

Clean Air and Mobility Pre-Proposal Meeting

Concerns Raised:

- Do flashing beacons for pedestrians qualify?
Staff will check with FHWA, but flashing beacons are unlikely to qualify.
- Are sidewalk infrastructure projects eligible?
Sidewalks are eligible and they do not need to be on federal aid eligible roadways. It is also okay to group multiple disconnected sidewalks into one application.
- Do pedestrian buttons for intersection crossings qualify?
Staff will check with FHWA.
- Can a project proponent apply through a state agency beside MassDOT?
Yes, the project proponent would apply through the state agency and MassDOT would develop an interagency agreement with the said state agency.
- Can advertisement be part of the project?
Yes, advertisement can be part of the project.
- Can rent of office space be part of the project?
The project proponent can be reimbursed for administrative costs but not for rent of office space.
- Does the project proponent need to secure funding before applying?
The project proponent will be unable to enter into a contract unless they can provide the funding match.
- Does emission-absorbing infrastructure materials qualify?
Staff will check with FHWA, but it is unlikely to qualify because it is a stationary emission-reducing source, not a mobile emission-reducing source.
- Are electric car chargers at public facilities eligible?
Staff will check with FHWA, but they should be eligible because truck electrification projects have been funded in the past.
- What should be the process if multiple municipalities apply together for a project?
One municipality should act as the lead contact or coordinator for all of the municipalities.
- How should a municipality determine which year to apply for funding?
A municipality should suggest the funding year that they think is most appropriate and then MPO staff will consult with the contracting agency to determine the appropriate federal fiscal year of funding.

- Is bike lighting eligible?
Bike lighting is only eligible if it is part of a larger project such as a bicycle lane or bicycle trail.
- What will be the system for rating projects?
The rating system is still to be decided and will be determined by the MPO's Clean Air and Mobility Subcommittee.
- What are the requirements for reporting annual ridership?
Transit services must provide monthly ridership reports in addition to an annual report. Other projects or programs will develop alternative reporting measures through negotiations with MassDOT/the contracting agency.
- What upcoming dates should I be aware of?
On May 13, the MPO's Clean Air and Mobility Subcommittee will review the applications and make recommendations. On May 20, the subcommittee will make those recommendations to the Transportation Planning and Programming Committee (TPPC).
- Assuming that funding is awarded, when will transit service begin?
The project proponent will have to first enter into a contract with MassDOT, and then enter into a contract with the transit operator.
- Is there a minimum or maximum project cost?
It is undecided if there will be a project minimum and there will not be a project maximum.
- Can a project be scaled down if limited funds are available?
Yes, a project can be scaled down and this has been done in the past.