



NOACA Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2025
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

President Chris Ronayne, Chair of the Executive Committee, convened the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Ms. Bonnie Teeuwen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 27, 2025. Mr. John Gall seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comments were made at this meeting.

President's/Executive Director's Report

Director Grace Gallucci made the following announcements:

- ODOT has received and approved NOACA's FY 2025 OWP Completion Report, which was previously approved by the NOACA Board in September.
- NOACA received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its FY2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), representing the highest recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

President Ronayne asked Director Gallucci to provide an update on the TEDI meeting.

Director Gallucci reported that a Transportation for Economic Development Initiative (TEDI) public meeting was held Thursday evening. NOACA's TEDI pilot program focuses on the Aerozone District. Consultants hosted an open house-style session at the Middleburg Heights Community Center with a strong turnout of about 60 to 75 attendees. Participants asked about the project's purpose, activities, and costs, and the consultants addressed questions effectively. She noted the meeting was productive and that feedback will continue to be collected. An online survey is now available, with three versions: one for Aerozone residents, one for businesses operating or working in the Aerozone, and one for regional commenters. Staff will also promote the survey through social media.

President Ronayne thanked the NOACA staff for going out to the community.

Executive Committee Action Items

Regional Strategy for Coordinating Funding Opportunities Update 2nd Quarter SFY 2026

Ms. Bev Burtzloff provided background on the IJJA Regional Strategy, updates on the Bridge Investment Program for FY 2026, and updates on the following projects:

- Add the Green Line Stations and Triskett Garage Roof projects to Fiscal Year 2026
- Update the GCRTA Priority Corridors in FY 2025 and 2026 to show the Kinsman Corridor
- Remove the City of Independence application for Safe Streets and Roads for All Implementation funds from FY 2026, as the City will not be ready at that time

Ms. Burtzloff stated that the next steps include following guidance from federal agencies on existing programs and requirements, continuing collaboration with partner communities and organizations to ensure project applications are submitted, regularly updating the Funding Resources webpage, and continuing to refine the Strategy for CY 2026.

Trustee Jeff Brandon made a motion to approve and place the Regional Strategy for Coordinating Funding Opportunities Update 2nd Quarter SFY 2026 on the December 12, 2025, Board of Directors' agenda. Mr. Gall seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

December 12, 2025, Board of Directors Agenda

Director Gallucci reviewed the recommended action items, vetted by other committees, for inclusion on the December 12, 2025, Board of Directors agenda. She explained that the Executive Committee would act on the items as a group, unless a motion was made to consider one or more separately. She noted that items 6b and 6c would be voted on separately because they were modified in the Governance Committee meeting.

Director Gallucci then asked Mr. Ryan Gembala if a motion was required to remove the two items from the slate.

Mr. Gembala said a motion would only be needed if a member did not want to proceed.

External Affairs Committee

CY 2026 Legislative Agenda

Staff prepare the Legislative Agenda each year to align with NOACA's Regional Strategic Plan and state and federal priorities. While most items remain consistent annually, this year includes notable updates. For Priority 1, staff added language supporting stronger local control of core transportation programs through more formula-based funding for MPOs, increased planning funds, reduced local match requirements to aid low-income and rural/urban communities, and streamlined environmental review and permitting. Staff also introduced a new Federal Priority 4 to stabilize the Highway Trust Fund, noting that the gas tax has not been increased since 1993, resulting in an unsustainable funding source that limits available transportation dollars for MPOs and state DOTs.

Governance Committee

CY 2026 Board, Committee, Subcommittee, and Council Meeting Schedule

This item was discussed at the Governance Committee meeting. As noted during that discussion, staff have added the HR, Personnel and Organizational Development (HRPOD) Subcommittee and changed the date of the Finance and Audit Committee meeting. The adjustments are intended to improve efficiency and provide Board members with sufficient time to review and communicate information before the Executive Committee meeting.

Finance and Audit Committee

Brownfields RLF Recommendation for Funding – MidTown Cleveland Inc.

The recommendation concerns a project in Midtown, located on Payne Avenue at the former Dave's grocery store site. The proposal is to redevelop the property into a mixed-use project with affordable housing, commercial space, and a potential Cleveland Public Library neighborhood branch. The applicant requested \$1.3 million in RLF funding. The Brownfields Steering Committee reviewed the proposal on October 17 and recommended awarding \$750,000 with amended terms and conditions. The Vibrant NEO Board approved this recommendation on October 28, and it will need to be presented to the NOACA Board for final approval.

