NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: September 6, 2019

RE: Resolution No. 2019-046: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program Recommendations

ACTION REQUESTED
The Board of Directors is asked to approve Resolution 2019-046, which approves the regional priority of CMAQ projects to be implemented in SFY 2024-2025.

A summary of project applications were presented to the NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee and Transportation Subcommittee at their respective meetings on June 21, 2019, and for recommendation to the Planning and Programming Committee at their July 12, 2019 meeting.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION
The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program provides funding for transportation projects and programs that reduce congestion and improve air quality for areas that do not meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particular matter. NOACA expects to receive approximately $30 million for SFY 2024-2025 based on historical funding allocations.

NOACA announced the solicitation for new projects in April 2019 and applications were due May 2019. NOACA received 10 applications totaling over $30 million. NOACA staff has initiated evaluation and scoring of each CMAQ application in accordance with the statewide program policy project scoring criteria. The criterion, developed by the eight large MPO's comprising the statewide program, includes:

1. Project Type (10 points)
2. Cost Effectiveness (20 points)
3. Other Benefits (10 points)
4. Existing Level of Service (15 points)
5. Positive Impact on Level of Service (15 points)
6. Status of Project (10 points)
7. Non-Federal Match Commitments (10 points)
8. Regional Priority (10, 7, 4, 2 points based on top four project priorities)
9. History of Project Delivery (up to -10 points)

Criteria # 8, Regional Priority, is the only one in which NOACA has the ability to control the assignment of points. As previously directed by the Board, these points have been applied strategically by staff to maximize CMAQ funding to the region.
Based on that approach, staff is recommending that the bonus points be assigned to projects that provide the greatest, furthest reaching benefits to the region’s air quality and multimodal transportation system, but that also strategically address the mechanics of the scoring system. Specifically, it would not be effective to assign bonus points to projects that would already score well, for example bus replacements. In accordance with this approach, our preliminary analysis demonstrates that bonus points would be assigned to the following four projects:

10 points – REGIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS
7 points – GCRTA BLUE/GREEN RAIL LINE SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS
4 points – SOM CENTER RD MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY, WILLOUGHBY
2 points – RICHMOND ROAD MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY, BEDFORD

Proposed regional priority bonus points have been incorporated into the preliminary draft evaluation scores for all projects. A summary of the recommendations with preliminary draft evaluation scores is attached to this memo.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
A total of approximately $28.8 million for transportation projects that improve air quality and reduce congestion in the NOACA region will be recommended by the Statewide CMAQ Committee for final approval in November 2019.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS
With Board with approval, staff will submit scored applications with funding recommendations to the Statewide CMAQ Program Committee for evaluation in October 2019 with approvals expected in November 2019.

Attachment 1: SFY2014-2025 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Recommendations

GG/rl/8084b
### Attachment 1: SFY2024-2025 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Applications

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT SCORES WITH REGIONAL PRIORITY POINTS ASSIGNED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Sponsor Agency</th>
<th>Project Name and Description</th>
<th>Project Category</th>
<th>Total Points*</th>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
<th>CMAQ $ Requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended for Submittal to Statewide CMAQ Committee</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUY</td>
<td>GCRTA</td>
<td>GCRTA 2024-2025 BUS REPLACEMENT PROGRAM 23 replacement 60-Ft CNG buses for GCRTA's 3200 (16) and 3250 (7) series fleets (Only those vehicles included for FY 2025 in the GCRTA application - not the 45 40' buses requested for 2026).</td>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>$20,750,000</td>
<td>$16,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAK</td>
<td>LAKETRAN</td>
<td>LAKETRAN VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS Replace 24 light transit/cutaway vehicles and 15 vans.</td>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>$4,760,000</td>
<td>$3,808,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUY</td>
<td>GCRTA</td>
<td>BLUE AND GREEN RAIL LINE SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS Improve GCRTA Blue and Green Line passenger shelters at approximately 20 stations.</td>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REG</td>
<td>NOACA</td>
<td>ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS Installation of electric vehicle charging stations at regional locations determined by NOACA's regional EV siting plan</td>
<td>Alternative Vehicles</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUY</td>
<td>BEDFORD HEIGHTS</td>
<td>RICHMOND ROAD MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY One mile long 10' wide multi-purpose facility, adjacent to east side existing curb, along Bedford Heights' high density job corridor, from intersections of Richmond Rd. and Miles south to the Solon Corp Limit.</td>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>$634,440</td>
<td>$634,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAK</td>
<td>WILLOUGHBY</td>
<td>SR 91-SOM CENTER ROAD MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY 10' Pedestrian/Bike Multipurpose facility will begin on SR84 at the Wickliffe border and proceed east to Halle Dr., then proceed north and east along the south side of Halle Drive. At SR 91 it will cross to the east side of SR91 will proceed north to US20 / Euclid Avenue.</td>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>$2,537,879</td>
<td>$1,845,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUY</td>
<td>GLENWILLOW</td>
<td>BROADWAY-RICHMOND INTERSECTION RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT Reconstruct the intersection to widen Richmond Rd, modify a through-left lane to both a through lane + a left turn lane; signal timing improvements.</td>
<td>Intersection</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>$1,711,610</td>
<td>$1,369,288</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECOMMENDED TOTAL** $35,393,929 $28,857,458

