NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transit Council Members
   India Birdsong, CEO and General Manager, GCRTA
   Ben Capelle, General Manager, Laketran
   James Cordes, Lorain County Administrator, Lorain County Transit
   Shannon Rine, Director, Medina County Public Transit
   Joann Santilli, Interim Transit Director, Geauga County Transit
   David Short, District Planning Engineer, ODOT District 12

FROM: Ben Capelle, Chair

DATE: February 14, 2020

RE: Transit Council
   Friday, February 21, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
   NOACA Offices
   1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

I look forward to seeing you on Friday, February 21st, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the NOACA offices.
NOACA Transit Council Meeting
Friday, February 21, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
NOACA Office – 1299 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio  44114
Phone: (216) 241-2414; website: www.noaca.org

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of Transit Council Meeting held on November 15, 2019  1-1

2. Public Comments on Current Agenda Items  Oral

3. Chair’s/Executive Director’s Report  Oral

4. Action Items
   a. None

5. Presentation / Discussion Items
   a. Future Action/Discussion
      i. None
   b. Information/Discussion
      i. TLCI Program Update  5-1
      ii. Regional Strategic Transit Plan Update  5-5
      iii. Focus Areas  5-7
      iv. CUZA allocation Update  Oral

6. Reports/Updates
   a. Agency Updates (Roundtable Discussion)  Oral

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING: Friday, May 15, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Ms. India Birdsong, Chair of the Transit Council, convened the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Meeting Minutes
A motion was made by Mr. David Short to approve the minutes of the Transit Council meeting held on August 16, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Andrea Aaby. The motion passed by voice vote.

Public Comments
No public comments were made at this meeting.

Chair's / Executive Director's Report
No report was given at this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS
No action items were presented at this meeting.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Project Planning Review (PPR) / Intergovernmental Review and Consultation (IGRC); 3rd Quarter State Fiscal Year 2020 LOR-CR 658-0.00 (Cleveland Street Improvements)
Mr. Randy Lane provided background on PPR and reviewed the following project: Cleveland Street in Elyria (LOR SR 657) – PID 110986. Mr. Lane stated that the project involves converting Cleveland Street from 4 lanes to 3 lanes, with 5’ bike lanes and converting Cleveland Street/Gulf Road/East Bridge Street intersection from a traffic signal to a single-lane roundabout and adding new sidewalks, crosswalks, and curbs. The existing bus stops will remain. Mr. Lane mentioned that the estimated total cost of the project is $7,206,891.

Mr. Lane reviewed project comments from NOACA staff. He said staff will coordinate with the sponsor accordingly.

Ms. Birdsong asked if NOACA received input from citizens in the community who would be impacted by the project. Mr. Lane said no, but noted that the City of Elyria installed and advocated for complete streets along several of its downtown routes, which have been received favorably by the community.
TLCI Program Update
Mr. Jim Thompson provided background on the TLCI program. He stated that NOACA received 7 requests totaling $1.1 million for planning studies and 16 requests totaling $4.8 million for implementation projects. He mentioned that applicants made presentations on their implementation projects at NOACA offices on October 23-24. He stated that the annual budget for the TLCI program is $2 million (up to $500,000 for planning studies and the remaining amount for implementation projects). Mr. Thompson presented lists of planning studies and implementation projects being considered for funding this round. He mentioned that NOACA is going to do three regional planning studies totaling $600,000 and will use TLCI planning funds.

Mr. Thompson stated that TLCI project recommendations will be presented to the Planning and Programming Committee in January 2020 and the Board of Directors is anticipated to make final recommendations in March 2020.

Ms. Aaby asked how NOACA evaluates its own projects. Mr. Thompson said points are allocated based on how projects align with the goals and objectives of NOACA’s Regional Strategic Plan and TLCI program. He noted that input from the advisory councils, Transportation Subcommittee and the Planning and Programming Committee will be taken into consideration.

Ms. Maribeth Feke asked if NOACA will use a consultant team if the project is funded. Mr. Thompson said yes.

ACTIVATE Plan Survey
Ms. Katie Sieb stated that NOACA is in the process of working on its Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan and has launched the ACTIVATE Plan Survey. She encouraged members to go to NOACA.org/ACTIVATE, copy the survey link and share it with people in their networks. Ms. Sieb mentioned that feedback from the survey will be used to form the basis of NOACA’s plan. She said follow-up materials will be made available.

Ms. Birdsong asked how long the survey will be available online. Ms. Sieb said the survey will be available for as long as it takes staff to get substantial input.

Ms. Birdsong asked if the survey includes questions about scooters. Ms. Sieb said yes, but noted that the survey is focused on bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Regional Strategic Transit Plan Update
Mr. Ken Sislak provided an update on NOACA’s Regional Strategic Transit Plan. He reviewed the following:

- Project goals and objectives
- Work plan
- Data assembly (existing conditions)
- NOACA region population trends
- Northeast Ohio population density (map)
- Job hub locations in the region (map)
- Baseline transit services
- Cleveland RTA annual ridership and farebox receipts (charts)
- Cleveland RTA sales and use tax annual receipts (chart)
- Funding gap for capital improvements
• 2017 total funds expended for Lake, Lorain and Medina counties (charts)
• Statewide transit sales and use tax revenue (table)
• Action / Implementation Plan

Ms. Aaby stated that the timing of NOACA’s Regional Strategic Transit Plan does not seem ideal for Laketran. She said Laketran will be undergoing a lot of changes next year, so NOACA’s plan could potentially be outdated soon. Ms. Aaby said it was good to hear that NOACA is considering integrating transit systems outside the region since those agencies serve Cuyahoga County. She suggested including SARTA in the plan, as well.

Ms. Aaby conveyed the following concerns/questions from Mr. Ben Capelle:

• NOACA should be cognizant of any potential political impacts of the Regional Strategic Transit Plan.

• How will funding from the TAM Plan be distributed through NOACA?

• Will the Regional Strategic Transit Plan impact how funding from NOACA flows to the transit agencies?

Ms. Kelley Britt stated that NOACA is not looking to change how it funds transit agencies, but is looking to be more efficient. She said the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) determines what transit agencies have to do under the TAM Plan.

Ms. Feke asked how NOACA will get data from other agencies, such as AMATS and NEFCO, and how will NOACA’s plan relate to ODOT’s Access Ohio 2045 Plan. Ms. Britt stated that NOACA staff has just started collecting data and has not thought about how to plug into the Access Ohio 2045 Plan. Ms. Britt said staff will get data currently available from agencies outside the NOACA region and will request additional information later, if needed.

Ms. Feke asked Ms. Britt to comment on the public involvement for NOACA’s Regional Strategic Transit Plan. Ms. Britt said NOACA moved the timeline up so it can piggyback on the Long-range Transportation Plan (LRTP) meetings.

Ms. Aaby asked if NOACA will be duplicating NEORide’s efforts or will NEORide be at the table. Mr. Sislak stated that NEORide is at the table in terms of governance and coordination of services.

Mr. Shannon Rine asked if small and large agencies are considered as a whole or separately when considering growth.

Mr. Sislak stated that regional data is looked at as a whole and each transit agency is looked at to determine how to integrate the services better to achieve cost savings.

Mr. Rine mentioned that Medina County Public Transit (MCPT) does not have a local match and is not heavily funded locally. Mr. Sislak stated that MCPT is heavily funded compared to Lorain County Transit.

Mr. Rine mentioned that MCPT does not have the ability to collect all the data needed for NOACA’s Regional Strategic Transit Plan because it has limited staff. Mr. Sislak mentioned that data has been obtained through public sources.
Mr. Rine expressed some concern that there could be duplication of efforts between NOACA and NEORide when it comes to collecting data. Ms. Aaby shared Mr. Rine’s concern.

Mr. Sislak stated that NOACA is not competing with anyone, it is looking to find out what makes sense when organizing the region’s entire transit system so there is a concise, cohesive coordinated plan.

Ms. Kathy Sarli announced that Ms. Grace Gallucci is planning to set up a meeting with all the CEOs of the transit agencies in the NOACA region.

Reports/Updates - Roundtable Discussion

Medina County Public Transit (MCPT)
Mr. Rine provided the following update on MCPT:

- MCPT has been part of the EZfare Launch
- MCPT was awarded funding through the Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) program and will use those funds for validators / Cradlepoint routers on buses
- MCPT’s onboard system will be used to collect data
- MCPT is going to get a new camera system
- Audits have been done, currently being done and will be done at MCPT

Mr. Rine stated that the biggest barrier for MCPT is meeting FTA compliance with limited staff.

Geauga County Transit (GCT)
Ms. JoAnna Santilli announced that she is the Director of GCT.

Laketran
Ms. Aaby stated that a one-quarter of one percent sales tax levy was passed in Lake County on November 5th. She mentioned that Laketran held a meeting two days after the election to discuss what it would like to do with the new operating revenue. Ms. Aaby stated that Laketran will be working on a Public Participation Plan next year to get community input on potential new services.

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA)
Ms. Birdsong stated that select members of GCRTA’s staff visited Capitol Hill and met with 16 individuals, including senators and representatives over two days to discuss rail car funding and received a lot of support. Ms. Birdsong mentioned that GCRTA staff will be visiting other agencies that may be entering into the same predicament in 10-15 years.

Ms. Feke stated that GCRTA’s System Redesign Survey and meetings were completed around October 31, 2019. She noted that studies and recommendations from the consultants will be presented to the GCRTA board on December 17th and will be used to prepare the agency’s strategic plan. She also noted that additional surveys and work will be done next year for the plan, as well.

Ms. Feke stated that the Rail Car Study, Economic Impact Analysis, and the GCP study were done and she will be submitting a grant application to FTA later in the day. She noted that if GCRTA receives the grant, the funds will be used for a joint development.
Mr. Rine asked if public transit can expect another good year.

Dr. Floun’say Caver stated that the ODOT administration does not believe funding for public transit will go below $70 million, but there is a battle between all the general fund items. He said the administration has not discussed what may happen in the next biennium. Dr. Caver noted that the next allocation of grants will happen fairly soon and awards will be distributed in June or July, so transit agencies will have enough time to do projects.

Mr. David Short mentioned that Mr. Chuck Dyer, Administrator, ODOT Office of Transit, spoke at the Access Ohio public meeting on November 14th and seemed hopeful about the $70 million, even though the State Legislature makes the funding decisions.

Dr. Caver stated that ODOT will be looking to quantify the effects of the projects it funds. He noted that a portal will be created so transit agencies can report data.

Ms. Birdsong mentioned that when GCRTA staff visited Washington, D.C. there was a lot of discussion on Capitol Hill about the state of good repair formula. She said tiered funding was also discussed for big, medium and small agencies so there might be some discretion about what the competition is for the funds.

**Old Business**
No old business was discussed at this meeting.

**New Business**
No new business was discussed at this meeting.

**Adjournment**
The next Transit Council meeting will be held at the NOACA offices on February 21, 2020. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.
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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
CHAIR’S/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
AGENDA ITEM
No. 4

ACTION ITEMS
Agenda Item
No. 5

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Transit Council

FROM: Kathleen Sarli, Director of Planning

DATE: February 14, 2020

RE: Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Update

ACTION REQUESTED
No action is requested at this time. This item is included for information and discussion only.

BACKGROUND
NOACA’s Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Program provides assistance to communities for integrated transportation and land use planning and projects that strengthen community livability. TLCI advances the goals of NOACA’s Regional Strategic Plan by:
- Developing transportation projects that provide more travel options
- Promoting reinvestment in underutilized or vacant/abandoned properties
- Supporting economic development
- Ensuring that the benefits of growth and change are available to all members of a community
- Enhancing regional cohesion
- Providing people with safe and reliable transportation choices

The TLCI Program has two components: The TLCI Planning Studies Program and the TLCI Implementation Program. The TLCI Planning Studies Program assists communities to develop transportation planning studies that facilitate and promote sustainable development, multimodal transportation, and complete and green streets. The TLCI Implementation Program provides funding assistance for communities to implement priority projects identified in TLCI or TLCI-like community developed plans.

