

# Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Traffic Operations Center (TOC) Guidance

*The purpose of this document is to clarify MDOT's use of CMAQ funds for Operating Assistance for Transportation Operations Centers (TOCs). Please see FHWA's ["Revised Interim Guidance on CMAQ Operating Assistance under MAP-21"](#) for specific federal guidance.*

## Traffic Operations Centers

FHWA has published guidance on CMAQ funded operating assistance for Traffic Operations Centers. Operating assistance is limited to start up operating costs for new transportation services or the incremental costs of expanding such services, including transit, commuter and intercity passenger rail services, intermodal facilities, and travel demand management strategies, including TOCs.

CMAQ funds may be used for 3 years of support for operating assistance of Traffic Operations Centers. According to the Guidance, the 3 years of support may be spread over a longer period for a total of up to 5 sequential years of support. This is effective for new Traffic Operations Centers as of FY 2013.

Transportation services expressly eligible for CMAQ funding under SAFETEA-LU sections 1808(h) and certain provisions in previous appropriations acts are eligible to use CMAQ funds for operating assistance **without time limitations**. The following TOC's are identified as exempt from the time limitation on the use of CMAQ funds for operating assistance:

- Southeast Michigan Transportation Operations Center (SEMTOC)
- West Michigan Transportation Operations Center (WMTOC)\*
- The Road Commission for Oakland County Traffic Operations Center
- The Macomb County Department of Roads Traffic Operations Center
- The City of Detroit Traffic Operations Center
- The City of Grand Rapids Traffic Management Center\*

These TOCs were operating in FY 2012. Per the Guidance, paragraph (f):

***Section 125 of the 2014 Appropriations Act included changes to the Operating Assistance Section of the CMAQ program (23 USC 149(m)). The changes added new language that specifically prohibits the imposition of a time limitation for operating assistance eligibility on a system "for which CMAQ funding was made available, obligated or expended in fiscal year 2012." The phrase "made available" applies to projects designated for CMAQ operating assistance in statute, or to any commitment by the party that by law selects projects for operating assistance funding so long as it occurred during FY2012.***

MDOT has set aside a portion of the annual CMAQ funding allocation for each of the centers listed to ensure that they are operating each year. However, new Traffic Operations Centers are subject to the 3 years of support limitation. Funding for the new TOCs are not included in the set-aside and must come from the CMAQ amount allocated to the MDOT Regions or Local Counties.

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\*Due to changes in Ozone NAAQS, these TOCs must utilize alternative Federal Aid sources after FY 2020