

# OWPnews

A Summary

NOACA serving Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties

April 2010

## NOACA's Fiscal Year 2011 Overall Work Program Projects, Products & Programs

**Read** about the planning projects happening in our region to help improve transportation and the environment for Fiscal Year 2011.

Regional Transportation System: Staff conducts transportation system level planning for all modes through these projects:

**Specialized Transportation Planning** - Staff coordinates the Specialized Transportation Program (Section 5310) annual application process with ODOT for qualified nonprofit agencies in Cuyahoga, Lake and Lorain counties. This program provides vans for transportation services for the elderly and people with disabilities. To support the goals of the *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Northeast Ohio*, staff will inventory available specialized public and private transportation providers and their services.



- Inventory of specialized transportation public and private providers and their services
- Board-approved selection of nonprofit agencies to receive vans



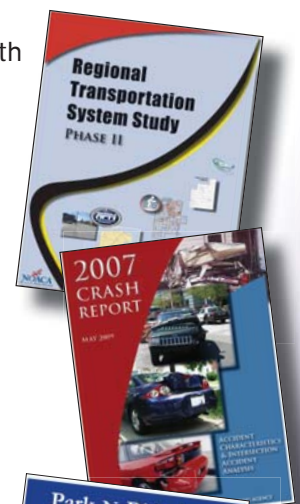
**Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) & New Freedom Programs** - As the region's designated recipient for the JARC and New Freedom programs, staff will manage the application and scoring process for funding which

will improve transportation services for individuals with lower incomes, older adults and persons with disabilities. The *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan* will be updated with completion anticipated by 2012.

- Board-approved applicants for JARC/New Freedom funding

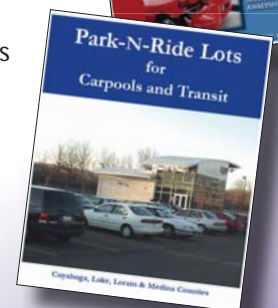
**Regional Transportation System (RTS)** - To support ODOT's initiative to advance balanced transportation, staff will prepare a regional modal transportation needs study to promote bicycle, pedestrian and transit mobility. Building upon NOACA's *Regional Transportation System Study - Phase II*, staff will inventory existing transportation systems, assess needs and develop project recommendations. In addition, staff will also produce an intersection crash analysis report, using current ODOT crash data, to identify additional intersections for road safety audits and/or other recommended improvements.

- Regional Modal Transportation Needs Study
- Intersection Crash Analysis Report



**Transit/Traffic Monitoring & Passenger Rail** - NOACA staff monitors public transportation services working with the region's transit agencies to support existing services and aid in planning for future transit projects. Another component is to develop policy positions on various inter and intra-state passenger rail initiatives plus rail corridor preservation for input to the region's transportation plan update. Other plan-related activities include data collection of transit schedules, park and ride lots, and a downtown Cleveland parking survey.

- Cleveland Central Business District Parking Survey



# NOACA's Fiscal Year 2011 Overall Work Program

Regional Transportation System projects continued below:

**Freight Planning** - This project integrates freight planning into the project planning process with the goal of assisting regional economic development. Activities include evaluation of current conditions and recommended improvements for the National Highway System intermodal connectors. Staff will work with other MPOs, plus FHWA, ODOT, and local stakeholders on new freight initiatives. They will conduct analysis of goods movement, including Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, using available ODOT freight data.

- Goods Movement Analysis and Mapping

**Asset Management Program** - With the help of the Asset Management Council, staff will oversee the Regional Pavement Management Program and its Web site, which will assist the NOACA Board with prioritizing and staging federal-aid transportation investments. Using the Regional Pavement Management System, staff will develop detailed pavement analysis for Lake County, having completed analyses for Lorain and Medina counties in recent years.

- Lake County Pavement Analysis

**Congestion Management Process (CMP)** - The CMP provides analyses on freeway and roadway operating characteristics, identifies problem areas and studies solutions to traffic congestion. Activities include completing a Freeway Travel Time Report, containing analysis of the travel speed data collected in 2009 on area freeways. Staff will use the CMP network to show areas of congestion and identify a corridor showing deficiencies for further analysis.

