



NOACA Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2025
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

President Chris Ronayne, Chair of the Executive Committee, convened the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Thomas Patrick made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 14, 2025. Mr. Jeff Brandon seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comments were made at this meeting.

President's/Executive Director's Report

Director Grace Gallucci made the following announcements:

- NOACA has completed a draft of its Long Range Plan, which is now called *weNEO2050+* and has the following opportunities for public comment:
 - Draft Long Range Plan: eneo2050.com/draft2025lrp
 - Public Comment Opportunities:
 - Open Houses
 - U.S. Mail
 - Email: noaca@mpo.noaca.org
 - Phone: 216-241-2414, ext. 303
- ODOT Access Ohio 2050 Stakeholder Meeting
 - Date and Time: May 22, 2025, 1-3 p.m.
 - Location: Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts Black Box Theatre CCA, Room 107, 2809 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, OH

Executive Committee Action Items

SFY 2026-2027 NOACA-ODOT MPO Biennial Agreement

Mr. Ronnie Blackshear presented information on the following:

- Background on NOACA's Biennial Agreement with ODOT
- Items addressed in the Biennial Agreement

Mr. Blackshear stated that the Biennial Agreement must be in place by June 30, 2025, for planning work beginning July 1, 2025, to be eligible for federal and state funding reimbursement.

Mr. Blackshear stated that pending Board approval, the Executive Director will sign the Agreement and transmit the document to ODOT officials.

Mr. Brandon made a motion to recommend the SFY 2026-2027 NOACA-ODOT MPO Biennial Agreement to the Board of Directors. Mr. Andy Haupt seconded the motion.

The Committee voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Regional Strategy for Coordinating Funding Opportunities Update 4th Quarter SFY 2025

Ms. Alison Ball stated that Board approval was needed for the Regional Strategy for Coordinating Funding Opportunities Update 4th Quarter SFY 2025.

Ms. Ball provided background on the following:

- Regional Strategy for Coordinating Funding Opportunities
- Guidance for Updating the Strategy

Ms. Ball reviewed quarterly updates from the following project sponsors:

- City of Cleveland - Cleveland Riverfront
- Cuyahoga County Planning Commission - Cuyahoga County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (SSFA)

Ms. Ball explained how projects are identified in the Strategy:

- Marked up version indicates updates in
 - *Italics – Application Not Submitted*
 - Blue – Application Submitted
 - Purple – Updated
 - Green – Awarded Funds
 - Red – Not Funded
- Unmarked version is the final version
 - *Italics – Application Not Submitted*
 - Green – Awarded Funds

Ms. Ball outlined the next steps, which include:

- Following guidance from federal agencies such as USDOT, USEPA, and NOAA
- Collaborating with partner communities and organizations to support project applications
- Regularly updating the Funding Resources Webpage
- Continuing to revise the Strategy for Calendar Years (CYs) 2025 and 2026

Mr. Brandon made a motion to approve the Regional Strategy for Coordinating Funding Opportunities Update 4th Quarter SFY 2025 and place it on the June 2025 Board of Directors agenda. Mr. Patrick seconded the motion.

The Committee voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Long Range Plan Update (weNEO2050+)

Director Gallucci explained that the Long Range Plan is updated every four years, with a major overhaul completed in 2021. The current update is minor, aimed at integrating new Census data and tracking emerging trends in major projects. She noted that there is a title change to the plan from eNEO2050+ to weNEO2050+, highlighting collaboration and inclusivity - emphasis on ensuring all people are part of the plan.

Director Gallucci stated that Mr. Ali Makarachi would provide a detailed overview of the plan's goals, strategies, and 25-year vision.

Mr. Makarachi presented information on the following:

- Elements of the LRTP
- Data Update
 - 2050 Population Projection
- Scenario Planning
 - Scenarios
- Scenario Costs
 - Project Costs of Scenarios
 - Scenario Costs & Budget Level
 - MOE & Cost
 - Illustrative Projects

Mr. Makarachi stated that pending Board approval, the updated plan will be implemented in the next four years.

