

NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Governing Board Members

FROM: Howard R. Maier
Executive Director

DATE: February 10, 2009

RE: **RESOLUTION No. 2009-004: NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT PLAN COORDINATION**

The U.S. Congress and the Obama Administration continue to work on the National Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Plan. The House and Senate versions need to be reconciled. The bill may be signed as early as President's Day.

It is anticipated that a final version will require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) obligate a portion of the transportation-related stimulus funds within 90 days after the signing of the bill. Our role appears to be administration of Title 23 programs, which means that NOACA will be responsible solely for federally eligible transportation projects. We are uncertain if we will have a role in administration of other infrastructure projects.

Resolution No. 2008-040 includes two exhibits of projects for stimulus program consideration. Exhibit I is a list of transportation projects already on the Board's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Exhibit II contains transportation and other infrastructure projects, such as sanitary sewer repairs. Exhibit II is a list of projects that, while not necessarily NOACA projects, are deemed by local project sponsors to be important infrastructure investments. As is stated on our web site, this exhibit is not intended to be a fully comprehensive list. Given the uncertain nature of the stimulus program, however, we invited project sponsors to continue sending us their projects.

In all likelihood, the ready projects on Exhibit I will be able to use much of the anticipated transportation stimulus funds. Staff has been working with sponsors of these Board-approved projects to help make this happen.

However, we request the flexibility to access projects from Exhibit II if necessary. Since we do not currently know the amount of funds NOACA will receive, we may need to process Title 23 eligible projects from Exhibit II that meet the readiness criteria but are not currently on the TIP. (For example Exhibit II contains the Lorain County Commuter Rail Alternatives Analysis being promoted by Congresswoman Betty Sutton. This project is not on the TIP, but it is eligible and appears to meet the readiness criteria.)

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The Governing Board cannot add projects using stimulus funds to the TIP until the federal bill is signed into law. (The funding source does not currently exist.) To help ensure the processing and receipt of federal funds to this region, **Resolution No. 2009-004** authorizes the Executive Director to amend the TIP as needed and conduct clerical and administrative tasks, while coordinating with the Regional Transportation Investment Subcommittee (RTIS). We think this is imperative given the very short time frame. Any projects amended to the TIP will be subsequently processed through Project Planning Review, which includes public involvement and intergovernmental review and consultation. The Governing Board will be given a full report on all projects expedited under the authorization provided by this resolution

It is important that Northeast Ohio get its fair share of stimulus funds, and that we have the ability and flexibility to move quickly in a way that is most advantageous to our region. Please contact me if you have any questions.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-004
(NATIONAL ECONOMIC
RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT
PLAN COORDINATION)

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 five Ohio counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina; and

WHEREAS, as the MPO, NOACA is responsible for Northeast Ohio's federal-aid transportation infrastructure investments under federal law; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress and the Obama Administration are now working to craft a stimulus economic recovery and reinvestment bill that is expected to provide significant funding for the national and regional transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Exhibit I of Resolution No. 2008-040 is a list of Board-approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects recommended for economic stimulus funding; and

WHEREAS, Exhibit II of Resolution No. 2008-040 is an illustrative list of projects, some of which may be eligible for federal-aid transportation funding, but may not be currently on the TIP; and

WHEREAS, the federal bill is expected to be signed before the March 2009 Governing Board meeting, and it is anticipated that the bill will provide for 100-percent federal funding which would have a significant positive impact on the finances of local project sponsors; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board cannot amend the TIP until the federal bill is signed into law; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board's Regional Transportation Investment Policy (RTIP) contains policies that allow expediting TIP amendments outside the published schedule for projects of significant economic impact; and

WHEREAS, the RTIP also provides for the TIP to be amended at any time for clerical reasons; and

WHEREAS, projects amended to the TIP in this manner are also processed consistent with the Governing Board policies on public involvement and project planning review; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Investment Committee (RTIS), as stated in the Code of Regulations, has the responsibility to manage the TIP in accordance with Governing Board policies.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-004
(NATIONAL ECONOMIC
RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT
PLAN COORDINATION)

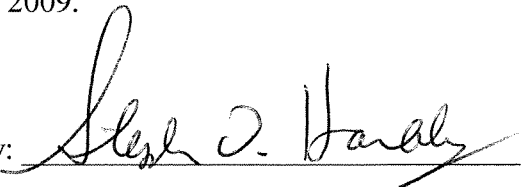
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of thirty-eight principal elected and other officials of general purpose local government throughout and within the Counties of Cuyahoga,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

SECTION 1: Upon coordination with the Regional Transportation Investment Subcommittee (RTIS), the NOACA Executive Director is authorized to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and perform clerical and administrative tasks consistent with NOACA policies and procedures to ensure that the NOACA region and its member counties, communities and agencies achieve the largest possible allocation of federal economic stimulus funds for this region.

SECTION 2: The Executive Director will inform the Governing Board of actions taken to ensure the processing and delivery of federal economic stimulus funds.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency adopted this 13th day of February 2009.

Secretary: 

Date Signed: 2/13/09