



Governance Committee Meeting

November 14, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

NOACA Offices, 1299 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114

RSVP to 216-241-2414 ext. 282
or boardliaison@mpo.noaca.org

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.



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governance Committee Members

Morris W. Beverage III, Commissioner, Lake County
Justin Bibb, Mayor, City of Cleveland
Carolyn Brakey, Commissioner, Geauga County
James W. Dvorak, Commissioner, Geauga County
Jeff Riddell, Commissioner, Lorain County
Chris Ronayne, County Executive, Cuyahoga County

FROM: Jeff Brandon, Chair
Trustee, Montville Township, Medina County

DATE: November 7, 2025

RE: Governance Committee

Attached please find materials for the Governance Committee meeting on **Friday, November 14, 2025, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at NOACA's Offices, 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.**

Please note that in addition to the members listed above, any interested Board members are welcome to attend. Notice of this meeting has been publicly posted, and major public media has been notified.



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Friday, November 14, 2025
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The public can view the meeting live at: youtube.com/live/W3mGHdjRtns?feature=share

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

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1. Call to Order	
a. Pledge of Allegiance	
2. Meeting Minutes	
a. August 27, 2025, Regular Meeting	1
b. September 25, 2025, Special Meeting	20
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3. Public Comment on Agenda Items	
4. Chair's/Executive Director's Report	
5. Action Items	
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6. Presentation/Discussion Items (no items)	
7. Presentations (none)	
8. Reports/Updates	
9. Old Business	
10. New Business	
11. Adjourn	

Next Meeting: **TBD**
NOACA Offices, 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio



NOACA Governance Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2025

NOACA Offices

1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Trustee Jeff Brandon, Chair of the Governance Committee, convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Ms. Debbie Berry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 9, 2025. Commissioner Morris W. Beverage III seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Public Comments

No public comments were made at this meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Director Grace Gallucci made the following announcements:

- The NOACA Annual Meeting will be held October 3, 2025, at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland. Attendance is free for Board members; however, registration is required.
- The Board of Directors' meeting will be held at Mentor High School, Paradigm Building, September 12, 2025.

Trustee Brandon remarked that it is nice to hold meetings in different locations from time to time and noted that the recent meeting in Lorain County was a success.

Action Items

No action items for this meeting.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Virtual Meeting Policy

Ms. Liz Barlik stated that ORC 121.221 authorizes certain public bodies to meet virtually. The law permits members to hold and attend meetings remotely, provided specific conditions are met. However, virtual meetings may not be conducted until a formal policy is adopted that addresses notification requirements, public access, and member attendance.

Ms. Barlik noted that NOACA staff contacted 21 Ohio MPOs regarding virtual meeting policies, with the following responses:

- Four are not considering adopting a policy

- Eight are considering or currently developing a policy
- Three have developed a policy and shared it for review

In addition, NOACA staff reviewed the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's policy.

Ms. Barlik also presented information on the following:

- Applicability
- Required In-person Meetings
- Attendance and Notification
- Public Access

Ms. Barlik stated that, based on the discussion, a virtual meeting policy may be developed for possible future action by the Committee. She welcomed feedback from the Committee on what such a policy might include and whether NOACA should proceed with developing one.

Ms. Berry asked whether NOACA was considering fully virtual meetings, partially virtual meetings, or a combination of both. She noted that the format changes the dynamic when no Board/Committee members are physically present versus when some must attend remotely. She requested input from the Committee on the preferred approach.

Director Gallucci stated that both options are open for discussion.

Ms. Berry stated that full virtual meetings for the Board, major committees, and some subcommittees could diminish engagement and discussion quality. She suggested that in-person engagement makes the most sense for these groups, while virtual meetings might be appropriate for some advisory committees. She added that remote participation could be considered in cases of necessity but cautioned against more than 50% of members attending virtually. She emphasized the need for a thoughtful approach aligned with the Committee's goals.

Commissioner Beverage stated that he did not believe holding all meetings virtually would be a good idea and that he would be opposed to an all-virtual format. He emphasized the importance of in-person participation at NOACA. He then asked whether a hybrid meeting would be permitted for situations involving major decisions and other important matters.

Ms. Barlik said no. She noted that certain decisions required full in-person attendance.

Commissioner Beverage asked if the agenda for meetings was distributed a week in advance.

Director Gallucci confirmed that to be correct.

Commissioner Beverage noted that his vote would be against fully virtual meetings. Regarding a hybrid option, he explained that whether a meeting could be hybrid would not be known until a week in advance. Members would need to notify the chair 48 hours before the meeting if attending remotely. He added that if 10% of the Committee requested an in-person meeting, then the meeting would have to be held entirely in person, and a hybrid format would not be permitted.

Ms. Barlik confirmed that to be correct.

Commissioner Beverage stated that, in his opinion, a hybrid policy would not be effective or efficient. He explained that whether a meeting could be hybrid would not be known until a week in advance. Even if the chair determines the meeting qualifies for a hybrid format, within a few

days, if 10% of the Committee requests an in-person meeting, the hybrid option would no longer be valid.

Ms. Teeuwen asked for clarification, noting that, to her understanding, the in-person meeting requirement for NOACA is based on the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

Ms. Barlik confirmed that the in-person meeting requirements are based on the ORC. She added that she included examples from other MPOs' policies, noting that while not clearly delineated, the examples illustrate how other MPOs interpret the requirements. Most policies simply reflect the legislative requirements, with additional details defined by each MPO's policy.

Ms. Teeuwen asked if the requirements were non-negotiable.

Ms. Barlik confirmed that to be correct.

Ms. Teeuwen said she supported in-person meetings, noting that seeing everyone in person allows for better engagement and understanding. However, she acknowledged that with a large body and varying travel distances, a hybrid option could be practical. She suggested that whether a meeting is hybrid or fully in person could be determined up to a week in advance. She also emphasized that public comment should be made in person, rather than online, and suggested incorporating that into NOACA's policy.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether allowing hybrid and/or virtual meetings would require NOACA to allow virtual public comments.

Ms. Barlik responded that there was no clear answer. She noted that if a meeting is hybrid, the public can comment in person, which she believed could satisfy the requirement, but acknowledged that this is not entirely certain.

Commissioner Beverage said he has one of the longest drives to attend NOACA meetings, so a hybrid option would be appealing. For meetings with a heavy agenda, being able to join remotely without driving an hour and a half would be beneficial. He acknowledged the costs of video equipment and the complexities of allowing virtual public comment and expressed that he may not be fully supportive of implementing a hybrid system. He emphasized that the goal is to maximize meeting attendance. He suggested that multiple alternates could help address attendance issues, allowing a second alternate to participate if the first cannot. He also proposed rotating Committee meetings or Board meetings earlier in the year to provide flexibility. While acknowledging the advantages of the current boardroom's audio and visual setup, he noted that there may be alternative ways to address attendance challenges without creating the complexities and potential inconveniences of a hybrid or virtual policy.

Ms. Berry said that if public comment is allowed virtually, the Committee must ensure that NOACA has control over the software so participants cannot speak at will. She emphasized the importance of keeping participants muted as needed to maintain order and allow business to proceed efficiently.

Ms. Teeuwen asked whether any technological investment would be required to facilitate virtual meetings.

Director Gallucci said NOACA had explored the technology needed for virtual meetings, noting that multiple cameras would be required to view the entire Board as mandated, with an estimated cost of at least \$50,000.

Ms. Berry noted her understanding that only four MPOs had adopted a policy, as indicated in the presentation, but emphasized that the chart focuses on the “why” rather than the “how.” She suggested that if NOACA pursues this option, it would be beneficial to consult with one of those MPOs to learn how virtual meetings are implemented and how their boards are responding. She also expressed concerns about the logistics of tracking in-person versus remote attendees and the potential management challenges if members make last-minute attendance decisions.

Director Gallucci said she had spoken with colleagues at MORPC in Columbus, the only large MPO currently using a virtual policy. She noted that MORPC employs it very sparingly and had only used it once for a small, five-person meeting.

Ms. Berry suggested that virtual meetings may be more appropriate for special advisory or other meetings that do not require full Board participation. She noted that some advisory committees include outside partners who are not Board members and may have less responsibility or commitment.

Commissioner Beverage stated that spending \$50,000 on cameras for limited use, such as small committee meetings, may not be worthwhile. While he supports a hybrid option, he questioned its value given the management challenges and limited use.

Mr. Haupt mentioned that he participates in hybrid meetings with CEAO in Columbus and has observed that during the summer, when vacations affect attendance, hybrid options are particularly useful. He acknowledged that NOACA is a different organization and noted that in-person meetings have a unique value that is hard to describe. While virtual meetings lack the same depth and personal connection, he appreciates the flexibility of hybrid meetings. However, he questions the cost, benefit, and potential limits of such an option. He added that while alternates can help cover absences, they may not fully understand the weight of the issues, based on his own experience serving as an alternate.

Commissioner Jeff Riddell said he has served on other boards where the main issue is participation, but for this Committee, the larger question is governance. He suggested consulting with management and staff to determine whether NOACA is holding too many meetings, what an appropriate schedule would be, and why they are held. He recommended reviewing how the Committee can operate internally to make participation easier and improve engagement. He added that technology may not solve every issue, as sometimes the challenge lies with the people themselves.

Trustee Brandon said that for members who experienced meetings during COVID, when all meetings were virtual, they know that the meetings tended to be very brief with limited participation. What used to be a robust hour-long meeting often lasted only 10 to 15 minutes. He noted that in-person meetings provide more value, but acknowledged that in emergencies, virtual participation is preferable to no participation at all. He added that ideally, the majority of Board members would still attend and participate in person.

Mr. Haupt requested to see the policies of the entities that adopted a policy to see what it looks like, other than the overview in the presentation, so the Governance Committee can review how in-depth, and how it would match up to what this Committee is trying to do.

Ms. Barlik said NOACA has copies of the documents and can provide them. She noted that they essentially recite the requirements in the legislation, defining only the specific elements that need clarification and are consistent with the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

Director Gallucci stated that staff can provide copies of the documents to the Committee following this meeting.

Ms. Barlik reminded members that the Committee has the flexibility to craft the policy as narrowly as desired. For example, it could allow only specific groups to meet in a hybrid format or limit virtual participation to 10% of members, ensuring that meetings remain primarily in person.

Ms. Berry asked for staff input, noting that managing meetings with a mix of in-person and remote participants presents unique challenges.

Director Gallucci stated that during COVID, NOACA successfully managed fully virtual meetings with large groups. She noted that while the staff is capable of handling virtual meetings, hybrid meetings are more challenging, as they have not been done in the same way. During COVID, a couple of senior staff members were present in person while the Board attended virtually, which was somewhat similar. She added that, overall, staff would prefer one or the other.

Ms. Berry asked Director Gallucci if she meant fully in-person or not at all.

Director Gallucci said yes. She noted that while hybrid meetings would be challenging to manage, they are likely the most desirable option for flexibility, allowing members who cannot attend in person to join via Zoom. She noted that staff will support whatever the Committee and Board decide and ensure meetings run smoothly, but staff's preference is to continue holding meetings in person.

Ms. Berry asked whether Board members have specifically requested a policy and if there is a strong interest among the Board.

Director Gallucci said that only a few members have inquired about a hybrid option.

Ms. Berry suggested that the Committee might let the issue rest unless a clear need arises and then revisit the possibility of a policy.

Commissioner Beverage agreed, noting that while a hybrid option is the most desirable for flexibility, it is also the most difficult to manage. He indicated that, given the current restrictions and the limited situations in which hybrid meetings would be used, the additional management, cost, and technology requirements do not justify implementing a policy.

Director Gallucci said she agreed with Commissioner Riddell's suggestion to review the number and timing of meetings. She noted that the last review was done about 11 years ago, before the Governance Committee existed. At that time, a special group, which later became the Governance Committee, examined schedules to optimize participation and established the current meeting structure. Since then, only minor adjustments have been made, such as consolidating several advisory councils into one meeting. She added that staff would prefer fewer meetings and recommended that the Governance Committee revisit this issue to consider potential adjustments.

Commissioner Riddell suggested first assessing Board members by asking questions such as: *"What are your barriers to attendance? What would help you attend more consistently or make it easier to participate?"* He recommended beginning with member feedback, then reviewing staff input, combining both perspectives, and identifying potential solutions. He noted that

circumstances have changed significantly over the past decade and that expectations should reflect this reality.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether Board members are permitted to have multiple alternates or if that would require a change to the current policy.

Director Gallucci responded that NOACA's policy only allows one designated alternate per member. However, if both a member and their alternate are unable to attend a meeting, the member can send staff a letter stating this and appointing another person to represent them for that specific meeting.

Ms. Teeuwen said she would like the Governance Committee to consider changing and possibly revising the meeting schedule. If the Committee wishes to implement changes starting in 2026, action should begin immediately. She suggested that staff work on the details and, to Commissioner Riddell's point, NOACA could survey the Board to gather members' input. Ms. Teeuwen noted that she often hears that members' Fridays are heavily impacted by full-day NOACA meetings, making it challenging to balance other responsibilities. She stated that reviewing the number and length of meetings, as well as members' views on virtual participation, would provide a comprehensive understanding of how meetings could be improved.

Director Gallucci added that, to Commissioner Riddell's point, the Board's current structure largely resulted from consolidating the schedule. Previously, the Board met monthly with shorter meetings, but members preferred quarterly meetings, which reduced travel frequency but lengthened each meeting. She emphasized that the goal is to structure meetings in a way that maximizes participation and efficiently addresses business, and staff will support the Board in whichever approach it chooses.

Ms. Teeuwen said that Director Gallucci raised a valid point. If the Board were to return to monthly meetings, incorporating a few virtual meetings could help reduce travel demands, allowing members some flexibility. She suggested that scheduling and format considerations should be reviewed together.

Director Gallucci said that some items, such as PPRs, Plan and TIP amendments, are more efficient on a quarterly schedule. Even if the Board returned to monthly meetings, she would recommend keeping these items quarterly. She suggested that a robust in-person meeting could be held once per quarter, with other meetings potentially allowing for virtual participation. She noted that implementing changes for 2026 would require the Governance Committee to meet a few times before the end of the year to plan and finalize adjustments. While not all meetings could be virtual, small special meetings focused on specific topics with established Committees could be conducted virtually.

Ms. Teeuwen asked whether NOACA staff have the capacity to explore these changes and think creatively about meeting schedules and formats, or if outside assistance might be needed for research on the number of meetings and virtual meeting implementation.

Director Gallucci responded that staff could manage the process. She noted that during the last review, BVU (Business Volunteers Unlimited) facilitated discussions with Board members and NOACA staff at a relatively low cost and could be contacted again if needed.