- Freeway Travel Time Report

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Planning** - Staff works with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council to review proposed highway and bridge projects and integrate safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities where feasible. Ongoing activities include county bike map updates and inventories of current and planned bikeways in the region. Staff will identify potential projects to assist in selecting a bicycle lane and route project. NOACA will also sponsor workshops for the Safe Bicycling Program to educate riders and law enforcement officials on bicycling safety issues.

- Bicycle Lane and Route Project Selection
- Safe Bicycling Program workshops

**Brunswick Transit Assistance** - Under contract with the City of Brunswick, NOACA provides technical assistance to BTA for planning and operating their bus services.

Corridor Planning: Staff provides technical assistance, corridor and project-level planning through these projects:

**Corridor Studies** - Staff will develop a strategy and begin work to select corridors for analysis, identify their transportation system deficiencies, and suggest multimodal solutions as input to the 2013 Transportation Plan update. Staff continues to participate with local, state and federal transit and highway entities in ongoing sponsor-proposed major projects and corridor studies, such as the Opportunity Corridor, West Shoreway and Innerbelt studies.

- Pearl Road/SR-42 Corridor Transportation Study

**Traffic Count Program (Phase I)** - NOACA's traffic count maps, safety studies and other Transportation Links to Communities (TLC) studies will provide a framework for developing NOACA's traffic count program. Staff will develop this program to document the locations of existing count programs, i.e., state, county engineers, and cities, and use this information to create GIS maps. Staff will identify areas not covered by existing count programs and locations to be counted periodically.

- Identification/GIS mapping of traffic count locations

**Transportation Links to Communities Program (TLC) and Safety Studies** - To promote safety in the region, this program offers communities technical assistance for specific traffic and safety related studies. NOACA staff will continue to conduct safety audits at identified high crash locations, allowing communities to apply for ODOT safety funds for low-cost improvements. This project may include conducting a neighborhood study, if one is identified through the TLCI application process. Studies to be completed include:

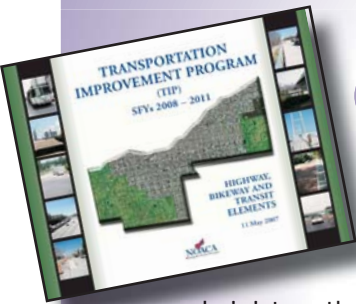
- North Olmsted Traffic Study
- Broadview Heights Traffic Study
- Two road safety audits for the City of Cleveland

**Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI)** - With the help of the TLCI Task Force, staff assists communities by awarding Board-approved planning grants to eligible applicants. Over 35 studies have been completed since the program began in 2005, and are available on NOACA's Web site. This program now includes a pilot Preliminary Engineering and Design Program to help urban core communities move forward from planning to construction. Two pilot projects recently selected are located in Cleveland and Euclid.

- Board-approved TLCI planning studies
- Preliminary Engineering and Design Pilot Program

**TLCI**

## Major Documents: 2013 Transportation Plan and 2012-2015 TIP



**Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Funds Management** - The TIP is the region's four-year capital budget for federally-funded transportation projects. Staff administers the TIP consistent with NOACA's Board-approved *Regional Transportation Investment Policy* and federal and state requirements. Staff will complete the State Fiscal Year 2012-2015 TIP, working closely with project sponsors and ODOT, for all federal-funded highway, transit, bikeway, and enhancement projects. Staff also plans to begin developing a user-friendly on-line TIP, along with an electronic TIP application.

- State Fiscal Year 2012-2015 TIP
- On-line TIP and TIP Application Development



**Transportation Plan** - Along with implementing the Plan's goals and strategies outlined in the *Connections 2030 Plan* update, staff will coordinate FY 2011 Overall Work Program planning efforts associated with the development of the 2013 long range transportation plan. Activities will include conducting public and local government meetings and/or survey efforts to identify long-term transportation visions. Staff will also identify possible priority project locations for inclusion in the 2013 Plan.

