

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, through law has determined that an MPO must develop a Transportation Plan (Plan); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), through regulation, requires a Plan update every three years; and

WHEREAS, the development of this Plan must meet numerous federal and state requirements in order to ensure continued access to federal financing for transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, staff and committees have worked to complete *Connections 2030*, NOACA's updated Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board, through Resolution No. 2005-016, approved the short and long range strategies and actions for *Connections 2030*; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board, through Resolution No. 2005-005, approved Tier I and Tier II project lists which contain the major federal-aid transportation projects expected to be completed within the life of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2005-005 also authorized staff to conduct conformity analyses on these project lists to meet federal transportation conformity requirements; and

WHEREAS, staff has conducted a new air quality analysis that demonstrates conformity of Tier I and II projects with applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) emission budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board, through Resolution No. 2005-017, approved Tier III and IV project lists which contain projects at various stages of planning and development; and

WHEREAS, staff assembled a federal review version of *Connections 2030* after completing other documentation that is required for a Plan update; and

WHEREAS, the federal review version of *Connections 2030*, including the air quality conformity analysis, has had sufficient public involvement in accordance with the Board's Public Interaction Policy; and

WHEREAS, the NOACA Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has reviewed the federal review version of *Connections 2030* and recommends approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2005-023
(TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND
AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY)**

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of thirty-eight principal elected and other officials of general purpose local government throughout and within the Counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina, that:

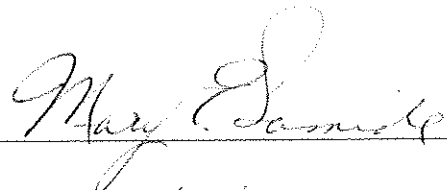
Section 1: The federal review version of *Connections 2030* is approved.

Section 2: The Air Quality Conformity analysis for *Connections 2030* is approved.

Section 3: The Executive Director is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the
Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide
Coordinating Agency adopted this 10th day of June
2005.

Secretary: _____



Date Signed: _____

6/10/05

NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Governing Board Members

FROM: Howard R. Maier, Executive Director

DATE: June 1, 2005

RE: **Resolution No. 2005-023 - Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity**

Summary

Resolution No. 2005-023 approves the federal review version of NOACA's Transportation Plan, *Connections 2030*, and its air quality conformity analysis. While originally scheduled for July 2005, approval is needed at this time in order to align the Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) schedules. The Board has previously approved the major elements of the Plan. The federal review version has had sufficient public involvement, in accordance with the Board's Public Interaction Policy, and the Transportation Advisory Committee recommends Board approval.

Background Information

Plan and TIP Linkages

The Plan and TIP are connected in several important ways. In explaining the Plan and TIP, it can be said the Plan is the 20-year planning document, and the TIP is the capital improvement program that implements the Plan within a specific four-year period.

The TIP can only contain projects that are consistent with the Plan. Non-capacity projects such as the resurfacing of a roadway or the purchase of bus rolling stock do not have to be specifically listed in a Plan. However, roadway capacity projects are more complex. They not only must be specifically listed in the Plan, their impacts on regional air quality also must be analyzed. Specifically, U.S. DOT and U.S. EPA must approve an air quality conformity analysis prior to capacity projects being placed on the four year TIP.

Scheduling, Amendment and Approval Issues

Federal regulations require that a Transportation Plan be updated every three years. Mostly as a result of circumstance, NOACA's Plan is updated on a cycle that begins in early August and ends in July, three years from that time. Note that federal agencies do not approve the Plan, but the Air Quality Conformity analysis. Our current Plan Conformity expires on July 31, 2005. The Plan may be amended at any time for policy or strategy reasons. NOACA's Investment Policy states that non-capacity projects can be amended annually to the Plan, while capacity projects can only be added to the Plan on a three-year cycle.

Federal regulations also permit a three-year TIP. However, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) requires a two-year TIP that is aligned with the state fiscal year and biennium budget. Federal agencies approve the TIP. The current TIP expires on June 30, 2005. The TIP can only implement projects that are consistent with a Conforming Plan. The TIP may be amended quarterly for projects that are consistent with the Conforming Plan.

To summarize:

- The Transportation Plan:
 - Is updated every three years, in accordance with federal regulations.
 - May be amended for non-capacity projects annually and for capacity projects on a three-year cycle. The Plan may be amended at any time for policy or strategy reasons.
 - Is not approved by federal agencies.
 - Contains an Air Quality Conformity Analysis that is approved by federal agencies.
 - The current Conformity Approval expires on July 30, 2005.

- The TIP:
 - Is updated every two years to coincide with the biennium budget in accordance with ODOT policy.
 - May be amended quarterly for non-capacity projects.
 - Is approved by federal agencies.
 - Can only implement projects that are consistent with a Conforming Plan.
 - The current TIP expires on June 30, 2005.

As can be seen, the Plan and TIP schedules must be aligned to allow for TIP projects to be implemented (sold) next fiscal year.

Prior Approvals

In order to facilitate approval and transmittal of the Plan to federal agencies, the Governing Board has already approved the major elements of the Plan. In February 2005, the NOACA Board approved the Tiers I and II project lists (Resolution No. 2005-005). In April, the Board approved Tiers III and IV and the Plan goals and strategies (Resolutions No. 2005-016 and 2005-017).

Additional Plan Documentation

Federal regulations require that a Plan contain many specific technical analyses and assessments. Staff has completed these and assembled them, along with previously approved elements of the Plan, into a *Connections 2030*, Federal Review Version. (Full copies are being provided to Board members.) This additional documentation does not impact previously approved elements or other NOACA policies.

Staff expects to create a Plan Summary document within the next quarter. This will be a reader-friendly document that will be used for public information purposes.

Conclusion

The TAC has recommended Governing Board approval of *Connections 2030*. We greatly appreciate the assistance of all our planning partners in helping to complete this document in an expedited manner. Please contact me, Bill Davis or John Hosek at 216-241-241, Extensions 380, 251 and 261 if you have any questions or concerns.