



Air Quality

Subcommittee Meeting

December 19, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

NOACA Offices, 1299 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114

RSVP to 216-241-2414 ext. 282
or boardliaison@mpo.noaca.org

NOACA will **STRENGTHEN** regional cohesion, **PRESERVE** existing infrastructure, and **BUILD** a sustainable multimodal transportation system to **SUPPORT** economic development and **ENHANCE** quality of life in Northeast Ohio.



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Air Quality Subcommittee Members
Samuel J. Alai, Mayor, City of Broadview Heights
Ben Capelle, Chief Executive Officer, Laketran
Tim Fischer, Manager of the Division of Air Pollution Control, Northeast District Office,
Ohio EPA
Nicholas J. Gorris, P.E., Sanitary Engineer, Geauga County
Aaron M. Harrison, Commissioner, Medina County
David G. Hearne, Commissioner, Division of Air Quality, Cleveland Department of
Public Health
Bert Mechenbier, Air Pollution Control Supervisor, Lake County General Health
District
Jeff Riddell, Commissioner, Lorain County
Sam Rubens, Administrator, ARAQMD
Bryan Sokolowski, Chief of Air Monitoring, Division of Air Quality, Cleveland
Department of Public Health
Thomas Sorge, District Environmental Coordinator, ODOT District 12

FROM: Maribeth Feke, Chair
Director of Programming and Planning, GCRTA

DATE: December 12, 2025

RE: Air Quality Subcommittee

Attached please find materials for the Air Quality Subcommittee meeting on **Friday, December 19, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at NOACA's Offices, 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.**



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Friday, December 19, 2025
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

The public can view the meeting live at: youtube.com/live/k_NrwhE64IQ?feature=share

AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

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1. Call to Order	
a. Pledge of Allegiance	
2. Minutes of September 19, 2025, Meeting	1
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10. Adjourn	

Next Meeting: **March 20, 2026, at 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**
NOACA Offices, 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio



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.

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%
 - CO₂ 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_{2.5})
 - PM_{2.5} Good/Moderate Threshold (12 µg/m³)
 - Correct =78%
 - PM_{2.5} Moderate/Unhealthy Threshold (35 µg/m³)
 - Correct = 98%
- NOACA and NOAA Forecast Performance for 2025 (PM_{2.5})

	<u>12 µg/m³</u>	<u>35 µg/m³</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_{2.5})
 - June 7
 - August 4
- NOACA versus NOAA Forecast Performance (PM_{2.5}): Exceedance Days
 - “Missed Opportunities” – Two (2) days, both NOACA and NOAA did not forecast observed categorical Exceedance of 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard (35 µg/m³).
 - “False Alarms” – One (1) day NOACA forecasted categorical Exceedance of 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard (35 µg/m³) when observed concentrations did not exceed.
- NOACA and NOAA Forecast Performance for 2025 (March 1-August 31) (O₃)

	<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 (O₃)
- NOACA versus NOAA Forecast Performance (O₃): 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](#).

DRAFT



**Air Quality Subcommittee
2025 Attendance Record**

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

X = Member present A = Alternate present



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: December 12, 2025
RE: **Air Quality Public Education and Outreach**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is required. The presentation is for informational purposes only.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

As part of our air quality responsibilities, NOACA educates the community about the region's air quality challenges and the linkages among air quality, transportation, land use, and public health. NOACA empowers individuals and organizations to improve air quality, particularly through increased use of alternative transportation modes. NOACA also advocates public policies that provide greater transportation choice, reduce mobile emissions, benefit public health, create economic opportunity, and enhance quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

During CY2025, the Air Quality Planning Program provides education and outreach for the following projects and campaigns:

