



**NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee**  
Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2025  
NOACA Offices  
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

**Present:** Please see the attached attendance record.

Ms. Maribeth Feke, Chair of the Air Quality Subcommittee, convened the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

Mr. John Gall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 20, 2025, which was seconded by Mr. David Hearne. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Public Comments**

No public comments were made at this meeting.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Joe MacDonald, on behalf of Director Grace Galluci, made the following announcements:

- NOACA has hired Ms. Sarah Mulligan as its new Environmental Planning Manager.
- The Air Quality Subcommittee was informed that Ohio's new transportation budget (House Bill 54), signed by Gov. DeWine March 31, 2025, includes the "E-Check Ease Act," which creates an Alternative Emissions Certificate (AEC) program running parallel to the existing E-Check system. Drivers can either complete a traditional E-Check inspection or submit an attestation form to obtain an AEC, with both options satisfying emissions requirements. The law also extends new vehicle exemptions from four to six years. The Ohio EPA submitted a revised State Implementation Plan (SIP) to the U.S. EPA in July, incorporating the AEC program, with federal approval still pending.

Mr. Jim Thompson made the following announcement:

- The SFY2026 TLCI program is now accepting applications for Planning Studies and Implementation Projects, with a submission deadline of October 10. The initiative supports communities in developing and carrying out projects that enhance livability, offering \$1.5 million for Implementation Projects and \$500,000 for Planning Studies. An applicant webinar was held on September 3, and application materials, along with the webinar recording, can be accessed at [noaca.org/TLCI](http://noaca.org/TLCI).

**Action Items**

No action items were presented at this meeting.

**Presentation /Discussion Items**

### **Air Quality Public Education and Outreach**

Ms. Kate Moening presented information on the following:

- Air Quality Advisory Days
  - Public Communications by Method from June 2025 through August 2025
- Public Engagement and Outreach
  - Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) Engagement
  - Media Messaging
  - Upcoming: “Lake Erie” Challenge - October 1-31, 2025

Ms. Moening stated that NOACA will continue to provide quarterly updates to the Air Quality Subcommittee.

### **Gohio Commute Update and Performance Measures**

Ms. Ashleigh Dennis presented information on the following:

- Background on Gohio Commute
- Four performance measure categories
  - User Metrics
  - Systemwide Performance Metrics
  - Outreach and Promotion Metrics
  - Platform Administration and Enhancement Metrics
- User and Systemwide Metrics
  - Users: 8,160/35%
  - Non-SOV Trips: 176,904/58%
  - VMT Avoided: 1,823,285/59%
  - CO<sub>2</sub> Avoided (t): 626/62%
  - \$ Saved: \$804,147/63%
  - 570 Acres: 1,630 times
  - 2025 Vanpool Metrics Per Month Per Person
  - 2025 Vanpool Metrics through August 31
  - Northeast Ohio Loves Transit Challenge
  - GoCar(bon) Free – Bike, Walk, Ride or Share
  - Ohio Commuter Challenge
  - 2025 Commuter Choice Awards
- Platform Administration and Enhancement Metrics
  - March 2017 – August 2025
    - 47 Total Challenges
    - 57 Employer/Organization Incentives
    - 187 Events
- Outreach and Promotion Metrics
  - Gohio Commute Office Hours

Ms. Dennis stated that the financial impact includes NOACA’s current annual budget of \$10,000 for the Gohio Commute platform. Staff will continue to provide the Subcommittee with quarterly updates on the platform’s performance metrics.

### **CY2025 Air Quality Forecast Accuracy (through August 31)**

Mr. Joe MacDonald stated that NOACA provides daily forecasts for peak eight-hour ground-level ozone concentrations and fine particulate matter. In 2025, ozone forecasts run from March 1 through October 31, while fine particulate matter forecasts are issued year-round. These daily air

quality forecasts are posted through AirNowTech in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Mr. MacDonald explained that NOACA develops ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter forecasts by reviewing various meteorological variables and using multiple model guidance sources. These include NOAA's National Air Quality Forecast Capability for ozone, the Classification and Regression Tree (CART) Model, Sonoma Tech Guidance via the Columbus/Central Ohio forecast on AirNow.gov, the BlueSky Canada Smoke Forecast, and Firework, Canada's Wildfire Smoke Prediction System.

