

Acronyms Associated with NOACA

For terms specific to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) see TIP Glossary

3-C Process

Continuing, cooperative and comprehensive planning conducted by metropolitan planning organizations

Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS)

Metropolitan planning organization for Summit and Portage counties, including the City of Akron

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Federal law that requires that public buildings, transportation facilities and services be made fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Transportation operators must also offer complementary or supplementary paratransit services in areas where they operate fixed route transit service.

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)

Organization established to advocate for the needs and interests of metropolitan planning organizations nationwide

Average Daily Traffic (ADT)

Number of vehicles that pass a fixed point during the average work day

Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC)

An advisory body to the NOACA Transportation Advisory Committee, the BAC works to help NOACA achieve Transportation Plan Goal 4 (increase modal choices) by encouraging and facilitating the use of the bike as a viable transportation mode. The BAC also assists in planning for safe and accessible pedestrian facilities.

Brunswick Transit Alternative (BTA)

The public transit authority for the City of Brunswick

Central Business District (CBD)

The commercial core of a city, typically the location of the most business development and employment within a city

Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA)

1990 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act that establish allowable levels for various pollutants, identify mobile sources (vehicles) as a primary source of pollution, and require planning to achieve the allowable levels.

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Clean Water Act (CWA)

National water quality policy developed to address almost any type of water quality problem

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

A clean burning, alternative fuel for vehicles

Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Systematic process for evaluating mobility and congestion on the transportation system and identifying solutions from a series of approved management strategies

Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ)

Federal funding program that established a distinct funding pool for transportation and transportation related projects and activities which reduce congestion and/or improve air quality

Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization (CRCPO)

Nonprofit organization dedicated to stewardship of the Cuyahoga River watershed

Cuyahoga River RAP Coordinating Committee (CCC)

Committee that oversees and guides implementation of the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan

Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant (DERG) Program

This new program provides funding for diesel engine replacement or the retrofit of diesel technologies with the goal of improving air quality. It is a collaborative effort of the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The program is funded with Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) dollars set aside for it in the state budget (H.B. 66). Diesel engine replacement/retrofitting is a clean air strategy supported by NOACA.

Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)

A permanent advisory committee to the NOACA Board, the committee provides advice and policy recommendations to the Governing Board with regard to environmental planning powers of the agency. The EAC assists the Governing Board and agency staff in identifying significant environmental problems, priorities and concerns with development of a comprehensive regional approach to environmental concerns.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Document that reports any impacts resulting from major transportation projects. Impacts can include the natural environment, economy, historic preservation, and others.

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Environmental Justice (EJ)

Balancing the benefits and burdens of government policies so that no racial, ethnic or socioeconomic group bears a disproportionate share of negative consequences

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Federal regulatory agency that oversees air and water quality standards, planning and projects

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Division of the United States Department of Transportation that funds highway planning, research and construction

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Division of the United States Department of Transportation that funds transit planning and capital assistance

Fine Particle Pollution Program (FP3)

The Fine Particle Pollution Program partners NOACA, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Air Quality Divisions of the Cities of Cleveland and Akron, the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, and Lake County General Health District in an effort to monitor levels of fine particle air pollution and advise the public when this pollution is reaching unhealthy levels. Fine particle pollution consists of microscopic particles released into the air from car and truck exhausts, industrial processes, and many other sources (see a fact sheet at www.noaca.org/fp3.html). Fine particles can bypass the human body's defense mechanisms and negatively affect heart and lung functions.

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA)

Public transit operator for Cuyahoga County

Geauga County Transit (GCT)

The public transit operator for Geauga County Transit

Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH)

Benefit offered to commuters in the region who carpool or vanpool. Commuters may be reimbursed for a taxi ride home if they must leave work unexpectedly due to illness, unexpected overtime or other emergency.

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High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)

A vehicle transporting two or more persons to a given destination, as opposed to a vehicle with a single occupant. In some areas of the country, HOV lanes on the interstates are designated for exclusive use by high occupancy vehicles, e.g., carpools, vanpools and transit.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Communications technology providing real time information to facilitate transportation system maintenance and operations. For example, freeway video surveillance allows staff to monitor congestion and emergency vehicle response to freeway incidents.

Intergovernmental Review and Consultation (IGRC)

A program providing the opportunity for local governments and organizations to review and comment on proposed federal-aid projects and programs potentially impacting their community. The purpose of IGRC, a component of the quarterly Project Planning Review (PPR) process, is to ensure:

- coordination with existing projects/programs and
- conformity with local and regional planning efforts.

