

**Emergency Funding for Public Transit
TAC Recommendations to the NOACA Governing Board (8/15/08)**

- 1) Thank the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for their assistance with this emergency.
- 2) Point out the emergency nature of the request.
- 3) Use \$10.5 million of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds strategically to help all the region's transit agencies with current situation.
 - a) These funds will either be used for CMAQ-eligible transit projects, or returned to ODOT so they can be swapped for other funds that will more appropriately assist transit agencies.
- 4) Per ODOT staff assurances, the transit agency assistance funds will stay within the NOACA region.
- 5) If some of the 10.5 million in CMAQ is returned to ODOT to be converted or swapped for other funds that could more appropriately assist the transit agencies, request that ODOT use those returned CMAQ funds within the NOACA counties to help regional air quality.
- 6) Request the transit agencies use the funds to help minimize the impact of service cuts.
- 7) Direct staff and transit council to develop a regional distribution formula for the funds to be decided upon by September Governing Board mailout (9/3/08).
- 8) Direct staff and transit council to work with ODOT on selecting the projects/programs for both the urban and rural systems.
- 9) Request that a statewide task force of ODOT, Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC), and Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) be set up to develop long term solutions to the problems.
- 10) Direct staff to advocate using CMAQ for operations and for increased state and federal funding for transit.
- 11) Authorize Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) technical amendments, if needed.