Planning and Programming Committee

Second Quarter SFY 2026 Plan and TIP Amendments

The Plan and TIP amendments are routine quarterly updates staff provide to the Board. NOACA offers communities the opportunity to request changes to the TIP, which then require Board approval when they involve NOACA funds. These amendments may include adding a project, modifying a project phase, or advancing a project, all of which must be formally approved by the Board. The second quarter amendments include projects from GCRTA. Although these projects do not use NOACA funds and will be funded entirely by GCRTA, they must still go through NOACA's process because the funding originates from the federal government.

CY 2026 Highway Safety Performance Measure Targets

The Highway Safety Performance Measures targets are brought to the Board each year by staff. Some targets are presented annually, while others are presented every other year. Staff are recommending that the safety performance measures adopt a 4% reduction target for the region, indicating an expectation of improved safety outcomes.

Director Gallucci asked Mr. Ali Makarachi to explain why the 4% reduction target for the region appears to be increasing, as shown in the chart in the presentation.

Mr. Makarachi explained that the target is based on a five-year moving average. He noted that last year NOACA did not have complete data for 2024, and fatalities were very high—over 172—which is why the target appears higher than in previous years.

Director Gallucci asked if there was a data quality issue in 2025.

Mr. Makarachi said the data is from 2024. NOACA has not received 2025 data yet.

Director Gallucci said that the data is based on a 5-year rolling average.

Mr. Makarachi said yes.

Director Gallucci said NOACA is assuming 4% reduction for the region based on actual to target, not target to target.

Medina County FPA Prescriptions Modification Request for the Villas at Hidden Lakes and Stonegate Subdivision in Medina Township

The Medina County Sanitary Engineer (MCSE) requested a modification to the Medina County FPA to allow the extension of sanitary sewers in Medina Township. The change affects two parcels totaling 101.24 acres with 84 acres requiring prescription updates from "Areas Served by

On-Site Systems” to “Sewers Expected Within 20 Years” and “Currently Sewered.” All notification requirements have been fulfilled, and the modification aligns with the *Clean Water 2020* plan to support development.

Mr. Gall made a motion to place the slate of the above-referenced items on the December 12, 2025, Board of Directors agenda. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Director Gallucci reviewed Items 6.c. and 6.d. on the Executive Committee agenda, which were presented for separate action.

Code of Regulations Revision – Article IX Ratification

This item removes certain ratification requirements in Article IX related to Article IV. The Governance Committee revised the proposal so that ratification is removed only for the membership provisions in Sections 4.2(c)-(h), rather than eliminating ratification entirely.

Code of Regulations Revision – Section 4.2 Membership

This item specifically addresses revisions to Section 4.2 of the Code of Regulations regarding membership. The proposed membership changes were discussed during the Governance Committee meeting. Initially, NOACA staff aimed to provide individual counties with greater autonomy and flexibility to name their members to the Board without requiring ratification. However, during the meeting, the Committee made a change to revert Lorain County’s membership structure to what is currently outlined in the Code of Regulations. Other than the adjustment for Lorain County, staff believe the remainder of the proposal remains consistent with previous discussions.

President Ronayne asked if the change means reverting to the “prescribed by virtue of office” categories.

Director Gallucci stated that the proposal restores seats for the City of Lorain and the City of Elyria, as well as one municipal representative and one township representative.

Additionally, “economic development” is being added as an area of expertise for membership consideration. Staff will incorporate the version approved by the Governance Committee into the Code of Regulations.

Director Gallucci explained that while NOACA typically places such items on the December Board agenda, amendments to the Code of Regulations require a two-meeting process with the change presented at the first meeting and voted on for approval at the second.

Mr. Gembala noted that Article IX of the Code requires a two-meeting process for implementing amendments. He clarified that the plan is to present the proposed Code amendments at the December Board meeting, then hold a special meeting between the December meeting and the January 2026 meeting to formally vote on and approve the amendments for inclusion in the Code.

President Ronayne asked if a special Board of Directors meeting could be scheduled between the December meeting and January, before the first regular meeting in March.

Director Gallucci explained that a special meeting is already planned in January to seat the Board, followed by the regular meeting in March. This schedule would allow Code changes to be approved in advance, ensuring the correct members are seated.

President Ronayne asked if there would be one or two meetings in January.

Director Gallucci clarified that there will be two meetings—one special meeting for the Code of Regulations action and another for Board seating, scheduled for the third week of January.

President Ronayne noted that, schedule-wise, a meeting would be needed between the December Board meeting and the meeting scheduled for the third week of January. Director Gallucci confirmed this was correct.