Mr. MacDonald presented information on the following:

- NOACA Forecast Performance for 2025 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)
  - PM<sub>2.5</sub> Good/Moderate Threshold (12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)
    - Correct =78%
  - PM<sub>2.5</sub> Moderate/Unhealthy Threshold (35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)
    - Correct = 98%
- NOACA and NOAA Forecast Performance for 2025 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

	<u>12 µg/m<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>35 µg/m<sup>3</sup></u>
NOACA	78%	98%
NOAA 6Z (M/B)	(75/76)%	(99/99)%
NOAA 12Z (M/B)	(75/76)%	(99/99)%

- Exceedance Days for 2025 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)
  - June 7
  - August 4
- NOACA versus NOAA Forecast Performance (PM<sub>2.5</sub>): Exceedance Days
  - “Missed Opportunities” – Two (2) days, both NOACA and NOAA did not forecast observed categorical Exceedance of 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard (35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>).
  - “False Alarms” – One (1) day NOACA forecasted categorical Exceedance of 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard (35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) when observed concentrations did not exceed.
- NOACA and NOAA Forecast Performance for 2025 (March 1-August 31) (O<sub>3</sub>)

	<u>50 ppb</u>	<u>70 ppb</u>
NOACA	83%	94%
NOAA 6Z (M/B)	(79/76)%	(96/95)%
NOAA 12Z (M/B)	(82/76)%	(95/93)%

- Exceedance Days for March-August 2025 (O<sub>3</sub>)
- NOACA versus NOAA Forecast Performance (O<sub>3</sub>): Exceedance Days
  - “Missed Opportunities” – Four (4) days each NOACA and NOAA did not forecast observed categorical Exceedance of 2015 eight-hour ozone standard (70 ppb). NOAA standard models forecasted July 15 exceedance, but NOAA bias-corrected models did not.
  - “False Alarms” – Eight (8) days NOACA forecasted categorical Exceedance of 2015 eight-hour standard (70 ppb) when observed concentrations did not exceed. NOAA 6Z standard model forecasted four (4) days; NOAA 6Z bias-corrected model forecasted five (5) such days; NOAA 12Z standard model forecasted six (6) such days; and NOAA 12Z bias-corrected model forecasted seven (7) days.

Mr. MacDonald noted that staff will track the forecast performance of NOACA and NOAA for ozone and fine particulate matter, collaborate with NOAA personnel to report model performance in Northeast Ohio at the National Air Quality Forecasters Conference on October 16–17, 2025, and provide an update to the Air Quality Subcommittee in December 2025.

### **Reports/Updates**

No reports or updates were made 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. Hearne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Gall seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Air Quality Subcommittee will hold its next meeting at the NOACA offices December 19, 2025.

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



**Air Quality Subcommittee  
2025 Attendance Record**

Meeting Dates	3/21/25	6/20/25	9/19/25	12/19/25
<b>ALAI</b> , Samuel J. (David Schroedel, Alternate) (Joe Mandato, Alternate on 9/19/25)		A	A	
<b>CAPELLE</b> , Ben (Brian J. Falkowski, Alternate)	X			
<b>FEKE</b> , Maribeth (Samantha Metcalf, Alternate)	X	X	X	
<b>FISCHER</b> , Tim (Corey Kurjian, Alternate)	X	A	X	
<b>GORRIS</b> , Nick J. (James Dvorak, Alternate)	X		X	
<b>HARRISON</b> , Aaron M. (Stephen D. Hambley, Alternate)				
<b>HEARNE</b> , David G. (Christina Yoka, Alternate)	X	A	X	
<b>MECHENBIER</b> , Bert (Alternate TBD)				
<b>RIDDELL</b> , Jeff (John Gall, Alternate)	A	A	A	
<b>RUBENS</b> , Sam (Julie Brown, Alternate)	X			
<b>SOKOLOWSKI</b> , Bryan (David Salem, Alternate)	X	X	X	
<b>SORGE</b> , Thomas (Corey Czinger, Alternate) (Neil Shop, Alternate on 6/20/25)	X	A	X	

X = Member present    A = Alternate present