Ms. Teeuwen expressed support for Director Gallucci's suggestion.

Mr. Haupt asked whether Board members had been surveyed regarding their meeting preferences.

Director Gallucci asked if he was referring specifically to virtual meetings.

Mr. Haupt confirmed that he was.

Director Gallucci responded that Board members have not been surveyed specifically about virtual meetings, but there has been discussion regarding participation, preferences, and the length and frequency of meetings.

Ms. Barlik added that NOACA has conducted broader surveys in the past, which have included questions related to meeting logistics, as this issue arises periodically.

Commissioner Beverage suggested that, since some Committee changes are required to comply with federal mandates, this could be an opportunity to review and streamline other Committees as well. He proposed rolling all necessary changes into a single set of recommendations to improve efficiency. He expressed the goal of having these recommendations ready by the full Board meeting in December to discuss and implement any broader adjustments.

Director Gallucci confirmed that there will be a Board meeting in December but clarified that certain federal requirements must be implemented immediately and cannot wait until year-end. Specifically, the recommendation to dissolve the Equity Subcommittee will be presented to the September Board meeting to ensure compliance with federal mandates. She emphasized that while broader efficiency discussions could align with the December meeting, urgent changes must proceed as required.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether any other Committees would be affected, or if the Equity Subcommittee was the only Committee that needed to be dissolved.

Director Gallucci stated that there are policies that need to be revised, and staff will address these as well. Staff are proposing changes for the September Board meeting so that NOACA can achieve compliance as soon as possible. She added that, since NOACA is already rethinking these policies, it is a good opportunity to address the remaining issues as well.

Commissioner Riddell said that “required” is a more accurate term than “needs to be dissolved,” as the latter could be debated at length. He suggested conducting a survey and doing as much preparation as possible outside of meetings. While he acknowledged the challenge of preparing for January, he noted that the January meeting does not necessarily have to be the point at which any changes are finalized.

Director Gallucci stated that NOACA staff will develop a survey focused specifically on the Committee and Board meetings.

Ms. Barlik stated that the survey was conducted about a year ago and sent to all Board members. Nineteen members participated, and questions were rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “strongly disagree” and 5 being “strongly agree.” Key results included:

- Meetings are longer than necessary for the business covered:
 - 58% agree or strongly agree
 - 21% neutral
 - 21% disagree or strongly disagree

- The current Committee, Subcommittee, and Council structure is effective:
 - 55% agree or strongly agree
 - 17% neutral
 - 28% disagree
- There are too many committees, subcommittees, and councils:
 - 44% agree
 - 39% neutral
 - 17% disagree

Director Gallucci noted that one of the survey questions previously referenced focused on the value of presentations and their reliance on staff. She suggested sending the full survey results to Committee members following the meeting for review. Staff will also examine the results and follow up via email with proposed next steps. She explained that NOACA staff had worked with OE Strategies to develop and administer the survey and that staff could consult further with the firm to refine some of the questions and gain more clarity on certain points.

Commissioner Riddell commented that although times change, the fundamental questions remain relevant, noting whether NOACA is holding too many meetings.

Director Gallucci agreed, emphasizing that now is a good time to reassess, especially given how much has changed over the last 10 years.

Commissioner Riddell said that Lorain County is considering adjusting its Friday morning meeting schedule. Currently, the County holds meetings every other Friday, originally believing this would only occasionally conflict with NOACA meetings. However, he noted that NOACA meetings now frequently overlap, and the County is reconsidering its schedule. He explained that the meetings were initially moved to Fridays to ensure staff remained in the building and available for work, but the County feels it is not fully meeting its commitment to NOACA.

Director Gallucci explained that NOACA meetings have traditionally been held on Fridays because, at the time the schedule was established, Friday was the least conflicting day for most Board members. Commissioners typically met on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, while City Councils usually met on Mondays and Tuesdays and spent those days preparing for their meetings. As a result, Friday was chosen as the most practical day. Director Gallucci suggested it likely remains the most logical option. She said NOACA would focus on making meetings easier and more efficient for participants.

Trustee Brandon thanked members for their comments. He noted that staff would continue working on this issue.

Board Membership Review

Ms. Barlik presented information on the following:

- Federal Requirements for MPO Governance
- Current NOACA Board of Directors
- Membership Seating Method
- Board of Directors Members

Director Gallucci noted that this issue has likely not been comprehensively addressed since 2008 or 2009. While some minor adjustments have been made, such as adding the Ohio Turnpike as a non-voting member and adding two members based on census changes, the overall board structure has remained largely consistent since that major revision. The 2008–2009 changes increased the number of Board members from 36 to 44 and eliminated weighted voting, marking

significant structural shifts. She added that this represents the first broad-scale review in more than 15 years. One Board member, Commissioner Aaron Harrison, had requested that staff review the issue at the June Board meeting. Staff are presenting it to the Governance Committee to determine whether the Committee wishes to address it now or later.

Ms. Teeuwen noted differences in Board composition, highlighting that Medina County includes both a municipal and a township representative, whereas Geauga County does not. She asked whether this distinction was determined by Medina County and inquired when Geauga County's change would take effect, specifically whether it would begin at the start of the year.

Director Gallucci stated that the designation of representatives is determined by the individual entities and must be approved by the Board and ratified by all five counties. She noted that Geauga County requested a change to specify in parentheses that one of its County Commissioner seats be held by the County Engineer, which has been approved at the Board level.

Director Gallucci asked Commissioner Beverage whether Lake County had approved the change.

Commissioner Beverage replied that it had not yet.

Director Gallucci noted that three of the five counties have approved the change, the remaining two approvals are required for the change to take effect.

Ms. Berry asked whether, once approved by the Board and all five counties, the parenthetical designation remains, or if it effectively becomes the official representative. She observed that, in the case of Medina County, the municipal representative designation is now codified by Board approval, effectively changing the bylaws.

Director Gallucci responded that the intent of the County Commissioners in making these changes was to ensure it is always clear that the seats are County Commissioner seats.

Ms. Berry noted that reversing the designation back to a County Commissioner would require going through the full approval and ratification process.

Director Gallucci confirmed this was correct.

Commissioner Riddell stated that while some of the proposed designations make sense and a degree of Home Rule autonomy is appropriate, he felt uncomfortable with the discussion regarding Geauga County. He questioned what stake the Board truly has in determining how another County chooses to be represented. He emphasized that the process is the process but expressed concern about the Board having the authority to overrule a duly elected representative of Geauga County. He explained that, as a Lorain County Commissioner, he was uneasy with the idea of telling a Geauga County colleague that they cannot be represented in a way chosen by their voters. He added that he would be reluctant to vote against such representation, as he did not feel it was appropriate to exercise greater authority than the voters of Geauga County in deciding their representation at NOACA.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether Medina County has four representatives.

Director Gallucci confirmed that they have three based on the minimum number of County Commissioners and one based on population.

Commissioner Beverage noted that only three were listed in the presentation.

Ms. Barlik said that the Medina County Engineer is also a member. She explained that the seat was accidentally omitted from the presentation but was included in the meeting packet.

Commissioner Beverage noted that, consistent with Commissioner Riddell's point, other Counties should not have input on a County's delegation. He proposed allowing the County Commissioners of Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina to select their own NOACA Board members annually. Currently, changes require Governance Committee review, full Board approval, and subsequent County approval, which he viewed as inefficient. He acknowledged that Cuyahoga County and the Mayor's selection process may have their own logic but said the other Counties should have flexibility to adjust their delegations to reflect local needs. He advocated for a bylaw change to allow this option, noting that Counties could retain their existing delegates if they chose, and asked what steps would be required to implement such a change.

Director Gallucci explained that implementing Commissioner Beverage's proposal would require an amendment to the bylaws. The amendment would need Board approval and ratification by all five counties, in accordance with the current bylaw requirements.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether a motion would need to originate from the Governance Committee before going to the full Board.

Commissioner Riddell said he believed that such a motion would fall under the purview of the Governance Committee.

Director Gallucci agreed with Commissioner Riddell but cautioned that further discussion is needed. Some cities are granted seats independently based on population, for example, the cities of Parma, Lakewood, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lorain, and Elyria. She recommended consulting with other Board members, particularly those from the Cuyahoga County suburban regions, before proposing changes, and then bringing their input back to the Governance Committee.

Commissioner Riddell suggested that, before moving forward with his and Commissioner Beverage's proposals, members should review NOACA's bylaws to understand the current structure and rationale. He noted that this review might help build consensus on potential changes.

Director Gallucci stated that staff would provide the Committee with the link to NOACA's bylaws, which is also available online.

Commissioner Beverage noted that if the Governance Committee develops a proposal at its next meeting, it could be presented for full Board approval in December, allowing implementation in 2026.

Director Gallucci confirmed that the timeline was correct.

Commissioner Riddell mentioned that when he first joined the NOACA Board, he inherited the Governance Committee chairmanship. The Committee was assigned the task of reversing a bylaw change for the City of Cleveland that had been made under one Mayor and then reconsidered under another. The process took four meetings and generated considerable frustration over why it was necessary. Commissioner Riddell stated that he supported allowing flexibility, noting that Boards of Commissioners and Mayors change, bringing different philosophies and priorities. He added that if he was the Commissioner from Lorain County with

limited transportation knowledge but knew someone qualified to serve, he would want the ability to appoint that person as a full representative rather than only as an alternate who attends every meeting.

Ms. Berry expressed doubt that the Governance Committee could complete this change by the end of the year, noting that each County would also need to ratify the change with its Board. She cited the timing of Cuyahoga County Council's December meeting and the subsequent board approvals and questioned whether it would be feasible to complete the process if action had to wait until the next Governance Committee meeting.

Commissioner Beverage noted that Cuyahoga County has additional variables to consider.

Ms. Berry agreed.

Commissioner Beverage asked if he could make a motion at this meeting to approve that Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina Counties be allowed to determine their own delegations for NOACA Board members beginning in 2026.

Ms. Berry clarified that this would need to be within federal parameters.

Commissioner Beverage agreed, stating it would be within federal parameters of assuming all laws are followed and no funding is jeopardized. He noted that certain positions may need to be guaranteed, such as representation from transit agencies, for example, Laketran in Lake County. He added that once all federally or state-mandated Board positions are established, the Commissioners should have the authority to determine the remaining representatives.

Director Gallucci asked Commissioner Beverage whether his proposal would mean that, for example, in Lorain County, the cities of Lorain and Elyria would no longer have guaranteed seats and that the County Commissioners would instead select two city representatives.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether Lorain and Elyria are required to have a seat, noting that Cleveland is guaranteed a seat because it has the largest population among the five counties.

Commissioner Riddell stated that without reviewing those parameters, he could not predict what Lorain County would do. He added that he did not know whether the two cities are represented on the NOACA Board by choice or by mandate.

Director Gallucci stated that the seats were determined by NOACA based on how the Board was structured. She noted that Lorain and Elyria are part of the Cleveland–Lorain–Elyria MSA which could explain the history behind those seats. She added that the seats have always been assigned this way during her tenure at NOACA

Ms. Teeuwen asked whether population and legacy factors were also considered.

Director Gallucci confirmed that they were.

Ms. Teeuwen cited examples such as Parma, Lakewood, and Euclid.

Director Gallucci noted that these cities are part of the Lorain-Elyria MSA, now combined with the Cleveland MSA.

Ms. Teeuwen asked if the Cleveland MSA is specifically outlined in NOACA's bylaws.

Director Gallucci clarified that she was not certain whether it is explicitly in NOACA's bylaws. She explained that when the Board made significant membership changes in 2008 or 2009, the intention was to simplify the structure, codifying the members and requiring that any changes be ratified by all five counties. Staff may need to review previous bylaws to fully understand the history.

Ms. Teeuwen noted that even if changes were proposed for the four outlying Counties only, Cuyahoga County would still need to approve any membership changes.

Director Gallucci confirmed Ms. Teeuwen's comment to be correct.

Ms. Teeuwen added that it would be difficult to implement any changes before January 2026.

Ms. Berry expressed concern about timing and questioned how many meetings would be required.

Commissioner Beverage explained that he was proposing the motion at this meeting so the Committee could vote on it for the September 12 Board meeting, allowing roughly three and a half months for completion.

Director Gallucci clarified that the next Governance Committee meeting is in November, the next Board meeting is in December, and the organizational meeting, by which this change would need to be implemented, would likely occur the third week of January.

Ms. Berry noted that each County would need to meet with its Commissioners to make decisions and completing this by mid-January would be challenging unless the Governance Committee acted today.

Ms. Barlik clarified that NOACA's Code of Regulations (bylaws) does not explain why the cities of Lorain and Elyria have specific seats, but it does explicitly designate them as Board members. She noted that more discretion could be granted for the Commissioner seats, allowing flexibility for those positions. She emphasized that any proposed changes would need to be drafted and approved by the Executive Committee meeting to appear on the September Board meeting agenda.

Director Gallucci asked whether the proposal made by Ms. Barlik addressed Commissioner Beverage's intent to change how the three County Commissioner seats are allocated for each county.

Commissioner Beverage noted that for certain positions, such as the City of Lorain or City of Elyria, if a seat is mandated, it must remain. Similarly, if Lake County is required to have its transit director on the Board, the Laketrans seat is mandated. He stated that NOACA could confirm which seats are required to comply with federal and state guidelines, while all other seats could be determined by the County Commissioners.

Director Gallucci clarified that federal law does not mandate specific seats; NOACA does. A transit agency is required to be represented on an MPO board. GCRTA or Laketrans is not specifically required; having one transit representative is sufficient. In that case, one of the counties would need to appoint a representative to meet the transit requirement. Questions remain regarding which county would appoint, whether the appointment would alternate, and whether such a seat would be considered mandated. She emphasized that this discussion is separate from

considering changes to other Board seats. Representation for large cities aligns with MPO boards' intent but is not legally required.

Commissioner Riddell said he believed three members of the Governance Committee were indicating they should receive clarification on what is codified by law versus what is established through Board action, noting that if a provision were established by Board action, it could also be changed by Board action.

Director Gallucci confirmed that Commissioner Riddell's statement was correct.

Commissioner Riddell asked where the Board's latitude lies, emphasizing that the Committee's discussion should start by clarifying the extent of that authority.

Director Gallucci stated that the Board generally has the authority to change seats and adjust its structure and membership, but staff will review the issue further. She noted that NOACA's structure allows counties a degree of autonomy, making it reasonable for counties to appoint their own representatives. Staff will conduct additional research and prepare recommendations. She added that the Governance Committee may need one or two special meetings to finalize any changes.

Trustee Brandon agreed with Commissioner Beverage's point but noted that the Committee and staff needed to do further homework.