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)

Federal surface transportation law enacted in 1991 and expired in 1997. It preceded the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century.

International Joint Commission (IJC)

U.S./Canadian organization that oversees Great Lakes water quality. The IJC designated the Cuyahoga and Black Rivers as two of 43 "areas of concern," prompting Remedial Action Plans for these Lake Erie tributaries.

Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC)

Federal grant program funding new or expanded transportation services that help low-income individuals and welfare recipients get to jobs and other employment-related services

LAKETRAN

Public transit operator for Lake County

Level of Service (LOS)

A method of describing the operating condition of an intersection, highway or transportation service (e.g., LOS "A" denotes a free flowing traffic condition with no delays; LOS "F" denotes severe traffic congestion with considerable delay)

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Lorain County Transit (LCT)

Public transit operator for Lorain County

Major Investment Study (MIS)

In-depth study of a highway corridor or transportation asset. An MIS focuses on analyzing a variety of alternatives in order to select the best solution for improving mobility in the corridor.

Medina County Transit (MCT)

Public transit operator for Medina County, exclusive of Brunswick.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

A transportation policy-making organization made up of representatives from local governments and transportation entities. MPOs conduct comprehensive transportation planning and ensure that expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on the 3-C planning process. NOACA is one of 17 MPOs in the state of Ohio.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Federal health based standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency for allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various pollutants

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)

National organization focused on advocating the interests of a variety of regional organizations including metropolitan planning organizations

National Highway System (NHS)

A classification of roads authorized by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. The system is comprised of interstate highways and roads designated as important for interstate travel, national defense, intermodal connections and international commerce. Certain federal funds are designated solely for projects on the National Highway System.

New Freedom Program

Federal funding program that supports new public transportation services and alternatives for persons with disabilities beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Development and Planning Organization (NEFCO)

Water quality planning agency serving Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties

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Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSB)

Agency that oversees sanitary and storm sewer systems for a major portion of Cuyahoga County and other areas of Northeast Ohio

Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC)

Organization focused on serving the interests of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations in Ohio

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Agency that oversees planning and implementation for all modes of transportation in the state of Ohio. ODOT Districts 3 and 12 cover transportation improvements in the NOACA five-county area.

Overall Work Program (OWP)

A document that describes NOACA planning, program and project efforts to be undertaken in a given year, and includes objectives, previous work, methodology, public involvement, products and linkage to other projects.

Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

A permanent advisory committee to the NOACA Board, the PAC's principal function is to assist the agency and its members in development of comprehensive, areawide plans in the areas of transportation and wastewater management by providing review and comment at appropriate stages of the planning process and providing technical advice and recommendations on comprehensive planning issues or projects as appropriate. The PAC serves as a forum for information exchange regarding comprehensive planning, land use development and redevelopment, land use regulation and data and other planning issues in the members' jurisdictions.

Project Planning Review (PPR)

NOACA's Regional Transportation Investment Policy (RTIP) requires Project Planning Review (PPR) for all new projects proposed for the Transportation Plan and/or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). PPR is also required for projects that undergo a change of scope or a cost increase greater than 20 percent.

Project Planning Review has four components:

- Staff Review
- Committee Review
- Intergovernmental Review and Consultation (IGRC) and Public Involvement
- Governing Board Review

PPR is a comprehensive process and takes at least three months.

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Regional Pavement Management Program (RPMP)

A computer-based program that assesses roadways and projects future road maintenance needs and estimated costs. The program requires a database of current pavement condition information for all roadways to be assessed.

Regional Transportation Investment Subcommittee (RTIS)

An advisory body to the NOACA Transportation Advisory Committee, the RTIS assists in the management of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Transportation Plan.

Regional Transportation Investment Policy (RTIP)

Document that identifies NOACA policies regarding planning, programming and prioritizing regional transportation projects that will be implemented with NOACA-controlled federal aid

Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

Coordinated strategy for cleaning up pollution in the region's rivers and streams designated by the International Joint Commission as Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Roadway Safety Audit (RSA)

Study undertaken at a high accident location in the region, to identify traffic problems and recommend low-cost, short term improvements for the location

Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005-a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)

Current surface transportation law for highway and transit programs, authorizing levels of highway and transportation funding and the role for regional planning organizations

Safe Routes to Schools program (SRTS)

Funding program under SAFETEA-LU that will enable and encourage children to walk and bike safely to school. Eligible projects and programs for SRTS funding include sidewalk improvements, traffic calming devices, crosswalk signal systems, on-street bicycle facilities, bicycle parking, and safety education.

