



NOACA Transit Council
Meeting Minutes
 May 16, 2025
 NOACA Offices
 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

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

Meeting Minutes

Ms. Andrea Aaby made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 21, 2025. Ms. Maribeth Feke seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Public Comment

No one signed in to speak at this meeting.

Chair's/Executive Director's Report

No report was presented at this meeting.

Action Items

2025 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urbanized Area (UZA) Allocation

Ms. Maribeth Feke explained that the 5307 and 5339 fund allocations are determined by population, density, and ridership. She noted that Medina is now classified as rural and no longer part of the UZA, while Brunswick remains within it. She presented the following:

- 2010 and 2020 UZA Maps
- UZA Changes 2010 vs. 2020: Change in Cleveland UZA by County 2020 vs. 2010 Census
- NTD Data: Formula funds for 2025 uses 2024 NTD reporting for all agencies
- 5307 Formula Fund 2022-2025
- Calculation of 2025 5307 Allocations for each Agency Using 2020 Census Data
- Unserved Funds and Totals
- 5339 Formula Fund 2022-2025
- Calculation of 2025 5339 Allocations for each Agency Using 2020 Census Data
- Overview of 2025 Funding Allocation

Transit Operator	2025 Funding (5307)	2025 Funding (5339)	Total
GCRTA	\$33,358,406.92	\$2,322,427.13	\$35,680,834.06
Laketrans	\$4,490,428.55	\$369,634.21	\$4,860,062.76
MCPT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

METRO	\$559,134.40	\$56,426.52	\$615,560.92
PARTA	\$215,567.12	\$20,116.15	\$235,683.27
Total CUA	\$38,623,537.00	\$2,768,604.00	\$41,392,141.00

Ms. Feke stated that GCRTA will finalize the full-year allocation of FY 2025 Section 5307 and Section 5339 funds and provide them to transit agencies in the Cleveland UZA. The Council meeting action will be reported to the FTA for further consideration.

Ms. Aaby made a motion to approve the above-referenced allocations (rounded) for Section 5307, Section 5339, and the Unserved Area Funds as shown in the tables. Ms. JoAnna Santilli seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Ms. Feke recommended updating the outdated interparty agreement for the transit agencies, with a target completion date of December 2025.

Presentation/Discussion Items

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

Ms. Leah Telepak presented information on the following:

- Background on the Section 5310 Program
- Funds to be programmed to SFY 2025 projects: \$4,880,430
- Applications available February 14 - April 11, 2025
 - 21 requests for funding:
 - 2 Transit Agency Requests - \$4,804,000 requested
 - 19 Competitive Application Requests - \$3,531,070 requested
 - Total Requests - \$8.6M
- SFY 2025 Section 5310 Transit Agency Requests
- SFY 2025 Section 5310 Competitive Application Requests

Ms. Telepak reported that \$5,256,033 in FTA funds is available to the Cleveland UZA from Federal Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. Of this total, \$525,603 will be allocated to NOACA for program administration. There are currently \$150,000 in carry-over funds available, with the potential for additional carry-over amounts to be identified during the application evaluation process. The remaining \$4,880,430 will be available for transit agencies and competitive project implementation.

Ms. Telepak stated that the next steps are as follows:

- On June 20, 2025, Applications will be presented to the Transportation Subcommittee.
- On July 11, 2025, project recommendations will be presented to the Planning and Programming Committee.
- On August 8, 2025, project recommendations will be presented to the Executive Committee.
- On September 12, 2025, project recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors.

SFY 2025 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program Applications

Ms. Sarah White presented information on the following:

- Purpose of CMAQ Program

- Program Goals
- CMAQ Program Funding
 - 2025 Cycle – ±\$40M in awards (to be implemented in FY2030 and FY2031)
- Eligible Applicants
- Phases of Development Eligible for Funding
- Eligible Project Types and Project Type Score
- Project Evaluation Criteria (up to 100 Points)
- Program Timeline
- 2025 CMAQ Project Requests
 - Total CMAQ funding requests: \$57,447,594

Ms. White stated that NOACA staff will finalize project evaluation and scoring and present the projects, along with input from the Council, to the Transportation Subcommittee and Planning and Programming Committee. Recommended projects will be presented for approval to the Board of Directors at its September 12 meeting. Staff will submit the Board-recommended applications to OSUCC for evaluation against other statewide projects in Autumn 2025. It is anticipated that OSUCC will submit project recommendations to the OARC Executive Directors for final approval at their November 2025 meeting.