President Ronayne asked if the purpose of the special meeting would be to review and codify the Governance Committee's recommendations on composition and appointments.

Director Gallucci said yes and added that ratification would also be included.

Mr. Gembala stated that the special meeting would have a limited agenda focused solely on the Code amendments discussed by the Governance Committee.

Director Gallucci confirmed that the amendments would be the only items on the Board agenda.

President Ronayne noted that the previously discussed omnibus package of amendments would be included. Director Gallucci agreed.

President Ronayne then asked about the transfer of the presidency and whether he would chair the January meetings.

Director Gallucci confirmed that President Ronayne would begin the second January Board meeting as chair, and after the election, he would transfer the gavel to the new president.

President Ronayne emphasized the importance of this meeting, which will occur between the December session and the meeting scheduled for the third week of January.

Director Gallucci concluded that the reading of the Code changes would occur at the December Board meeting.

Mr. Andy Haupt made a motion to place the Code of Regulations Revision – Article IX Ratification and the Code of Regulations Revision – Section 4.2 Membership on the December 12, 2025, Board of Directors' agenda. Ms. Teeuwen seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

January 23, 2026, Board of Directors Agenda

Director Gallucci reviewed the recommended action items that had been vetted by other committees for inclusion on the January 23, 2026, Board of Directors agenda.

Executive Committee

Resolution(s) of Appreciation for Outgoing Board Members

Mayor Brennan, from the City of University Heights, will be an outgoing Board member in January 2026. Additional changes in membership may occur once the Code of Regulations has been updated.

Governance Committee

Election of CY 2026 NOACA Board of Directors Officers

CY 2026 Board, Committee, Subcommittee and Council Membership

Presentation Items

NOACA 101

Director Gallucci said the current optional NOACA 101 for new members is not meeting the Board's needs. Many members have told her they still do not understand core aspects of NOACA. She proposed giving a new, focused NOACA 101 during the Board meeting, while offering the voluntary session on a separate day. Her one-on-one meetings show that members are unaware of important issues: how the Board has evolved over the past decade, how USDOT funds are divided and allocated in the TIP, and that NOACA's funding is based on the urbanized area population, not the entire county. Members in several counties, including Medina, were surprised by this. She also wanted to clarify that NOACA distributes funds to counties at the same rate it receives them. She said improving this understanding will support fairness, transparency, and regional cohesion by reducing confusion about where funds come from and how they are allocated.

President Ronayne said it is important for NOACA staff to clearly explain what an MPO is under federal and state guidelines, especially given pending legislation.

Director Gallucci added that many Board members still lack clarity on basic questions—what NOACA is, its responsibilities, and how it is funded. In her one-on-one meetings, she has found that members often do not realize that NOACA receives no state gas tax revenue and only about 10% of the federal gas tax, with ODOT receiving the remaining 90%. She noted that much of the Board's debate focuses on that small portion, when the greater opportunity lies in working together to pursue the other 90%.

Trustee Brandon made a motion to place the above-referenced items on the January 23, 2026, Board of Directors' agenda. Mr. Haupt seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Presentation/Discussion Items

No presentation/discussion items were presented at this meeting.

Executive Session

The scheduled executive session will be held at a future meeting.

Reports/Updates

No reports/updates were presented at this meeting.

Old Business

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

New Business

Consent Agenda

Mr. Gembala said that he, President Ronayne, and Director Gallucci have heard Board members want to make regular meetings more efficient. To help do so, they propose creating a consent agenda for routine items, such as approval of minutes, so they can be approved in a single vote. Any member could request that an item be removed for individual discussion on the regular agenda. This maintains transparency while streamlining ministerial actions. Because the Executive Committee already assembles the Board agenda, its charter would be updated to

reflect this role and authorize the use of a consent agenda. The goal is to group routine actions, move through them quickly, and focus meeting time on items needing fuller discussion.

Ms. Teeuwen asked whether adopting a consent agenda would require a bylaw change.

Mr. Gembala said it would not. The Executive Committee already sets the Board agenda and has the authority to update its own charter. He would simply revise the charter to allow inclusion of a consent agenda if the Committee chooses.

President Ronayne asked whether the recommendation to use a consent agenda should be brought before the full Board in December.

Mr. Gembala said the Executive Committee can make that decision itself.

Director Gallucci said the Committee should inform the full Board in December that a consent agenda will begin in 2026, so everyone understands the change. Mr. Gembala agreed.

Mr. Haupt noted that this change should help the meetings go faster.