Mr. Haupt asked whether the parenthetical additions regarding seats for municipal and township representatives were made by the localities or by the Board.

In response to Mr. Haupt, Director Gallucci confirmed that the Board made the decision.

Ms. Berry asked if the additions were brought up by the locals.

Director Gallucci explained that, to meet the intent of an MPO, representation by local public officials was added over time. Originally, the Board consisted of County Commissioners, with Cleveland being the only city represented. The additional seats were added later to better represent the region.

Mr. Haupt asked if the seats were based on population.

Director Gallucci stated that the membership was based on cities with populations over 50,000 at the time or the seats of the Cleveland MSA.

Mr. Haupt asked whether 2008-2009 was the last time the Board structure was reviewed based on population.

Director Gallucci said that was correct.

Mr. Haupt said he believed that the population was looked at again when two seats were added to the Board.

Director Gallucci stated that NOACA reviewed the membership for census impact and determined that there were two additional seats for the City of Cleveland based on population that were not included in the Code of Regulations. She clarified that NOACA did not implement this change, as it is not authorized by the Code; rather, the Board had previously decided to include cities, using

a population threshold of 50,000 at the time. Some cities may have since fallen below or risen above this threshold, so the Board maintained the seats based on both population and legacy.

Ms. Berry noted that the original question was whether the Committee wanted to reevaluate Board membership using a method other than population, which had not yet been discussed.

Director Gallucci explained that Commissioner Harrison's point was that the Board is too large, and he would like to explore reducing the number of members and creating a distribution based on factors other than population.

Ms. Berry asked what alternative methods could be used to determine the number of seats.

Ms. Teeuwen responded that the population remains the most logical basis.

Director Gallucci agreed with Ms. Teeuwen, noting that population is the most logical basis and aligns with current practice. She added that alternative structures could be considered, but it is unclear whether they would meet the MPO's objective of representing people across the five counties. Other potential approaches could include using county land area, the number of incorporated cities, or lane miles, but none would be as straightforward or effective as population.

Ms. Berry recommended that the Committee evaluate the issue and suggested that staff seek Commissioner Harrison's input on how the membership should be assessed. She added that the Committee currently lacks a strong framework for reconsidering the structure unless Commissioner Harrison offers a suggestion.

Trustee Brandon said he had recently spoken with Commissioner Harrison, who did not have another proposal but agreed with Director Gallucci's point that the Board might be too large and should explore alternative approaches.

Commissioner Beverage stated that he had assumed the Board's composition was required to be based on population and asked if this was mandated under federal guidelines.

Director Gallucci confirmed that it was.

Commissioner Beverage said he did not believe the Board had much flexibility in changing its overall composition. However, he emphasized that the important issue for him was giving counties more autonomy to make their own appointments without requiring approval from the full Board, while still ensuring all five counties maintain a role in governance.

Commissioner Beverage stated that his proposed motion pertained to Lake, Geauga, Medina, and Lorain Counties. He emphasized that his goal was to have the change in place for next year and did not want to wait another year and a half to take action.

Commissioner Beverage then made a motion for NOACA to:

1. Establish the Board seats for Lake, Geauga, Medina, and Lorain Counties that are required by law, if any;
2. Inform those counties of the legally required seats; and
3. Allow the County Commissioners to vote on and select representatives to fill the remaining seats on an annual basis.

Ms. Berry suggested that NOACA should remove the requirement for ratification by other counties.

Commissioner Beverage agreed with Ms. Berry's suggestion, noting that removing the five-county ratification would simplify future changes.

Director Gallucci stated that the ratification requirement could not be removed until the Board first ratified the prior decision to undo the previous ratification.

Ms. Berry stated that the ratification process still gives NOACA authority over what the five counties can do.

Commissioner Beverage noted that the five counties would need to ratify his proposed change, but not membership changes moving forward.

Ms. Berry asked whether the five counties would be ratifying that they will no longer need to ratify.

Director Gallucci confirmed that this was correct but clarified that would constitute a separate change.

Ms. Barlik explained that Article 10 of NOACA's Code requires that any change in membership must be ratified by the counties. She noted that the Code contains very little guidance beyond this provision, and most governance details have been determined by the Board through its bylaws. She added that the Board engaged in a lengthy process in 2019 to establish the current membership structure.

Director Gallucci explained that much of the law regarding representation is based on intent. She said the requirement is to "consider equitable and proportional representation of the population," and that the Board at the time determined that cities with populations above 50,000, specifically named, must meet this requirement in good faith. She emphasized that if all city representation were removed and seats were given solely to townships or smaller municipalities, it would not align with the good-faith interpretation of this requirement.

Commissioner Beverage responded that in such a case, either those representatives could be voted out, or there might be a legal interpretation stating that such an action would not be permissible. He acknowledged understanding the Board's original intent but clarified his own perspective, noting that he was elected by the citizens of Lake County, which is a NOACA member. He expressed that he would prefer decisions on who represents Lake County at NOACA to be made by himself and his two fellow county commissioners.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion for Lake, Geauga, Medina, and Lorain Counties, that after being informed of the mandated seats are required by law, that the other positions be able to be determined by the County Commissioners on an annual basis, without the requirement of all county ratification from NOACA.

Ms. Barlik said she did not believe that was possible and suggested Mr. Gembala could provide further input. She explained that the Code of Regulations would need to be amended twice, with Board approval required for ratification. Currently, ratification is a requirement, and no specific seats are mandated by law. The current seating arrangement is based on a formula, but the Board has the authority to determine its structure; for example, it could choose to have five seats or one commissioner from each county and the City of Cleveland. Ultimately, it is up to the Board to establish the seats.

Director Gallucci reminded the Committee that the Board's current structure has historical context. Initially, it included the County Commissioners and the Mayor of Cleveland. The Mayor of Cleveland previously sued NOACA in federal court, claiming inadequate representation, as Cleveland had only one seat despite more population than any of the outer counties at that time. She noted that while equitable and proportional representation must be considered, federal law does not dictate exactly how NOACA must structure its Board.

Commissioner Beverage said he was not questioning the total number of seats. His motion was that, after the law-mandated seats, which staff noted are not clearly defined, the remaining number of seats allocated to each County, should be determined by the County Commissioners. He emphasized that he was not suggesting NOACA modify the number of seats, only that the Commissioners be allowed to vote on and determine their county's representatives for those seats.

Director Gallucci said she supports the Commissioners having control over their seats but noted a potential issue. For example, if Lorain County were to allocate all its seats to townships and none to cities, it would violate federal requirements, and someone could potentially challenge that decision in court.

Commissioner Beverage said that if a challenge were brought, NOACA could get sued and would have to address it, but the decision would ultimately be up to the Board. He emphasized that he was not trying to provoke litigation, but in his opinion, County Commissioners should have the ability to select their delegation.

Trustee Brandon asked if anyone wanted to second Commissioner Beverage's motion.

No one seconded the motion.

Ms. Teeuwen stated that she supports simplifying the process. She suggested adding "or appointed by the County Commissioners" in parentheses next to county commissioners in the Code of Regulations, allowing them to choose either themselves or a designee. She asked whether her suggestion would address the issue and simplify the process.

Commissioner Beverage noted that in Lake County and Medina County, the County Engineer serves as a Board member. In Lorain County, the seats are assigned to three Commissioners, along with municipal representatives. Commissioner Beverage said Ms. Teeuwen's suggestion would resolve the County Commissioner issue.

Ms. Teeuwen noted that if there are no concerns about the number of seats, the total would remain the same, while still giving the County Commissioners the ability to select their representatives to serve on the NOACA Board.

Commissioner Beverage said that the approach would not achieve Geauga County's goal of having one seat automatically reserved for its Engineer.

Ms. Teeuwen responded that it would be up to Geauga County.

Commissioner Beverage disagreed, noting that Lake County would need to vote to approve it.

Ms. Teeuwen clarified that if NOACA designates the seats as "County Commissioners or their appointee," the County Commissioners could choose to appoint the County Engineer to the NOACA Board.

Commissioner Beverage noted that in that scenario, the Engineer would serve as an alternate.

Ms. Teeuwen clarified that the Engineer would be a full member, as the County Commissioners appoint a member, not an alternate.

Mr. Haupt said he believed that Ms. Teeuwen's suggestion would follow the format used in Lorain County, listing "County Commissioner (County Engineer)." He asked if he was correct that the Board would make that decision.

Commissioner Beverage confirmed that would be true based on the current bylaw amendment.

Ms. Teeuwen said it does not necessarily need to specify "County Engineer." The County Commissioners could appoint the Engineer or another representative, such as the office administrator.

Commissioner Beverage noted that approval would still be required from all five counties.

Commissioner Riddell suggested suspending or abolishing the rule, noting that it hinders any changes and that there are multiple ways the Governance Committee could proceed without it.

Director Gallucci noted that the rule does impede any changes unless it is amended. She suggested that the Committee consider consulting with Commissioner Steve Hambley from Medina County, who played a key role in developing the current structure and served three terms as NOACA Board President, to discuss the history of the organization.

Trustee Brandon commented that the Committee had a productive discussion on the presentation items, appreciated members' comments and enthusiasm, and emphasized that staff will conduct further research. He added that the topic will be revisited at the next Governance Committee meeting.

Ms. Teeuwen recommended holding a supplemental Governance Committee meeting before the next regular scheduled meeting to allow additional time for research.

Trustee Brandon confirmed that a special meeting could be scheduled.

Director Gallucci recalled that during a previous discussion with Board members, who later formed the Governance Committee, Commissioner Steve Hambley remarked, "The Republic shall stand."

Reports / Updates

No reports were presented at this meeting.

Old Business

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

New Business

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Riddell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Ms. Teeuwen seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next regular Governance Committee meeting will be Friday, November 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the NOACA offices.

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

DRAFT



Governance Committee 2025 Attendance Record

MEETING DATES	2/14/25	5/9/25	8/27/25	11/14/25
BEVERAGE III , Morris W. (Morgan McIntosh, Alternate)	X	X	X	
BIBB , Justin (Bonnie Teeuwen, Alternate) (Mike Culp, Alternate on 5/9/25)	A	A	A	
BRAKEY , Carolyn (Shane Hajjar, Alternate)		X		
BRANDON , Jeff (Allen Biehl, Alternate)	X	X	X	
DVORAK , James (Andy Haupt, Alternate)	X	A	A	
RIDDELL , Jeff (John Gall, Alternate) (Thomas Patrick III, Alternate on 5/9/25)	A	A	X	
RONAYNE , Chris (Debbie Berry, Alternate) (Annie Pease, Alternate on 5/9/25)	X/A	A	A	
TOTAL MEMBERS ATTEND:	6	7	6	

X = Member present A = Alternate present



**NOACA Governance Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**
September 25, 2025
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Trustee Jeff Brandon, Chair of Governance Committee, convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Public Comments

State Rep. Eric Synenberg mentioned that he met with Director Grace Gallucci and the Government Affairs staff to learn more about NOACA. He noted he will be unable to attend next week's Annual Meeting but would review NOACA's Annual Report. Rep. Synenberg, serving his first term representing District 21, expressed his commitment to working with NOACA to meet its mission for Northeast Ohio.

Executive Director's Report

No report was presented at this meeting.

Action Items

No action items were presented at this meeting.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Board Meeting Schedule

Director Gallucci presented the following information:

- NOACA History
 - Formation of NOACA in 1968
 - Merger with SCOTS in 1969
 - NOACA region changed from 7 to 5 counties in 1976
 - NEOLEB merger took place in 1984
 - NOACA's first Code of Regulations was developed in 1991

Trustee Brandon asked about weighted voting.

Director Gallucci explained that although the NOACA Board had 43 members, voting was weighted by proportionality. Each county had six representatives (three commissioners and three officials, such as engineers or administrators), plus Cleveland's mayor, totaling 43 members. However, members from Cuyahoga County and Cleveland had votes that counted more, for example, one vote might equal 2.3 votes. This "weighted voting" became controversial during the Nagel Road interchange debate. Lorain County supported the project, while Cuyahoga County

and the City of Cleveland generally opposed it. The interchange was ultimately approved, but the dispute led to efforts to change NOACA's Code of Regulations. Under Board President Steve Hambly, weighted voting was eliminated in 2009.

Trustee Brandon asked if NOACA has 46 or 48 Board members.

Director Gallucci clarified that NOACA has 48 members in total, with 46 voting. At its creation in 1968, the NOACA Board had 43 voting members and one nonvoting member from the U.S. Department of Urban Affairs.

Trustee Brandon asked who the nonvoting members currently are on the NOACA Board.

Director Gallucci responded that the two nonvoting members are the Ohio Turnpike and the Ohio EPA.

Meeting Schedule

Director Gallucci explained the redesign of the committees and the meeting schedule in 2013. The changes ensured action items were thoroughly reviewed, conflicts avoided, and materials flowed through Councils, Subcommittees, Committees, and finally the full Board. The Executive Committee then scheduled items for the agenda. The main goal was to increase Board member engagement, as previously, much work was done by staff or a few members, leaving others feeling they only rubber-stamped decisions. Before 2013, the Board met monthly for approximately 1.5 to 2 hours per meeting. The new schedule reduced full Board meetings to once per quarter for about 4 hours, saving time overall while still allowing members or their alternates to participate in Councils and Subcommittees. This was considered a more efficient and inclusive approach.

Board Committee Structure

Director Gallucci explained that the committee structure and meeting schedule were developed during NOACA's 2013 strategic planning process. A task force of 10 Board members, supported by nonprofit governance experts, BVU, reviewed the Code of Regulations to improve Board effectiveness and engagement. Input was gathered from Board members through surveys and site visits, leading to the adoption of a new committee structure in 2013. The changes shifted decision-making beyond the Executive Committee to include more members in technical matters. Board membership rules are shaped by federal MPO requirements, which mandate proportional representation based on population and inclusion of elected officials, transportation administrators, and appropriate state officials (e.g., ODOT).

In 2019, a Resolution tied Board representation to census data through a formula developed by NOACA staff and reviewed by County engineers. This formula provides each County with three base seats, with additional seats allocated by population, resulting in the current Board structure established in 2022.

Ms. Debbie Berry asked if Cleveland automatically receives three seats, with the rest determined by population.

Director Gallucci explained that Cleveland's representation is based solely on its population, and does not receive an automatic allocation of three seats.

Ms. Berry then asked if the formula allowed for one representative plus others, or none, with everything determined by population.

Director Gallucci clarified that it is based on the entire population of Cleveland.

Commissioner Morris Beverage asked if Cuyahoga County's population includes Cleveland.

Director Gallucci stated that while Cleveland has its own representatives, they still come from Cuyahoga County's population.

