

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Chairman Martin E. Nohe and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Executive Director

DATE: October 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Approval of the Issuance of the Call for Projects for the FY 2026 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds

- 1. Purpose.** To seek Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approval for the issuance of the Call for Projects for the FY 2026 CMAQ and RSTP Funds.
- 2. Suggested Motion:** *I move approval for the issuance of the Call for Projects for the FY 2026 CMAQ and RSTP Funds.*
- 3. Background.** The NVTA coordinates Northern Virginia's annual programming of the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP). CMAQ and RSTP are part of the overall mix of transportation funding available to Northern Virginia.

The CMAQ Program funds transportation projects or programs that will contribute to attainment or maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter.

The RSTP funds provides flexible funding that may be used for projects to improve and preserve conditions and performance on federal-aid highways, public bridges and tunnels, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and transit capital projects.

Working through the recommendations of the Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC), the Authority recommends the programming of over \$79 million annually to projects, which are subject to approval by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). While the NVTA programs these funds regionally for Northern Virginia, the actual funds are received and held by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

VDOT provides the local matches for both the CMAQ and the RSTP funds provided that the projects utilize the funds within established timelines. For the CMAQ program, the recipient has 24 months to obligate the funds and then 48 months to expend the funds. For the RSTP program, the recipient has 12 months to obligate the funds and then 36 months to expend the funds.

The application process includes submitting an application form, TEEM worksheet and/or FHWA's emission calculators for air quality benefit calculation, and resolution of support from the respective governing bodies.

The deadlines for the FY 2026 programming cycle are noted below:

Application submittal:	December 13, 2019
TEEM worksheet submittal:	December 31, 2019
Resolution of support submittal:	January 17, 2020

Next Steps: Authority approval of the proposed FY 2026 funding recommendations is anticipated for the February or March NVTA meeting. Upon Authority approval, the recommended projects will be submitted to the CTB for funding consideration.

Attachments: Project Application Form

Coordination: Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC)