NORTHEAST OHIO AREA WIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: September 6, 2019

RE: Resolution 2019-040: Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission Membership

ACTION REQUESTED
The Board is asked to approve ex-officio Board membership for the Executive Director / Chairman of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC).

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION
At the May Governance Committee meeting, it was suggested that NOACA consider offering ex officio Board membership to the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission. That conversation continued at the August Governance Committee meeting, where the committee recommended this item to the Executive Committee. Staff will present background information on the item, including impacts on general membership and board structures of peer organizations relative to participation of tolling agencies on MPO boards.

Currently, besides the NOACA region, the Ohio Turnpike touches Toledo (TMACOG), Erie County (ERMPO), Akron (AMATS) and Youngstown (EASTGATE). None of those metropolitan planning organizations have an Ohio Turnpike presence on their policy boards. However, NOACA is uniquely situated as an MPO relative to the OTIC because, in addition to the Ohio Turnpike running through portions of Cuyahoga and Lorain counties, its headquarters are located in the NOACA region (Cuyahoga County). Moreover, OTIC is a partner with NOACA on the Hyperloop feasibility study, and has provided funding for the project.

Providing ex-officio membership to the Executive Director / Chairman of the OTIC membership will give the NOACA Board and the OTIC the opportunity to further engage in discussions of mutual interests, but will not affect the Board voting structure since the seat is non-voting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS
If the resolution is approved by the Board of Directors, the Executive Director/Chairman of the OTIC will become a nonvoting, ex officio member of the Board without further action needed. In addition, however, in order to more formally memorialize this appointment in the Code of Regulations, Section 4.2(g) of the Code
of Regulations will be amended and forwarded to NOACA’s five member Counties for ratification prior to January 1, 2020. Ratification of the amendment of Section 4.2(g) is recommended, but not necessary to appoint the Executive Director/Chairman of the OTIC to the NOACA Board.

GG/jg/3079
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina, and the City of Cleveland; and the areawide water quality management agency for the same region; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Turnpike is a major interstate highway carrying multi-state traffic through the region and runs through two counties in the NOACA region; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Turnpike & Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) is headquartered in the NOACA region, and; and

WHEREAS, Many NOACA area roads and bridges provide connectivity to and from the Ohio Turnpike, and Turnpike traffic significantly affects other NOACA area roadways; and

WHEREAS, NOACA has partnered with OTIC on an important transformational project, specifically the Hyperloop, which may utilize the Ohio Turnpike as Right-of-Way; and

WHEREAS, the stated mission of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission is, “To be the industry leader in providing safe and efficient transportation services to our customers, communities and partners.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of 45 principal officials serving general purpose local governments throughout and within the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina and the City of Cleveland that:

Section 1. The NOACA Board of Directors hereby appoints the Executive Director / Chairman of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission as an ex officio member of the NOACA Board, and the NOACA Code of Regulations will be amended to include the Executive Director / Chairman of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission as an ex officio member of the NOACA Board of Directors. This change requires the approval of the five counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina, from whom ratification is sought prior to the next regularly scheduled Governance Committee meeting on November 8, 2019. If written concurrence is not received by that date, the Governance Committee will consider whether an extension to the ratification period is warranted, otherwise this change to Article IV of the NOACA Code of Regulations will be void and of no effect.

Section 2. The Executive Director is authorized to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate federal, state and local agencies.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency adopted this 13th day of September, 2019.

Secretary:

Date Signed: 9-13-2019