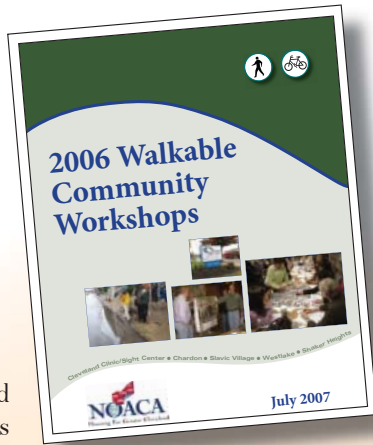


NOACA at Work in Geauga County

Summary Report Revisits Chardon's Walkable Community Workshop

In fall 2006, NOACA and the National Center for Walking and Bicycling conducted five successful Walkable Communities workshops in Northeast Ohio, including one in Chardon. Workshop participants took a walking tour of streets surrounding Chardon's town square to identify potential pedestrian and bicycle improvements, and compared ideas for linking two sections of the Maple Highlands trail through the square.

NOACA compiled the observations and recommendations of workshop participants, photos from the walking tour, and media coverage of the event in a summary report. In addition to Chardon, the report covers workshops in



Shaker Heights, Westlake, Slavic Village and Cleveland, near the Sight Center. The report is available on the NOACA Web site, www.noaca.org/walkable/rept07.pdf.

Resulting from a Chardon workshop recommendation, planners and local officials



NOACA's 2006 Walkable Community Workshops summary report offers recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian improvements around Chardon's town square.

organized a bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee, which will plan and seek funding for bicycle facilities and pedestrian improvements. In addition, as an outgrowth of the workshop, the City of Chardon applied for funding from NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) and received a \$54,008 TLCI award to develop a citywide bicycle and pedestrian plan.

NOACA's TLCI provides funding and technical assistance for transportation planning studies that can help make communities safer and more livable. More information about the TLCI, as well as a list of this year's recipients, can be accessed on NOACA's Web site, www.noaca.org/tlci.html.

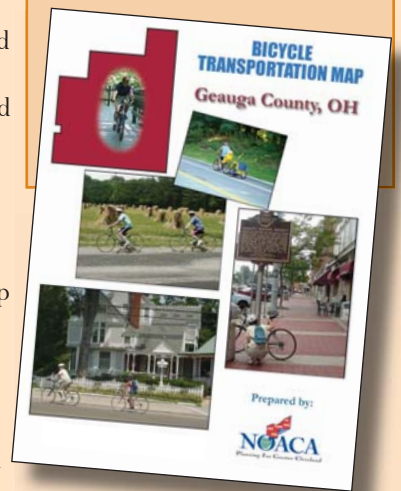
NOACA Updates Geauga County Bicycle Map

As autumn brings its palette of red and gold to Northeast Ohio, what better way to see Geauga County's fall foliage than by bicycle? Take along NOACA's Geauga bicycle transportation map, updated in June 2007, to find a route that is safe and practical for your skill level. The map can be found online at www.noaca.org/GeaugaBike07.pdf, or may be purchased for \$2 from NOACA. NOACA's bicycle maps are popular, and staff has received much positive feedback about them via the NOACA Web site.



NOACA, through its Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative, presented the City of Chardon with a \$54,008 award to develop a citywide bicycle and pedestrian plan.

Chardon representatives accepting the TLCI award from NOACA Executive Director Howard R. Maier (center) include Chardon Assistant City Manager Randy Sharpe; Geauga County Commissioner Mary Samide; Chardon Councilwoman Leslie Bednar; and Chardon City Manager David Lelko.



Seven Geauga County Projects added to Connections 2030

One of NOACA's primary responsibilities as the region's metropolitan planning organization is to update the long-range plan. This plan offers a vision of Northeast Ohio's transportation system 25 years in the future and identifies projects and programs that address anticipated transportation needs.

NOACA adds new projects to the plan - called *Connections 2030: A Framework for the 2030 Transportation System* - quarterly. NOACA's Regional Transportation Investment Policy requires that projects added to the plan go through a comprehensive review and comment process, called Project Planning Review (PPR). This process considers comments on proposed transportation improvements from NOACA staff, committees, local governments and agencies, and the public. The table below lists seven projects that NOACA added to the plan in Geauga County during the past year:

Project	Location	Sponsor	Estimated Total Cost	Added to the Plan
Add a turn lane on SR-608 to Kraftmaid plant*	Middlefield Village	Middlefield Village	\$372,643	Dec. 2006
Resurface Washington Street from Munn Road to Ravenna Road	Auburn Township	Gauga County Engineer	\$455,000	March 2007
Gauga County Transit Calendar Year 2007 Capital and Operating Program*	County-wide	Gauga County Transit	\$1,439,452	March 2007
Resurface SR-700 from US-422 to SR-168	Troy and Burton Townships	ODOT District 12	\$1,090,000	June 2007
Resurface SR-166 from US-6 to Plank Road*	Hambden, Montville and Thompson Townships	ODOT District 12	\$1,000,000	June 2007
Resurface SR-306 from the Gauga County line to Kinsman Road*	South Russell Village and Bainbridge and Russell Townships	ODOT District 12	\$2,244,000	June 2007
Minor rehabilitation of SR-528 from Kinsman Road to Mayfield Road*	Middlefield and Huntsburg Townships	ODOT District 12	\$1,250,000	June 2007

* These projects were also added to NOACA's Transportation Improvement Program.



