



# Memorandum

**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

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**Subject** INFORMATION: Review of Alternative Fuel Vehicles Purchased with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Funds  
TR-2000-090

Date: May 9, 2000

**From:** Alexis M. Stefani   
Assistant Inspector General for Auditing

Reply to  
Attn of: JA-30

**To:** Federal Highway Administrator

This memorandum provides the results of our review of alternative fuel vehicles purchased by state agencies with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds. This review was performed to determine (1) how many CMAQ-funded light-duty (non-transit related) alternative fuel vehicles were recently purchased and (2) whether those vehicles were being operated on alternative fuels versus regular gasoline.

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 introduced the CMAQ program, which was reauthorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century in 1998. The primary purpose of the CMAQ program is to fund transportation projects and programs that reduce transportation-related emissions and contribute to the attainment or maintenance of national ambient air quality standards. A related report by the General Accounting Office concluded that Federal and state agencies have made limited progress in acquiring alternative fuel vehicles and reducing the consumption of petroleum fuels in transportation.\*

## RESULTS

We identified 5 states that used about \$6 million in Fiscal Years (FY) 1997 and 1998 CMAQ funds to purchase 946 light-duty alternative fuel vehicles. This is less than 0.3 percent of CMAQ authorizations for those years. Information on

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\* GAO Report to Congressional Requesters, *Energy Policy Act of 1992: Limited Progress in Acquiring Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Reaching Fuel Goals*, GAO/RCED-00-59, February 2000.

alternative fuel vehicles purchased with FY 1999 CMAQ funds will not be available until late in calendar year 2000.

As shown in the following table, 54 I of the 946 vehicles purchased in FYs 1997 and 1998 were identified by the states as dedicated alternative fuel vehicles – meaning they cannot operate on gasoline.

**CMAQ-Funded Light-Duty Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) by State  
(For Fiscal Years 1997 and 1998 Combined)**

State	Number of AFVs		CMAQ Funds
	Bi-Fuel	Dedicated	
Connecticut	2	126	\$1,134,000
New Mexico	0	30	\$734,000
New York	346	365	\$3,312,000
Pennsylvania	0	20	\$157,000
Texas	57*	0	\$650,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>541</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>946</b>		<b>\$5,987,000</b>

SOURCE: Applicable State Departments of Transportation and/or project offices.

\*Information we obtained indicates that 40 bi-fuel vehicles in El Paso county are predominately operated on alternative fuels. We did not receive any fuel usage data for the remaining 17 bi-fuel vehicles in the Beaumont District.

In view of the small percentage of CMAQ funds spent on light-duty alternative fuel vehicles for FYs 1997 and 1998 and the fact that 57 percent (541 of 946 vehicles) are not capable of using gasoline, we concluded that further review of alternative fuel vehicles purchased with CMAQ funds was not warranted.

Because we are not making recommendations, no action or reply to this memorandum is necessary. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-1992, or Tom Howard, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Highways and Highway Safety, at (202) 366-5630.