CMAQ in Kentucky

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Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Background: Geography

- Very diverse rural conditions across the state
  - Appalachian mountains in the east
  - “The Bluegrass” central region features grassy rolling hills
  - Western Kentucky is much lower and flatter as rivers converge toward the Mississippi

Photos from KY Dept of Travel
Background: Kentucky Land Use

• One truly urban area is Louisville (pop. 600,000)
  – KIPDA MPO
• Next largest city is Lexington (pop. 300,000)
  – Lexington Area MPO
  – Horse capital of the world (not densely urban)
  – 1035 people/square mile
• Both Louisville and Lexington have merged city/county governments
• Northern KY is part of the Cincinnati area. (OKI MPO)
  – Consists of many small municipalities
• Industrial emissions contribute to AQ problems in far eastern Kentucky (KYOVA MPO)
Current Nonattainment and Maintenance Areas

1997 PM 2.5:
- Maintenance
- Nonattainment

2008 8-hour ozone:
- Nonattainment Area
- Unclassifiable / Attainment Area

As of October 2013
Areas Eligible for CMAQ
What makes CMAQ in KY unique?

• Project demand
  – Most applications are either Bicycle/Pedestrian facilities or Public Information Campaigns
  – Some Transit projects; less prevalent than other states
  – ITS and roadway improvements which mitigate congestion have also been popular and effective

• Efficiency and accountability measures in place
  – LPA Guide
    • Applicants understand what is required of them
  – Good relationships with MPO’s and Federal partners
Project Selection Process

1. Call for Applications
2. Applications Submitted to MPO
3. MPO Ranks Applications
   - MPO Submits Rankings and Applications to Office of Local Programs
4. Office of Local Programs/FHWA Review
5. Recommendations to the Governor's Office
Project Selection Process

- CMAQ coordinator is in Office of Local Programs
- MPO’s are given input (while not control) into determining which projects are selected
- The CMAQ coordinator and an FHWA representative work together to check eligibility
Local Public Agency Guide

• Kentucky has an LPA guide and training in place to ensure project sponsors understand requirements that come from federal funds.
  – CMAQ
  – Transportation Alternatives
  – Recreational Trails
  – Other federal funding to local programs
LPA Guide

- Procurement
  - Construction and Non-Construction
- Environmental Requirements
- Design
- Right of Way and Utilities
- Construction and Inspection
- Reimbursement
- Project Completion

http://transportation.ky.gov/Local-Programs/Documents/LPA%20Guide.pdf
Environmental Process

• All LPA projects including CMAQ come through Division of Environmental Analysis
  – Project cost is less since usually project sponsor doesn’t have to get an environmental consultant
    • Lower project cost means more emissions reductions per dollar
  – CE agreement with FHWA-KY
    • Allows for one page Categorical Exclusion for “Minor Projects”
Other Positive Things

• All 12 highway district has an LPA coordinator
  – Provides technical assistance to the CMAQ coordinator

• KYTC maintains a set of qualified statewide consultants that LPA’s can easily hire
Potential Future Work

• Measures to ensure projects make progress
  – It should not take 8 years to build a sidewalk
  – Addition of milestones to the contracts

• Longer CE expiration dates?
  – Currently re-evaluation required every two years
    • Many projects take between two and three years from
      CE to completion
Questions?

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