MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: June 5, 2020

RE: Resolution 2020-024 – Project Funding Request – Funding Reallocation for Towpath Phase IV Project

ACTION REQUESTED
The Board of Directors is asked to reallocate $550,400 of NOACA funding for trailhead scope improvements for the Towpath Trail Phase IV project.

The Finance and Audit Committee recommended this action, and the Executive Committee approved placement of the item on the Board of Directors’ agenda pending coordination and agreement between the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County on sponsor responsibilities. Since that time, Cuyahoga County has withdrawn their request to act as a sponsor, therefore the City of Cleveland will be the sponsor and the project will be administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION
The Cleveland Towpath Trail, sponsored jointly by the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works and the City of Cleveland, will complete a 110 mile bikeway, extending from New Philadelphia to Lake Erie in Cleveland. The Phase IV of the Towpath Trail, from Tremont/Literary Trailhead to Canal Basin Park, is the final of multiple phases implemented in Cuyahoga County. In June 2018, the NOACA Board of Directors approved Resolution 2018-021, reallocating $3,950,000 of project savings from the Towpath Trail Phase I project to the Towpath Trail Phase IV project. This action added the funding to the Phase IV project funding, but maintained the overall funding commitment to the full Towpath Trail project, which has been implemented in six phases over several years. The Phase IV project was bid and awarded to construction in April 2019 at a cost of approximately $8,000,000, significantly under the NOACA Board approved Phase IV funding award of $11,150,000.

The project sponsor is requesting the reallocation of previously approved NOACA funding to construct a trailhead at the northern terminus of the Towpath Trail Phase IV project, which will increase the buffer, both physically and visually, between the trail and adjacent park parking facilities to improve rider safety and experience. This request implements recommendations of the Canal Basin District Plan TLCI study completed in 2009. The City of Cleveland's process for decommissioning part of the Canal Basin Parking Lot was completed after the Towpath Trail Phase IV design was finalized, which is why these improvements were not originally incorporated into the scope of the existing trail project. Additionally, it was important to ensure enough funds were available for the trail itself before committing to a trailhead and associated amenities.

The proposed improvements include the removal of two existing parking lots adjacent to and crossing the trail; retention of one parking lot; and bike racks, benches, and other site furnishings for users. The total cost of the proposed improvements is $688,000, with $550,400 (80%) from NOACA through its Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, as summarized in the table below.
The sponsors have agreed to provide all services and costs related to preliminary development and design, and commitment to the $137,600 local match. As agreed to by the project sponsors, the project will be administered as an independent project by ODOT. This resolves the conflict of sponsor administration as presented and discussed at the Finance and Audit and Executive Committees at their May 2020 meetings.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The request would reallocate previously approved NOACA funding in the amount of $550,400 from the construction savings realized from the Towpath Trail Phase IV project of $3,150,000. This amount still keeps the Phase IV project cost well below the Board of Directors approved funding for the Towpath Phase IV project of $11,150,000.

There is no financial impact to other projects in the TIP as the requested funding would come from existing project savings.

**CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS**

Pending Board approval, the project will be amended to the NOACA Long-range Transportation Plan and 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Staff will then work with the project sponsor for successful programming and implementation.

GG/rl/8596c

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Scope</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>NOACA $</th>
<th>Local $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parking Lot Removal and Related Work</td>
<td>$578,000</td>
<td>$462,400</td>
<td>$115,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike racks, Benches and Site furnishings</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Staking, Fencing, SWPP / Contingency</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$688,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$550,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>$137,600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-024
(PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST – FUNDING REALLOCATION FOR TOWPATH PHASE IV PROJECT)

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 Cleveland Towpath Trail, sponsored jointly by the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works and the City of Cleveland, will complete a 110 mile bikeway, extending from New Philadelphia to Lake Erie at Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, the Phase IV of the Towpath Trail, from Tremont/Literary Trailhead to Canal Basin Park, is the final of multiple phases implemented in Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, in June 2018, the NOACA Board of Directors approved Resolution 2018-021, reallocating $3,950,000 of project savings from the Towpath Trail Phase I project to the Towpath Trail Phase IV project, maintaining the overall funding commitment to the full Towpath Trail project; and

WHEREAS, The Phase IV project was bid and awarded to construction in April 2019 at a cost of approximately $8,000,000, significantly under the NOACA Board approved Phase IV funding award of $11,150,000; and

WHEREAS, the project sponsor (City of Cleveland) is requesting the reallocation of previously approved NOACA funding to construct a trailhead at the northern terminus of the Towpath Trail Phase IV project, which will increase the buffer, both physically and visually, between the trail and adjacent park parking facilities to improve rider safety and experience; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements include the removal of two existing parking lots adjacent to and crossing the trail; retention of one parking lot; and bike racks, benches, and other site furnishings for users (‘Towpath Phase IV Canal Basin Park Trailhead’ project); and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the proposed improvements is $688,000, with $550,400 (80%) proposed from NOACA through its Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and $137,600 (20%) proposed local matching funds; and

WHEREAS, the sponsor has agreed to provide all services and costs related to project preliminary development and design, and provision of the aforementioned local match; and

WHEREAS, there is no financial impact to other projects in the TIP as the requested funding would come from existing project savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of 46 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 reallocation of previously approved NOACA funding in the amount of $550,400 from the Towpath Trail Phase IV trail project (PID 80797) to a new project for trailhead improvements at Canal Basin Park, described here within, is approved.
Section 2. The amendment of the Towpath Phase IV Canal Basin Trailhead project to the NOACA Long-range Transportation Plan and 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is approved.

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 Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency adopted this 12th day of June, 2020.

Secretary: [Signature]

Date Signed: 6/14/2020