



**NOACA Transit Council
Meeting Minutes**
February 21, 2025
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Mr. Shannon Rine, Chair of Transit Council, convened the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comments were made at this meeting.

Chair's/Executive Director's Report

The following announcements were made by NOACA staff:

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

Ms. Sarah White shared the following information about the 2025 CMAQ application round:

- Eligible Projects
 - Vehicle/Machinery Updates
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
 - Traffic Signal Timing/Connection Hardware
 - Air Quality Education Programs
- Key Dates & Information
 - Applications Available Mid-March
 - Applicant Webinar Early April
 - For more information visit www.noaca.org/cmaq or email projects@mpo.noaca.org

NOACA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program Community Projects Funding Opportunity

Mr. Joe MacDonald made the following announcement about the CPRG Program Community Projects Funding Opportunity:

- Funding & Eligibility
 - \$300,000 allocated for local climate action planning & engagement (community projects)
 - Eligible counties: Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina
 - Cuyahoga County projects will be coordinated through Cleveland's CPRG planning budget
- Key Dates & Information
 - Application Deadline: April 14, 2025, by 4:30 p.m.

- Applicant Webinar: March 13, 2025, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Application and webinar details: noaca.org/community-assistance-center/funding-programs/carbon-reduction-program-crp/cprg-solicitation

Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program Project Solicitation

Mr. Jim Thompson made the following announcement about the Section 5310 Program application round:

- Program Overview
 - Supports transportation providers that offer coordinated transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
 - \$2 million available for SFY 2025-26 projects to be implemented in CY 2026-27
- Key Dates & Information:
 - Applications Open: February 14, 2025
 - Application Deadline: April 11, 2025, by 12:00 p.m.
 - Applicant Webinar: March 6, 2025
 - Registration: Email projects@mpo.noaca.org
 - More Details & Application: noaca.org/5310

Action Items

2025 Public Transportation Agency Safety Performance Measure Targets

Ms. Kessa Turnbull stated that the 2025 Public Transportation Agency Safety Performance Measures were being presented to the Transit Council for recommendation to the Transportation Subcommittee for its consideration of placement on the June 2025 Board of Directors' agenda. She stated that public transportation providers and State DOTs must establish safety performance targets (SPTs) to address the safety performance measures (SPMs) identified in the National Public Transportation Safety Plan. They are:

- Fatalities (Total and Rate per Total Vehicle Revenue Mile)
- Injuries (Total and Rate per Total Vehicle Revenue Mile)
- Safety Events (Total and Rate per Total Vehicle Revenue Mile)
- System Reliability (Mean Distance between Major Mechanical Failures)

Ms. Turnbull stated that transit agencies update and adapt the targets through annual safety plan updates. MPOs, in coordination with transit agencies, must set regional performance targets within 180 days.

Ms. Turnbull presented information on the following:

- Methodology
 - Regional Transportation Agency Safety Target Development Methodology:
 - Laketrans
 - Lorain County Transit
 - Using the statistical rolling average for safety performance targets
 - Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
 - Medina County Public Transit
 - Review and Continuous Improving Target Setting

Ms. Turnbull reviewed the recommended 2025 Non-Cuyahoga Public Transportation Agency Safety Performance Targets and the GCRTA Targets.

Ms. Turnbull stated that NOACA staff will continue coordinating with transit agencies in the development of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and target setting. She

noted that the targets will be included in NOACA's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long Range Plan (LRP).

Ms. Maribeth Feke stated that she would like to verify NOACA's targets align with GCRTA's Safety Plan.

Mr. Makarachi explained that Transit Council members can approve the targets at this meeting and then staff can correct them prior to approval by the Transportation Subcommittee.

Ms. Aaby made a motion to recommend the 2025 Public Transportation Agency Safety Performance Measure Targets to the Transportation Subcommittee with consideration of GCRTA making adjustments or amendments to the targets. Mr. Neil Shop seconded the motion.

Ms. Turnbull stated that staff can make any other corrections as well. She explained that NOACA has a process in place for making corrections at the council level and moving items forward.

Mr. Rine stated that Medina County Public Transit had a lot of discussion about the differences in the targets and applying them properly and consistently.

