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DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

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November 21, 2013

RE: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) requests:

The Nebraska Department of Road (NDOR) accepts letters of request for CMAQ funding. The NDOR recommends that requests for funds come through supporting public agencies that function as CMAQ project sponsors. The letters requesting CMAQ funding should include the following:

- Project Description
- Purpose and Need for the project
- Project size, scope, location and timetable
- Estimate of the project cost and local or private contribution
- Requested CMAQ funding amount

In the letter, and as outlined in federal guidance, discuss the following; *Will the transportation project likely contribute to the attainment or maintenance of a national ambient air quality standard, with a high level of effectiveness in reducing air pollution?* It is recommended that the discussion include Quantitated Analysis of the reduction of pollution or a Qualitative Assessment of the air quality impacts, as described in guidance. See the link to CMAQ guidance below and Section VIII. Project Selection Process-General Conditions:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/policy_and_guidance/2013_guidance/cmaq2013.pdf

Once a CMAQ project is approved, a form DR-530 would be prepared (submitted to NDOR) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) current transportation plan and transportation improvement program (TIP) or the current state transportation improvement program (STIP) in areas without an MPO would be updated to reflect the new project

Project selection would be by the NDOR. The criteria for NDOR's selection are as follows:

1. Would the transportation project be eligible for CMAQ funds? Does the project fit one of the seventeen eligible transportation projects or programs?
2. Would the transportation project contribute to the attainment or maintenance of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)? Would the project benefit an area within Nebraska where there is concern for maintaining the NAAQS?
3. Would the project Quantitative Analysis expect emission reductions or the Qualitative Assessment provide logical reasoning of expected emission benefits.
4. Would the project strategy likely provide a high level of effectiveness in reducing air pollution?
5. What is project cost, the local or private contribution and the proposed schedule or timetable?