Long Range Plan Update (weNEO2050+)

Mr. Ali Makarachi presented information on the following:

- Timeline & Objectives
- Planning Elements of NOACA's LRTP Update
- Data Update
 - 2050 Population Projection
 - Telecommuting Share
 - Online Shopping Share
 - Virtual Meetings
 - Household Travel Survey
- Scenario Planning
 - Scenarios
- Performance Measures
 - Access to Transit
 - Annual Transit Ridership
 - Work Commute Time
- Transportation Safety
 - Safety Performance Measure
 - Safety Performance Measure Targets
- Future Technology
 - EV Adoption by State in 2023
 - Estimated Number of EVS By 2050
 - Estimated Number of L2 Ports by 2050
 - Estimated Number of DCFC Ports by 2050
 - Estimated Required Budgets - NOACA Region
 - Technology Adoption
- Scenario Costs
 - Scenario 1: MAINTAIN (Do Nothing)
 - Specific Projects of Scenarios
 - Specific Projects & Cost of Scenario 4
 - Project Costs of Scenarios

- Scenario Costs & Budget Level
- Scenario Measure of Effectiveness Value
- MOE & Cost

Mr. Makarachi stated that staff will present the *weNEO2050+* update to the Board at its June 2025 meeting.

Mr. Rine found the population projections for each county interesting and suggested that the housing market may be experiencing pent-up demand, with limited movement currently. He noted that increased relocation could happen soon, with people moving into larger homes in more rural areas like Geauga County.

Mr. Makarachi explained that the region's population decline is driven by younger people relocating to major metropolitan areas like Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C., in pursuit of job opportunities, which in turn attracts investment to those cities.

Mr. Rine agreed, adding that population changes reflect a balance of economic and cultural factors and people's perspectives, and found the projections interesting.

Ms. Feke stated that planners see a need for more affordable housing due to a shortage. She questioned how increasing affordable housing or a housing market boom would impact population growth, believing it would positively affect population numbers.

Mr. Rine echoed Ms. Feke's comment.

Mr. Makarachi explained that NOACA staff assumed, per Sections 3 and 4, that relocating closer to transit stations and increasing BRTs would reduce population decline in counties. This means the region would lose fewer people rather than gain population. Staff evaluated the effectiveness of these two scenarios.

Ms. Feke observed increasing interest in electric vehicles (EVs) among public agencies and asked if NOACA's projections account for this trend.

Mr. Makarachi said no. The projections are only for personal vehicles.

Ms. Feke asked Mr. Makarachi to explain the project costs of the scenarios, including the MOE.

Mr. Makarachi provided a detailed explanation of how the ratio between the Measure of Effectiveness (MOE) value and the associated cost is calculated.

Reports/Updates

No reports or updates were presented at this meeting.

Old Business

No old business was presented at this meeting.

New Business

Ms. Feke made the following announcements:

- LRTP public meetings will be held in all five counties next week
- May 12th – May 18th - Bike to Work Week
- May 16th - Bike to Work Day

Adjournment

Ms. Aaby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Ms. Feke seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next regular Transit Council meeting will be Friday, August 15, 2025, at 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., at the NOACA offices.

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	A		
NOVAK, Pamela (Jeff Armbruster, Alternate)	X			
RINE, Shannon (Stephen Hambley, Alternate)	X	X		
SANTILLI, JoAnna (David Lair, Alternate)	X	X		
SHOP, Neil (Scott Ockunzzi, Alternate)	X	A		
TERRY, India Birdsong (Maribeth Feke, Alternate)	A	A		

Member = X Alternate = A