Mr. Brandon expressed concern about projections showing significant population decline in the region through 2050. He noted having seen parts of related presentations before and asked whether NOACA staff have identified the reasons behind the negative population trend.

Mr. Makarachi noted that, according to studies from other states, while people often complain about large metropolitan cities, these cities tend to attract younger populations. He described a geographic triangle formed by Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C., with Northeast Ohio at its center. Although the areas attract trips, the NOACA region is experiencing a population decline.

Mr. Makarachi explained that NOACA regularly updates its data using information from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) to keep its plans current.

Director Gallucci clarified that the population forecasts come from the ODOD, not NOACA, and that NOACA does not always agree with them. She noted that ODOD's projections are often based on past trends, whereas NOACA has observed efforts at the regional, county, and municipal levels aimed at reversing population decline. She added that many investments outlined in NOACA's Long Range Plan are intended to help attract and retain residents.

President Ronayne acknowledged the ongoing challenge of population retention in Northeast Ohio, expressing appreciation for the insights from Mr. Makarachi and Director Gallucci. He emphasized that while everyone is contributing to the effort, it remains a work in progress. He noted that planning amenities aimed at public activation and access can play a role in attracting and retaining populations.

Mr. Brandon made a motion to approve and move the Long Range Plan Update (*weNEO2050+*) to the June 2025 Board of Directors agenda. Mr. Haupt seconded the motion.

The Committee voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Compliance with Federal Executive Orders on DEI

Director Gallucci explained that the agenda item concerning Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is complex and it is due to new federal Executive Orders (EO). Staff are requesting authorization for the Executive Director, in consultation with General Counsel, to make necessary changes to ensure compliance. Specifically, Executive Order 14173, issued on January 21, eliminates DEI

initiatives for federal agencies, contractors, and grant recipients, including NOACA. It also revokes previous orders related to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Environmental Justice (EJ), while reaffirming existing civil rights laws.

Director Gallucci stated that a guidance letter from the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, dated April 24, 2025, was issued to “outline the Department’s expectations” and identify “the consequences for noncompliance,” which NOACA received multiple times due to its varied USDOT funding sources. As a result, NOACA must review and potentially revise its DEI, EEO, and EJ policies and language, including content on its website. Some changes may require wording updates, while others could require substantial policy revisions, especially where current benefits are tied to DEI, such as environmental justice communities. A thorough internal review will be conducted by NOACA staff.

Director Gallucci noted no financial impact at this time. Compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations is a requirement of funding eligibility.

President Ronayne read the following recommendation from NOACA’s General Counsel, Mr. Ryan Gembala, that was stated in a memo sent to him and Director Gallucci this week:

“It is my recommendation that NOACA take immediate steps to comply with Executive Order 14173. To do so, NOACA should formally delegate authority to the Executive Director with the assistance of Legal Counsel to review its policies, procedures, committees and other materials for compliance with Executive Order 14173 and make recommendations for the amendment of or the elimination of the same whereby appropriate to bring NOACA into compliance with Executive Order 14173 and take steps reasonably appropriate to protect its federal funding.”

Mr. Gembala stated that NOACA plans to review its existing policies and governing documents to ensure compliance with President Trump’s Executive Order and related guidance, particularly from USDOT, which provides grant funding. The review aims to confirm that NOACA is meeting its obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, while also aligning with current directives on diversity, equity, and inclusion. He emphasized the importance of having appropriate Civil Rights language that does not conflict with the Executive Order and risk jeopardizing grant funding. Mr. Gembala invited the Committee to ask questions about the process.

Director Gallucci stated that pending Board approval, NOACA’s General Counsel and the Executive Director will carry out compliance actions and report back to the Board. She added that the matter could be revisited by the Executive Committee instead of the full Board, if preferred. NOACA will also continue working with other MPOs and industry organizations to track the implementation and enforcement of the Executive Orders and directives as well as monitor any related legal developments.