| **Not Recommended for Submittal to the Statewide CMAQ Committee** |
| GEA    | CHARDON       | CITY OF CHARDON TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE Upgrade19 signalized intersections within the City of Chardon into a modern, operation system. | Signal | 31 | $1,627,340 | $741,170 |
| LOR    | LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS | SHEFFIELD VILLAGE CONNECTOR Connect missing links of French Creek and Black River Trails. | Bike | 26 | $500,000 | $400,000 |
| CUY    | CLEVELAND METROPARKS | WEST CREEK GREENWAY Construct a portion of the West Creek Greenway from the Watershed Stewardship Center/W. Ridgewood Drive to Grantwood Drive in Parma. Building a new pedestrian bridge over W. Ridgewood Drive and installing +/- 0.5 mile of 10-foot-wide, ADA-compliant all purpose trail. | Bike | 21 | $1,800,000 | $1,422,000 |

**Updated 7/2/19**

**NOT RECOMMENDED TOTAL** $3,927,340 $2,563,170

**GRAND TOTAL** $39,321,269 $31,420,628

*Total Points do not include the Cost Effectiveness Points, which will be applied by the Statewide CMAQ Committee*
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 Department of Transportation (ODOT) allocates Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to urban areas of Ohio for transportation projects and programs that reduce congestion and improve air quality for areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particular matter; and

WHEREAS, in November 2012, the statewide CMAQ program replaced the individual programs historically administered by the eight largest MPOs; and

WHEREAS, these MPOs represent the greater regions Akron, Canton Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown; and

WHEREAS, in April 2019, NOACA announced the solicitation of applications for new projects targeted for implementation for state fiscal year 2024 and 2025; and

WHEREAS, NOACA expects to receive approximately $30 million in SFY 2024-2025 for new projects based on historical allocations; and

WHEREAS, NOACA staff has completed evaluation and scoring of each CMAQ application in accordance with the statewide program policy project scoring criteria; and

WHEREAS, NOACA has the ability to control the assignment of Regional Priority points in the denominations of 10, 7, 4, and 2 points to four regionally significant projects, as required by the statewide CMAQ program policy; and

WHEREAS, options for the Board’s assignment of these points were presented to the Planning and Programming Committee for recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Programming Committee recommended that points be applied strategically by staff to maximize CMAQ funding to the region; and

WHEREAS, staff recommended that the bonus points be assigned to projects that provide the greatest, furthest reaching benefits to the region’s air quality and multimodal transportation system:

10 points – REGIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS
7 points – GCRTA BLUE/GREEN RAIL LINE SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS
4 points – SOM CENTER RD MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY, WILLoughby
2 points – RICHMOND ROAD MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY, BEDFORD

In accordance with this recommendation, bonus points would be assigned accordingly; and

WHEREAS, staff determined this recommendation in careful review of all projects against factors associated with greatest regional air quality benefits and the limited amount of statewide program funding available; and
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: Regional priority points will be assigned to CMAQ project applications.

Section 2: The recommended slate of projects contained in Attachment 1 will be submitted for funding approval to the Ohio Statewide Urban CMAQ Committee.

Section 3: The Executive Director is authorized to transmit certified copies of this resolution to 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: [Signature]

Date Signed: 9-13-2019