An application round was opened for both planning studies and implementation projects on August 29, 2019. On October 11, 2019, NOACA received 23 requests for funding: 7 planning study requests totaling about $1.1 million in funding and 16 implementation project requests totaling about $4.8 million in funding. All requests are being evaluated based on the criteria established in the TLCI Policy. Recommendations which were presented and approved at the January Planning and Programming Committee are attached.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
This recommendations include $2,020,500 ($2M annual allocation and $20,500 in carryover) in available funding for the 2020 TLCI program to be awarded to the recommended projects. The TLCI program is funded by an annual set aside from NOACA’s Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funds during the development of NOACA’s annual Overall Work Program and biennial TIP. The annual TLCI budget is $2,000,000. Up to $500,000 has historically been available for planning studies, and the remaining $1,500,000 for implementation projects. In order to meet the scope needs of the three regionally focused planning studies recommended this round, NOACA is seeking an exception to approved TLCI annual budget
to allow for $750,000 in TLCI funds for those planning studies, with the remaining $1,270,000 allocated to implementation projects. The overall budget is not impacted.

**CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS**

Pending Board approval, NOACA staff will work with project sponsors to implement the projects.

KS/jt/8487c

Attachment 1 – NOACA SFY2020 TLCI Planning Study Recommendations

Attachment 2 – NOACA SFY2020 TLCI Implementation Project Recommendations
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MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Transit Council
FROM: Kathleen Sarli, Director of Planning
DATE: February 14, 2020
RE: Regional Strategic Transit Plan

ACTION REQUESTED
No action is requested at this time. This item is for presentation and information.

BACKGROUND
On March 8th, 2019 NOACA issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Regional Strategic Transit Plan. The proposals were due on April 17th, 2019. NOACA received two proposals. Vendors were scored on four criteria: project approach, experience, qualifications and cost. After evaluating the proposals, the NOACA review team selected the vendor with the highest scores which was AECOM Technical Services, Inc.

Progress report since last Transit Council meeting:
- Bi-weekly check-in calls with NOACA on 12/2/2019, 12/16/2019, 1/6/2020, 1/17/2020, and 2/3/2020
- List of stakeholders to be interviewed was complied by NOACA and consultant
- Follow-up on written data requests of were conducted with transit operating agencies.
- The interview guide was reviewed by NOACA and completed. Interviews were scheduled.
- In-person interviews were conducted: two with Lorain County, Geauga County, two with Lake County, Cuyahoga county, GCRTA (Planning), the City of Cleveland (Planning), and University Circle (Development). Additional interviews were conducted electronically: Dr. Yvan Lendel, two with Medina County, The City of Cleveland/GCRTA Board.
- The conceptual draft of aspirational service corridors was presented for comment in Google Maps format.
- Interview summaries were prepared for analytical and future reference purposes.
- Existing conditions highlights were reviewed with NOACA in the bi-weekly call of January 6.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
The Board approved not to exceed amount for consultant services is $148,916. This project is funded by the Office of Statewide Planning and Research grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS
NOACA staff will continue to work with consultant to fulfill contract tasks.
KS/kb/8487c
TO: NOACA Transit Council
FROM: Kathleen Sarli, Director of Planning
DATE: February 14, 2020
RE: Focus Areas for 2020

ACTION REQUESTED
No action is requested at this time. This item is for information and presentation only.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION
As the parent Committee to the Transit Council and Transportation Subcommittee, The Planning and Programming Committee discussed and approved the Transportation Subcommittee focus areas for 2020 at its January meeting. The focus areas are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Focus Areas</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAVE Plan Implementation</td>
<td>New for 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Range Transportation Plan Development</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional classification recommendations</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus areas for all the Committees and Subcommittees are developed at the beginning of each calendar year. Since the Councils support the work of the Transportation Subcommittee, specific focus areas for the Councils are not designated, but agendas are developed emphasizing the Transportation Subcommittee’s focus areas.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
There is no financial impact for this decision.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS
Meeting agendas and materials will be crafted to accomplish the identified focus areas for the Council.

KS/8488c
REPORTS/UPDATES
Old Business
Agenda Item
No.  8

NEW BUSINESS
Agenda Item
No. 9

ADJOURN