

CY 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Executive Committee

November 14, 2026

BACKGROUND

- **Represents consensus-driven principles intended to guide policy analysis and advocacy related to NOACA's work**
- **Reflects the vision, goals, and objectives in NOACA's Regional Strategic Plan**
- **Reviewed annually for potential updates and input from Councils and External Affairs Committee**
 - External Affairs Committee recommends adding additional Federal Priorities related to reauthorization of the surface transportation bill
 - No changes recommended to the State Priorities

BACKGROUND

Edits to Federal Priority 1: Strengthen local control of core transportation programs

- a) Reduce the number of discretionary grant programs & shift funding to MPOs to advance projects already prioritized in regional LRPs
- b) Increase planning (PL) funds to meet complex federal planning requirements & ensure successful project implementation
- c) Reduce local match for federal transportation programs to remove barriers for low income rural and urban communities
- d) Streamline environmental review and permitting to accelerate project delivery while maintaining critical natural resource protection and public review and input

BACKGROUND

Add Federal Priority 4: Stabilize the Highway Trust Fund

NOACA advocates that Congress take action to stabilize the Highway Trust Fund to provide long-term predictable funding for transportation programs, inclusive of transit, and continue the traditional “user pays” system to support these critical investments