Comment on NOACA's Draft Regional Bicycle Plan

If you're interested in planned or proposed bicycle improvements for Geauga County or the rest of the region, check out NOACA's draft bicycle plan. The plan will be available in late October for intergovernmental and public review. The document, which may be accessed

on NOACA's Web site, www.noaca.org, or at the Burton and Chardon public libraries in Geauga County, contains:

- Accomplishments since adoption of the 1997 bicycle plan;
- Progress on identified strategies; and
- Existing, planned and proposed bikeway inventories.

The plan will be available for comment through Friday, December 14, at which time NOACA's Governing Board will consider adopting it as part of *Connections 2030*.

NOACA Funding Targeted for Geauga County Projects

NOACA annually allocates federal funding to road, bridge, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects throughout its five-county region. These projects are scheduled and managed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

NOACA's current TIP, for State Fiscal Years 2008 - 2011, covering July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2011, includes the following projects for Geauga County:



Munn Road was resurfaced from Stafford Road to Washington Street thanks to \$200,000 in NOACA federal funding.

- Resurface Franklin Street from Chagrin River Road to South Street in Bainbridge and three Cuyahoga County communities - \$360,000
- Resurface Mentor Road from SR-44 to the Gauga County/Lake County line in Chardon Township - \$320,000
- Resurface Chagrin Road from South Street to Catsden Road in Bainbridge Township - \$160,000
- Resurface Fairmount Road from County Line Road to SR-306 in Russell Township - \$320,000
- Resurface Hemlock Road from the South Russell Village west corporation line to Music Street and Hemlock Point Road in Russell Township - \$160,000
- Resurface Washington Street from the Chagrin Falls Village east corporation line to SR-306 in South Russell and Bainbridge Township - \$360,000
- Resurface Wilson Mills Road from County Line Road to SR-306 in Chester Township - \$480,000

Total Funding Allocated for Geauga County: \$2,160,000

NOACA to Guide Development of a Coordinated Plan to Serve Elderly, Disabled and Low-Income Individuals

In June 2007, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland designated NOACA as the Cleveland urban area administrator of the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs. These programs, along with the Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310 program) support special transportation assistance and services for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals so that they can get to employment sites.

As program administrator, NOACA is overseeing development of the Locally Developed, Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for NOACA's five counties. Federal law requires that all projects to receive funding under the JARC, New Freedom or Section 5310 programs must be derived from a coordinated plan.



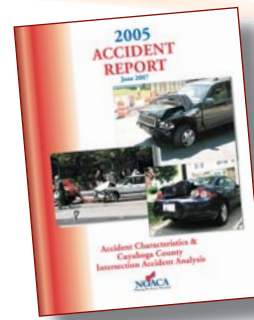
Participants in the JARC/New Freedom workshop discuss their transportation needs and priorities.

In July 2007, NOACA held a series of public meetings, including one at the Bainbridge Public Library, to gather feedback from transportation stakeholders and users of special transportation services about gaps in existing service, access issues and suggestions for improvement. In August, staff conducted focus groups for older adults, people with disabilities and low-income individuals in Geauga County to obtain additional feedback.

NOACA is planning a regional workshop for fall 2007 that will bring interested parties together to identify transportation priorities to be included in the coordinated plan. Visit NOACA's Web site at www.noaca.org/jarcnf.html for more information about the JARC/New Freedom programs or details regarding the regional workshop.

NOACA and ODOT Host Safety Workshop

In November 2006, NOACA and the Ohio Department of Transportation conducted a Roadway Safety Workshop. Local officials and city safety personnel provided input about high crash areas and discussed strategies for reducing accidents. Using 2004-2005 accident data, NOACA will identify high accident intersections, including those in Geauga County, and study them for potential safety improvements.