Commissioner Beverage asked what logic determined Cleveland's separate representation.

Director Gallucci explained that federally, regions are defined by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with Cleveland serving as the seat of the MSA. She noted that in NOACA's original 1968 bylaws, the structure included three Commissioners, three other elected or appointed officials, and the Mayor of Cleveland as his own representative.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether regional authorities are included in Cuyahoga County's numbers.

Director Gallucci stated that regional authorities are included in Cuyahoga County's number. She explained that this is because those authorities are considered regional only within Cuyahoga County, based on jurisdiction. She noted that while many may view the Port Authority as a regional port, Ohio legislation defines it as the Cuyahoga County–Cleveland Port Authority. Therefore, its representation comes out of Cuyahoga County's population. Director Gallucci added that the same applies to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. Although its geographic reach extends into Geauga County and possibly others, its primary jurisdiction is Cuyahoga County, so it is also counted under Cuyahoga County.

Ms. Berry asked whether the half-person allocations from Cuyahoga County add up to one half-person, or if every County could take a half-person, which would result in a whole person being taken out of Cuyahoga County.

Director Gallucci responded that it is the latter but noted that the impact is minimal. She explained that the number is approximately two people, either slightly below or slightly above. Director Gallucci added that she has not reviewed the formula recently but could provide the exact number to Ms. Berry.

Mr. John Gall asked if NOACA based the number of seats on the 2020 Census.

Director Gallucci confirmed that it did.

Mr. Gall noted that NOACA Board seats were adjusted in 2022, once all numbers were finalized. He then asked if, assuming the next census is in 2030, NOACA would reassess the numbers earlier if the federal government issues a correction to the census data.

Director Gallucci stated that NOACA's bylaws specify the use of the decennial census. She explained that the American Community Survey, which produces annual estimates, is not used for this purpose. However, if the federal government issued a correction to the decennial census due to an error, NOACA would review and recalculate the numbers. She further clarified that the adjustment was made in 2022 because, although the census was conducted in 2020, the data was not finalized and published until 2022. Once the data is released, NOACA has 180 days (six months) to pass a resolution reorganizing the seats.

Trustee Brandon said this special meeting was called to review the structure and membership following prior discussions. He asked if any alternative proposals had been brought forward to improve the process.

Director Gallucci said no formal proposals have been made to change the Board structure, though some members have raised concerns about its size. She noted the Board had 44 members in 1968, only slightly fewer than today, and past changes were driven by proportionality, including a federal lawsuit from Cleveland when it had just one seat despite its large population. NOACA was even decertified in 1970 over representation before being reinstated in 1972. She stressed that federal law now requires proportional representation to avoid such disparities.

Board President Chris Ronayne, responding to Director Gallucci's last point, noted that the federal government has put requirements into regulation. He said he has been trying to better understand the governance framework from a federal perspective and asked her to elaborate.

Director Gallucci explained that the legislation states that, in constructing the membership, the Board must take into account proportionality. While it does not specify the exact method, it requires proportionality to be considered.

President Ronayne remarked that, as far as NOACA is aware, if there is codified language on this, it would be important to identify and review it.

Director Gallucci reiterated that the Board must consider both proportionality of representation and proportionality of population when establishing its membership.

Trustee Brandon asked if the same issues would be discussed at the October meeting.

Director Gallucci said the Committee needs to define its goals and objectives before staff can develop proposals. She asked what the Board wants to accomplish regarding membership, committee structure, and meeting schedule. She then noted that in 1991, when major changes were made to the Code of Regulations, Mr. Hunter Morrison was serving as the NOACA Board President. Director Gallucci introduced Mr. Morrison as a guest speaker for this Governance Committee meeting.

Mr. Morrison emphasized the importance of revisiting representation with each census to maintain equity and proportionality across the region. He reflected on his experience in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when NOACA addressed governance challenges and credibility concerns following a prior scandal. He noted that NOACA functions both as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and as a Council of Governments, which strengthens its role in transportation, water quality, and economic development planning.

Mr. Morrison highlighted that fair representation among the five counties is essential for maintaining trust and effectiveness, especially as populations shift. He commended past efforts to calibrate Board structure and ensure inclusion of key cities, planning entities, and officials. He concluded by encouraging NOACA to continue upholding principles of fairness, equity, and collaboration to achieve sound regional decisions.

Director Gallucci thanked Mr. Morrison for his input and noted that he and Commissioner Hambley will join the next Governance Committee meeting.

Ms. Barlik reviewed 23 U.S.C §134, which outlines requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). She highlighted §134(d)(3): *"Subject to the bylaws or enabling statute of*

the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Metropolitan Planning Organization shall consider the equitable and proportional representation of the population of the Metropolitan Planning Area.”

Ms. Barlik added that the requirement is also in the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 450.310.

President Ronayne asked Ms. Barlik if she knew when that section of the Code was codified.

Ms. Barlik responded that she believed it was codified with the MAP-21 Act in 2012 and later modified under the IJA.

President Ronayne explained that NOACA's structure is rooted in federal regulations and asked Ms. Teeuwen to expand on the MPO overview. He stressed that MPOs represent urbanized areas over 50,000, are designated by the governor—currently Governor DeWine—and local governments representing 75% of that population, and are linked to the Transportation Improvement Program. He noted that MPOs must self-certify federal compliance and are certified by ODOT as Transportation Management Areas. These requirements, he added, shape NOACA's operations and are especially relevant given new state legislation requiring the governor to consider these issues.

Director Gallucci agreed with President Ronayne and added that the document he was referencing was likely ODOT's summary of MPOs, which draws directly from the federal Code. She explained that the Code contains the specific language covering the topics being discussed and noted that the 2012 legislation and the 2013 Code of Regulations changes are related, with the intent of making the NOACA Board more effective.

President Ronayne asked if NOACA staff had communicated with the Governor's office regarding the status of the legislation.

Director Gallucci responded no. She explained that the issue is being discussed at the Ohio Association of Regional Councils, which met last week and will meet again next week once the legislation is assigned to a committee. At that time, the group will decide whether to engage the Governor's office. She added that she has been coordinating with other MPOs in the state in preparation.

President Ronayne noted that the Board's main relationships are with USDOT and ODOT through the Governor's office.

Director Gallucci responded that at the federal level, NOACA is recertified every four years. The most recent recertification was in March of this year, which had zero findings. She added that NOACA has a current agreement with ODOT at the state level.

President Ronayne said he is trying to understand the Board's obligations as a conduit between federal and state governments. He emphasized that the Board must self-certify compliance with federal guidelines when submitting TIPs to the state and must maintain adherence to federal and state requirements to avoid noncompliance, including in Board composition.

Director Gallucci agreed, noting that NOACA does self-certify when submitting documents. She added that USDOT reviews and approves these submissions and conducts a certification or audit every four years to ensure adherence.

Commissioner Beverage expressed support for the Committee structure, noting that most of the work occurs there. He suggested streamlining full Board meetings by avoiding repeat

presentations when there is no interest in discussion, possibly using an omnibus agenda, so that more time can be devoted to items requiring debate.

Commissioner Beverage stated that while the Board's composition aligns with federal MPO requirements, NOACA's broader mission beyond transportation can create challenges for counties. He expressed concern that mandatory MPO participation limits County autonomy in areas such as economic development. He reiterated his prior motion that Lake County Commissioners should have authority to determine who fills the County's five seats, allowing flexibility while ensuring transit representation. He also questioned why the Governance Committee has seven members while the Executive Committee has six and asked for clarification on whether the "second Vice Chair" position is necessary when the Mayor of Cleveland also serves as an officer.

Director Gallucci said staff will review the Executive Committee composition in more detail. She noted that the regulations require a member from each county and the City of Cleveland, which accounts for the six members. These members are usually the officers, and the Code includes restrictions on holding multiple positions simultaneously.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether the City of Cleveland's requirement is for the Mayor or an additional representative.

Director Gallucci said it could be a representative from the city who is a Board member. She noted that staff will review the language in the Code of Regulations and clarify it for the Governance Committee.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether representation was required from each County, the City of Cleveland, and the Mayor.

Director Gallucci clarified that the six members consist of representatives from the five counties and the City of Cleveland, and that the mayor is not automatically included.

Commissioner Beverage described the officer positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) and noted that removing the second vice chair, plus including the Mayor, would result in a five-member committee next year, compared to six this year.

Director Gallucci explained that the Executive Committee is intended to function like a "Senate" with equal representation from each county and the City of Cleveland, while the full Board functions like a "House of Representatives" with proportional representation. She said staff will review the specifics and provide clarification.

Mr. Gall thanked Commissioner Beverage for his comments and noted that allowing more discussion on Board composition could help move items through the Board of Directors more efficiently. He remarked that at the last Board meeting, some comments from members of other counties were cut short due to a question being called, which he felt was a disservice. He added that providing additional time for discussion would prevent important topics at the end of meetings from being minimized, noting that the vote on an item was very close.

Ms. Teeuwen stated that the City of Cleveland requests research on allowing the Mayor's Board membership to be more flexible, permitting either the Mayor or a designated appointee to serve on the Board and Executive Committee. She noted that the city would appreciate staff reviewing this option.

Commissioner Beverage stated that it was a good idea to allow elected officials to appoint individuals who are interested in serving on the Board.

Trustee Brandon asked if Commissioner Hambley and Mr. Morrison would attend the October meeting. Director Gallucci confirmed that they would.

Ms. Berry asked for clarification on the “half-person” issue, expressing a desire to understand how population-based representation might be affected when fractional allocations come from the largest county. She suggested reviewing the numbers to ensure fair representation.

Director Gallucci agreed, noting that staff would provide the specifics. She said staff could explore ways to address these concerns and added that previously recommended but unapproved Code of Regulations changes could be reconsidered.

Trustee Brandon commented on Commissioner Beverage’s proposal allowing County Commissioners to select their representatives annually. Using Medina County as an example, he noted that County Commissioners could choose which officials serve on the NOACA Board, potentially rotating seats among local municipalities or officials.

Director Gallucci confirmed that Commissioners do have input but noted that the Code of Regulations requires ratification for certain changes rather than a simple majority of the Board. She explained that the historical purpose of the membership, dating back to 1968, was to include not only County Commissioners but also other local elected officials, such as Engineers, Mayors, and Township Trustees—whose seats were not appointed solely by Commissioners. She emphasized the complexity of changes and the importance of understanding both the original intent and current proportionality requirements.

President Ronayne said the Board has had ongoing discussions regarding its governance structure and composition, with input from Commissioners and others. He noted that a new factor, state legislation affecting MPO composition across Ohio, adds complexity to these discussions. He explained that there are two concurrent conversations: the internal discussion about NOACA’s Board composition and the external conversation driven by state legislation.

President Ronayne stated that, for future meetings, it would be helpful to understand the federal requirements, laws, codes, and regulations that govern MPO composition, as well as how NOACA self-certifies compliance to the state, the governor’s office, and the state DOT. He emphasized the need to compare these federal requirements with the proposed state legislation. He expressed concern about whether pending state legislation, which proposes that no county has more votes than another, would conflict with federal guidelines and potentially place NOACA out of compliance. He noted that understanding the federal and state dynamics is critical, particularly as he assumes the Governance Committee chair next year.

Director Gallucci stated that, as the administrator who spent considerable time with colleagues on the issue, it could put NOACA in non-compliance and potentially jeopardize certification.

President Ronayne noted that reviewing and documenting the relevant Codes guiding NOACA would be helpful in discussions with state legislators to clarify compliance and future direction.

Director Gallucci added that she met with the Executive Director of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) last week to seek assistance regarding the state legislation. They will prepare a document addressing the issue, which can be included in the information sent to Columbus.

Mr. Gall said Lorain County has a mixed representation, including a County Commissioner and a County Engineer, based on a long-standing arrangement. He noted that this structure works well, as their representative is a past Board President. He emphasized that Lorain County should manage its own appointments, consistent with Commissioner Riddell's comments from the previous meeting. The County has two Commissioners and a County Engineer as its designated representatives. Mr. Gall explained that municipal and township representatives are selected by their respective organizations, maintaining local autonomy. Elected officials automatically become board members upon election, which eliminates the need for annual certification by the commissioners.

Director Gallucci asked Mr. Gall if he was suggesting that, unlike the current system, where Commissioners control the three Commissioner seats and municipalities/townships select their representatives, all seven seats should instead be allocated by the County Commissioners, like Commissioner Beverage's proposal.

Mr. Gall replied no, explaining that Lorain County manages its own appointments, while the municipalities handle theirs. He clarified that all members are selected by their respective municipalities or associations, except for the County Commissioners and the County Engineer, who are elected officials.

Director Gallucci noted that Lorain County's membership reflects the 1968 agreement's intent for diverse representation.

Ms. Teeuwen said Commissioner Beverage's concern was with Article IX, which requires all counties to approve changes, noting that each county should control its own membership.

Director Gallucci added that Commissioner Beverage also believed County Commissioners, not the Board, should decide their seats.

Mr. Gall recalled a similar issue with Cleveland two years ago that required approval from all counties.

Director Gallucci explained that process changes in 2012 had to be reversed by a later Mayor, showing the burden of ratification. She suggested some modifications, like title or position changes, should not require ratification, like Geauga County's request regarding Commissioner-controlled seats.

Ms. Berry asked whether ratification could be removed entirely, since many councils do not understand why they must vote on another County's or the City of Cleveland's membership.

Director Gallucci replied that Commissioner Hambley would explain the purpose of ratification: to prevent frequent or one-sided changes that could undermine balanced representation. She gave the example that if Lorain County Commissioners controlled all seven seats, mayors and townships would lose representation. She added that while Commissioners should be free to adjust their three seats, certain changes should still require ratification to preserve overall balance.

Mr. Gall suggested setting a fixed date, such as January 1, for membership changes, allowing counties time in December to make adjustments.

Director Gallucci noted that ratification now applies only to Article IV (membership), whereas it once applied to the entire document.

Commissioner Carolyn Brakey stated that while Geauga County currently has more seats than its population warrants, she is concerned that Cleveland and Cuyahoga County dominate NOACA decisions, as demonstrated by the Climate Action Plan, which passed despite opposition from the outer counties. She noted that residents find this imbalance troubling and said pending legislation may address it. She added that, with property taxes already a major concern in her County, Commissioners are working proactively to ease the burden and urged the Board to do the same before legislation mandates changes.

Ms. Teeuwen asked whether any action was required for this item.

Director Gallucci said no, noting the discussion only. She suggested exploring a structure with separate boards, one for MPO transportation and another for areas like economic development or climate action, so representation could differ while still meeting federal requirements. This could balance fairness, regional focus, and proportional representation without leaving some members feeling silenced.