Director Gallucci added that the impact will depend on how many items are pulled from the consent agenda.

Mr. Gembala agreed, noting that even planned consent items, like minutes or routine FPA changes, could be removed by the Board for discussion. Grouping straightforward items would let the Board spend more time on issues needing fuller debate and help keep members engaged through the end of meetings.

Director Gallucci said the effectiveness of a consent agenda will depend on stronger committee-level review. Committee chairs would report to the full Board that items were fully discussed and approved, reducing the need to repeat presentations.

Mr. Gall asked whether the Executive Committee would create the consent agenda after approving items to move forward.

Director Gallucci confirmed.

Mr. Gembala added that the process would mirror how the Executive Committee already assembles the Board agenda: the Committee would decide which items to group into a consent agenda or choose not to include one if no items are suitable.

President Ronayne said it would give the NOACA staff more work, but take more off the Board.

Director Gallucci said staff will present a recommendation to the Executive Committee identifying which items could be grouped in a slate and which are likely to require further discussion, allowing the Committee to debate and decide.

Mr. Gall said the Board already knows which items typically require more discussion, and a consent agenda will help ensure those topics get the time they need without rushing or cutting off speakers. It should streamline meetings and support better discussions.

President Ronayne agreed, noting that this approach will allow the Board to focus more time on substantive matters and is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Gembala said the consent agenda concept will be presented to the full Board in December, with the Executive Committee addressing it in January, and asked if that timeline worked for Director Gallucci.

Director Gallucci asked Mr. Gembala if he were asking about when the slate would begin.

Mr. Gembala said yes.

Director Gallucci said the Executive Committee will formalize the slate at its February meeting when setting the agenda for the March Board meeting, deciding which items belong on the consent agenda and which require fuller discussion.

President Ronayne said the plan is to present the consent agenda concept to the Board in December and bring it to the Executive Committee for approval in January, assuming the Board of Directors is comfortable with the process.

Mr. Gembala agreed.

President Ronayne added that any Board member may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for individual discussion.

Mr. Gembala confirmed, noting that only one member is needed to pull an item from the consent agenda.

President Ronayne said the approach balances moving business efficiently while allowing time for items that require discussion and asked if the Committee agreed. They did. He then asked whether a vote was needed on the consent agenda before presenting it to the Board.

Mr. Gembala asked Director Gallucci if the Executive Committee should vote.

Director Gallucci said she only wanted to inform the Board in December.

President Ronayne and Mr. Gembala agreed that no vote was needed.

Director Gallucci added that the Executive Committee should formally recommend the consent agenda at this meeting so it can be presented to the Board as a recommended item.

President Ronayne noted that the Board of Directors does not need to take action, which Director Gallucci confirmed. He said the Executive Committee would simply inform the Board of its recommendation.

Mr. Gembala added that the Committee could also make a motion to update its charter to include preparing the agenda and consent agenda as part of its duties.

President Ronayne asked whether the Committee wanted Board input or to act now.

Mr. Gembala said either option works: wait for feedback after December or act immediately, as the Committee has the authority to update its charter.

The Executive Committee agreed to take action at this meeting.

Mr. Gall made a motion for the Executive Committee to prepare the agenda and consent agenda, where appropriate, for regular and special meetings of the Board. Ms. Teeuwen seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

President Ronayne said the Executive Committee will report on the consent agenda concept to the Board and will make modifications if there is significant opposition.

Mr. Gembala added that he and Director Gallucci will update the Executive Committee charter accordingly.

Adjournment

Trustee Brandon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m. Mr. Gall seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be determined for 2026.

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



NOACA

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

Executive Committee 2025 Attendance Record

MEETING DATES	Special Meeting 1/24/25	2/14/25	5/9/25	Special Meeting 6/18/25	Special Meeting 7/11/25	8/27/25	11/14/25
BEVERAGE III, Morris (Morgan McIntosh, Alternate)	X	A	X	X		X	
BIBB, Justin (Bonnie Teeuwen, Alternate) (Mike Culp, Alternate on 5/9/25 and 7/11/25)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
BRANDON, Jeff (Allen Biehl, Alternate)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DVORAK, Jim (Andy Haupt, Alternate)	A	X	A	X	X	A	A
RIDDELL, Jeff (John Gall, Alternate) (Thomas Patrick III, Alternate on 5/9/25)	A	A	A	X	X	X	A
RONAYNE, Chris (Debbie Berry, Alternate)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total Member Attendance	6	6	6	6	5	6	5

X = Member present A = Alternate present