Mr. Makarachi asked Ms. Feke which item in the GCRTA table was debatable.

Ms. Feke stated that she wanted to make sure that NOACA's targets for the number of fatalities are the same as GCRTA's own targets.

Mr. Makarachi stated that the targets are based on information staff received from GCRTA.

Ms. Turnbull stated that Mr. Steve Peganoff, Director of Safety at GCRTA, provided the target numbers to her.

Ms. Feke asked if the information was updated.

Ms. Turnbull said yes. She noted that the number did not look right to her, but she was unable to contact Mr. Peganoff.

Ms. Feke asked if the numbers that are going into the MPO's plan were correct.

Mr. Makarachi said yes.

The Transit Council voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Regional Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan

Ms. White stated that NOACA's Coordinated Plan is a regional initiative covering all five counties in the NOACA region, with a focus on transportation and mobility options for seniors and individuals with disabilities. She explained that the Coordinated Plan is a requirement of the Section 5310 program, and since NOACA administers the program, it must update the plan every four to five years. For this update, NOACA engaged RLS & Associates along with the Texas Transportation Institute from Texas A&M University as a subconsultant. The consultants assisted with outreach efforts and conducted interviews, as outreach is critical for the Coordinated Plan, given that it affects a specialized, smaller group of individuals. Ms. White emphasized that NOACA valued the consultants' expertise in developing Coordinated Plans and that their experience helped enhance the outreach process. She noted that the final plan is available on NOACA's website.

Ms. White presented information on the following:

- Plan Contents
 - Region demographics (current and projected)
 - Existing Conditions
 - Needs Assessment
 - Goals and Strategies for the Future
- Population Projections by Age (chart)
- Provider Inventory
- Public Engagement Overview
- Identified Needs
- Coordinated Plan Goals
 - Improve sustainability of the transportation network
 - Expand transportation provider capacity
 - Create partnerships between providers to eliminate barriers to regional mobility
 - Eliminate price as a barrier to reliable transportation options
 - Enhance information and outreach efforts

Ms. White stated that the overall plan outlines specific goals and includes detailed breakdowns and strategies for achieving them. These strategies cover budgets, potential partnerships, and leadership roles. While none of the strategies are directives, they serve as a roadmap for the next four to five years, providing guidance on possible actions.

Ms. White stated that NOACA staff will engage the region's transit agencies and specialized transportation partners to advance the goals of the Coordinated Plan. The Coordinated Plan will be a resource in evaluating future Section 5310 project funding. The full Coordinated Plan is available on NOACA's website.

Mr. Rine emphasized the value of community involvement in providing input and noted that participants are eager to know what happens next. He appreciated the cross-county planning approach, recognizing that people focus on destinations rather than county lines. He also acknowledged that the process has reshaped expectations and will play an important part in the coming 6 to 8 months.

Ms. Feke requested Ms. White to provide an example of how the Plan's recommendations will assist staff in evaluating applications for Section 5310 funding as they are submitted.

Ms. White explained that NOACA staff evaluate Section 5310 applications by asking applicants to demonstrate how their programs align with the Plan's goals and recommendations. The suggestions in the Plan provide more detailed guidance on collaboration and coalition-building. For instance, if an applicant requests five new vehicles, they would need to explain how this supports goals such as expanding transportation providers. Replacement vehicles could enhance safety, while additional vehicles could extend service reach and capacity.

Reports/Updates

No reports or 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. Andrea Aaby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m. Mr. Neil Shop seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Transit Council will hold its next meeting at the NOACA offices, May 16, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

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



**Transit Council
2025 Attendance Record**

MEMBER	2/21/25	5/16/25	8/15/25	11/21/25
CAPELLE, Ben (Andrea Aaby, Alternate)	A			
NOVAK, Pamela (Jeff Armbruster, Alternate)	X			
RINE, Shannon (Stephen Hambley, Alternate)	X			
SANTILLI, JoAnna (David Lair, Alternate)	X			
SHOP, Neil (Scott Ockunzzi, Alternate)	X			
TERRY, India Birdsong (Maribeth Feke, Alternate)	A			

Member = X Alternate = A