Mr. Gall said he would love to see the math on half members.

Director Gallucci said staff would send that information out to the Committee.

Director Gallucci said Board membership requires balancing population and equity, while members appear satisfied with the current committee structure. She noted the meeting schedule remains open for adjustment, though it must continue flowing from Councils to Subcommittees to Committees to the Board. Fridays have traditionally been used since Commissioners typically do not meet then, a practice dating back to 1970. She concluded that Board membership is the primary concern, with committee and meeting structures less pressing, and asked if that understanding was correct or if further direction was needed.

Ms. Berry said her main concern is the length of board meetings, which often run four hours or more. While shorter, more frequent meetings could help, that would affect all committee schedules, so she was unsure of a better solution other than reviewing agendas.

Director Gallucci explained that in 2013, the Board chose to reduce travel by shifting from monthly two-hour meetings to quarterly four-hour meetings, which shortened the total time commitment. She said the intent was to allow discussion rather than “rubber-stamping” items, but she recognizes current demands may call for a different approach. She suggested exploring ways to streamline agendas and possibly aim for three-hour meetings.

Ms. Berry said a three-hour meeting would be ideal.

Director Gallucci added that this may require members to rely more on Committee work and trust Committee representatives to speak for items at the Board level.

Ms. Berry asked if it would be worthwhile to explore six meetings per year instead of four, though she noted downtown travel is not an issue for her.

Trustee Brandon said quarterly meetings work well for the outer counties, given the amount of information covered.

Ms. Berry said more frequent meetings might help members better digest the material.

Mr. Haupt noted that travel time adds two hours regardless of meeting length.

Trustee Brandon said the meeting length is unpredictable, as guest speakers and public comment can extend it.

Commissioner Brakey suggested limiting public comment to three minutes per person and 30 minutes total unless extended, like commissioner meetings.

Mr. Gall recalled the Board had previously discussed a “three and 30” rule.

Director Gallucci said NOACA currently allows two minutes per person, up to one hour, which was adopted when public interest was unusually high. In practice, the full hour is rarely used.

Mr. Gall said public service requires time for constituent input and engagement, adding humorously that the provided lunch carries him through the day.

Director Gallucci noted lunch was added when meetings were lengthened, to make the longer commitment more manageable. She thanked members for their time and input, saying the discussion was valuable for setting direction.

Reports/Updates

No reports/updates were presented at this meeting.

Old Business

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

New Business

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Gall made a motion to adjourn the special meeting at 4:35 p.m. Ms. Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Governance Committee will hold its next special meeting Friday, October 24, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the NOACA Offices.

Note: Additional information on the agenda items is available on [NOACA's website](#) and [YouTube channel](#)



Governance Committee 2025 Attendance Record

MEETING DATES	2/14/25	5/9/25	8/27/25	9/25/25 Special Meeting	10/24/25 Special Meeting	11/14/25
BEVERAGE III , Morris W. (Morgan McIntosh, Alternate)	X	X	X	X		
BIBB , Justin (Bonnie Teeuwen, Alternate) (Mike Culp, Alternate on 5/9/25)	A	A	A	A		
BRAKEY , Carolyn (Shane Hajjar, Alternate)		X		X		
BRANDON , Jeff (Allen Biehl, Alternate)	X	X	X	X		
DVORAK , James (Andy Haupt, Alternate)	X	A	A	A		
RIDDELL , Jeff (John Gall, Alternate) (Thomas Patrick III, Alternate on 5/9/25)	A	A	X	A		
RONAYNE , Chris (Debbie Berry, Alternate) (Annie Pease, Alternate on 5/9/25)	X/A	A	A	X/A		
TOTAL	6	7	6	7		

X = Member present A = Alternate present



**NOACA Governance Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**
October 24, 2025
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Trustee Jeff Brandon, Chair of Governance Committee, convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comments

No one signed in to provide public comment.

Executive Director's Report

Director Grace Gallucci reported that testimony will be given on House Bill 445, sponsored by Representatives Michael Dovilla and Brian Stewart. Sponsor testimony began this week, and the legislation has been opened for discussion. Further updates will be provided as the bill advances and opportunities for additional testimony arise.

Action Items

No action items were presented at this meeting.

Presentation/Discussion Item

Director Gallucci thanked members for their participation and recognized guests Mr. Hunter Morrison and Commissioner Steve Hambley, both former NOACA Board Presidents who contributed to earlier versions of the Code of Regulations, in 1991 and 2010, respectively. She reviewed the current committee structure, which was developed through a strategic planning process in 2013 and an 18-month Code review led by a 10-member task force that included Commissioner Hambley. The new structure established five standing committees—Finance and Audit, Planning and Programming, Policy, and Governance and External Affairs—composed of Board members to ensure thorough review before matters reach the Executive Committee. Director Gallucci noted ongoing efforts to make meetings more efficient, including possible use of a consent agenda for routine, committee-vetted items.

Regarding the consent agenda, Ms. Bonnie Teeuwen inquired whether Director Gallucci was referring to approving the items individually or as a complete committee agenda.

Director Gallucci replied that both options have been discussed. Some Board members suggested presenting a full committee agenda for consent approval, while others proposed the Executive Committee pre-determining which items require Board discussion. A consent agenda could cover all committees collectively, with specific discussion items separated out. She added

that staff are exploring these options, consulting with Board members experienced in other organizations using consent agendas, and will continue refining the structure to improve efficiency.

Director Gallucci explained that several subcommittees—Air Quality, Transportation, and Water Quality, along with Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) and the Transit Council—were already in place. The Safety and Operations Council (SOC) was created through a federal grant to strengthen NOACA’s safety focus. Additional groups, including the Business, Community, Rural, and Emerging Leaders Advisory Councils, were added later, and an Economic Development Subcommittee was recently formed. Most of the structure dates to the 2013 reorganization. She noted that federal rules require equitable and proportional Board representation, including local elected officials, public transit operators, and state officials (e.g., ODOT). Because NOACA oversees the Water Quality 208 Plan, the EPA and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District must also be represented.

Director Gallucci noted that Article IV of the Code of Regulations defines the current NOACA Board structure and was last updated in 2022 (Resolution 2022-06). This update, based on the 2019 resolution and census data, uses a formula to ensure Board representation reflects principally elected officials and regional administrators involved in transportation and environmental planning, while maintaining equal population-based representation across the NOACA region.

Director Gallucci asked the Governance Committee to consider establishing clearer criteria for NOACA Board members and alternates. She noted that while members are typically elected officials or regional administrators involved in transportation and environmental planning, some alternates do not meet these standards. She recommended clarifying or tightening the rules so alternates meet the same criteria as members, or applying a flexible approach consistently across all jurisdictions. She proposed discussing the issue at the November Governance Committee meeting to prepare for the January Board seating, with a special meeting if more time is needed.

Trustee Brandon asked if the Code of Regulations was written loosely regarding alternates.

Director Gallucci said the intent is clear, alternates should meet the same criteria as Board members, but the language is somewhat loose. She recalled the issue was discussed during the 2013 membership reform, but no action was taken.

Trustee Brandon agreed, noting that some alternates attend meetings regularly.

Ms. Debbie Berry noted that the Committee should consider continuity and consistency, as communication differs when an alternate is from another city. She emphasized that alternates represent the entire region, not just their locality, and urged careful consideration before adopting stricter rules.

Director Gallucci noted that while NOACA has improved consistency, rules for alternates remain unclear. She explained that NOACA now limits alternates to one per member, but some are not employees, raising questions about consistency and whether non-employees, such as business leaders, could serve. She emphasized that clearer guidance is needed to administer the Code consistently.

Commissioner Morris Beverage asked for clarification on the Code of Regulations language, noting it specifies “elected officials and regional administrators concerned with transportation and

environmental planning.” He pointed out that economic development has since been added to NOACA’s mission, which is not covered in that phrasing. He also observed that having an employee serve as an alternate improves communication, since they report directly to the Board member, unlike independent alternates such as other elected officials. He said clearer definitions are needed; if NOACA wants elected officials, it should specify that, if it wants regional administrators, that, too, should be clearly stated.

Director Gallucci agreed with Commissioner Beverage’s points, noting that even the Code of Regulations is inconsistent across sections. She said recent discussions—particularly regarding House Bill 445—highlight the perception of MPO boards as “unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats,” since not all members are elected officials. She clarified that federal law does not require all MPO members to be elected, allowing experts in transportation and environmental planning to serve. This issue, she said, underscores the need for clarity and consistency in NOACA’s rules for Board members and alternates. Director Gallucci emphasized she was not advocating one approach over another but wanted the Governance Committee to establish clear standards so NOACA can accurately represent its membership and respond confidently to legislative or public scrutiny.

Commissioner Dvorak asked whether NOACA had reviewed how other MPOs address this issue.

Director Gallucci said most MPOs follow federal language, though some vary. NOACA staff will research and present comparisons to the Governance Committee before further discussion.

Commissioner Beverage noted that any proposed changes for 2026 would require full Board approval. He inquired whether a meeting had been scheduled for December.

Director Gallucci said approval could occur in January during the Board’s roster and seating process, depending on the section involved.

Commissioner Beverage added that, therefore, the Governance Committee must act by November.

Director Gallucci said the Governance Committee must finalize its recommendation by December, since most Board appointments occur in early January during county commission meetings. If NOACA acts in January, the Committee’s work must be completed beforehand.

Commissioner Beverage noted that the full Board must approve any changes before the January seating.

Director Gallucci agreed, saying the approval would occur first on the January agenda, followed by the seating of members. Staff would then use the approved criteria to advise Board members.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether the current Board, those serving before the 2026 slate is seated, would be the ones voting on the changes.

Director Gallucci stated that if the Governance Committee moves forward, members would be notified immediately to select alternates or members. She noted submissions typically continue through January, with multiple roster changes, and suggested completing the process in December to reduce staff workload.

Commissioner Beverage said that Lake County had experienced an issue with an alternate. He suggested the Committee make progress before the November Governance Committee meeting and the full Board meeting in December.

Ms. Liz Barlik read the section on alternates from Article IV of the Code of Regulations, noting it requires ratification. She stated that each Board member must designate an alternate in writing to act in their absence, with full powers in all Board matters. The designation is valid for up to one year and may be revoked or modified at any time in writing.

Director Gallucci said there's no criteria specifically assigned in that section and that previous legal counsel has said that it refers back to the Board member because they're acting in their stead. The Board criteria should be whatever the Board's criteria is, but she would like that to be clearer.

Commissioner Beverage agreed, noting there is no requirement that an alternate be an elected official or regional administrator. He agreed that the bylaws are silent on the issue and need to be made clear.

Ms. Berry noted that requiring all Board members to be elected officials would be difficult for the City of Cleveland, given the number of representatives it has.

Director Gallucci said federal legislation and NOACA's bylaws allow for certain administrative positions, such as planning or public works directors, to serve as members. She said the language could be clarified while maintaining each community's ability to choose appropriate representatives.

Commissioner Beverage noted that Board members are divided among Cuyahoga County government, regional authorities, suburban Mayors, and the City of Cleveland, which includes department heads and Council Members. He said Cleveland's 17 Council Members represent a different branch of government than the Mayor.

Ms. Teeuwen stated that there are no other elected officials on the administrative side and that all city departments report to the Mayor.

Director Gallucci stated that Cleveland's Board membership is intended to be 50% from the Mayor's administration and 50% from City Council.

Commissioner Beverage noted that with four council seats, 13 other council members could serve as alternates.

Director Gallucci clarified that council members currently serve as members and as the alternates.

Ms. Teeuwen explained that under the Mayor are senior strategists, chiefs (e.g., Operations, Integrated Development), and directors (e.g., Capital Projects), all reporting up to the Mayor.

Director Gallucci said Cleveland's current representation works well and could serve as a positive example. Commissioner Beverage agreed.

Ms. Berry noted that it may be difficult in some cases to select only elected officials.

Director Gallucci said Cuyahoga County faces a similar issue with its council members, who are part of a different branch of government than the executive. She thanked the Committee for the discussion and expressed appreciation for Commissioner Beverage's goal of completing the work by December so that staff have time to implement the process.

Director Gallucci explained that the Board is structured based on proportional representation, consisting of 46 voting members, including one from ODOT, and two non-voting state representatives. She said the Code of Regulations applies a formula, updated after each decennial census, to allocate 45 seats among the five counties by population. Cuyahoga County is divided between the City of Cleveland and the remainder of the county, which are counted together. Using the regional population of 2.1 million, with 1.3 million in Cuyahoga, the formula produces fractional seat counts that are rounded as follows: Cleveland: 8, Geauga: 3 (the minimum allowed under the Code), Lake: 5, Lorain:7, and Medina: 4. Cuyahoga loses one seat to maintain the 45-member total. This system, she said, ensures proportional representation while preserving minimum allocations.

Ms. Berry asked how adding one Board member would affect seat percentages, noting that Cuyahoga County currently gives a seat to Geauga County to meet its minimum.

Director Gallucci said staff could run the numbers, adding a seat might slightly change allocations, but likely not for the overall membership of the other counties.

Ms. Berry said she was curious because previous discussions had suggested that Cuyahoga County might be two or three seats short, and she wanted clarification.

Director Gallucci clarified that Cuyahoga County is sometimes described as "two or three seats short" because certain regional agencies, like GCRTA, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, are counted toward Cuyahoga's total but can be disputed as regional rather than county-specific. She noted that according to the allocation formula, Cuyahoga County has never been more than one seat short, with fractional calculations sometimes approaching but not exceeding two.

Ms. Teeuwen asked if the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, GCRTA, and Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority are included in Cuyahoga County's numbers.

Director Gallucci confirmed, noting these three are part of the 18 members from Cuyahoga, leaving 15 for suburban mayors, county council, and county administration.

Ms. Berry asked about the three state seats.

Director Gallucci explained that one is ODOT (voting, not part of population allocation) and two are nonvoting, the Ohio Turnpike Commission and Ohio EPA. She said this overview provides context for membership calculations and any potential changes.

Director Gallucci reviewed the Board of Directors by region, noting that Cuyahoga County includes county government and regional authorities, which have been disputed but remain under Cuyahoga. She explained that when GCRTA was added, it represented public transit and Laketrans was not yet on the Board, so the seat counted toward Cuyahoga. Now, with Laketrans on the Board, the allocation is no longer debatable.

Commissioner Beverage noted that Laketrans operates daily to downtown Cleveland.

Director Gallucci agreed.

Director Gallucci noted that Mr. Morrison, who spoke at the last meeting, provided background on NOACA's regional structure and the 1991 revision of the Code of Regulations. She added that Commissioner Hambley considers himself the caretaker of that version.

