

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

External Affairs Committee

October 10, 2025

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested. This item is for presentation and discussion.

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

FEDERAL UPDATES



GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

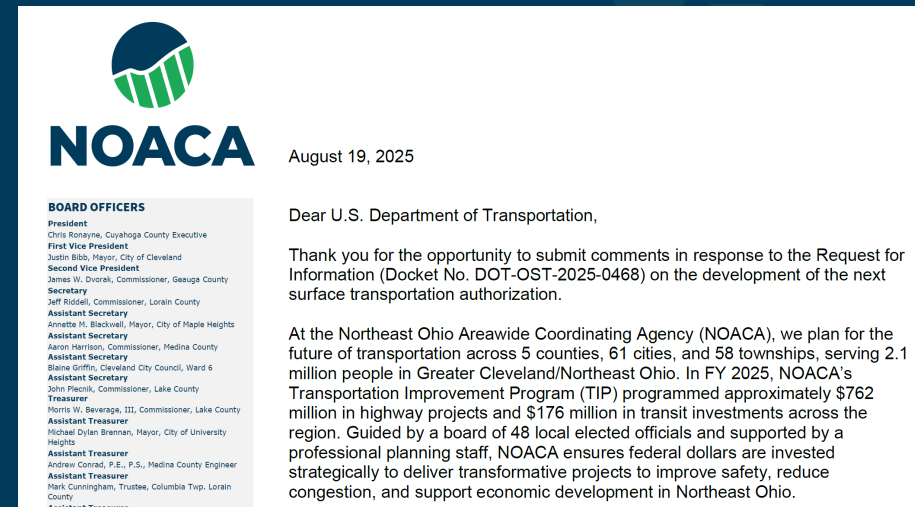
- Region may begin to feel some impacts: government employees, non-profits
- US DOT funding mostly unaffected:
 - Highway Trust Fund mandatory spending/reimbursements continue
 - Advance appropriations from IIJA continue to fund some projects and programs
 - Critical safety services (FAA/ATC/TSA) continue
 - Discretionary grant activities may be delayed
 - NOACA's work not impacted at this time

U.S. DOT UPDATES

- Canceling some bike/ped/safety projects deemed “hostile” to cars or that “impede vehicle capacity & speed”
- Interim rule requires changes to DBE programs:
 - DBE certification based on social & economic disadvantage, not race or gender
 - Effective 10/3/25, DBE goals suspended until re-certification process is complete
 - Current and pending grant agreements may be re-examined to ensure compliance; legal challenges may be filed
 - NOACA will follow federal and ODOT guidance moving forward

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION

- IIJA/BIL expires September 2026
- Congressional hearings held on reauthorization
- NOACA outlined priorities to NE Ohio delegation, committees, and US DOT



NOACA REAUTHORIZATION PRIORITIES

- Increased direct funding to MPOs – empower local officials
- Shift some discretionary funds to formula – MPOs fund LRP projects
- Stabilize HTF, inclusive of transit funding
- Prioritize asset management over expansion
- Safety, sustainability, and multimodalism
- Passenger rail
- Increase planning funds to meet federal requirements
- Reduce local match

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

Recent Grant Awards

- City of Cleveland--\$960,000 planning grant for Cleveland North Coast Connector Multimodal Hub Area Study

Recently Obligated Grants

- City of Cleveland--\$59.7 million for the North Coast Connector via the INFRA program

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

Currently available federal grant opportunity:

- Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail
 - Funding for rail safety and to enhance or establish passenger rail service

Expected late fall '25:

- Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants (only recipients of Stage 1 grants are eligible to apply for Stage 2)

NOACA'S FUNDING RESOURCES WEBPAGE



- Check regularly for updates
- Link for LOS requests
- Link to IJA Strategy

A screenshot of the NOACA website's 'Funding Resources' page. The page features a dark blue header with the NOACA logo and navigation links. A sidebar on the left lists various resources, with 'Funding Resources' highlighted. The main content area includes a search bar, a list of funding programs with expandable arrows, and a section titled 'NOACA Regional Strategy to Coordinate Funding Opportunities: Bringing IJA Transportation Grant Dollars to Northeast Ohio'.

