects that are not included in the Thoroughfare Assessment Program (TAP)
- Signal locations that were retimed before 2004

**Proposal Content:**

- Prioritization or Ranking of Project (if submitting multiple projects)
- Project Location/Corridor – City name, street name and project limits (beginning and ending point)
- Map of Project Location
- MAPSCO Page Number – Indicate the MAPSCO page number(s) for the signal locations
- Project Identification – An interactive query/mapping feature will be made available at <http://www.nctcog.org/trans/tip/signals>. Project locations must be selected from the GIS layer/table provided online. Proposals must include corresponding Signal ID(s) for those locations being submitted.
- Project Description – General description of requested improvements (please use terminology listed in eligible project costs above)
- Number of Locations – How many locations will be improved through project?
- Individual Locations – Provide itemized list of individual locations to be improved along that corridor. Include Signal ID (see above), street name and cross street (i.e., Beltline at Josey), the requested improvement at each location (please use terminology listed in eligible project costs above), and indicate any individual locations thought to be on the State Highway System
- Project Justification – Why is this project needed? How will this project meet the emphasis areas listed above? Describe any other relevant information that will assist in the evaluation of this project.
- Date of Last Signal Retiming – When was the last time this signal was retimed (mm/yy)?
- Length of Corridor (in miles)
- Traffic Count – Provide a 24-hour traffic count for each individual location. Also indicate the date (mm/dd/yy) that the count was taken.
- Phases to be Funded – Indicate the phases for which funds are being requested (engineering and/or construction)
- Cost Estimate – Provide an itemized cost estimate (in 2006 dollars). The cost should take into account (and delineate) each of the phases for which funding is requested.
- Local Match – Document who is paying the local match and whether or not funds are already available
- Estimated Let/Start Date (month and year for each phase)
- Estimated Completion Date (month and year for each phase)
- Project Contact – Include name of project contact, their contact information, and the name of the office or department serving as the primary contact
- Partnership Program Workshop Certification – Include printed name and signature of individual that attended the NCTCOG/TxDOT Partnership Program Workshop for this agency/project

**BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN REGIONAL CONNECTIONS  
ELIGIBILITY, EMPHASIS AREAS, AND PROPOSAL CONTENT**

**Eligible Project Types:**

- Construction of a new trail
- Construction of sidewalks

**Emphasis Areas:**

- Projects that provide regional connections
- Projects that yield air quality benefits
- Projects that are consistent with the Mobility Plan
- Projects that are consistent with the Rail Station Access Study (available online at [http://www.nctcog.org/trans/sustdev/bikeped/access\\_to\\_rail/index.html](http://www.nctcog.org/trans/sustdev/bikeped/access_to_rail/index.html))
- Projects that are consistent with local bicycle/pedestrian area plans
- Projects that adhere to current regional, state, or federal design guidelines
- Projects that are located within a bicycle/pedestrian transportation district (available online at [http://www.nctcog.org/trans/sustdev/bikeped/2005\\_update/Exhibit XIII-20 Bike & Ped Facilities Revised May05.pdf](http://www.nctcog.org/trans/sustdev/bikeped/2005_update/Exhibit_XIII-20_Bike_&_Ped_Facilities_Revised_May05.pdf))
- Projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

**Proposal Content:**

- Prioritization or Ranking of Project (if submitting multiple projects)
- Name of Facility
- Facility Location – Include city name, and beginning and end point of project
- Project Description – Detailed description of improvements to be made (i.e., construction of a new trail, sidewalks, bicyclist/pedestrian amenities, lighting, landscaping).
- Type of Facility – Indicate if facility is on-street, off-street, or sidewalk
- Length of Facility (in miles)
- Project Justification – Why is this project needed? How will this project meet the emphasis areas listed above? Describe any other relevant information that will assist in the evaluation of this project.
- Describe the nearby land uses and expected users of the facility
- Right-of-Way Availability – Is right-of-way already in hand? If not, will it be purchased or donated? And, has purchase or donation process been initiated? What is the estimated completion for right-of-way acquisition?
- Phases to be Funded – indicate the phases for which funds are being requested (engineering, right-of-way, and/or construction).
- Cost Estimate – Provide an itemized cost estimate (in 2006 dollars). The cost should take into account (and delineate) each of the phases for which funding is requested.
- Map of project location
- MAPSCO Page Number – Indicate the MAPSCO page number(s) in which the project is located
- Local Match – Indicate who is paying the local match and whether or not funds are already available
- Estimated Let/Start Date (month and year for each phase)
- Estimated Completion Date (month and year for each phase)
- Project Contact – Include name of project contact, their contact information, and the name of the office or department serving as the primary contact
- Partnership Program Workshop Certification – Include printed name and signature of individual that attended the NCTCOG/TxDOT Partnership Program Workshop for this agency/project