Mr. Morrison explained that NOACA was created to ensure proportional, equitable representation. Cuyahoga County's membership links to its Planning Commission, and the Board includes key regional actors such as transit agencies. He noted that reviewing fairness and representation every 10 years reflects population shifts, emerging organizations, and NOACA's expanding role, including economic development, continuing the collaborative approach of past updates in the 1990s and 2000s.

Trustee Brandon asked Mr. Morrison whether NOACA's current structure is fair and equitable.

Mr. Morrison said that while fairness can be subjective, NOACA's Board was intentionally structured to include key government and transportation actors from each county, reflecting the districts of Cuyahoga County's Planning Commission. This design, developed in the 1990s under Commissioner Boyle, ensured broad representation across the county and carried into NOACA's Board. He noted that past revisions addressed imbalances and emphasized that current committee members need to deliberate to reach a structure that works for both their county and the region.

Commissioner Hambley agreed with Mr. Morrison, noting NOACA's long history of revisiting membership and governance, dating back to its former seven-county structure. He recalled past challenges, including lawsuits, threatened county withdrawals, and Board member indictments, that led to a major 1991 restructuring, in which Mr. Morrison played a key role. At that time, GCRTA, Laketrans, and the Regional Sewer District were Board members. Fairness mechanisms such as weighted voting were later revised or removed. In 2001, he co-chaired an update to the Code of Regulations to preserve the 1991 reforms with input from all counties. He emphasized that NOACA continually adjusts membership to balance representation, reflect population changes, and address expanding responsibilities like economic development. Despite periodic debate, these reviews help ensure effective regional governance over transportation, environmental planning, and related projects.

Director Gallucci asked Commissioner Hambley to elaborate on ratification, noting that the Governance Committee has questioned whether it should continue, and acknowledged that Mr. Morrison may also have relevant perspectives.

Commissioner Hambley explained that originally, any changes to the Code of Regulations required unanimous approval from all five counties to ensure every entity could ratify changes. Over time, this was reduced to focus primarily on Board composition. He emphasized that this approach protects smaller counties, ensuring their interests are not overridden by a majority and allowing them to determine who represents their county.

Commissioner Beverage said that while Board composition overall should still require full ratification, individual counties should have autonomy to decide who fills their allocated seats. He noted that counties have different internal structures, e.g., Geauga has three Commissioners, Lake has three Commissioners plus an Engineer and Laketrans, and Medina has a Commissioner,

Engineer, and township and municipal representatives. Allowing counties to manage their own seats would address situations where desired changes are currently blocked by other counties.

Commissioner Hambley explained that Medina County's municipal and township representative seats were created in 1999. Originally, the county had three Commissioners and a County Engineer. Over time, alternates were designated from townships and municipalities, and the County decided to let jurisdictions choose their representatives. This approach was approved by consensus and ratified by all parties.

Trustee Brandon asked if Medina County would have the flexibility to have three Commissioners serve on the NOACA Board.

Commissioner Hambley said that any proposal would still require ratification. He noted that, as an alternate, he typically defers to the primary commissioner, currently Commissioner Aaron Harrison, and participates when needed. He added that he has not closely followed current discussions regarding changes in Lake or Geauga counties but expects that any proposal would follow the usual process of presentation and approval by all relevant members.

Mr. Morrison said that NOACA's structure was designed like a council of governments among the five counties, with proportional representation by population. Within each county, the County Commissioners decide how to fill their allocated seats, whether all Commissioners, a mix including engineers or transit representatives, or other officials, so long as those appointed have relevant responsibilities (e.g., capital or roadway planning). He noted that changes in a county's seat configuration are generally accepted by the other counties if the representatives meet these criteria.

Director Gallucci explained that Geauga County requested a change in representation, from three Commissioners to two Commissioners and a County Engineer, but two counties have declined to ratify it, preventing Geauga from implementing its desired membership. She noted that while the Board approved it by majority, ratification is required; Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Geauga counties have ratified so far.

Ms. Berry asked Mr. Morrison and Commissioner Hambley whether the intent was that ratification shouldn't be necessary, and that each county's Commissioners should decide their own representation. She suggested that Commissioners could formally vote within their counties, rather than requiring other counties, like Cuyahoga, to approve representation changes that do not affect them.

Trustee Brandon asked Commissioner Beverage if he was looking for more flexibility.

Commissioner Beverage said yes.

Mr. Morrison said that when NOACA was reconstituted in the 1990s, the counties effectively created a council of governments, with County Commissioners acting as the appointing authorities. Within that framework, Geauga County's proposal to shift from three Commissioners to two Commissioners and a County Engineer makes sense, as long as the four elected officials agree. He added that including County Engineers on the Board is beneficial, given their role in managing NOACA-funded projects and budgets.

Commissioner Dvorak asked whether it would be easier to amend the bylaws to eliminate the need for ratification of each county's Board composition.

Commissioner Beverage said the Lake County Commissioners appoint representatives to several boards each year and suggested the same could be done for NOACA, naming members and alternates at the January reorganization meeting.

Ms. Teeuwen recommended focusing on next steps rather than revisiting prior discussion.

Ms. Berry asked whether removing ratification would itself require ratification by all five counties or if the Board could make that change directly.

Director Gallucci explained that NOACA's previous counsel had interpreted the Code to require ratification to remove the ratification process, but Article IX does not explicitly state that requirement.

Ms. Berry asked if the Committee could make a motion to eliminate the ratification process and allow each county's Commissioners to select their Board members.

Commissioner Beverage supported the idea but asked how it would apply to Cleveland's delegation of eight members, four from the mayor's office and four from City Council, and who would select them.

Ms. Teeuwen suggested that the City of Cleveland establish its own process for appointing four administrative and four legislative members.

Commissioner Beverage agreed, noting the Mayor would likely appoint four members and Council the other four.

Ms. Berry noted that Cuyahoga County is different, with three members appointed by the County Executive, one by the Council, and other representatives following regional allocations.

Commissioner Beverage added that there are 11 suburban mayors representing Cuyahoga County.

Ms. Berry asked staff to display the slide showing Board members.

Director Gallucci explained that some cities in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties have automatic representation based on size, as required by federal law, and noted that if Geauga County appointed only township trustees from unurbanized areas, incorporated areas could lose representation, conflicting with federal funding rules. She emphasized that any changes should consider these criteria, which the Board and Governance Committee can manage.

Commissioner Beverage said that, to Mr. Morrison's point, the main challenge in many of these discussions is that, in some respects, NOACA functions as an MPO, while in others, it operates as a council of governments. He said his understanding of a council of governments is that the counties and commissions came together to collaborate on shared regional issues.

Mr. Morrison explained that NOACA is a council of governments and the federal MPO for five counties. Eastgate serves Mahoning, Trumbull, and Ashtabula counties but functions as an MPO only for Mahoning and Trumbull, since Ashtabula lacks metropolitan status. Both agencies oversee transportation, water and air quality, and economic development. NOACA is pursuing Economic Development District designation, which Eastgate already holds. Other MPOs include

AMATS (Akron, Portage, Summit) and SCATS (Canton). A seven-county MPO was once considered, but Akron opted not to join Cleveland. Mr. Morrison emphasized that NOACA's five-county structure promotes balanced representation and coordination, with equitable governance and stronger township representation remaining priorities.

Director Gallucci agreed with Mr. Morrison's point, noting that many councils of governments, including Eastgate, operate with separate Boards for different functions, such as MPO or EDD, allowing representation to match each role. She suggested that NOACA's committee could explore similar structural options to address concerns.

Mr. Morrison added that Summit, Portage, Stark, and Wayne counties are a council of governments, while NEFCO serves as an EDD and a water quality body but not an MPO, showing how regions tailor governance to local needs. Using Eastgate as another example, he noted that Ashtabula County participates in the council but not in MPO functions, illustrating varied regional approaches.

Commissioner Beverage proposed removing NOACA's ratification process for delegations to improve accountability. Under his idea, county commissioners, the Cuyahoga County Executive, and the Cleveland mayor and council, all elected officials, would appoint representatives directly, addressing criticism that NOACA is led by unelected bureaucrats.

Mr. Morrison emphasized that ultimate authority lies with elected officials from the five counties and the City of Cleveland, recalling that in the 1990s, County Commissioners restructured NOACA to ensure fairness, professionalism, and accountability.

Commissioner Beverage said he had no appetite to change the Board's composition or proportional representation and other members agreed.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion that each county's NOACA delegation be appointed annually by their respective Boards of County Commissioners—Geauga, Lake, Medina, and Lorain counties—before NOACA's first Board meeting each year. The Cuyahoga County Executive would appoint Cuyahoga's four members, while the City of Cleveland's Mayor and City Council would each appoint their four representatives annually.

Commissioner Dvorak seconded the motion.

Commissioner Dvorak said Commissioner Beverage's motion clearly outlines the proposal, reflects existing arrangements between Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland, and provides needed clarification hence his second.

Ms. Berry asked who determines representation for other Cuyahoga County members beyond the four seats it is responsible for.

Commissioner Beverage clarified that his motion applies only to four counties. He noted that regional authorities, such as NEORS, GCRTA, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, ODOT, Ohio EPA, and the Ohio Turnpike Commission, are already defined in the NOACA Board composition. Cuyahoga County and its suburban regions would remain unchanged unless a separate motion addresses them.

Ms. Teeuwen said that in Lorain County, the cities of Lorain and Elyria were originally specified for representation because of their large populations.

Director Gallucci confirmed that was the case.

Ms. Teeuwen noted, however, that nothing requires representation to be based on population size; NOACA simply chose that approach. She said Commissioner Beverage's motion could allow Lorain County's seven members to come from anywhere in the county, which those cities might question.

Commissioner Beverage said County Commissioners would be accountable to voters if larger cities were not represented. It would be up to local officials, not NOACA, to decide representation, and any issues would be resolved through local political accountability.

Trustee Brandon asked if the motion could affect NOACA's federal MPO governance requirements.

Director Gallucci said she did not believe the motion would affect NOACA's federal MPO governance requirements. She noted that any concerns could be addressed by the Governance Committee through appointment criteria, with final approval at the January Board meeting. She also pointed out that NOACA's 48-member Board is small compared to other MPOs in Ohio, some of which have over 100 members.

Ms. Berry asked who selects representatives for the Cuyahoga suburban regions.

Director Gallucci explained that before Cuyahoga County adopted an Executive form of government, regional representatives were elected by mayors within each region, with NOACA administering the election. After the change in government, regions began nominating candidates, and the County Executive now makes the appointments based on those recommendations.

Director Gallucci said that since the adoption of the Executive form of government, the appointment process has been unclear. NOACA had no formal documentation of full Board appointments until the current County Executive, though prior executives submitted nominations when filling vacancies. Those nominations were typically made in consultation with regional representatives.

Ms. Berry clarified that, as described, regions provide recommendations, but the County Executive ultimately selects the regional representatives, similar to how other counties would operate under the proposal.

Commissioner Beverage said it appears the County Executive already has the authority described by Ms. Berry.

Ms. Berry said she was seeking to clarify the adoption process.

Director Gallucci noted that elections have not occurred since Cuyahoga County adopted the Executive form of government.

Ms. Berry added that, because the process is not written, she wanted NOACA to establish a clear, consistent procedure similar to that used by the other counties.

Commissioner Beverage commented that there should be no more silent rules.

Ms. Berry noted that if the motion advances to the Executive Committee and Board, the cities of Elyria and Lorain could request changes or challenge their inclusion at the Board meeting.

Director Gallucci said some cities in the regions have expressed concern that they no longer get to elect representatives. She noted that, historically, even under the County Commissioner structure, they did not have a role in approving the appointments, and the election results were simply confirmed.

Ms. Berry proposed an amendment to clarify the current process, noting that if the full Board wishes to revisit the issue, it can do so during its discussion.

Commissioner Beverage offered to make a motion for that amendment.

Trustee Brandon confirmed that it would be appropriate.

Commissioner Beverage moved to amend his motion, maintaining all prior provisions. He proposed that members of the Cuyahoga Suburban Regions, the West Shore, Southwest, South Central, Cuyahoga, Chagrin Southeast, Heights, and Hillcrest Regions, be appointed by the Cuyahoga County Executive without ratification by any other entity.

Ms. Teeuwen requested clarification, suggesting a separate motion to eliminate ratification rather than including it in the current motion.

Trustee Brandon asked if Ms. Teeuwen's suggestion was part of Commissioner Beverage's original motion. He confirmed that his amendment already specified these decisions should not be ratified.

Ms. Teeuwen reiterated her desire to make a separate motion to remove ratification.

Commissioner Beverage stated that the current motion should proceed with a second, followed by a separate motion addressing Ms. Teeuwen's request.

Trustee Brandon asked whether Ms. Teeuwen's request could instead be incorporated into the original amendment.

Ms. Barlik explained that the Committee needed to decide on two items, membership and ratification, which could be handled separately. She noted that ratification did not need to be added to Commissioner Beverage's motion, as it would occur first at the full vote. She clarified that a member should second the amendment, the Committee should vote on it before voting the original motion, and Ms. Teeuwen's motion could then be addressed separately.

Ms. Berry said the Committee would combine Commissioner Beverage's two amendments into one and she would second that amendment.

Commissioner Beverage confirmed he made a motion and then amended it.

Ms. Berry reminded Commissioner Beverage that he had amended his motion twice, and that a request had been made to remove the ratification portion.

Ms. Barlik clarified that there was one amendment based on the two items, applying only to the suburban region.

Ms. Berry reiterated that she was seconding the amendment.

Ms. Barlik stated that the Committee needed to vote on the motion to amend and restated it as follows:

“To amend the original motion so that the counties listed by Commissioner Beverage can make their appointments, and Cuyahoga County would be responsible for appointing the suburban regions.”

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to amend the original motion to include all regions listed in the presentation, to specify that Cuyahoga County will be responsible for appointing the suburban regions. Ms. Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Committee voted on the original motion as amended for the counties to select their own members. The motion passed by voice vote.

Ms. Teeuwen made a motion to remove ratification of all the counties for changing the bylaws. Commissioner Beverage seconded the motion.

Commissioner Beverage said the amendment should be to remove the ratification requirement.

Ms. Barlik read Article IX regarding amendments to the Code of Regulations:

“This Code of Regulations may be altered, amended, or repealed only by a majority vote of the Board of directors. However, any matters relating to Article IV of this Code of Regulations shall be altered, amended, or repealed only upon the written approval of each county of the NOACA area. Alteration, amendment, or repeal of this Code may be initiated by the Board, either at a special meeting called for that purpose or at any regular meeting where notice of such purpose was given immediately preceding the regular meeting.”