Mr. Gembala stated that he and Director Gallucci believe their recommendations will come before the Executive Committee.

President Ronayne mentioned that he had a conversation with Mr. Gembala and Director Gallucci about this matter.

Mr. Brandon asked if DEI training would be offered to Board members.

Director Gallucci stated that DEI training is prohibited as stated in the Executive Order for agencies like NOACA.

Director Gallucci stated that she and Mr. Gembala will work together to review all of NOACA's policies, procedures, and programs to ensure compliance with the Executive Orders. They will present any necessary changes to the Executive Committee for review and discussion.

Mr. Gembala agreed with Director Gallucci. He noted that training is not the focus of what needs to be done.

Commissioner Beverage requested clarification on whether the recommendations would need approval from the Executive Committee or the Board before the changes are finalized.

Mr. Gembala confirmed that Commissioner Beverage was correct.

President Ronayne stated that based on Mr. Gembala's memo, he and Director Gallucci will work together to develop recommendations. President Ronayne asked if the recommendations would come back to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Gembala said yes.

President Ronayne inquired about the date of the next Executive Committee meeting.

Director Gallucci stated that the recommendations would be presented to the Executive Committee in August. Initially, staff considered executing the compliance actions and then reporting them to the Board or Executive Committee, but Legal Counsel advised that formally involving the Executive Committee or Board would better demonstrate to the Federal Government that NOACA is actively working toward compliance, rather than just the Executive Director and Legal Counsel making those changes.

President Ronayne stated that Director Gallucci, in consultation with Mr. Gembala, will review NOACA's documents, make changes and recommendations, and present them to the Executive Committee at its August meeting.

Director Gallucci stated that the language in the motion does not reflect the conversations that she and Mr. Gembala had in the last couple of days.

President Ronayne reiterated that the recommendations will be brought back to the Executive Committee for review in August.

Mr. Gembala said President Ronayne was correct.

Mr. Patrick asked whether there is a specific deadline by which NOACA must achieve compliance with the Executive Order.

Mr. Gembala said there was no fixed deadline in the USDOT guidance whereby particular policies must be amended. He and Director Gallucci wanted to initiate the process immediately so NOACA can come into compliance. The Executive Order took effect on the day it was issued.

President Ronayne noted that this initiative is a good faith effort.

President Ronayne proposed the following motion to the Executive Committee:

“The Executive Director, in consultation with Legal Counsel, will make recommendations to the Executive Committee to do what is deemed necessary to comply with federal executive orders and related guidance regarding diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).”

Commissioner Beverage suggested that the motion read as follows:

“The Executive Director, in consultation with Legal Counsel, will make recommendations to do what is deemed necessary to comply with federal Executive Orders and related guidance regarding diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), to the Executive Committee to be approved.”

Commissioner Beverage made the motion for the Executive Director, in consultation with Legal Counsel, will make recommendations to do what is deemed necessary to comply with federal Executive Orders and related guidance regarding diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), to the Executive Committee to be approved. Mr. Patrick seconded the motion.

The Committee voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Board of Directors June 13, 2025, Meeting Agenda

President Ronayne stated that Director Gallucci would cover the recommended action items, which have been vetted by other committees for placement on the June 13, 2025, Board of Directors agenda as a group, and the Executive Committee would take a single action on them, unless a motion is made to separate and act individually on one or more of the items.

Action Items

External Affairs Committee (no items)

Governance Committee (no items)

Finance and Audit Committee

Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund

Loan Termination – City of Middleburg Heights

This item authorizes the Executive Director to issue a Notice of Termination of the Northeast Ohio Brownfield Program Loan Agreement to the City of Middleburg Heights. The agreement, originally approved on December 1, 2023, and executed on March 14, 2024, was for asbestos remediation. However, Mayor Castelli formally requested termination on April 8, 2025, as project bids were lower than expected and the Ohio Department of Development grant now fully covers the cleanup and demolition costs. Since no funds had been drawn down, the loan is no longer needed. Upon Board approval, the \$500,000 will be released back into the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund for future projects, and the budget will be updated accordingly.