- **Air Quality Advisories and Messaging**
 - NOACA issues public advisories and messaging for any anticipated exceedance of a National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). When an exceedance is forecasted, NOACA staff advise the public through airnow.gov, the National Weather Service, the NOACA website, email lists/newsletters, social media, radio, and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Statewide Traffic Management Center (TMC). The public can subscribe to receive email alerts on the [NOACA Air Quality Advisories webpage](#). In addition to the advisory, NOACA staff include examples of alternative travel modes, such as walking, biking, riding public transit, carpooling, and vanpooling.
 - No air quality advisories were issued from September through November.
- **Public Engagement Education and Outreach Activities**
 - NOACA Public Affairs Division routinely coordinates radio advertising that promotes NOACA's air quality work. Throughout October 2025, this included 15 second radio advertisements played on local radio three to four times per day, four times per week.
- **Gohio Commute Lake Eerie Challenge**
 - The Lake Eerie Challenge, a NOACA Car(bon) Free commuter challenge, was held during the month of October. The promotion for this challenge, occurred between October 1 – 31, 2025. Promotion included updates to the NOACA website, social media (40 posts), radio and television advertising (63 total), and a marketing booth at the Cleveland Monsters Game.

- Weekly random prizes were awarded by NOACA. First, second, and third place winners were awarded prizes donated through support from our sponsors [Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority](#), [Bike Cleveland](#), and [University Circle Inc.](#)
- **Commuter Choice Awards (CCA)**
 - Despite continued outreach to employers, participation in the Commuter Choice Awards has steadily declined. On September 19, 2025, NOACA notified participants that the 2025 Commuter Choice Awards were cancelled due to low engagement. NOACA staff is currently assessing how the initiative can be refocused and/or redesigned to maximize its impact and ensure the best use of resources.
- **Upcoming Activities**
 - None at this time

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

NOACA staff will continue to update the Subcommittee on air quality public education and outreach efforts.

GG:EB:JM:KAM



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: December 12, 2025
RE: **Gohio Commute Update and Performance Measures**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested. This item is for information and presentation.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

As part of its air quality responsibilities, NOACA educates the community about the region's air quality challenges and the linkages among air quality, transportation, land use, and public health. NOACA empowers individuals and organizations to improve air quality, particularly through increased use of alternative transportation modes.

In partnership with the six (6) other largest metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in Ohio, NOACA manages Gohio Commute, a multi-regional transportation demand management (TDM) platform. Gohio Commute, launched in April 2017, serves as a one-stop-shop trip planner for the NOACA region, with connectivity throughout Ohio. This interactive platform gives users the information they need to make choices that help save money, elevate health, and improve air quality.

NOACA has worked to engage businesses, local governments, colleges, and other organizations to create their own subsites through the platform. These subsites enable organizations to offer their employees (or students) targeted incentives to choose healthier, more efficient modes of transportation.

To evaluate the success of Gohio Commute, NOACA staff have developed a set of performance measures, which they track on a regular basis. These performance measures fall within four categories:

1. User Metrics (e.g., registered users, logged trips)
2. Outreach and Promotion Metrics (e.g., Gohio Commute workshops, subsites created)
3. Systemwide Performance Metrics (e.g., non-drive alone trips, carbon dioxide (CO₂) saved)
4. Platform Administration and Enhancement Metrics (e.g., map layers, events created)

Performance Period: September 1 – November 25, 2025:

- 57 new users from the NOACA region compared to 105 for same period in 2024
- 3,469 trips logged compared to 3,553 for same period in 2024
- More than \$19,000 saved in calculated commute costs
- More than 12.0 tons of CO₂ emissions avoided

Performance since 2017 for NOACA region:

- 8,204 registered users (4,909 active accounts)

- 181,471 alternative mode trips
- 115 subnetworks representing 78 different organizations
- Users created 50 challenges, 57 incentives, and 186 events
- More than \$1,200,000 saved in calculated commuter costs and 736 tons of CO₂ emissions avoided

Staff will present the metrics above as well as provide updates to the platform.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

NOACA's current annual budget for the Gohio Commute platform is \$10,000.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

NOACA staff will continue to promote Gohio Commute to interested organizations and continue to work with RideAmigos, the Gohio Commute platform vendor, to make additions/improvements to the user experience.

