



NOACA Planning and Programming Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2025
NOACA Offices

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Mr. Michael Dever, Vice Chair of Planning and Programming Committee, convened the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dever made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 11, 2025. Councilman Blaine Griffin seconded the motion.

The Committee voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Subcommittee Updates

The Planning and Programming Committee received updates on the subcommittee meetings that took place in June 2025.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

No one signed in to provide public comments.

Executive Director's Report

Director Grace Gallucci announced that new audio equipment had been installed in the NOACA boardroom. She asked members to be patient as staff work to synchronize the system and reminded everyone to speak directly into the microphone.

Action Items

SFY 2025 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Project Recommendations

Ms. Sarah White explained that the purpose of the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) program is to advance transportation projects or programs that help achieve or maintain compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These standards cover pollutants such as Ozone (O₃), Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}). She noted that the primary goals of the program are to improve air quality and relieve traffic congestion.

Ms. White presented information on the following:

- CMAQ Program Funding Cycles: NOACA Region
- Eligible Applicants
- Phases of Development Eligible for Funding

- Eligible Project Types Including Project Type Score
- Project Evaluation Criteria (up to 100 Points)
- Program Timeline
- 2025 CMAQ Project Recommendations

Ms. White stated that the projects selected for the region would establish the initial CMAQ budgets for State Fiscal Years 2030 and 2031.

Ms. Mary Cierebiej made a motion to recommend the SFY 2025 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Project Recommendations to the Executive Committee for placement on the September 2025 Board of Directors agenda. Councilman Kerry McCormack seconded the motion.

Mr. Claypool, referencing a discussion from the prior meeting, asked for clarification on how the projects were funded. He noted that many projects appeared to be supported by the 18.4 cents-per-gallon gas tax and expressed curiosity about how those funds were being applied.

Director Gallucci responded that the projects are funded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, which is a federal program supported by the 18.4 cents-per-gallon gas tax. The funds are distributed to the states and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) based on a formula. The formula considers areas of a state that are in nonattainment for air quality standards. The funds are deposited at the state level, and a statewide CMAQ committee working with the eight eligible MPOs selects the projects. The funding is allocated specifically to support air quality improvement in nonattainment areas.

Mr. Claypool, in response to Director Gallucci's comments, expressed concern regarding the region's nonattainment status. He stated that the current measurement—1 part per billion—represents an extremely small threshold that was introduced after the EPA adjusted its standard. He noted that air quality monitors are placed in questionable locations, referencing a sensor in Geauga County situated on top of a bus garage, which he believed could produce volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or nitrogen oxides (NOx).

Mr. Claypool encouraged the Board to think more critically about air quality issues and expressed skepticism about certain transit investments. While clarifying that he had no objection to Laketrans specifically, he questioned whether additional empty buses operating in Lake County would effectively improve air quality. He emphasized the need to pursue air quality solutions that would have meaningful, measurable impacts.

The Planning Programming Committee voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

SFY 2025 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program Recommendations

Ms. Leah Telepak stated that the Section 5310 Program provides capital grants to transportation providers that serve specialized populations, including public transit agencies, municipalities, private nonprofit organizations, and for-profit companies.

Ms. Telepak stated that the Section 5310 apportionments for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2024 and 2025 total \$5,256,033. From this amount, \$262,802 (or 5%) will be allocated to NOACA for administrative expenses. An additional \$150,000 is available in carryover funds from previous years. Therefore, a total of \$5,143,231 is available to be programmed for SFY 2025 projects.

Ms. Telepak said that applications were available from February 14 to April 11, 2025. During that time, NOACA received 21 funding requests, including two from transit agencies requesting a total

of \$3,843,200 and 19 competitive applications requesting \$3,111,293. She noted that \$262,802—representing 5% of the total—is allocated for NOACA’s planning and administrative costs. In total, approximately \$7.2 million was requested.

Ms. Telepak reviewed the following items:

- Program Timeline
- Evaluation Criteria
- SFY 2025 Section 5310 Transit Recommendations: \$2,314,454
- SFY 2025 Section 5310 Competitive Application Recommendations: \$2,819,003
- Competitive Applications not Recommended for Funding: \$91,290

Ms. Telepak stated that \$5,256,033 in FTA funds are available to the Cleveland Urbanized Area (UZA) from the Federal Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 apportionments, with an additional \$150,000 available in carryover funds. Of the total, NOACA will retain \$262,802 for program administration and planning. She noted that \$2,314,454 is recommended for transit projects and \$2,819,003 is recommended for competitive applicant projects.

Mr. Mark Cunningham made a motion to recommend the SFY 2025 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program Recommendations to the Executive Committee in August for placement on the September 2025 Board of Directors agenda. Mr. Alan Exley seconded the motion.

Geauga County Five-Year Facility Planning Area (FPA) Boundary and Prescriptions Update

Ms. Sarah Stanzi stated that NOACA staff initiated updates by focusing on one county per year. The process required Primary and Secondary Designated Management Agencies (DMAs) to review and approve the updates, and staff also notified affected jurisdictions to ensure transparency. She added that the Geauga County Commissioners acknowledged receipt of and accepted the Geauga County Five-Year Facility Planning Area boundary and prescriptions update during their June 24, 2025, session.