Mayor Castelli stated that Middleburg Heights is fully funded to demolish the Sears site and supports returning the loan funds so other organizations can benefit from the available funding.

Amendment to Terms and Conditions – NREUV MLK Plaza, LLC

This item proposes amending the loan terms for NREUV MLK Plaza, LLC under the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund by extending the repayment period from 10 years to 18 years. Originally approved on March 8, 2024, the \$300,000 loan supports remediation of the MLK Plaza site, which will be redeveloped into primarily affordable, multifamily housing with ground-floor retail and mixed use. The extension request aims to align the loan’s term with the borrower’s other 18-year loans

from Freddie Mac and the Cleveland Foundation for consistent repayment. NOACA's financial advisor supports the extension, noting improved cash flow and reduced repayment pressure. The Finance and Audit Committee approved the amendment with the condition that a surety bond be included in the agreement.

President Ronayne asked the name of the developer.

Director Gallucci stated that the developer is NREUV MLK Plaza, LLC and the owner is Dr. Gina Merritt.

President Ronayne asked whether the Finance and Audit Committee had any concerns about the risks.

Director Gallucci said yes but noted that NOACA's financial advisor reviewed the request and found no issue, as the term limit was self-imposed by NOACA. She stated that exceptions can be considered for future cases as well. Since the loan program is still in its early stages, extending the repayment term will delay fund replenishment, but staff believe the adjustment aligns with the nature of affordable housing projects and serves the overall needs of the community.

President Ronayne inquired whether NOACA staff were in accord with the proposed amendment to the terms and conditions.

Director Gallucci said yes. She confirmed that it took time for staff to fully evaluate and understand the owner's request for an extended loan term. After careful study and consultation with NOACA's financial advisor, staff determined the request was feasible. While the Finance and Audit Committee had some concerns, they ultimately approved the amendment with the condition that a surety bond be included.

Recommendation for Funding – Site Readiness for Good Jobs Fund

This item is a funding recommendation for inclusion on the June Board of Directors agenda. The recommendation includes a \$166,905 loan from the NOACA-Vibrant NEO Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund to the Site Readiness for Good Jobs Fund, contingent on USEPA eligibility and fund availability. \$500,000 will be available following the termination of the loan agreement with Middleburg Heights. The project is located at 7000 Central Avenue at a site formerly used for industrial manufacturing and still zoned for such use. The plan is to renovate the existing building for industrial purposes, with potential sectors including food production, rail users, and aerospace. The project is expected to create 100 permanent jobs paying at least \$20 per hour. The application was approved by the Brownfields Steering Committee on April 18, and the scope of work centers on lead-based paint remediation. NOACA's financial advisor found the applicant to be creditworthy. The Vibrant NEO Board must reconvene before the June NOACA Board meeting to formally approve the recommendation, as the April 29 meeting did not have a quorum. The financial impact is \$166,905 from the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund. The actual disbursements are eligible expense reimbursements.

President Ronayne asked who NOACA uses as its financial advisor.

Director Gallucci said Sudsina & Associates.

President Ronayne asked if Sudsina & Associates understands development financing.

Director Gallucci said yes. Sudsina & Associates is a small local firm that has been around for a long time.

Procurement: Ratification of Vanpool Program Contract Extension

This procurement item requires ratification of a contract amendment NOACA executed with CLERAC, LLC DBA Commute with Enterprise for the Vanpool Program. The original contract, approved by the Board in December 2021, was for a three-year term and expired on February 23, 2025.