NOACA
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

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About Regional Planning **Tools & Resources** Community Assistance Center Board & Committees

- Resources

- Getting Around the Region
- Street Design Flexibility Guidelines
- Trail Crossing Typology
- Traffic Counts
- Facts & Data on Northeast Ohio
- Major Employment Hubs in the Cleveland Region
- Vibrant NEO 2040 County Reports
- Funding Resources**
- + Maps
- + Recent Studies

Tools & Resources > Resources >

Funding Resources

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Below is a list of funding programs available to entities within the NOACA region that are related to NOACA's core planning areas – transportation, infrastructure, environment, climate, and economic development. Please note that NOACA is not the main contact for some of these programs, and questions should be directed to the agency who is responsible for managing each program. If you see errors or know of additional programs, please contact us at govaffairs@mpo.noaca.org or 216-241-2414 ext. 275.

Funding Sources

- NOACA programs for Northeast Ohio Communities >
- Federal Economic Development Assistance - continuously available >
- State Funding Programs >
- Currently Available Funding Opportunities >

NOACA Regional Strategy to Coordinate Funding Opportunities: Bringing IJA Transportation Grant Dollars to Northeast Ohio

Investment and Jobs Act (IJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) reauthorized the nation's

STATE UPDATES

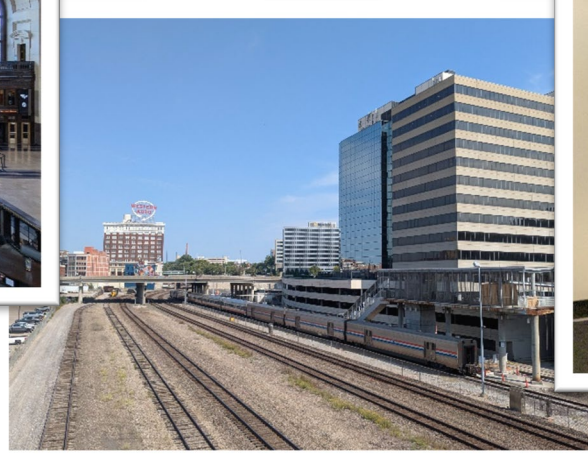
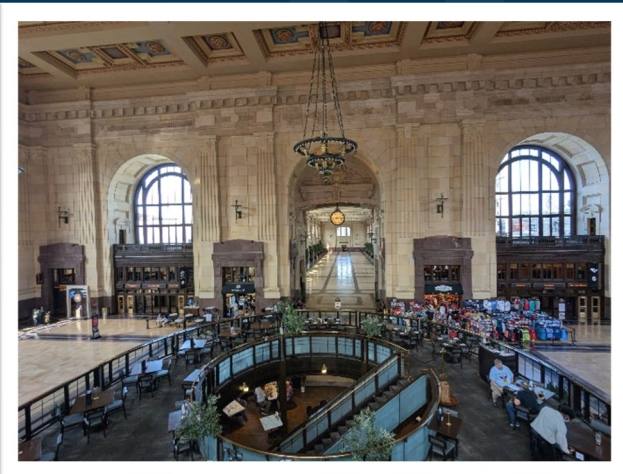


SPEED LIMIT INITIATIVE

- NOACA continues to work with Ohioans for Safe Streets
- Legislative Proposal to provide greater local control and context-based flexibility for speed limits
- Continuing discussions with Ohio Legislature, ODOT, local elected officials, and interested parties
- Interested parties meeting held, with bill language to follow

PASSENGER RAIL ADVOCACY

NOACA attended Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) Annual Meeting in Kansas City (Andrew Bean)



MEETINGS WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

- Government Affairs team and Executive Director continue to meet 1-on-1 with Ohio legislators, focusing on new members
- Recent meetings
 - **Rep. Chris Glassburn** (District 15, North Olmsted, Olmsted Twp., Middleburg Heights, Brook Park, Brooklyn, Linndale)
 - **Rep. Eric Synenberg** (District 21, Beachwood, Euclid, Lyndhurst, South Euclid, University Heights, part of Cleveland)

MPO LEGISLATION

HB 455 introduced in Ohio Legislature by Rep. Mike Dovilla (Berea) and Rep. Brian Stewart (Ashville)

- Prevent any single county from holding a voting majority on an MPO board
- Allow Governor to redesignate a county's MPO affiliation if 25% of workforce commutes to a contiguous MPO
- Clarifies that MPOs may not issue policies that conflict with state or federal law
- Prohibits a chief executive of an MPO from being simultaneously employed outside Ohio

DISCUSSION





NOACA

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

NOACA will **strengthen** regional cohesion, **preserve** existing infrastructure, and **build** a sustainable multimodal transportation system to **support** economic development and **enhance** quality of life in Northeast Ohio.