State Implementation Plan (SIP)

Document required of states for approval by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act, which contains projects and programs designed to bring the state and non-conforming metropolitan areas into compliance with clean air standards or to maintain compliance once it is achieved

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State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Ohio's four-year listing of highway, transit and bikeway projects scheduled to receive federal funding

Surface Transportation Program (STP)

A funding program created by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. Funds may be used for a variety of transportation improvements, including capital costs for highway and transit improvements; safety projects; road construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, rehabilitation and operational improvements; bicycle and pedestrian projects, scenic and historical preservation facilities; and preservation of abandoned railroad facilities.

Traffic Analysis Zone

The smallest geographic area used for computer travel simulation. The number of homes, population, employment, etc. per TAZ are estimated for existing and future years for use in trip generation.

Transit Council

Advisory council to the TAC that discusses transit related projects and efforts and suggests courses of action related to them

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

A permanent advisory committee to the NOACA Board, the TAC reviews and provides recommendations to the Governing Board on all transportation related matters

Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC)

An advisory body to the NOACA TAC, the council monitors progress on the regional pavement management system and ensures that pavement management benchmarks are being met. The TAMC will also develop a program for managing bridges, transit facilities and other transportation assets.

Transportation Control Measures (TCM)

Actions intended to impact traffic patterns and/or vehicle use in order to reduce congestion and air pollution. These may include carpooling and vanpooling, right turn on red options, high occupant vehicle lanes and flextime measures, among others.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

Strategies to reduce peak period automobile trips by encouraging the use of carpools, vanpools, mass transit, flexible and staggered work hours, telecommuting and parking incentives, which reduce the volume of travel in a defined area and daily number of vehicle trips.

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Transportation Enhancement Activity (TEA)

Funding specifically set aside for implementation of projects that enhance an existing or proposed transportation facility

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Comprehensive, four-year listing of federal-aid highway, transit and bikeway projects scheduled for implementation in NOACA's five counties. Without TIP inclusion, a project is ineligible for federal funding.

Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI)

NOACA program that offers funding and technical assistance to communities for planning transportation projects that strengthen community livability. The TLCI features three programs:

- Planning Grant Program – provides federal funding for planning transportation improvements that meet TLCI goals
- Neighborhood Planning Technical Assistance – provides staff technical assistance for planning medium to large scale transportation improvements that meet TLCI goals (in urban core communities)
- Links Technical Assistance – free technical assistance for planning small-scale traffic studies that advance TLCI goals

Transportation Management Area (TMA)

Defined by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act for urbanized areas over 200,000 in population. A TMA boundary affects NOACA's ability to select transportation projects that will receive certain federal funds.

Transportation Plan (TP)

Long-range regional transportation plan with at least a 20-year horizon. NOACA's current plan, *Connections 2030*, emphasizes 10 regional goals supporting transportation system preservation, serving all populations through multiple mode choice, bolstering economic development and conserving sensitive environmental resources. Major projects planned for implementation during its time frame are shown in the Plan under one of four tiers. Tier 1 projects (list is contained in this resource book) are in advanced stages of planning and many are close to implementation.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

Nine-member panel established by the Ohio General Assembly to guide the Ohio Department of Transportation in selecting significant transportation improvements statewide to fund with Major New Construction funding.

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Transportation System Management (TSM)

Cost-effective, limited build improvements to the transportation system with a goal of ensuring efficient use of the existing system. Improvements include actions to reduce vehicle use, facilitate traffic flow and encourage transit use.

Transportation/Water Quality Council (TRANSWAC)

TRANSWAC members provide advice to the Transportation Advisory Committee on water quality impacts of transportation proposals

Urbanized Area (UZA)

As defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, a densely populated area with a population of at least 50,000. A UZA generally is a core city and its surrounding suburbs.

Vehicle miles of travel (VMT)

The total distance traveled in miles by all motor vehicles in a given area over a given time period

Volatile organic compounds (VOC)

Another name for hydrocarbons, a precursor of ozone resulting from the incomplete combustion of fuel