Director Gallucci, with the consent of the Board President, executed an amendment on February 21, 2025, extending the contract through June 30, 2025. This extension ensured uninterrupted service for employer and commuter participants while maintaining the existing pricing and terms. The amendment was necessary because NOACA had hoped to negotiate an extension with the current vendor before the contract expired. When those negotiations did not succeed, a new procurement process was initiated. The estimated financial impact of this amendment is \$188,495, covering vendor payments for February and March as well as projected payments for April, May, and June. The funding source is CMAQ. The amendment will be presented to the Board for formal ratification to complete the extended contract period.

Procurement: Regional Vanpool Program

This procurement authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a new contract with CLERAC, LLC DBA Commute with Enterprise to operate NOACA's regional Vanpool Program. Rather than further extend the existing contract, staff propose a new contract following a recently completed procurement process, which again selected Commute with Enterprise as the vendor. The Vanpool Program supports economic participation by reducing commute times, offering cost-effective transportation, and improving regional air quality. Currently, there are 53 active vanpools, each serving a specific worksite. The vendor provides vehicles and program operations, while NOACA subsidizes 50 to 80% of the cost, with the remainder paid by riders and some employers. The procurement was open from March 7 to April 7, 2025, and included direct outreach to seven vendors. Only one proposal was received, and staff recommended proceeding with Commute with Enterprise. The contract is valued at \$508,000, supporting an average of 58 vanpools with a 50% subsidy. It is structured as a one-year agreement with two optional one-year extensions, making it a potential three-year contract. The funding source is CMAQ.

President Ronayne inquired whether the commuter vanpools also serve as senior vanpools.

Director Gallucci stated that the commuter vanpools are not senior vanpools but that seniors could participate in the program.

Procurement: Extension of Traffic Count Contracts

This procurement authorizes the Executive Director to extend contracts with two vendors, Eggeman Engineering and Southern Traffic Services/REKOR, for one additional year. These contracts were originally awarded through an RFP process. The traffic count program supports calibration and validation of travel models, data sharing with stakeholders, and feeds into NOACA's modeling tools. Planning occurs from July to August, with actual traffic counts conducted from late September to October. The financial impact involves a one-year extension at \$100,000 per vendor, totaling \$200,000. Both vendors have agreed to maintain current pricing. The funding source is NOACA's Ohio Consolidated Planning Grant (OCPG).

Procurement: Amendment to NOACA EV Charging Stations Program Contract

This procurement authorizes the Executive Director to amend the contract with SAF, Inc. for the NOACA EV Charging Stations Program, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to purchase extended manufacturer warranties for electric vehicles (EV) charging station equipment. The original contract, approved in June 2023, covers Phase I of the program, which is expected to be

completed by August 2025 and is separate from the \$15 million Phase II funded through a federal CFI grant. Phase I is funded by NOACA's CMAQ allocation. Under Section 6.10 of the Partner Agreement with each site owner, NOACA is committed to providing five years of maintenance for each charging station. However, the selected equipment only includes a basic two-year warranty, with an optional three-year extension available for purchase. To fulfill its commitment to local communities, NOACA is requesting approval to purchase the extended warranties. The \$100,000 increase would bring the contract total from \$3.5 million to \$3.6 million. This does not require new funding, as the cost will be covered within the existing \$4.14 million project budget. The amendment will authorize contracting with the vendor to obtain the necessary warranty coverage.

President Ronayne asked whether the \$100,000 would cover the full three-year extension and if that amount is already accounted for within the existing budget.

Director Gallucci said yes. She noted that \$168,000 is currently available outside of the contracts currently in place.

President Ronayne asked if the \$168,000 is planned for the extended contract. Breaking down the funds for each individual unit over three years makes the amount not seem as much.

Director Gallucci explained that staff initially expected the EV charging equipment to come with a five-year basic warranty when the RFP was issued. However, the selected equipment included only a two-year warranty. In light of the agreements made with local communities and their maintenance expectations, staff now seek to ensure those commitments are honored by securing the additional three years of warranty coverage.

