

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Funding Applications for Emission Reduction Projects Available in Kentucky

Cincinnati, Ohio – The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) will accept funding applications for emission reduction projects for Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties in Kentucky. OKI will review, prioritize and then forward the applications to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) for final approval.

“Projects that help improve our air quality, while upgrading the efficiency of the transportation network, are essential to keeping this region economically and socially competitive,” said OKI Board of Director’s President Christine Maticic. “I encourage local project sponsors to pursue this funding opportunity and help to enhance the quality of our communities.”

Projects eligible for funding provided through the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ) include: transit improvements, congestion relief and bicycle and pedestrian trails. Public education and outreach and carpooling or van pooling projects are also eligible.

CMAQ is a federal transportation improvement program focused on reducing emissions in designated areas of the United States. Federal funding is available to government agencies for projects that will contribute greatly to air quality improvements and decreases in traffic congestion.

“This funding allows for vital enhancements not only to our transportation system but to our environment and quality of life,” said OKI Executive Director Mark Policinski.

KYTC’s Office of Local Programs offers funding opportunities and outreach activities across the state to improve Kentucky’s transportation infrastructure and encourage the safe use of alternative modes of transportation.

For a complete listing of eligible projects, contact KYTC’s Office of Local Programs at (502) 564-2060. Additional information about the program and the application is available via www.tea21.ky.gov. Completed project applications are due to OKI on January 6, 2009.

OKI is a council of local governments, business organizations and community groups committed to developing collaborative strategies, plans and programs to improve the quality of life and the economic development potential of the Tri-State.

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