Ms. Stanzi presented information on the following:

- Geauga County FPA Update Process
- Seven (7) FPAs in Geauga County in 21 Jurisdictions
- FPA Maps
 - Attachment 1: Current FPA Boundary and Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment in Geauga County
 - Attachment 2: Proposed Facility Planning Area Boundary and Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment in Geauga County

Ms. Stanzi stated that the Facility Planning Area (FPA) boundaries and prescriptions were updated to reflect current sewer service and availability, which streamlined the process and reduced the need for future individual FPA modification requests. The update process allowed Primary and Secondary Designated Management Agencies (DMAs), as well as affected jurisdictions, to provide feedback. Through these efforts, NOACA continued to enhance and expand the use of GIS.

As part of the lessons learned, Ms. Stanzi explained that staff worked with the Geauga County Department of Water Resources to develop a parcel-level spreadsheet to track updates. This tool proved extremely helpful and significantly expedited the process. It has since been presented as a best management practice for DMAs to consider during their five-year updates. She noted that holding a kickoff meeting helped engage the DMAs, but staff recognized that, in the future, affected jurisdictions should also be invited to ensure alignment across all stakeholders. A final

report-out meeting with DMAs and affected jurisdictions was planned to review successes, identify areas for improvement, and address any outstanding questions. Staff also found that requesting updated sewer line data from jurisdictions prior to the update assisted with initial research and review. In addition, reviewing available plans helped staff understand future trends and determine appropriate prescriptions.

As a next step, Ms. Stanzi stated that, following NOACA Board approval, staff planned to submit the countywide updates to the Ohio EPA for certification by the Governor and transmit copies of the resolution to the appropriate agencies.

Ms. Cierebiej made a motion to recommend the Geauga County Five-Year Facility Planning Area (FPA) Boundary and Prescriptions Update to the Executive Committee for placement on the September Board of Directors agenda. Mr. Shane Hajjar seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Presentation/Discussion Items

No presentation or discussion items were presented at this meeting.

Reports/Updates

The SFY 2026 NOACA Attributable Funded Project Monitoring Report was included in the meeting packet.

Old Business

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

New Business

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

Adjournment

Councilman McCormack made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Mr. James DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next Planning and Programming Committee meeting will be Friday, October 10, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

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



NOACA Planning and Programming Committee Attendance Record

Meeting Dates	1/31/25	4/11/25	7/11/25	10/10/25
ALAI , Samuel J. David Schroedel, Alternate	X	X	X	
BOBST , Pamela Bill Schneider, Alternate	A		A	
BRENNAN , Michael Dylan Deanna Bremer Fisher, Alternate	X	A	A	
CARNEY , Ken P. Robert C. Klaiber, Jr., Alternate	A	A	A	
CIEREBIEJ , Mary Annie Pease, Alternate	X	X	X	
CORCORAN , Kevin Bob Markovich, Alternate	X	X	X	
CUNNINGHAM , Mark Neil Lynch, Alternate		X	X	
DEGEETER , Timothy J. Scott Wangler, Alternate		A	A	
DEROSA , James Keshia Chambers, Alternate	X	A	X	
DEVER , Michael Nichole English, Alternate	A	X	X	
EMERMAN , David TBD, Alternate		X		
EXLEY , Alan Kirk Dimmick, Alternate	X	X	X	
GAIL , Kirsten Holzheimer Dan Knecht, Alternate	X	X		
GEORGE , Meghan Angela Byington, Alternate	A			
GRIFFIN , Blaine A. Kevin Bishop, Alternate	X		X	
HARRISON , Aaron M. Stephen D. Hambley, Alternate John Kalas, Alternate on 4/11/25		A		
MAGOVAC , Paul Matt Hiscock, Alternate	X	X		
MERSMANN , Calley Tom McNair, Alternate Matt Moss, Alternate on 7/11/25	X	X	A	
McCORMACK , Kerry Charles Slife, Alternate		X	X	
PICURI , John	X	X	X	

Meeting Dates	1/31/25	4/11/25	7/11/25	10/10/25
Bob Weaver, Alternate Matt Walter, Alternate on 7/11/25				
SEREN , Kahlil Eric Zamft, Alternate Karen Knittel, Alternate on 4/11/25	A	A		
REGOVICH , Richard Robert Fiala, Alternate	X	X	A	
SPIDALIERI , Ralph Walter "Skip" Claypool, Alternate		A	A	
Ex-officio Members				
FEKE , Maribeth Air Quality Subcommittee Chair (David G. Hearne, Alternate)				
HAJJAR , Shane Transportation Subcommittee Chair (Robert Duncan, Alternate)		X	X	
WARNOCK , George Water Quality Subcommittee Chair (Jeremy Sinko, Alternate)				

X = Member A = Alternate