President Ronayne asked if \$100,000 was within the contract.

Director Gallucci acknowledged that one could say the vendor's bid may have appeared lower because it did not include the cost of the three-year extended basic warranty. She emphasized that this omission became apparent only after the bid was accepted, and now staff are working to align the contract with the original maintenance commitments made to the communities.

Mr. Brandon shared that a Wadsworth City Council member had raised concerns about the affordability of the extended warranty for the city's EV charging station. Mr. Brandon inquired whether the proposed contract amendment would address such concerns and provide support for situations like this.

Director Gallucci clarified that the contract amendment would cover the extended basic warranty, matching the coverage provided in the first two years. However, it does not include the performance warranty, which is more complex and not eligible for federal grant funding. She noted that while the performance warranty is optional, it is not required for fulfilling the maintenance commitments. The basic warranty extension ensures that entities like Wadsworth will have continued core coverage without needing to fund it themselves.

Mr. Haupt asked if the two-year warranty comes with units.

Director Gallucci said yes.

Mr. Haupt asked if it is a three-year warranty covering the two-year or a five-year total warranty.

Director Gallucci said it would be a five-year total warranty.

Request for Additional NOACA Funding – City of Sheffield Lake Pedestrian Facility

This item authorizes additional NOACA funding for the City of Sheffield Lake's pedestrian facility project. The project sponsor seeks \$37,866 in additional funds to cover cost increases caused by unexpected commodity market impacts. The original NOACA contribution was \$252,440, and with the increase, it would rise to \$290,306. The request was reviewed and found to meet all criteria under NOACA's project cost increases management policy, including justification of the unforeseen conditions.

Planning and Programming Committee

SFY 2026 Annual Priority List

This routine annual agenda item represents the first year of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which outlines the first four years of NOACA's Long Range Plan. The Annual Priority List includes 25 projects totaling \$68 million. Should additional funds become available in 2026, they will be allocated based on the Board-approved funding hierarchy. In terms of funding distribution by work type, the largest share goes to minor roadway rehabilitations, followed by bridge preservation, shared use paths, and transit projects.

Functional Classification Amendment Recommendation (Berea Freeway/SR-237)

This request proposes reclassifying a 2.5-mile segment of the Berea Freeway/State Route 237, from Eastland Road to I-71, changing its designation from a Principal Arterial–Other to a Principal Arterial–Freeway/Expressway. The reclassification was initiated by NOACA staff in consultation with ODOT. The modification criteria approved by the Board in 2014 were used to evaluate it. The evaluation considered roadway characteristics, class network share, and accessibility/trip density analysis. The roadway characteristics met the criteria. The class network share is within acceptable limits, meaning freeways or expressways are not overrepresented in Cuyahoga County or the NOACA region. While trip density analysis typically applies to accessibility-focused classifications, it is not a determining factor for freeways, which prioritize mobility. Therefore, the proposed reclassification meets the required standards.

President Ronayne asked Director Gallucci to provide more information about the reclassification.

Director Gallucci noted that the reclassification does not result in significant changes, but it does involve different requirements specific to that classification type.

President Ronayne inquired about the nature of the classification change.

Director Gallucci stated that the change is from a Principal Arterial–Other to a Principal Arterial–Freeway/Expressway.

President Ronayne asked about the benefit of the reclassification.

Director Gallucci explained that the goal is to ensure roadways are accurately identified on maps and within NOACA's modeling system, including proper classification and criteria such as lane widths. She noted that NOACA typically does not recommend bicycle or pedestrian access on principal arterials, freeways, or expressways.

President Ronayne mentioned his interest in the area, specifically regarding the 180 acres connected to the Cleveland Browns.

Director Gallucci clarified that the action item is unrelated to the potential Cleveland Browns development. She emphasized that NOACA staff confirmed the item is solely intended to accurately reflect the current usage of the roadway, independent of any future development plans.

2025 Public Transportation Agency Safety Performance Measure Targets

The safety performance targets are initially set by state DOTs and then adopted by transit agencies through their annual safety plans. MPOs, like NOACA, coordinate with these agencies to determine appropriate targets. Metrics include fatalities, injuries, safety events, and system reliability. The FTA has updated its methodology for Class One transit agencies, like GCRTA, which is the only one in the region, requiring a three-year rolling average and expanded targets, with some metrics only permitted to decrease.

Wadsworth FPA Prescriptions Modification Request in Sharon Township – Highlands of Sharon Phase 3

The City of Wadsworth is requesting a modification to wastewater treatment prescriptions for part of a parcel, changing the designation from “Areas Served by On-site Systems” to “Sewers Expected Within 20 Years.” This change would permit the extension of sanitary sewers. The area falls within the Wadsworth FPA, and both the City of Wadsworth and Sharon Township are the only affected parties. All notification requirements have been fulfilled.

LaGrange FPA and Lorain County & LORCO FPA Boundary & Prescriptions Modification Request in Village of LaGrange and LaGrange Township – North Pointe

The Village of LaGrange is requesting a modification to two parcels (36.56 acres) in the Village of LaGrange and LaGrange Township to permit sanitary sewer extensions. The Village of LaGrange is the applicant. The current facility planning area (FPA) is Lorain County and LORCO, and the proposed change would transfer the area to the LaGrange FPA. Additionally, the wastewater treatment prescription would change from “Areas Served by On-site Systems” to “Sewers Expected Within 20 Years.” The affected parties are the Village of LaGrange, LaGrange Township, Lorain County, and LORCO. All notification requirements have been fulfilled.

Medina County FPA Prescriptions Modification Request in Sharon Township – Windfall Road

The Medina County Sanitary Engineer is requesting a modification to wastewater treatment prescriptions for a portion (0.62 acre on one parcel from “Areas Served by On-Site Systems” to “Currently Sewered” and one parcel (2.07 acres) from “Areas Served by On-Site Systems” to “Local Prescriptions” within the Medina County FPA in Sharon Township. These changes support parcel combination efforts. Sharon Township is the only affected party, and all notification requirements have been fulfilled.

Avon Lake – LORCO Phase I FPA and French Creek FPA Boundary & Prescriptions Modification Request in North Ridgeville – Burns Road

LORCO is requesting the modification to the French Creek Facility Planning Area (FPA) by transferring one parcel (6.20 acres) to the Avon Lake – LORCO Phase I FPA and change the Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment from “Sewers Expected Within 20 Years” to “Currently Sewered.” The modification stems from a property owner’s agreement to provide a LORCO force main easement in exchange for a waived tapping fee. The parcel will be subdivided, with only the transferred portion receiving sewer service; the parent parcel will continue using an on-site system. The applicant is LORCO, and the affected parties are North Ridgeville, Avon Lake, LORCO, and Lorain County. All notification requirements have been fulfilled.

Policy Committee (no items)

Presentation Items

Household Travel Survey Final Report

This item is a presentation on the final findings of the Household Travel Survey, to be shared with the Board in June. The survey was distributed to 550,000 households in spring 2024, with an additional 180,000 surveys sent in August and September. The objective was to collect responses from 1% of total households in the NOACA region, a goal that was successfully met. The results will be used to calibrate NOACA's Travel Forecasting Model and support other planning efforts. The consulting firm that conducted the survey will present the findings to the Board in June.

President Ronayne inquired whether NOACA obtained a representative sample from across the entire five-county region.

Director Gallucci confirmed that NOACA obtained a representative sample from each of the five counties and the region as a whole. She explained that this was a key goal, and a second batch of surveys had to be sent out because the initial response did not provide sufficient coverage or responses across the region.

