



Houston-Galveston Area Council Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funding and Partnership Opportunities

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) has programs that offer funding and support outside of the large call for projects that places projects in the long-range plan, 10-year plan and four-year Transportation Improvement Program. A few of these programs are funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality dollars allocated to the region. These programs provide opportunities for support and partnership throughout the year:

- Commuter Transit and Pilot Program has an open call for partners available online to provide funding to expand and test transit and supporting concepts (bike share, car share, etc.) The current Request for Applications closes December 31, 2022. For more information, visit <https://www.h-gac.com/procurement/solicitations/trn18-06>
- Clean Vehicles provides grants to replace on road heavy-duty diesel vehicles with cleaner alternatives and to establish alternative fueling stations. Previously funded projects include clean diesel and alternative fuel truck replacements, clean diesel and alternative fuel bus replacements, hybrid-electric transit buses, natural gas refueling stations. For more information visit - <https://www.h-gac.com/clean-vehicles>
- Commute Solutions partners with organizations across the region to provide education, outreach and some planning and implementation support to help shift how, when, and where we travel, also the price of travel, to better manage our transportation infrastructure and improve air quality in our region. This work includes support related to telework, compressed work weeks, carpool, vanpool, bicycling, walking, commuter benefits, guaranteed ride home and more. Partnerships may provide in-kind services, rather than cash support. For more information visit – <http://www.yourcommutesolution.org>

The following page provides a table summarizing the kinds of projects that can be supported through each program.



H-GAC Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding Opportunities with Separate Application/Submission Processes			
Program	Qualifying CMAQ Category	Defined	Examples
CMAQ Commuter and Transit Pilot Program	Innovative Projects	Transportation projects may show promise in reducing emissions but do not yet have supporting data. Projects seek to better define the projects' future role in strategies to reduce emissions.	Rolling: Given the untried nature of these innovative projects, before-and-after studies should be completed to determine actual project impacts on air quality as measured by net emissions reduced. These assessments should document the project's immediate impacts in addition to long-term benefits. A schedule for completing the study should be a part of the project agreement. Completed studies should be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration Division office within three years of implementation of the project or 1 year after the project's completion, whichever is sooner.
Clean Vehicles Commuter Solutions Commuter and Transit Pilot Program	Transportation Control Measures (TCMs)	Programs and ordinance which reduce emissions. Program funding can last from three (3) to five (5) years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Programs for secure bicycle storage facilities and other facilities, including bicycle lanes, for the convenience and protection of bicyclists, in both public and private areas; - Programs to limit portions of road surfaces or certain sections of the metropolitan area to the use of non-motorized vehicles or pedestrian use, both as to time and place; - Programs to control extended idling of vehicles; - Employer-sponsored programs to permit flexible work schedules - Programs and ordinances to facilitate non-automobile travel, provision and utilization of mass transit, and to generally reduce the need for SOV travel, as part of transportation planning and development efforts of a locality, including programs and ordinances applicable to new shopping centers, special events, and other centers of vehicle activity - Programs for improved public transit; Bus only or HOV lanes; - Trip-reduction ordinance; - Program to limit vehicle use in Downtowns; - Programs for the provision of all forms of high-occupancy, shared-ride services; - Programs to provide grants to help fund the cost of Electric Vehicle Chargers;
Commuter Solutions Commuter and Transit Pilot Program	Travel Demand Management	Encompasses a diverse set of activities that focus on physical assets and services that provide real-time information on network performance and support better decision making for travelers choosing modes, times, routes, and locations. May support capital expenses and support up to five years of operating assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic calming measures; - Parking pricing, fringe parking; - Shuttle services, guaranteed ride home programs, Carpools, vanpools,variable road pricing, telecommuting/teleworking, - Eligible telecommuting activities include planning, preparing technical and feasibility studies, and training. - Construction of telecommuting centers and computer and office equipment purchases should not be supported with CMAQ funds.
Commuter and Transit Pilot Program	Transit Improvements	Project increases transit capacity and would likely result in an increase in transit ridership and a potential reduction in congestion. Quantified estimate of the project's emissions benefits accompanying the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Transit Facilities if they are associated with new or enhanced public transit, passenger rail, or other similar services. Rehabilitation of a facility may be eligible if the vast majority of the project involves physical improvements that will increase transit service capacity. In such cases there should be supporting documentation showing an expected increase in transit ridership that is more than minimal. - New Vehicles and equipment (bus, rail, or van) to expand the fleet or replace existing vehicles. - Operating assistance to introduce new transit service or expand existing transit service.

BOLD TEXT: Items within the CMAQ category that are eligible for support the identified H-GAC programs.