Resolution No. 2012-021 renews the contract with NOACA’s legislative liaison, Virginia Ainslie, for Fiscal Year 2013. Throughout her 29 years of service to NOACA, Ms. Ainslie has helped shape transportation legislation from ISTEA to SAFETEA-LU and beyond, provided updates on federal legislation, funding, and issues of crucial concern to metropolitan planning organizations. She has kept NOACA current on air quality and water quality developments, and has advocated for specific projects in the NOACA region.

During the past 12 months, Ms. Ainslie’s abilities have been put to the test as never before. The legislative process in the United States Congress has become more difficult, more time-consuming, and more unpredictable. Her capacity for quickly assessing issues of impact has been invaluable, and her good relationships with elected officials and staff have become essential in these difficult economic times.

The terms of Ms. Ainslie’s contract renewal include an hourly rate of $100 and a maximum annual cap of $55,000, including expenses. This proposed contract represents an increase from last year’s $50,000 contract. It will allow her to devote more time to advocating for the needs of Northeast Ohio by increasing her possible hours of service from 526 to 550. The proposed contract also includes a monthly telephone report to either the Governing Board or the Executive Committee, as may be appropriate.

Ms. Ainslie has represented NOACA ably in Washington since 1983. She is widely regarded among Members of Congress, legislative staff, NOACA Governing Board members, and NOACA staff as an informed and credible representative. I strongly recommend that the Governing Board approve this resolution.
RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA)

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the metropolitan planning organization and the water quality areawide agency for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina; and

WHEREAS, it is within NOACA’s mission to advocate the interests of the region with federal decision-makers, for which NOACA needs to retain the services of a legislative liaison in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, NOACA has utilized the legislative liaison services of Virginia Ainslie since 1983, during which time she has demonstrated her unique knowledge of the Northeast Ohio region and her considerable expertise in federal transportation, finance, air quality, and water quality legislation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ainslie has been particularly helpful in providing immediate and key information and advice concerning legislative proposals that substantially affect NOACA, its five counties and many communities, and transportation and environmental funding for the region; and

WHEREAS, NOACA’s Executive Committee recommends an increase in the contract for the coming fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of forty-four principal elected and other officials of general purpose local government throughout the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina, that:

Section 1: The contract for services by and between NOACA and Virginia Ainslie be approved for renewal for the period July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013 (FY 2013), in an amount not to exceed $55,000. Within the $55,000 ceiling, the contract shall provide an hourly rate of $100, plus expenses. The contract shall include a monthly verbal report to the Governing Board or its Executive Committee, as may be appropriate, in addition to the monthly written reports already provided.

Section 2: The Executive Director is hereby authorized to execute and implement the contract renewal.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency adopted this 11th day of May 2012.

Secretary: __________________________

Date Signed: 5-11-12