Regional Metroparks Trails Connectivity Study (RMTCS) Final Report

This item is a presentation on the Regional Metroparks Trails Connectivity Study's Final Report, to be presented to the Board in June. The study, led by consulting firm OHM, focuses on developing a trail network across NOACA's five-county region to connect park areas and improve multimodal connectivity over the next 25 years. The report includes short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations and has been incorporated into NOACA's Long Range Plan. The presentation to the Board will be delivered jointly by the consultant and NOACA staff.

President Ronayne sought confirmation that the presentation will be made to the Board.

Director Gallucci said yes. It will be presented to the Board in June. This is a regionally significant TLCI study and the entire Board will hear the results.

Code of Regulations Revision – Economic Development Subcommittee

This item is a presentation of an amendment to NOACA's Code of Regulations to be presented to the Board in June. The amendment would formally add the Economic Development Subcommittee (EDS) to Section 6.5 under the Policy Committee. This change is required to meet the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) requirements for establishing an Economic Development District (EDD), as part of NOACA's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process. The amendment would codify the EDS's membership and functions.

The amendment request was presented to and approved by the Governance Committee before being brought to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Patrick made a motion to move the above-referenced items to the June 2025 Board of Directors agenda. Commissioner Beverage seconded the motion.

The Committee voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Presentation/Discussion Items (no items)

Executive Session

Mr. Brandon made a motion for the Executive Committee adjourn to executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion,

demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee. Mr. Patrick seconded the motion.

A roll call was conducted, and the vote passed unanimously. The Executive Committee then moved into executive session at 12:50 p.m.

Mr. Haupt made a motion to end the executive session at 2:24 p.m. Mr. Patrick seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Reports/Updates

No report was presented at this meeting.

Old Business

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

New Business

Commissioner Beverage inquired whether it was necessary to review every item on the Executive Committee agenda or if staff could simply distribute the materials and ask if there were any questions.

Director Gallucci stated she could streamline the presentations. While the agenda is distributed to the Committee beforehand, she emphasized the need to review key items during the meeting for the public's understanding, even if in a more concise format.

Commissioner Beverage questioned whether it is necessary to go through the Board meeting agenda line by line during Executive Committee meetings, acknowledging that this level of detail is to be expected for the full Board meetings.

Director Gallucci explained that the Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving each item to be included on the June Board agenda. She highlighted the importance of vetting each item properly. She then invited Mr. Gembala to suggest ways to expedite the meetings.

Mr. Gembala acknowledged that the presentation could be streamlined, but stressed that, since it is a public meeting, all topics intended for the full Board should still be discussed in the Committee meeting, even if only in a shortened format.

President Ronayne mentioned that he has been working to streamline materials at the Board level, recognizing the importance of respecting people's time.

Director Gallucci concurred that President Ronayne has requested her to streamline the materials, and she is actively working on addressing that request.

Adjournment

Mr. Patrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m. Mr. Brandon seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next regular Executive Committee meeting will be at the NOACA offices, August 8, 2025, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Note: Additional information on the agenda items can be found on [NOACA's website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).



**Executive Committee
2025 Attendance Record**

MEETING DATES	Special Meeting 1/24/25	2/14/25	5/9/25	8/8/25	11/14/25
BEVERAGE III, Morris W. (Morgan McIntosh, Alternate)	X	A	X		
BIBB, Justin (Bonnie Teeuwen, Alternate) (Mike Culp, Alternate on 5/9/25)	A	A	A		
BRANDON, Jeff (Allen Biehl, Alternate)	X	X	X		
DVORAK, Jim (Andy Haupt, Alternate)	A	X	A		
RIDDELL, Jeff (John Gall, Alternate) (Thomas Patrick III, Alternate on 5/9/25)	A	A	A		
RONAYNE, Chris (Debbie Berry, Alternate)	X	X	X		
Total Member Attendance	6	6	6		

X = Member present A = Alternate