



**NOACA Transit Council
Meeting Minutes**
August 15, 2025
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Ms. JoAnna Santilli, Vice Chair of the Transit Council, convened the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Public Comment

No one signed in to speak at this meeting.

Chair's/Executive Director's Report

Mr. Ed May reported that applications are open for the SFY 2026 Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI). The program is accepting proposals for Planning Studies and Implementation Projects, with a submission deadline of October 10. He noted that TLCI supports communities in studying and implementing transportation projects that improve livability. A total of \$1.5 million is budgeted for implementation projects and \$500,000 for planning studies. An applicant webinar is scheduled for September 3, and registration is required. Additional information is available at noaca.org/TLCI.

Action Items

No action items were presented at this meeting.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Second Quarter SFY 2026 Project Planning Reviews (PPR)

Public Infrastructure Improvements in Brook Park (CUY SR 291-02.90)

Mr. May provided background on the Project Planning Review (PPR) purpose and process. He stated that the CUY SR 291-02.90 project in Brook Park, sponsored by the City of Brook Park, is located 0.5 miles east of Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and west of the I-71/Snow Road interchange. The project area includes a 175-acre former Ford Plant site, bounded by frontage roads, Snow Road, Five Points Road, Engle Road (SR 291), and Henry Ford Boulevard (SR 291). Proposed improvements include I-71 exit ramp upgrades, a Snow Road/Ring Road connector, realignment of SR-291, Ring Road improvements, and a pedestrian bridge. The total project cost is estimated at \$82.15 million, funded through TRAC and local sources, with \$4.8 million for PEPD, \$6.5 million for PEDD, \$0.55 million for RW, and \$70.3 million for construction.

Mr. May presented maps and diagrams of the following:

- Brook Park Public Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure Buildable Units

- Buildable Unit (BU) 1: I-71 Northbound (NB) Exit Ramp Improvements
- BU 2: I-71 Southbound (SB) Exit Ramp Improvements
- BU 3: Snow Road/Ring Road Connector
- BU 4: SR-291 (Engle Road)
- BU 5: Ring Road Improvements
- BU 6: Pedestrian Bridge
- Staff Comments for Recommendation
- Staff Comments for Information

Mr. May stated that staff will forward any comments from the Council to the project sponsor. He noted that the project will also be presented to the Transportation Subcommittee, Planning & Programming Committee, and Executive Committee for further review. Pending Board approval, the project sponsor will be notified that the project has completed PPR, and NOACA staff will continue working with the sponsor to address any planning issues identified during the process.

Mayor Edward Orcutt addressed the comment regarding off-site parking. He noted that the City of Brook Park has been working with business owners along Brookpark Road and within the north-south industrial parkways. The City is considering amendments to zoning districts U5 and U7 to allow for entertainment parking, providing business owners flexibility to use their facilities for ancillary purposes. For example, a machine shop could serve as event parking on weekends. Mayor Orcutt also discussed traffic control efforts, noting that the City has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in traffic management improvements. In 2024 alone, over \$600,000 was allocated to install cameras. The City's long-term vision includes hundreds of cameras throughout Brook Park, supported by a command center within the Police Department. A new traffic division will enable remote monitoring to manage traffic efficiently throughout the City. Mayor Orcutt noted that representatives from the Osborn Engineering consulting team and the Haslam Sports Group were present at the meeting to answer any questions from the Council.

Mr. Ben Capelle noted that, in the broader transit context, there is often a mindset of "if you build it, they will come," with the assumption that transit service will automatically appear at no cost. He clarified that he was not suggesting this applies to the Brook Park project, nor was he speaking on behalf of GCRTA. He emphasized the importance of recognizing that transit systems carry ongoing costs when routes and services are adjusted, and expressed hope that these considerations will be carefully evaluated as part of the project.

NOACA Household Travel Survey Analysis for Modeling and Planning

Ms. Hinal Sorathiya stated that the analyzed Household Travel Survey results will be used to update socioeconomic parameters in the NOACA Travel Forecasting Model, support the model's calibration and validation, and assist with other planning activities. This ensures the model and planning efforts reflect current travel behavior. A total of 8,109 household surveys were validated and retrieved, representing approximately 934,000 households across the region, including parts of Summit and Portage counties. Of these, about 888,000 households are within the NOACA region, representing a population of roughly 2.12 million people, with approximately 2.02 million residing within the NOACA area.

