



To: EMPC Members and Participants

From: Kathy Luther

CC: Gary Evers

Date: July 1, 2015

Re: NIRPC Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Solicitation and Environmental-Other Projects

### Background

MAP 21, the most recent federal transportation bill, continues to include a funding program called Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ). A number of categories of projects are eligible under CMAQ: Highway Congestion Reduction projects, Non-Motorized Transportation projects that reduce congestion or vehicles miles traveled, Transit Expansion Demonstration projects, and a collection of vehicle emission reduction focused projects that because they have no inherent benefit to traffic NIRPC has grouped under the category Environmental and Other. This category includes diesel retrofits, diesel repowers, idle reduction, alternative fuels, and education.

In 2011 the NIRPC Board Resolution 11-21 delegated establishment of selection criteria, scoring, and prioritization of CMAQ project types with a primarily environmental function to the Environmental Management and Policy Committee. In November 2014, NIRPC released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) with an original deadline of December 2015, subsequently extended to February 2015. The NOFA offered \$13.4 million available in CMAQ funding for the Lake and Porter County Urbanized Area, and an additional \$1.5 million for the LaPorte County Urbanized Area. In March of 2015, Kathy Luther informed the EMPC of the intent of NIRPC to have the Transportation and Policy Committee determine the category percentages prior to committee selection. The EMPC requested that NIRPC convene the multi-stakeholder CMAQ working group, rather than the TPC to determine the percentages which was the process initially published in the NOFA. Further, the EMPC recommended an even 25% allocation to each category. The EMPC also requested that an EMPC sub-committee be established to establish criteria and prioritize projects.

The EMPC CMAQ sub-committee consisting of Maggie Byrne, Deb Backhus, Carl Lisek, Phil Gralik, Kathy Luther, Amanda Pollard, and Geof Benson met twice. Because of the wide variety of project types and the different tools and mechanisms available to analyze emissions, the task force found it challenging to compare the emissions benefits of the projects on an equal footing. The EMPC CMAQ sub-committee requested the multi-stakeholder CMAQ working group to fully fund the entire project list they reviewed and were successful in this, with the qualifier that the public-private partnership projects be held to strict timelines, or the funding revert. Below is the list of Environmental Projects the EMPC CMAQ-Subcommittee would request for EMPC to recommend to the NIRPC Commission for inclusion in the NIRPC CMAQ eligibility submission:

