



NOACA Safety and Operations Council
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2025
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Mr. Scott Ockunzzi chaired the Safety and Operations Council (SOC) meeting that convened at 1:01 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lawrence Hall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 21, 2025. Mr. David Ray seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No one signed in to speak at this meeting.

Chair's/Executive Director's Report

No report was presented at this meeting.

Action Items

No action items were presented at this meeting.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Transportation Safety Program Policy and Fund

Ms. Kessa Turnbull presented information on the following:

- Safety Performance Measure
 - Equal Annual Fatality Reduction
- Safety Performance Measure Targets
- Why Crashes Happen?
- Human & Infrastructure
 - 2024 Regional Crashes
- Northeast Ohio Safety Funds
 - ODOT HSIP Funding
- NOACA Community Safety Reports
 - 2022 Community Safety Report
 - 2024-2025 Community Safety Report
- Non-Motorized Countermeasures
- Motorized Countermeasures

- Railway-Highway Grade Crossings
- Funding Bridge
- New Program Proposal

Ms. Turnbull explained that the new program proposes a \$1.0 million annual allocation for safety countermeasures, following the TLCI project model. Community Safety Reports will serve as the baseline, and communities can apply for funding for specific projects.

Ms. Turnbull stated that NOACA will use feedback to further develop the program before implementation.

Mr. Hall thanked Ms. Turnbull and emphasized that safety is FHWA's top priority, appreciating NOACA's focus. He noted that countermeasures and benefit-cost analysis are a strong starting point for applications. Referring to the TLCI model, he noted many unimplemented TLCI plans. He noted that the Transportation Safety Program Fund could be one of the criteria used when people apply for project funding; they could be required to look at the safety component of their project.

Mr. Hall asked if the Community Safety Reports are on arterials.

Ms. Turnbull said yes.

Mr. Hall asked whether the program would also be open to roads beyond arterials.

Ms. Turnbull explained that NOACA is in early discussions on the program. She noted that BPAC discussed considering allowing applications from plans beyond just Community Safety Reports. If approved, the program would be like the TLCI program and could include other functional classes.

Mr. Hall supported NOACA's continued review of crash rates and reduction factors to improve safety.

Mr. Hall stated that FHWA does not oppose transit projects, especially those that enhance first-mile and last-mile connections, as these help people use transit more easily. He emphasized that transit is generally safer per mile. He pointed out that while people often see the FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as separate entities, they work toward common goals. Supporting transit-oriented projects aligns with NOACA's congestion management goals, which focus on increasing transit usage, making such projects a smart choice for the region.

Mr. Schipper asked what year NOACA plans to include the Transportation Safety Program Fund in the budget.

Mr. Makarachi responded that it is planned for 2026.

Mr. Schipper stated that the state fiscal year 2026 begins July 1, 2025.

Mr. Makarachi stated that staff are looking to get feedback and then present this item to the Policy Committee in July. If it is approved, it would be implemented in CY 2026.

Mr. Schipper noted that the STBG funds are already preprogrammed and questioned whether NOACA intends to allocate \$1 million from STBG for the Transportation Safety Program Fund.

Mr. Makarachi responded that he believed that was the case but was not certain. He mentioned that the Transportation Safety Program Fund would receive funding like the TLCI program.

Mr. Schipper reiterated that STBG funds for SFY 2026–2029 are already programmed in the TIP and questioned how NOACA would allocate \$1 million from that existing pot of funds.

Mr. Makarachi explained that while \$1 million was proposed, the details are still being worked out. He noted that approximately \$800,000 is available and could potentially be used for the program.

Mr. Schipper supported the idea of a safety fund but emphasized that NOACA needs to identify a funding source.

Mr. Makarachi agreed with Mr. Schipper.

Mr. Schipper expressed support for allocating a higher percentage of funds to implementation projects rather than planning studies. He noted that many crosswalks could be upgraded for the cost of a single \$100,000 planning study. He suggested that a split of 80% for implementation and 20% for planning would be far more effective than a 50/50 split.