Ms. Barlik stated that the amendment would remove the sentence regarding ratification of Article IV.

The Committee voted on the amendment, and the motion passed by voice vote.

Trustee Brandon asked if the action item would go to the Executive Committee November 14, 2025. Director Gallucci said yes.

Trustee Brandon asked if the Code of Regulations change would go to the December Board meeting if approved by the Executive Committee. Director Gallucci said yes.

Commissioner Beverage suggested that NOACA establish a policy allowing the chair, at the start of each agenda item, to ask whether the Board prefers to vote immediately or hold discussion, enabling the full Board to decide whether items should be discussed or placed on the consent agenda.

Ms. Berry expressed concern that this process could lead to lengthy debates if votes are close, as members might argue over whether to discuss or vote immediately.

Commissioner Beverage said members who want to discuss could make their case before voting, ensuring the majority decides. His goal was to avoid a small committee determining consent items when the full Board might prefer discussion.

Ms. Berry cautioned that this could prolong meetings and suggested a more efficient approach allowing the Executive Committee to draft the agenda, while Board members could flag items for discussion before the meeting if they feel they warrant it.

Commissioner Beverage asked if agendas are distributed a week in advance. Director Gallucci confirmed they are.

Commissioner Beverage suggested allowing the chair to move directly to a vote on any item unless notified in advance by a Board member who wishes to discuss it.

Ms. Barlik cautioned that it could violate Sunshine Laws, as Board discussions must occur in public.

Trustee Brandon said that, based on past practice, action items are taken first and presentations later if time allows. The chair already has the flexibility to postpone items to keep meetings efficient and maintain quorum. He agreed with Ms. Berry that debating whether to discuss an item could waste more time.

Director Gallucci affirmed Ms. Barlik's point, noting legal counsel advised that all items must have an opportunity for public discussion.

Commissioner Beverage said many action items include background and presentation slides that are sometimes unnecessary if there is no discussion. He suggested skipping directly to the action slide unless a Board member requests the presentation.

Director Gallucci agreed, saying that after presenting the action slide, the chair could simply ask if there is any discussion, allowing members to request a presentation if desired.

Commissioner Beverage agreed with that approach.

Commissioner Beverage said the process would work but should occur before the action item. If the Board moves directly to a vote after a motion and a second, discussion could be skipped unintentionally.

Director Gallucci said discussion must always be offered.

Ms. Berry asked whether discussion requires a majority or if a single member's request is sufficient.

Commissioner Beverage said any Board member should be able to request a presentation or discussion; otherwise, the chair may move to a motion and vote.

Director Gallucci agreed, noting this could be addressed procedurally and offered to bring it to the Executive Committee, prepare the December agenda, and outline the process for the Board.

Regarding alternates, Commissioner Beverage noted that NOACA's scope now extends beyond transportation to include environmental and economic development issues. He proposed

clarifying the language to specify that members and alternates should be principal elected officials or regional administrators actively engaged in these areas.

Director Gallucci agreed staff could make the suggested changes. Ms. Berry supported the revision, saying it aligns with the Committee's charge.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether an elected official's staff member would qualify; Director Gallucci said it would depend on the individual.

Ms. Barlik reminded the Committee that it was revising the Code of Regulations, which should reflect broad goals rather than detailed procedures.

Director Gallucci proposed that staff develop qualification criteria for the Governance Committee to review or include as an appendix.

Commissioner Beverage preferred the criteria be clearly defined, affirming that staff members, organization representatives, or regional administrators could serve as alternates if they meet the stated qualifications.

Ms. Berry asked if another Governance Committee meeting would be held before the next Board meeting.

Trustee Brandon confirmed that the next Governance Committee meeting was scheduled for November 14.

Ms. Berry said the Committee could vote then but continue the discussion in the meantime.

Director Gallucci asked whether Commissioner Beverage's intent was for staff to serve as members or only as alternates; he confirmed it was only for alternates. She noted that broader application could let all county appointees be staff, which is not the intent, and he clarified the exception applies only to alternates from an elected official's organization. Director Gallucci said staff could draft criteria for alternate qualifications for the next Governance Committee meeting.

Commissioner Beverage requested that the November meeting include a proposal recognizing economic development representation for Board members and requiring alternates to meet the same criteria—allowing for some flexibility to include individuals from county government who may not be direct employees but are affiliated with elected officials' offices.

Ms. Berry noted that the choice of alternate might depend on whether the member represents a township, city, or county. Commissioner Beverage agreed.

Director Gallucci said staff will review all options and questions raised and report back to the Governance Committee before the January seating.

Commissioner Beverage noted that adding economic development language should be straightforward and said he would like to refine the definition of an alternate.

Ms. Berry agreed, saying NOACA should have a clear definition for an alternate.

Director Gallucci added that she and Commissioner Beverage discussed this issue last year, and it continues to arise frequently.

Commissioner Beverage said his goal was to ensure clarity and remove ambiguity.

Ms. Barlik confirmed that Commissioner Beverage's motion would amend the Code. She explained staff would prepare redlined revisions for the Committee to review and vote on in November, with staff presenting them to the Board for approval in December.

Ms. Berry asked Ms. Barlik to include the draft with the meeting agenda.

Director Gallucci noted the edits would also be included in the accompanying memo.

Reports/Updates

No reports/updates were presented at this meeting.

Old Business

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

New Business

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

Adjournment

Ms. Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m. Commissioner Beverage seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next Governance Committee meeting will be November 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the NOACA offices.

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



NOACA
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

**Governance Committee
2025 Attendance Record**

MEETING DATES	2/14/25	5/9/25	8/27/25	9/25/25 Special Meeting	10/24/25 Special Meeting	11/14/25
BEVERAGE III , Morris W. (Morgan McIntosh, Alternate)	X	X	X	X	X	
BIBB , Justin (Bonnie Teeuwen, Alternate) (Mike Culp, Alternate on 5/9/25)	A	A	A	A	A	
BRAKEY , Carolyn (Shane Hajjar, Alternate)		X		X		
BRANDON , Jeff (Allen Biehl, Alternate)	X	X	X	X	X	
DVORAK , James (Andy Haupt, Alternate)	X	A	A	A	X	
RIDDELL , Jeff (John Gall, Alternate) (Thomas Patrick III, Alternate on 5/9/25)	A	A	X	A		
RONAYNE , Chris (Debbie Berry, Alternate) (Annie Pease, Alternate on 5/9/25)	X/A	A	A	X/A	A	
TOTAL MEMBERS ATTEND:	6	7	6	7	5	

X = Member present A = Alternate present



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: NOACA Governance Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: November 7, 2025
RE: **Code of Regulations Revision – Article IX Ratification**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Governance Committee is asked to consider recommending an amendment to Article IX of the NOACA Code of Regulations to the Executive Committee for placement as a presentation item on the Board of Directors meeting agenda for a future special meeting, of which the date is to be determined, and as an action item on the December 2025 Board of Directors regular meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

Article IX of the Code of Regulations regarding Amendments requires changes to Article IV to be ratified by each County. During a series of meetings (August 27, September 25, and October 24) the Governance Committee discussed the Board's current membership and possible changes as well as the ratification required of any changes. At the meeting on October 24, a motion was passed to remove this requirement from Article IX. The intent is to allow for changes to Board membership to be approved and take effect more timely and efficiently, as well as allow greater flexibility and control by NOACA's primary members (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina Counties and the City of Cleveland). The exact changes are included in Attachment 1.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact for this item.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Article IX of the Code of Regulations regarding Amendments allows the Board to take action on Code amendments at a regular meeting only when notice of such action occurs at the immediately preceding regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. To satisfy this requirement, this item will first be presented at future special meeting, of which the date is to be determined, and then presented for action at the regularly scheduled December 12, 2025, Board meeting. This will ensure that any subsequent changes in membership will be approved with sufficient time to execute new membership seating in January.

GG:EB

Attachment 1: Draft Amended NOACA Code of Regulations, Article IX

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS

This Code of Regulations may be altered, amended or repealed only by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. ~~However, any matters relating to Article IV of this Code of Regulations shall be altered, amended or repealed only upon written approval of each County of the NOACA area.~~ Alteration, amendment or repeal of this Code may be initiated by the Board either after a special meeting called for that purpose or at any regular meeting where notice of such purpose was given at the immediately preceding regular meeting.

DRAFT



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: NOACA Governance Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: November 7, 2025
RE: Code of Regulations Revision – Section 4.2 Membership

ACTION REQUESTED

The Governance Committee is asked to consider recommending an amendment to Article IV of the NOACA Code of Regulations to the Executive Committee for placement as a presentation item on the Board of Directors meeting agenda for a future special meeting, of which the date is to be determined, and as an action item on the December 2025 Board of Directors regular meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

Membership to the NOACA Board of Directors is determined by [NOACA's Code of Regulations](#), Article IV, Section 4.2 Composition; Alternates; Term; Process for Apportioning Board Seats. Since NOACA's formation in 1968, Board membership has always included members of the Boards of County Commissioners in the NOACA region, the Mayor of the City of Cleveland and other elected/public officials. A brief history of Board membership follows:

1968	NOACA's founding agreement sets membership as the 21 County Commissioners from the 7 member counties, 3 other elected officials from each of the member counties, the Mayor of Cleveland and the Dept. of Urban Affairs
1976	NOACA's Constitution established membership as 3 County Commissioners from each member County and at least one additional member from each County, based on population, who are public officials
1991	NOACA's Code of Regulation replaces its Constitution and established a 37-member Board with each member specifically identified by position and/or jurisdiction
1999	ODOT made a voting member
2009	Weighed voting eliminated; the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority added as a member and the cities of Lakewood, Parma, Euclid, and Cleveland Heights enumerated as members of suburban Cuyahoga County
2011	Cuyahoga County members changed from Commissioners and Engineer to Executive, Dir. Of Public Works, Appointee, and Council Member
2012	City of Cleveland Mayor position changed to Mayor/Chief of Government Affairs (changed back in 2023)
2013	Lake County replaced Municipal Representative with Laketrans
2020	Allocation of membership to be based on decennial census data according to formula
2022	Reallocation of the Board based on 2020 census data; 2 seats added to the City of Cleveland

During a series of meetings (August 27, September 25, and October 24) the Governance Committee discussed the Board's current membership and possible changes as well as the ratification required of any changes. At the meeting on October 24, a motion was passed to amend the membership list in the Code of Regulations to change specific positions to County Commissioner or Mayor appointees. It was also discussed, and changes accordingly made, that there should be some parameters around membership since the appointments will have more discretion and be less prescriptive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact for this item.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Article IX of the Code of Regulations regarding Amendments allows the Board to take action on Code amendments at a regular meeting only when notice of such action occurs at the immediately preceding regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. To satisfy this requirement, this item will first be presented at future special meeting, of which the date is to be determined, and then presented for action at the regularly scheduled December 12, 2025, Board meeting. This will ensure that any subsequent changes in membership will be approved with sufficient time to execute new membership seating in January.

GG:EB

Attachment 1: Draft Amended NOACA Code of Regulations, Section 4.2

ARTICLE IV
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4.1 Duties of Board of Directors. The business of the Agency shall be managed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall exercise all powers of the Agency, which are not otherwise required to be exercised by Agency members.

Section 4.2 Composition; Alternates; Term; Process for Apportioning Board Seats.

(a) Composition. The Board of Directors shall consist of representatives from the five-county area. The goal for representation is to bring to the Board's discussions and decision-making the principal elected officials and regional administrators of the NOACA area concerned with transportation, and environmental planning, and economic development while assuring to the area's citizens an approximation of equal representation by population as reported in each decennial census subject to the requirement that each county shall have not less than three Board representatives. All members of the Board of Directors must hold an elected or appointed position in or be employed by a political subdivision, government agency, or public body within the geographic area of the respective appointing authorities set forth in Section 4.2(c) through 4.2(h) below. Individual Board members shall be specified annually at the first meeting. Each County and the City of Cleveland shall be responsible for assuring appropriate representation according to this section, recognizing the goal for representation, dues procedures and compliance within each jurisdiction's and the Agency's mission. Each member of the Board shall be entitled to vote on all matters submitted to the Board for a vote.

(b) Apportionment. Board positions shall be apportioned among the five counties and the City of Cleveland based on population to arrive at a Board of 46 total members, pursuant to the formula contained in Appendix II to this Code. ~~Individual Board members shall be specified annually at the first meeting. Each County and the City of Cleveland shall be responsible for assuring appropriate representation according to this section, recognizing the goal for representation, dues procedures and compliance within each jurisdiction's and the Agency's mission. Each member of the Board shall be entitled to vote on all matters submitted to the Board for a vote.~~ To apportion Board seats under this section, within 180 days following the publication of each decennial census, the Board shall calculate and determine such changes to Board composition as shall be necessary to conform to the requirements of this section. Such changes may be made by resolution of the Board of Directors and shall not require ratification by the five counties under Article IX.

	<u>Votes</u>
(ac) Cuyahoga County	
(i) <u>County Government</u>	
(A) County Executive <u>Appointee</u>	1
(B) Director of Public Works County Executive <u>Appointee</u>	1
(C) County Executive <u>Appointee</u>	1
(D) County Council Member.....	1
Total	4
(ii) <u>Cuyahoga Suburban Regions (appointment to be made by the Cuyahoga County Executive)</u>	
(A) West Shore Region.....	1
(B) Southwest Region.....	1
(C) South/Central Region.....	1
(D) Cuyahoga Region.....	1
(E) Chagrin/Southeast Region.....	1

(F) Heights Region.....	1
(G) Hillcrest Region.....	1
Total	7
(iii) Cuyahoga Suburban Cities	
(A) City of Cleveland Heights.....	1
(B) City of Euclid.....	1
(C) City of Lakewood.....	1
(D) City of Parma.....	1
Total	4
(iv) Regional Authorities	
(A) Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.....	1
(B) Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (President of the Board of Trustees or General Manager, as the President of the Board of Trustees may designate).....	1
(C) Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority.....	1
Total	3
(v) City of Cleveland	
(A) Mayor <u>Appointee</u>	1
(B) Director of Capital Projects Mayor <u>Appointee</u>	1
(C) City Planning Director Mayor <u>Appointee</u>	1
(D) Member of Mayor's Cabinet Mayor <u>Appointee</u>	1
(E) Council Member.....	1
(F) Council Member.....	1
(G) Council Member.....	1
(H) Council Member.....	1
Total	8
(bd) Geauga County	
(i) County Commissioner <u>Appointee</u>	1
(ii) County Commissioner <u>Appointee</u>	1
(iii) County Commissioner <u>Appointee</u>	1
Total	3
(ee) Lake County	
(i) County Commissioner <u>Appointee</u>	1
(ii) County Commissioner <u>Appointee</u>	1
(iii) County Commissioner <u>Appointee</u>	1
(iv) County Engineer <u>Commissioner Appointee</u>	1
(v) Laketran <u>County Commissioner Appointee</u>	1
Total	5
(df) Lorain County	
(i) County Commissioner <u>Appointee</u>	1
(ii) County Commissioner <u>Appointee</u>	1
(iii) County Commissioner (County Engineer) <u>Appointee</u>	1
(iv) City of Lorain <u>County Commissioner Appointee</u>	1
(v) City of Elyria <u>Lorain County Commissioner Appointee</u>	1
(vi) Municipal Representative <u>County Commissioner Appointee</u>	1
(vii) Township Representative <u>County Commissioner Appointee</u>	1
Total	7
(eg) Medina County	
(i) County Commissioner <u>Appointee</u>	1

(ii) County Commissioner (Municipal Representative)Appointee.....	1
(iii) County Commissioner (Township Representative)Appointee.....	1
(iv) County Engineer Commissioner Appointee	1
Total	4

(fh) State of Ohio

(i) Department of Transportation.....	1
(appointment to be made by ODOT Director)	

TOTAL	46
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(i) Non-Voting Members. Pursuant to contracts approved by the Board of Directors, a representative of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Northeast District Office, is a non-voting ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the Agency. The Executive Director/Chairman of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission shall also be a non-voting ex officio member of the Board of Directors. The Departments of Development, Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency of the State of Ohio, as well as such other agencies of government as the Board of Directors may approve by regulation adopted at a meeting, may be represented. Representatives of these agencies shall have rights established by the Board of Directors but shall not have a right to vote or a right of initiative.