**PARK-AND-RIDE FACILITIES  
ELIGIBILITY, EMPHASIS AREAS AND PROPOSAL CONTENT**

**Eligible Project Types:**

- Construction of dedicated facilities only
- Construction of parking garages are not eligible
- Joint-use facilities are not eligible (i.e., share parking lot with athletic stadium or church)

**Emphasis Areas:**

- Projects that yield air quality benefits
- Facilities that serve alternative modes of transportation, such as high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, bus transit, rail transit, vanpools and/or carpools
- Facilities that serve long commute trips to, from, or within the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area
- Facilities that are located in close proximity to existing or funded passenger rail lines, freeway corridors, or principal arterials
- Facilities must be operational by 2009
- Patrons should be able to access the proposed facility conveniently
- Facilities that have been identified in a major investment study, environmental document, transit study, or other relevant sub-area study
- Facilities that are anticipated to provide high utilization rates

**Proposal Content:**

- Project Location – Include city name and closest major intersection (i.e., I.H. 30 at Ballpark Way)
- Map of Location – Map project location, along with any nearby transit stations, other park-and-ride lots, and the major transportation facility that the park-and-ride lot will serve
- MAPSCO Page Number – Indicate the MAPSCO page number(s) for the project location
- Project Description – Include a detailed description of project components (i.e., construction of spaces, access and egress, passenger shelters, lighting, and landscaping)
- Number of Spaces
- Project Justification – Why is this project needed? How will this project meet the emphasis areas listed above? Describe any other relevant information that will assist in the evaluation of this project
- Project Phases to be Funded - Indicate the phases for which funds are being requested (engineering, right-of-way, and/or construction)
- Cost Estimate – Provide an itemized cost estimate in 2006 dollars. The cost should take into account (and delineate) each of the phases for which funding is requested.
- Local Match – Indicate who is paying the local match and whether or not funds are already available
- Estimated Let/Start Date (month and year for each phase)
- Estimated Completion Date (month and year for each phase)
- Project Contact – Include name of project contact, their contact information, and the name of the office or department serving as the primary contact
- Partnership Program Workshop Certification - include printed name and signature of individual that attended the NCTCOG/TxDOT Partnership Program Workshop for this agency/project

**REGIONAL/INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY  
ELIGIBILITY, EMPHASIS AREAS, AND PROPOSAL CONTENT**

**Eligible Project Types:**

- Employer trip reduction programs
- Air quality outreach and marketing programs
- Vanpool programs
- Special studies
- Other air quality control strategies

**Other Considerations:**

- Projects may be funded with local or federal funds
- If funding permits, RTC/local projects may be funded 100% (no local match required)
- Federally funded projects will require a minimum of 20 percent local match. However, if funding permits, the local match may be programmed with RTC/local funds.
- Project ideas/proposals may be expanded and implemented at the regional (versus local) level
- Ongoing projects will be funded through 2009. If funding permits, ongoing projects may be funded through 2010.

**Emphasis Areas:**

- Projects that yield air quality benefits
- Projects that lead to mobility and safety improvements
- Projects that reduce vehicle miles of travel
- Projects that encourage the use of alternative transportation modes
- Projects that reduce indirect impacts of transportation
- Projects that aid in the evaluation or implementation of air quality initiatives
- Projects supported in the Mobility Plan or State Implementation Plan

**Proposal Content:**

- Project Location – Identify whether this project is a city, county, or regional project
- Project Description – Include a detailed description of project proposal. The description should explain the goals, objectives, and expected outcomes/products of the project. Is the proposal for a new program or is it an enhancement of an existing program. If it is an enhancement, please specify the existing program.
- Project Justification – Why is this project needed? How will this project meet the emphasis areas listed above? Describe any other relevant information that will assist in the evaluation of this project.
- Project Phases to be Funded – Indicate the phases for which funds are being requested (engineering, implementation, staff time)
- Cost Estimate by Fiscal Year – Provide an itemized cost estimate in 2006 dollars. The cost should delineate each of the years in which funding is requested.
- Local Match – Document who is paying the local match or if the local match is being requested through this program. Please indicate when the matching funds will be available
- Estimated Start Date (month and year for each phase)
- Estimated Completion Date (month and year for each phase)
- Project Contact – Include name of project contact, their contact information, and the name of the office or department serving as the primary contact
- Partnership Program Workshop Certification – Include printed name and signature of individual that attended the NCTCOG/TxDOT Partnership Program Workshop for this agency/project

# Local Air Quality Program

## Intent to Submit

Please be advised that the agency listed below intends to submit candidate projects for the **Local Air Quality Program**. I understand that projects submitted for funding under this program must be received in the NCTCOG offices by **5:00 p.m., Friday, March 3, 2006**. I also understand that, according to RTC bylaws, late or incomplete applications will not be accepted, and no supplemental information will be accepted after the deadline. Please send a reminder notice to me at the address below 2 weeks in advance of the application deadline.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_