Mr. Makarachi explained that staff are currently developing the application process and structure for the safety fund, and that this is just the initial phase. NOACA staff plan to present more details to the Policy Committee in July. He acknowledged Mr. Schipper's points as valuable and emphasized that staff are seeking feedback on the proposed safety fund.

Mr. Duffala inquired about the current annual allocation of the STBG funds.

Mr. Makarachi responded that he did not have the current STBG fund allocation information available now.

Ms. Sarah White stated that projects within the TIP can be rescheduled to allocate funding for the new Transportation Safety Program Fund, as delays in many projects create flexibility.

Mr. Duffala expressed interest in understanding the long-term financial impact on the STBG budget to fund the safety program. He noted that STBG is a very popular funding program.

Mr. Ockunzzi shared that NOACA's STBG budget is \$39 million for SFY 2025 and \$32 million for SFY 2026, according to the statewide planning Power BI tool. He encouraged members to consult the Power BI tool for any questions related to NOACA funding. Mr. Ockunzzi clarified that the tool does not show the portion of funding deducted "off the top" of STBG funds.

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

Ms. 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

Ms. White explained that NOACA staff will complete project evaluation and scoring, then present the projects, along with Council input, to the Transportation Subcommittee and Planning and Programming Committee. The recommended projects will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval at the September 12 meeting. Following that, staff will forward the Board-approved applications to OSUCC for statewide evaluation in Autumn 2025. OSUCC is expected to submit final project recommendations to the OARC Executive Directors for approval at their November 2025 meeting.

Mr. Hall noted that project requests far exceed available funding and asked whether NOACA plans to offer partial funding to project sponsors.

Ms. White confirmed that NOACA would offer partial funding and explained that staff would first consult with applicants to ensure they can complete their projects with reduced funding.

Mr. Ron Knopf asked about Cleveland's City Vehicle Electrification Project, specifically whether the charging ports would be installed in the public right-of-way or on private property.

Ms. White said she believed that they would be on city-owned property.

Long Range Plan Update (weNEO2050+)

Mr. 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. Hall expressed concern that NOACA's use of 300 or more performance measures could make it difficult to prioritize effectively. He acknowledged that while FHWA appreciates MPOs, they should tailor performance measures to fit their own circumstances. He also emphasized that FHWA has required performance measures—like safety, congestion, pavement and bridge conditions, and air quality, and wanted to ensure that NOACA incorporates these required measures into Scenario 4 or any other scenarios.

Mr. Makarachi confirmed that NOACA will use all FHWA's performance measures for comparison of the scenarios, but not all the other measures.

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

Mr. Knopf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Andy Haupt seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

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



Safety and Operations Council (SOC) 2025 Attendance Record

Meeting Dates	2/21/25	5/16/25	8/15/25	11/21/25
BYINGTON , Angela (Mark Papke, Alternate)		A		
DRUM , Brian (Alternate not designated)				
EXLEY , Alan (Kirk Dimmick, Alternate)	A	A		
HAUPT , Andy (Katie Taylor, Alternate)		X		
HOLMES , Gordon (Thomas Mandzak, Alternate)	A			
KLAIBER , Bob (Shaun Duffala, Alternate)	A	A		
KNECHT , Daniel (Alternate not designated)				
KUSNER , James (Tony Toth, Alternate)	X	A		
TBD - FHWA (Lawrence Hall, Alternate)	A	A		
MAVEC , Rob (Rob Knopf, Alternate)	A	A		
MIELKE , Scott (Alternate not designated)				
NEIL , Matthew (Alternate not designated)				
OCKUNZZI , Scott (Julie Cichello, Alternate)	X	X		
PYANOWSKI , Chris (Chris Schoenig, Alternate)	A	X		
RAY , David (A.J. Stoll, Alternate)	X	X		
SCHIPPER , Mike (Floun'say Caver, Alternate)	X	X		
VANSICKLE , Jacob (Jenna Thomas, Alternate)	X			
WOLF , Josh (Alternate not designated)				

X = Member present

A = Alternate present