The Overall Work Program
The Overall Work Program (OWP) outlines the transportation and environmental work of NOACA staff during the fiscal year running from July 1 through June 30. The following summaries provide brief descriptions for each project.

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

**Coordinated Transportation Program**
This project involves coordinating with public transit and human service agencies and transportation service providers to address the transportation needs of the elderly, individuals with disabilities and individuals with low incomes. This work includes researching and creating new ways to remove transportation barriers to jobs and employment support services, as well as developing a searchable database for public and private transportation providers throughout the region.

**Freight Planning**
The Intermodal Freight Planning program supports the region’s long-range transportation planning goals by gathering freight movement information and stakeholder input to better understand critical freight needs. Planning products address current freight conditions, identify trends and encourage efficient freight mobility. This project also involves meeting federal and state requirements set forth by federal transportation law, as well as identifying transportation infrastructure needs for the region’s businesses.

**Asset Management Program**
Because it is critical to maintain our region’s highway infrastructure in a state of good repair, NOACA is implementing a new policy and plan that incorporate asset management into the long-range planning process. This program will allow NOACA to leverage transportation asset management data and methods within the transportation planning process to make informed, cost-effective program decisions to maximize transportation system performance, improve customer satisfaction and minimize life-cycle costs.

**GIS Data Collection and Management**
NOACA’s geographic information system (GIS) database is an essential tool for transportation planning and asset management. Staff will add new data and enhance the online GIS portal to support the transportation and environmental planning needs of NOACA and its constituencies. This online data portal is available to students, researchers, local communities and other planning agencies.

**Specialized Transportation**
NOACA administers the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program. This program provides vehicles and equipment to eligible nonprofit agencies in Cuyahoga, Lake and Lorain counties for transportation services that support the elderly and people with disabilities in northeast Ohio. NOACA will develop policies related to procurement, grants
management and contracting in order to administer the program fully. Staff will also provide assistance to applicants and evaluate and score their applications.

**Sub-Regional/Corridor Transportation Planning**
NOACA staff will analyze the operating conditions of regional, sub-regional and large-scale transportation corridors. Under this project, staff will reach out to local communities throughout the region to develop a comprehensive record of all projects being developed on the federal-aid transportation system for a five-year horizon, including projects not funded by NOACA. This record will allow staff to analyze the true cost of maintaining the region’s infrastructure.

**Transit and Commuter Rail Planning**
NOACA staff will work with public transit agencies to coordinate regional transit planning, support existing services and aid in planning for future transit projects. This includes staffing quarterly Transit Council meetings to review proposed projects and discuss important transit-related issues. Staff will also participate in regional, statewide and national passenger rail planning efforts.

**Traffic Counting Program**
For this project, staff will work with consultants to count vehicles traveling through approximately 300 roadway segments. Traffic count data is used as input to NOACA’s travel demand model, as a tool for asset management, and to support NOACA’s ongoing planning work. NOACA will also compile traffic counts collected by ODOT, county engineers and local communities to supplement the agency’s counts.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

**Air Quality Planning**
NOACA’s Air Quality Program staff forecasts and monitors daily ozone and particulate matter levels and asks the public to reduce pollution-creating activities when levels exceed pollution standards. Under this project, staff supports NOACA’s Air Quality Subcommittee, which advises the Planning and Programming Committee on air quality issues related to transportation. Staff will also focus on planning and outreach efforts that incentivize alternative transportation choice to decrease mobile emissions and increase air quality benefits.

**Water Quality Programs**
These projects support NOACA’s Water Quality Subcommittee, which advises the Planning and Programming Committee on region-wide and watershed-level water quality issues. Staff will prepare NOACA’s first ever Strategic Water Quality Plan; update Ohio’s Clean Water 2000 Water Quality Plan for the first time in over a decade; provide technical support to communities in the NOACA region and help them meet federal requirements; help local designated management agencies update their facility planning area and community sewer option maps; and enhance regional storm water management by assisting local governments with best management practices for preventing storm water pollution.
Active Transportation Planning
This project supports the region’s long-range transportation plan by developing recommendations to improve transportation by modes other than single occupancy vehicles. These modes include walking, biking, wheelchair, small-wheeled transport and transit. NOACA staff will continue to conduct bicycle and pedestrian counts, update regional bike map data and support the multimodal efforts of partner agencies.

Technical Assistance and Project Development
Technical Assistance and Project Development helps communities and public agencies plan and implement transportation improvements that strengthen community livability. The assistance for these projects comes in the form of NOACA staff and resources. NOACA helps local jurisdictions plan and develop specific transportation projects and programs. In FY 2016, staff will develop a transit-oriented development scorecard and implementation plan that will guide future development in the region.

