

AGENDA ITEM #7: UPDATE OF THE *GUIDE TO THE HRTPO CMAQ/RSTP PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS*

Colonial National Historical Park has reached out to HRTPO Staff regarding significant roadway, bridge, and drainage needs that currently exist on the Colonial Parkway. According to Federal Code (23 USC 132), the Parkway, a National Park Service facility, is eligible for and may receive sub-allocated RSTP funds.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), an FHWA Transfer Order identifies the requirements to transfer funds. There must be an agreement between the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the National Park Service (NPS) in order for the transfer to occur, and FHWA must be in possession of a copy of the agreement in order to make an informed decision that the work is eligible and the Title 23 requirements, as applicable, are acknowledged. Once FHWA Virginia Division processes the transfer, it is sent to FHWA Headquarters where it is processed and sent to the NPS. The *Guide to the HRTPO CMAQ/RSTP Project Selection Process* has been updated to clarify the eligibility of the National Park Service (NPS) as an applicant for RSTP funding.

Attachment 7

Mr. John Mihaly, HRTPO Senior Transportation Planner, will brief the TPS on this item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend TTAC approval of the *Guide to the HRTPO CMAQ/RSTP Project Selection Process* in order to include the National Park Service as an eligible recipient for RSTP funding.

WHO ARE ELIGIBLE CMAQ/RSTP RECIPIENTS?

Eligible recipients of CMAQ and RSTP funds in Hampton Roads include the localities and/or portions of localities within the MPA, Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA), Suffolk Transit, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the Virginia Port Authority (VPA), and the HRTPO.

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

To be eligible for CMAQ or RSTP funding, a project proposal must meet eligibility requirements specified in the federal regulations and program guidance and be consistent with the current HRTPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP is a long-term (at least 20 years), financially-constrained, transportation plan for the Hampton Roads MPA. The LRTP strives to improve transportation within the Hampton Roads region while increasing economic vitality, safety, mobility, and environmental protection.

The process for obtaining CMAQ or RSTP funding for transportation projects is a competitive one. Proposed projects are evaluated and ranked using a specific set of criteria that have been approved by the HRTPO Board. The Transportation Programming Subcommittee (TPS) – taking into account the available funding, policies and priorities of the HRTPO and Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), and using the ranked project lists as a guide – produces a list of recommended projects and funding allocations for consideration by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) and the HRTPO Board. The steps of the project selection process are summarized below. For deadline dates associated with a particular project selection process cycle, see the schedule posted on the HRTPO website (<https://www.hrtpo.org/page/cmaq-and-rstp/>).

CMAQ/RSTP PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS STEPS

1. A public notice is posted to solicit ideas from the general public for projects to be considered for CMAQ/RSTP funding. Ideas received from the public will be forwarded by HRTPO staff to the appropriate localities and/or agencies. This step usually occurs in July.
2. Applications for project proposals are accepted from eligible recipients. This step usually begins in July and runs through mid-August.
3. Submitted project proposals are analyzed and ranked by HRTPO staff. This step usually runs through the end of September.
4. The TPS meets to review the project proposals and recommends selected projects to be funded with CMAQ or RSTP funds. This step usually occurs in October.
5. The TTAC considers the recommendations of the TPS and makes a recommendation for consideration by the HRTPO Board. This step usually occurs in November.
6. The HRTPO Board considers the TTAC recommendation and takes action to approve a set of projects and funding allocations for CMAQ and RSTP. This step usually occurs in November.

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PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

To be eligible for CMAQ or RSTP funding, a project proposal must meet eligibility requirements specified in the federal regulations and program guidance and be consistent with the current HRTPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). **For NPS projects, a Transfer Order, issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be required to transfer funds to the NPS. An agreement between the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the NPS would also be required.** The LRTP is a long-term (at least 20 years), financially-constrained, transportation plan for the Hampton Roads MPA. The LRTP strives to improve transportation within the Hampton Roads region while increasing economic vitality, safety, mobility, and environmental protection.

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