Ms. Sorathiya presented information on the following:

- Met County Goal Distributions (n=8,109)
- Key Demographic Distributions (charts)
 - Household size vs. ACS Distributions
 - HHTS vs. ACS Vehicle Ownership
 - No. of HH Workers vs. ACS Distribution
- Key Travel Behavior Characteristics

- Trip Rates
- Diurnal Trip Distribution (chart)
- Mode Choice for Daily Trips for All Purposes (chart)
- Means of Transportation to Work (chart)
- Telecommuting (chart)
- Homebased Trips
- Homebased Daily Trips (chart)
- Non-Homebased Trips
- Non-Homebased Daily Trips (chart)

Ms. Sorathiya stated that the Household Travel Survey was funded with \$1,750,591 from STBG and OCPG funds. She noted that the survey results will be used for calibration and validation of the NOACA Travel Forecasting Model, as well as for other planning activities.

Government Affairs CY2026 Legislative Agenda

Ms. Bev Burtzloff stated that NOACA's Board updates its Legislative Agenda each December. The agenda guides government affairs work at the federal and state levels and serves as the basis for policy and funding goals throughout the year.

Ms. Burtzloff presented information on the following:

- State Priorities
 - Ohio 2026-2027 Biennial Transportation Budget
- Federal Priorities
 - FY26 THUD Appropriations - House
 - FY26 THUD Appropriations – Senate
 - Surface Transportation Reauthorization
 - NOACA Priorities Submitted
- NOACA Funding Resources Webpage

Ms. Burtzloff outlined the next steps, noting that NOACA will review the Legislative Agenda at upcoming meetings of BAC, CAC, RAC, ELAC, and the External Affairs Committee. Input from these groups will help shape any updates for the CY2026 Legislative Agenda. She added that the Board will be asked to adopt the updated agenda at its December meeting, and that NOACA will continue advocating for transit in federal and state funding and authorization bills, as well as supporting discretionary funding applications.

Mr. Capelle inquired whether NOACA's second federal funding priority, "asset management," referred to funding for maintaining a state of good repair, the use of asset management software, or another specific purpose.

Ms. Burtzloff responded that the language was intended to reflect a general interest in maintaining the existing system rather than expanding it, and is more relevant to highways and lane miles than to transit.

Mr. Capelle explained that transit systems already have a federally mandated asset management program, and his question was to clarify whether NOACA's reference to asset management suggested a shift of focus toward roads.

Ms. Burtzloff reiterated that the statement was general, emphasizing that funding should ensure the existing system is properly maintained before expansion, particularly on the highway side. She concluded by encouraging Council to reach out with any additional thoughts regarding priorities for NOACA's Legislative Agenda.

Lorain East 28th Corridor TLCI Study Update

Mr. Ali Makarachi presented information on the following:

- Project Goals
- Complete Street
- Project Study Area
- Project Phases
- Phase 1: Data Collection & Existing Condition Analysis
 - Data Collection
 - Lorain County Transit Network
 - Transit Stops
 - All Crashes (2019-2023)
 - Vacant Land
 - Other Plans and Studies
- Phase 2: Analysis & Alternatives Development
 - Traffic Congestion
 - Traffic Through the Corridor

Mr. Makarachi stated that staff will continue updating the Council as the project progresses.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Capelle made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 16, 2025. Ms. Muriel Bowen seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Reports/Updates

Mr. Capelle mentioned that Laketran was approached by the Lorain County Commissioners to explore whether it could provide service under a contract similar to the arrangement with Geauga County Transit. Laketran is currently evaluating the request, and no decisions have been made. He noted that with Ms. Pam Novak's retirement, the Commissioners are determining their future plans, and he has been discussing with both his board and staff whether Laketran should take over the service. At this time, it is uncertain whether that will occur.

Ms. Bowen reported that GCRTA is preparing to submit its documentation for the New Starts/Small Starts CIG pipeline, seeking funding for the MetroHealth BRT. The submission is expected by the end of next week.

Old Business

No old business was presented at this meeting.

New Business

No new business was presented at this meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Capelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 a.m. Ms. Bowen seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next regular Transit Council meeting will be Friday, November 21, 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	X	
NOVAK, Pamela (Jeff Armbruster, Alternate)	X			
TBD (former member Pamela Novak)				
RINE, Shannon (Stephen Hambley, Alternate)	X	X		
SANTILLI, JoAnna (David Lair, Alternate)	X	X	X	
SHOP, Neil (Scott Ockunzzi, Alternate)	X	A	X	
TERRY, India Birdsong (Maribeth Feke, Alternate) (Muriel Bowen, Alternate on 8/15/25)	A	A	A	

Member present = X Alternate present = A