- Documentation of results from meetings, surveys and preliminary priority project locations
- Transportation Forecasting and Modeling** - Under this project, staff will refine NOACA's transportation modeling capabilities to provide direct input to the 2013 long range transportation plan, CMP and major investment studies. Continuing efforts will include updates from the 2010 U.S. Census data, consultant selection to conduct a household travel survey, and implementation of EPA's new Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) model, which estimates vehicle emissions under various scenarios.
- Consultant selection to conduct a Household Travel Survey
  - Implement EPA's new MOVES Emissions Model

### Support and Administration: These projects support public outreach, communications, administration and technical functions:

**Intergovernmental Review and Consultation (IGRC)** - This enhanced review process satisfies federal requirements to involve local governmental entities in NOACA's transportation planning activities through the project planning review (PPR) process. Staff monitors its database to include impacted communities and provides comments received about proposed projects from outside agencies to NOACA's Governing Board and committees.

- Quarterly IGRC reports to Board and committees

**Transportation Data Collection and Management** - NOACA is continually updating strategies for data management and database organization as technology evolves. This project refines NOACA's strategies for the collection, storage, categorization and visualization of existing GIS data for internal planning and NOACA's Web site.

- Improved visualization of transportation data using GIS technology

**Communications and Public Involvement Planning** - NOACA staff conducts public involvement activities as required in the Board-approved Public Interaction Policy. Staff conducts government and public outreach sessions, and provides content for the agency's Web site. The annual NOACA Summit and user-friendly publications continue to be effective avenues for public education. In an effort to improve communications, staff will conduct a regional survey of attitudes and preferences on NOACA-related issues, and will begin development of an E-newsletter.

- Annual summit
- Public outreach sessions
- E-newsletter development



# NOACA's Fiscal Year 2011 Overall Work Program

Support and administration projects continued below:



## Agency Outreach - Rideshare

Staff maintains the improved on-line Rideshare registration and matching service through the Web-based OhioRideshare site, as well as OhioBikeBuddies, a free on-line bike partner registration and matching program. Other activities include participating in public outreach events to educate the public on alternative transportation modes.

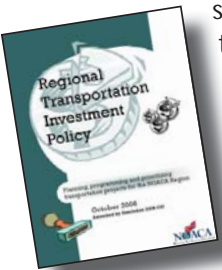


- On-line OhioRideshare and OhioBikeBuddies registration and matching programs

## Planning and Program Administration - Staff

keeps the Governing Board, its committees and subcommittees informed on transportation projects, programs and funding affecting the region. Current and future work programs are monitored and developed to meet regional transportation goals and federal requirements. The *Regional Transportation Investment Policy (RTIP)* is reviewed and updated annually based on changes in federal policies or revenues. Under this project, staff also administers the Service Request Program, which provides services to communities and organizations as requested.

- FY 2012 Overall Work Program
- Regional Transportation Investment Policy update
- Service Request Program



Environmental & Sustainable Development: Air and water quality programs are administered through these projects:

**Air Quality Planning Efforts** - This project supports the Air Quality Subcommittee of the Environmental Advisory Committee, which advises the Governing Board in transportation-related air quality planning. Additional staff activities include implementing approved regional emission reduction strategies, performing daily air pollution forecasting, and working with stakeholders on methods to forecast high ozone and fine particle days.

**Agency Outreach - Air Quality** - This project provides outreach activities and educational materials to public agencies, communities, the public and the media regarding transportation-related air quality programs. It supports the Ozone Action Day and Fine Particle Pollution outreach programs. Staff will work with local air agencies and the National Weather Service on methods to forecast days when ozone and fine particles exceed EPA standards. Staff also notifies the public and health-related agencies when air quality is not healthy for at-risk populations.



**Water Quality Program** - NOACA's comprehensive program addresses water quality on a regional scale, within individual communities and on a watershed level. Highlights of the activities are:

- Participate in the Regional Storm Water Training Consortium to create a consistent education and training program for local government employees and officials
- Provide technical support to the Northeast Ohio Public Involvement/Public Education Committee and other local initiatives to promote watershed efforts
- Work with the Rocky River Watershed Council and Friends of Big Creek to implement their action plans, plus assisting other local management agencies in their regional watershed efforts
- Provide technical consultation on facility planning issues, maintain an area-wide advisory committee, and assist local health districts in implementing Ohio's sewage treatment rules
- Convene a stakeholder work group to provide input for the Chippewa Creek Watershed Assessment
- Conduct a workshop for watershed leaders on stream bank vegetative controls and hold field training sessions on planning techniques



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Federal funding for the OWP is provided by the Federal Highway Administration and administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation. Environmental programs are funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.