



# Climate Focused Funding Portal

## Frequently Asked Questions

This document provides answers to commonly asked questions. If you do not see your question in the FAQs please reach out to Allison Breitenother, [abreitenother@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:abreitenother@mdot.maryland.gov). Questions about the program and project ideas can also be asked during the 2025 Weekly Office Hours held Wednesday's from 3:00 - 4:00pm throughout the solicitation window on [Microsoft Teams](#).

### OVERVIEW

#### **Q: What is the Climate Focused Funding Portal?**

**A:** This web-based portal provides a centralized location for solicitation of transportation projects that incorporate climate benefits. The current solicitation in the Portal is to identify eligible projects to reduce carbon emissions from transportation. Eligible applicants include Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), local governments, WMATA, and MDOT Modal Administrations.

#### **Q: What do we mean by decarbonization, decarbonization measures, and emissions reduction benefits?**

**A:** Decarbonization is the process of significantly reducing or eliminating carbon dioxide and other GHG emissions that result from human activity ([UMD Maryland Energy Innovation Institute](#)). Decarbonization measures and emissions reduction beneficial projects can include, but are not limited to: fleet electrification and transition to zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure, Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) projects, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), congestion mitigation, Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) reduction, transportation mode-shift, public transportation services and facilities, bike/pedestrian facilities, efficient street lighting, diesel engine retrofits, port electrification, truck parking technology, connected and automated vehicle (CAV) technologies, transportation demand management, and rail infrastructure and freight rail projects. This is a not an exhaustive list of potential projects, if your project does not fall under one of those categories, please explain how your project will reduce transportation emissions.

#### **Q: Is highway widening/expansion eligible as a congestion mitigation measure/emissions reduction measure?**

**A:** No, highway widening is not eligible as a congestion mitigation measure or emissions reduction measure. As part of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, highway expansion is not an eligible strategy to reduce emissions from the transportation sector.

#### **Q: Do projects need to have a funding Match?**

**A:** Yes, the project sponsor must provide a non-federal funding cash match, which is generally 20% of the total project cost.

#### **Q: Do projects need to follow federal aid requirements?**

**A:** Yes, all projects must follow federal aid requirements for obligation. The project sponsor must ensure that all federal aid requirements are met prior to potential obligation.

**Q: Where can I find more details on the Carbon Reduction Program eligible project types?**

A: Please refer to the [FHWA Implementation Guidance](#) for details on eligible project types, and more in depth explanation of the intention of the funding source.

**Q: Can Carbon Reduction Program Funds be used to support operating expenses?**

A: No, operating expenses are not an allowable expense under the Carbon Reduction Program. The funds may only be used for capital projects. This applies to both flexed and non-flexed funds.

**Q: Is there a minimum or maximum funding request?**

A: There is no minimum or maximum amount to apply, however there is an 80%/20% non-federal matching requirement.

**Q: Are projects that support transitioning fleet vehicles to electric eligible?**

A: Per CRP guidance on page 13, item J: “a project to support deployment of alternative fuel vehicles, including - ... (ii.) the purchase or lease of zero-emissions construction equipment and vehicles, including the acquisition, construction, or leasing of required supporting facilities.” Projects that request funds for gasoline/electric hybrid vehicles will not be eligible.

**Q: Can projects that happen in part on federal land be funded by the Carbon Reduction Program?**

With coordination from the federal landowner, projects that happen on federal land are eligible under the Carbon Reduction Program.

**Q: Would operating and maintenance costs be eligible expenses for a project that deploys electric vehicle charging infrastructure?**

A: Maintenance is not an eligible expense for Carbon Reduction Program Funding. However, 23 USC 175(c)(1)(J) does allow for the “acquisition, installation or operation” of publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**Q: Where do I apply for the opportunity to be a sub-recipient of Climate Focused Funding?**

A: The application is located on the Maryland OneStop Portal, accessible with this link <https://onestop.md.gov/>. Search “Climate Focused Funding”

**Q: How long is the application open?**

A: Applications will be accepted from February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, until March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 4:30pm.

**Q: Does the application and process vary depending on the applicant?**

A: No, each eligible applicant will be following the same process to apply to be a sub-recipient of climate focused funding. Each applicant will use the OneStop portal to apply, and each application will be evaluated using the same process.

**Q: Do I need an account on the OneStop portal to apply?**

A: Yes, applicants will need to have an account with OneStop. To register for an account you can use the link below, and there is no fee to register for an account. If you have applied to other applications via the OneStop portal, you should already have an account.

[https://onestop.md.gov/users/sign\\_up?registration\\_context=%2F](https://onestop.md.gov/users/sign_up?registration_context=%2F)

**Q: Is there a fee to apply to this opportunity?**

A: There is no fee to apply.

**Q: Who is eligible to apply?**

**A:** Eligible applicants include Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), local governments, WMATA, and MDOT Modal Administrations (SHA, MPA, MTA, MAA, MVA).

**Q: Are applicants limited to just one application per organization?**

**A:** Eligible applicants are not limited to submitting one application for consideration, individual projects that have multiple locations should submit under one application, i.e. an EV charging project with multiple chargers. MDOT is encouraging applicants to submit all eligible projects through the portal, MDOT is building up a bench of eligible projects to support the MDOT Carbon Reduction Strategy and the requirements under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (CSNA).

**Q: What information do I need to include in the application?**

**A:** Please be prepared to provide information on the following: project overview, project scope, project location, budget information, permit requirements and status, and information on the emissions reduction measures that are expected to result from the project.

**Q: How much detail should I provide when filling out the application?**

**A:** Please provide as much detail as possible. This will help reviewers to better understand the scope of the project and understand the different components of the project. Additionally, it will help to determine the readiness of the project for the possible obligation of funds.

**Q: Who do we address letters of support to?**

Please address any letters of support (not required), to the following name and address:

Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, Maryland 21076

## RESOURCES/SUPPORT

**Q: How can I learn more about the application and ask any questions I have?**

**A:** The Office of Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation is hosting weekly office hours where potential applicants can ask any questions on Climate Focused Funding Opportunity and receive additional support as needed. The office hours will be hosted weekly, January 15th – March 26th, 2025, on Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 4pm. The meeting information is located at the Maryland Climate Focused Funding Portal website:

<https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=210>

**Q: I have a question on the application who can I contact about the application?**

**A:** If you have a question on the application, please contact Allison Breitenother at [abreitenother@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:abreitenother@mdot.maryland.gov).

**Q: I have a question on the emissions reduction program and process, who can I reach out to?**

**A:** If you have a question on the emissions reduction program and process, please contact Deron Lovaas, Chief of Environment and Sustainable Transportation at MDOT, [dlovaas@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:dlovaas@mdot.maryland.gov).

## Helpful Resources

1. [MDOT Climate Change Website](#)
2. [MDOT Carbon Reduction Strategy \(CRS\)](#)
3. [MDOT Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan \(TRIP\)](#)
4. [MDOT Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#)
5. [State of Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#)