Accident Report Contains Statistics Unique to Geauga County

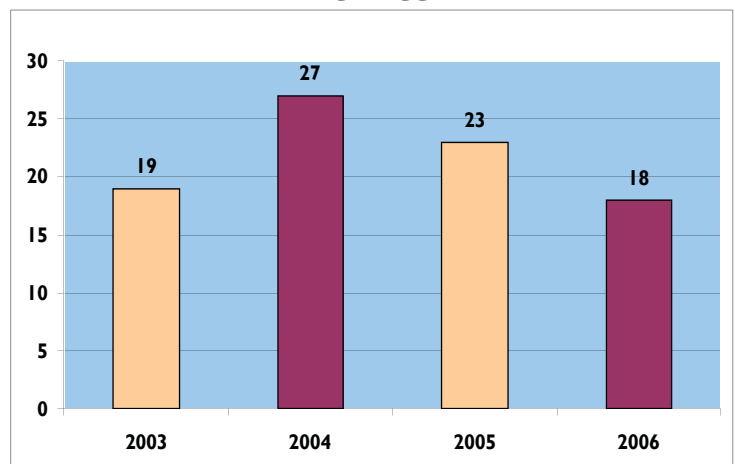
In Middlefield Village, and Middlefield and Parkman Townships - the heart of Geauga's Amish country - it is not unusual to see horse-drawn buggies mingling with automobile traffic. Likewise, it is not surprising that car and buggy collisions occur. NOACA collects accident data for car and buggy incidents in Geauga County, and according to 2006 data, 18 car/buggy accidents occurred. Although this is the lowest number of car/buggy accidents recorded in the last four years, the number appears random and not part of a downward trend.

For the entire NOACA region, however, automobile accidents and fatalities are declining. Compare 114 fatalities recorded in 2005 to 169 fatalities from 1996: that is a 30-percent decrease for the ten-year time period.

NOACA's recently completed 2005 Accident Report contains many crash statistics from the five-county area. Some accident facts from Geauga County:

- Over the past ten years, accidents in Geauga County have increased slightly, by 1.6 percent. During the same time the county's population increased by 10.5 percent.
- Nine fatalities resulted from automobile accidents in 2005.
- Every Geauga County community recorded at least one accident.
- Only two accidents involving a bicyclist occurred in 2005, while 23 accidents involving an automobile and buggy were recorded.

Accidents Involving Buggies 2003 - 2006*



*Data collected from Burton and Middlefield Villages, and Burton, Huntsburg, Middlefield, Parkman and Troy Townships

NOACA Gets Creative with Ozone Action Day/ Fine Particle Pollution Program Awareness

NOACA works to improve Northeast Ohio's air quality by promoting the regionwide Ozone Action Day (OAD) and Fine Particle Pollution (FP3) Programs. Through these programs, NOACA notifies the public when ground-level ozone or fine particle pollution (soot) is expected to be high, and encourages individuals to take voluntary actions, such as carpooling, taking the bus or riding a bicycle to work instead of driving, to help reduce pollution levels. Changes in individual behavior are key to improving air quality as the region strives to meet clean air standards imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Currently, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties do not meet federal air quality standards for ozone and of these, only Geauga meets standards for fine particles.

NOACA has adopted "Wheezer, the Forecasting Groundhog" as a mascot for the OAD/FP3 programs to educate children, especially those who have asthma, about the health impacts of these two pollutants. Staff developed an OAD/FP3 coloring book featuring Wheezer and is distributing it at public outreach events.



NOACA staff also conducted a public involvement process through the year for the region's fine particle pollution problem. The meetings culminated in multiple recommendations by the NOACA Air Quality

Public Advisory Task Force to NOACA's Governing Board. The Board will adopt recommendations for inclusion in the Fine Particle State Implementation Plan this fall.

NOACA offers information about ozone and fine particle pollution on its Web site at www.noaca.org/airquality.html, including:

- Real-time concentrations of ozone pollution levels during the summer months

- Real-time concentrations of PM_{2.5} year round
- Today's air quality status
- E-mail notification on days when ozone or fine particle pollution is expected to be high

If you have questions regarding Northeast Ohio's air quality issues, contact Pamela Davis at (216) 241-2414, ext. 284; Amy Wainright, ext. 252; or Amy Coursen, ext. 373.

Carpooling Benefits Air Quality, Helps Save Commuters Money

NOACA supports carpooling as a strategy to reduce single occupant vehicles on the region's roadways, thereby improving air quality. NOACA manages the Rideshare program, which has helped match commuters with others traveling in the same direction to work.



In January 2007, NOACA enhanced its current Rideshare program with a new Web-based carpool registration service called OhioRideshare. Commuters can access www.ohiorideshare.com, conduct searches for potential carpool partners 24/7, and get immediate results. NOACA collaborated with its sister agencies in the Akron and Youngstown metropolitan areas to launch this new online service.

NOACA Helps Produce Rain Garden Manual

NOACA is a partner in Northeast Ohio's Storm Water Public Involvement/Public Education committee known as NEO PIPE. The Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District took the lead when NEO PIPE produced the very popular *Rain Garden*



Geauga County rain garden

Manual for Homeowners – Protecting our water, one yard at a time. This manual is now in its fourth printing, and is being used in six states outside of Ohio.

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Planning For Greater Cleveland

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Rain garden photo provided courtesy of the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District

September 2007