(j) No staff member of any regional or county planning commission, no consultant, nor any Agency staff member, whether part time or full time, whose salary is reimbursed in whole or in part by or through the Agency, shall vote as a member or alternate of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee on appropriations, grants or contracts between NOACA and the employer of such person, but attendance of such person may be included in determining a quorum.

(k) Alternates. Each person who is a member of the Board of Directors shall designate an alternate to act in the absence of such member. Alternates shall be subject to the same requirements as Board members and possess full powers in all matters which come before the Board of Directors. Each alternate shall be considered a Board member with respect to all actions taken in capacity as an alternate, including any duties as an Executive Committee member. Designation of an alternate shall be in writing and must be submitted to the Board of Directors. Each designation shall be effective for no more than one year from the date it is submitted to the Board of Directors. Each person who is a member of the Board of Directors may revoke or modify the designation at any time in writing and submit it to the Board of Directors.

(l) Proxies. Each person who is a member of the Board of Directors by virtue of a position representing a county within the five-county area may elect to vote by written proxy on any matter submitted to the Board. Alternates are specifically precluded from exercising such proxy rights.

(m) Each person who is a member of the Board of Directors and any alternate designated by such member shall vacate Board membership immediately upon ceasing to hold the public office or position which originally entitled such person to become a member of the Board of Directors. The successor of such member shall be designated in the same manner as the vacating member was selected.

(n) The Board of Directors is authorized to take appropriate measures to insure attendance and a quorum, including limitations on speaking or similar rights of non-attending members, but no such measure shall operate to diminish the vote of any member government or collection of communities.



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: NOACA Governance Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: November 7, 2025
RE: **CY 2026 Board, Committee, Subcommittee and Council Meeting Schedule**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Committee is asked to recommend the proposed Calendar Year (CY) 2026 meeting schedule for NOACA Board of Directors, Committees, Subcommittees, and Councils to the Executive Committee for placement on the Board of Directors December 2025 meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

NOACA Board of Directors, Standing Committee, Subcommittee, and Council meetings are scheduled to align Committee and Board activities with required state and federal actions. It also ensures that action items and presentations are thoroughly reviewed.

A copy of the proposed 2026 meeting schedule is attached. These dates not only keep the guidelines above in mind but also have been screened against various holidays and significant regional events to avoid conflicts as much as possible. The HR, Personnel, and Organizational Development (HRPOD) Subcommittee has been added to the schedule with regular quarterly meetings. Since Juneteenth (6/19) falls on a Friday in 2026, the June meeting dates of the Air Quality, Transportation, and Water Quality Subcommittees and Economic Development and HRPOD Subcommittees were moved accordingly.

For 2026, it is proposed that Finance & Audit Committee meetings be moved to the same date as the External Affairs, Policy, and Planning & Programming Committee meetings. This would allow for the majority of agency business to be reviewed by Standing Committees prior to the Governance and Executive Committees meeting. It would also move Finance & Audit Committee meetings from 8:30 - 10 a.m. to 1:30 - 3 p.m.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Pending Board approval, the 2026 schedule would be set and meeting notices sent out.

GG:EB

Attachment 1: Proposed CY 2026 Meeting Schedule

NOACA Meeting Schedule 2026

1st Quarter

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2nd Quarter

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

3rd Quarter

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

4th Quarter

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Board of Directors

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

Standing Committees

Governance 8:30 - 10 a.m.

Executive 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Subcommittee (Policy/Executive)

Economic Development 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

HR Personnel & Org Dev 10 - 11 a.m.

Standing Committees

External Affairs 8:30 - 10 a.m.

Policy 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Planning & Programming 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

Finance and Audit 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Subcommittees (P&P)

Air Quality 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Transportation 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Water Quality 12 - 1:30 p.m.*

Advisory Councils (P&P)

Transit 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Bicycle and Pedestrian 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Safety and Operations 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Advisory Councils (External Affairs)

Business/Community/Rural/Emerging Leaders

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

* Lunch Provided



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: NOACA Governance Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: November 7, 2025
RE: **CY 2026 Board of Directors Officer Nominations**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Committee is asked to consider recommending this item to the Executive Committee for placement on the Board of Directors January agenda. Specifically, this item proposes the slate of officer nominees for the Calendar Year (CY) 2026 NOACA Board of Directors. In addition, it authorizes the Board President to recommend member appointments to the Standing Committees, Subcommittees, and Councils.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

Under Section 6.6 of the Code of Regulations (Code), the Governance Committee is charged with nominating the next year's officers for the Board of Directors. Officers and their roles are defined in Section 4.3 of the Code.

To assist the Committee in the deliberations, attached are:

1. Officers' Worksheet
2. Section 4.3 of the Code
3. Board of Directors 2025 List of Members
4. Attendance Record for 2025

The Committee's recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for the election of officers at the January 2026 organizational meeting. Board officer positions are historically rotated between members from the five counties and the City of Cleveland.

Approval of appointments to the Standing Committees, Subcommittees, and Councils also occurs at the January Board meeting. The draft membership roster is prepared by the Executive Director with the outgoing and incoming Board Presidents and distributed in the Board of Directors packet mailout.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Pending Board approval, the slate of officers and the Standing Committees, Subcommittees, and Councils memberships for calendar year 2026 will be seated at the January Board meeting.

GG:eb

Attachment 1: 2026 Officers Worksheet

Attachment 2: Section 4.3 of the Code of Regulations

Attachment 3: 2025 Board of Directors Members List

Attachment 4: 2025 Attendance Record

NOACA Officers Worksheet

2026 Slate of Recommended NOACA Officers (based on historic rotation)

President *	Justin Bibb, Mayor, City of Cleveland
First Vice-President *	James W. Dvorak, Commissioner, Geauga County
Second Vice-President	Jeff Riddell, Commissioner, Lorain County
Secretary *	Morris W. Beverage III, Commissioner, Lake County
Treasurer *	Jeff Brandon, Trustee, Montville Township, Medina County
Immediate Past President (Ex Officio)	Chris Ronayne, Cuyahoga County Executive
Assistant Secretary	Annette M. Blackwell, Mayor, City of Maple Heights, Cuyahoga County
Assistant Secretary	Aaron M. Harrison, Commissioner, Medina County
Assistant Secretary	Blaine Griffin, Council President, Cleveland City Council
Assistant Secretary	
Assistant Treasurer	Mark Cunningham, Trustee, Columbia Township, Lorain County
Assistant Treasurer	Andrew Conrad, P.E., P.S., Medina County Engineer
Assistant Treasurer	
Assistant Treasurer (Chair of Finance and Audit Committee)	John Plecnik, Lake County Commissioner

*Required by Code	These six members comprise the Executive Committee
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2025 NOACA Officers

President *	Chris Ronayne, Cuyahoga County Executive
First Vice-President *	Justin Bibb, Mayor, City of Cleveland
Second Vice-President	James W. Dvorak, Commissioner, Geauga County
Secretary *	Jeff Riddell, Commissioner, Lorain County
Treasurer *	Morris W. Beverage, III, Commissioner, Lake County
Immediate Past President (Ex Officio)	Jeff Brandon, Trustee, Montville Township, Medina County
Assistant Secretary	Annette M. Blackwell, Mayor, City of Maple Heights, Cuyahoga County
Assistant Secretary	Aaron M. Harrison, Commissioner, Medina County
Assistant Secretary	Blaine Griffin, Cleveland City Council
Assistant Secretary	John Plecnik, Lake County Commissioner
Assistant Treasurer	Mark Cunningham, Trustee, Columbia Township, Lorain County
Assistant Treasurer	Andrew Conrad, P.E., P.S., Medina County Engineer
Assistant Treasurer	Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor, City of University Heights, Cuyahoga County
Assistant Treasurer (Chair of Finance and Audit Committee)	Jack Bradley, Mayor, City of Lorain, Lorain County

2024 NOACA Officers

Added additional Assistant Secretary and an Additional Treasurer in 2024.

President	Jeff Brandon, Trustee, Montville Township, Medina County
First Vice-President	Chris Ronayne, Cuyahoga County Executive
Second Vice-President	Justin Bibb, Mayor, City of Cleveland
Secretary	Timothy C. Lennon, Geauga County Commissioner
Treasurer	Jeff Riddell, Lorain County Commissioner
Immediate Past President (Ex Officio)	John R. Hamercheck, Lake County Commissioner
Assistant Secretary	John Plecnik, Lake County Commissioner
Assistant Secretary	Annette M. Blackwell, Mayor, City of Maple Heights, Cuyahoga County
Assistant Secretary	Aaron M. Harrison, Commissioner, Medina County
Assistant Secretary	Blaine Griffin, Cleveland City Council
Assistant Treasurer	Mark Cunningham, Trustee, Columbia Township, Lorain County
Assistant Treasurer	Andrew Conrad, P.E., P.S., Medina County Engineer
Assistant Treasurer	Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor, City of University Heights, Cuyahoga County
Assistant Treasurer (Chair of Finance and Audit Committee)	James Dvorak, Commissioner, Geauga County, Chair of Finance and Audit Committee

**CODE OF REGULATIONS OF THE
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY**

Section 4.3 Officers; Election; Qualification; Term of Office; Resignation.

(a) At the first meeting in January each year the Board of Directors shall elect a President, First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors may also elect additional Vice Presidents, one or more Assistant Secretaries and one or more Assistant Treasurers. Each officer shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors or until such officer's successor is elected and qualified or until such officer's resignation, removal or death. Upon approval by the Board one person may serve both as Secretary and Treasurer.

(b) Any officer may resign at any time upon written notice to the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

(c) The Board of Directors may remove any officer for cause at any time but such removal shall be without prejudice to the representation rights of the Agency member represented by such officer.

(d) Any vacancy occurring in any office which is caused by death, resignation, removal or otherwise shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by appointment by the President (except that the First Vice President shall succeed the President as set forth below) with approval of the Board of Directors within 30 days of that vacancy.

(e) No member organization shall have more than one Board member serving concurrently as an officer. This limitation does not apply in the case of officers serving as First or Second Vice President, Assistant Secretary or Assistant Treasurer.

(f) President. The President of the Board of Directors shall be the chief policy officer of the Agency and shall exercise all powers and duties in leadership of the Agency as are generally associated with such office including, but not limited to, the power to execute such documents and instruments authorized by resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors. The President shall represent the Agency before bodies of the state and federal government and shall be an ex officio voting member of all Standing Committees. The President shall also be responsible for execution of all directives and resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors.

(g) First Vice President. The First Vice President, in the absence or disability of the President, shall perform duties and exercise powers of the President. In addition, the First Vice President shall perform such other duties prescribed by the Board of Directors or President.

(h) Secretary. The Secretary shall give notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall perform such other duties prescribed by the Board of Directors or President, under whose supervision the Secretary acts. The Secretary shall keep the corporate seal of the Agency, if any, and when authorized by the Board of Directors, affix it to an instrument which shall be attested to either by the signature of the Secretary, Treasurer or Assistant Secretary. In the absence of the Secretary, the President or designee shall appoint a member to perform the duties of the Secretary.

(i) Treasurer. The Treasurer or designee (or Secretary in the absence or disability of the Treasurer) shall have custody of Agency funds and securities and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Agency, and shall deposit all funds and securities of the Agency in depositories designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall disburse funds as directed by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall give the President and other members of the Board of Directors a periodic accounting of all transactions and the financial condition of the Agency. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties prescribed by the Board of Directors or President.

(j) Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers. In the absence or disability of the First Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, the Second Vice President, Assistant Secretaries or Assistant Treasurers in the order designated by the Board of Directors, shall perform the duties of the First Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, respectively, and shall have full powers of the office.



TRAVEL OPTIONS FOR NOACA MEETINGS

LOCATION

NOACA is conveniently located in Cleveland's central business district at 1299 Superior Avenue, on the NW corner of Superior and E. 13th Street.

TRANSIT & BICYCLE TRAVEL TO NOACA

NOACA is accessible by transit and bike.

The NOACA office building is situated on several major and minor bus routes. You can plan your transit trip to NOACA by using trip planner tools or with information provided by the region's public transit agencies:

- [GCRTA Trip Planner](#)
- [Geauga County Transit](#)
- [Laketran Trip Planner](#)
- [Lorain County Transit service](#)
- [Medina County Transit](#)

Bikes may be stored and locked at U-racks located directly in front of the building.

PARKING (see map)

The Cathedral Plaza Garage (E. 9th St. and Rockwell Ave.) is currently unavailable due to repairs. The following map shows other parking options. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer reimbursement for these parking lots. Should you have any questions or concerns please let us know.

Parking meters are located along E. 13th Street between Superior and Rockwell Avenues. Please heed parking signs and note any time restrictions. Payment may be made at these meters with quarters, credit card, or by using the ParkMobile mobile device application.

Street parking is also available along Rockwell Avenue, east of E. 13th Street.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

If you need further assistance with travel to or special accommodation for parking at NOACA, please contact Lindy Burt at 216-241-2414, x. 108.