Regional Safety Program
NOACA’s Regional Safety Program aims to reduce fatalities and injuries on the region’s transportation system for all users through the five E’s of transportation safety: education, emergency medical service, enforcement, engineering and evaluation. Staff activities include developing a Safety Data Analysis, an Annual Report and conducting road safety assessments at high-crash locations throughout the region in coordination with ODOT.

Transportation System Management & Operations
The Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) program coordinates development, implementation and performance strategies to relieve congestion, optimize infrastructure investments, promote travel options and improve air quality. It serves as part of NOACA’s ongoing expansion of performance measurement and monitoring efforts. In coordination with NOACA’s Safety and Operations Council, staff will administer a Signal Timing and Optimization Program (STOP) program to assist local communities with the safe and efficient operation of their signal timing systems.

Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative
NOACA’s Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) program provides federal funding assistance to communities and public agencies for the planning and implementation of transportation improvements that strengthen community livability. The TLCI program provides support to explore innovative concepts and plans that improve multimodal transportation across the region through the administration of planning and implementation grants.
PROGRAMMING

Transportation Improvement Program
NOACA’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the implementation tool for the region’s long-range transportation plan. It is a four-year capital budget for the region’s transportation infrastructure projects. The TIP is updated every two years by staff and amended quarterly by NOACA’s Board of Directors. In FY 2016, staff will update the agency’s Regional Transportation Investment (RTIP) Policy with project selection criteria and performance measures. The RTIP is NOACA’s policy for planning, programming and prioritizing federal aid investments.

Project Planning Review and Intergovernmental Review and Consultation
Project Planning Review (PPR) is a comprehensive review that projects must undergo before being placed on the NOACA long-range transportation plan or TIP. This process includes review by NOACA staff, committees, the public and Board of Directors. Intergovernmental Review and Consultation (IGRC) is a component to the PPR process that solicits involvement from governmental bodies potentially affected by a proposed project.

RESEARCH, ANALYSIS & POLICY

Research and Analysis
For this project, staff will mine and develop data for use in NOACA’s transportation model, traffic analysis, environmental studies and more. Activities in FY 2016 include: developing a NOACA Fact Book that compiles useful population, economic and transportation data; creating a socioeconomic profile atlas that analyzes data to support transportation planning; and conducting a socioeconomic multimodal neighborhood study to use as a template for future studies to help determine neighborhood transportation needs.

Transportation Planning Applications and Analysis
Staff will research and conduct technical data analysis, visualization, transportation impact assessment, and scenario modeling to support NOACA’s transportation planning efforts as well as provide customized data and analysis services to planners and member communities. Work under this project will include compiling Environmental Justice (EJ) data sets to help insure greater compliance with federal EJ requirements and to assist with outreach to EJ populations.

Transportation Forecasting and Modeling
This project develops and maintains regional transportation models to assist in planning for the region’s future transportation needs and the development of the long-range transportation plan. NOACA’s travel demand model is a technical tool to forecast daily traffic volumes, transit ridership, truck volumes, and daily vehicle miles traveled for NOACA’s five-county region.
Transportation Planning Applications and Analysis
This project will focus on the technical aspects of data analysis, visualization, transportation impact assessment and scenario modeling to support NOACA’s transportation planning efforts and to provide customized data and analysis services to planners and local communities. This project also introduces best practices, effective analytical measures, and methods and tools useful for the development of plans, programs and projects.

Demographic and Socioeconomic Forecasting
NOACA staff will update its forecasting models with population and employment figures that are consistent with the latest available Ohio Department of Development projections. Staff will also prepare a technical memo on modeling for employment, population and household forecasting, and provide technical support to communities and the public when requested.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

External Relations
This project supports NOACA’s mission and goals through strategic communication, stakeholder engagement, government relations and administrative support. The planned activities build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, reinforce the NOACA brand, and publicize NOACA’s work products and reports. In FY 2016, staff will prepare a Media Relations and Marketing Plan that goes beyond the traditional communications plan in an effort to strategically guide NOACA’s external messaging. Activities also include managing the NOACA website, producing an annual report, and hosting an annual meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Work Program Development and Compliance
NOACA staff keeps the Board of Directors and committees informed about transportation projects, programs and funding issues that affect the region. Staff monitors and develops current and future work programs to meet regional transportation goals and federal requirements. NOACA prepares an Overall Work Program annually and summarizes the transportation and environmental activities to be completed during the fiscal year. Staff also works to meet all state and federal reporting requirements, including work program completion reports, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice reports and other documents.