GG:EB:JM:AD



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: December 12, 2025
RE: Ohio EPA Serious Nonattainment Redesignation Request

ACTION REQUESTED

No action required. This item is for information and presentation.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

In its role as the air quality planning agency for Northeast Ohio, NOACA tracks and provides an annual update on the region's air quality trends and its status for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Effective January 16, 2025, the Cleveland, OH, 2015 Ozone (8-hour NAAQS) Nonattainment Area was reclassified from moderate to serious nonattainment. Following an exceptional events analysis related to the 2023 Canadian wildfires, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) redesignate the Cleveland, OH, 2015 Ozone Nonattainment Area from serious nonattainment to attainment with a maintenance plan for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

During the summer of 2023, wildfires in Canada produced smoke plumes that significantly impacted air quality in the Great Lakes region. The ozone precursors from the wildfires elevated air quality design values in the Cleveland, OH, 2015 Ozone Nonattainment Area. As a result, the Director of the Ohio EPA released [Ohio's Exceptional Events Demonstration for the 2023 Wildfire-Related Ozone Episodes in Cuyahoga County and Lake County](#) for a 30-day public comment period, as required under 40 CFR § 50.14. The Exceptional Events Demonstration report concludes that the elevated ozone levels recorded in Cuyahoga County and Lake County from June 1–2, 2023, and in Cuyahoga County on June 29, 2023, were not caused by local emissions, but by smoke and ozone precursors transported from the Canadian wildfires. Thus, Ohio EPA is requesting that U.S. EPA exclude the monitored ozone data captured June 1, 2, and 29 from regulatory determinations, including the calculations of 8-hour ozone design values. Upon the exclusion of the identified ozone monitor data, all active ozone monitoring sites within the Cleveland, OH, 2015 Ozone Nonattainment Area would have 2023–2025 8-hour ozone design values that attain the 2015 ozone NAAQS.

As a result of this analysis, the Ohio EPA developed the [Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the Cleveland, OH 2015 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area](#) to demonstrate that the improvements in air quality are due to permanent, enforceable emissions reductions. Furthermore, existing regulatory requirements are expected to maintain compliance with the 2015 8-hour ozone standard in the area for at least the next ten years. The emissions projections and computer modeling also confirm that current state and federal regulations are sufficient to attain and maintain the NAAQS in the Cleveland area.

On December 8, 2025, Ohio EPA submitted the Exceptional Events Demonstration and Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan to U.S. EPA. If approved the Cleveland, OH Nonattainment Area (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit counties) would be redesignated from a serious nonattainment area to an attainment/maintenance area for the 2015 8-hour ozone standard.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

NOACA staff will work with the Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA, as needed. Upon receipt of the exceptional event analysis and redesignation request, U.S. EPA will have up to 18-months to issue a determination.

GG:EB:JM:SM:KK



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: December 12, 2025
RE: **CY2025 Air Quality Forecast Accuracy (through November 30)**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action requested. This item is for information and presentation.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

Each year, NOACA forecasts daily peak eight-hour ground-level ozone concentrations and fine particulate matter concentrations. In 2025, daily forecasts for ozone began March 1 and concluded October 31, while daily forecasts for fine particulate matter continue year-round. NOACA posts daily air quality forecasts through AirNowTech, in affiliation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

AirNowTech verification statistics show NOACA staff categorical forecasts of fine particulate matter for CY2025 (through November 30) were more accurate than the NOAA model runs against the Good/Moderate threshold (12.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Against the Good/Moderate threshold, NOACA staff predicted fine particulate matter levels with 78% accuracy versus 75/77% accuracy for the 6Z model runs (standard/bias-corrected) and 75/78% accuracy for the 12Z (standard/bias-corrected) model runs. Against the Moderate/Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) threshold (35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), both NOACA staff and all NOAA model runs predicted fine particulate matter levels with 99% accuracy. There have been two (2) exceedances in CY2025 through November 30.

AirNowTech verification statistics show NOACA staff categorical forecasts of ozone were more accurate than those of the NOAA model runs against the Good/Moderate threshold (50ppb) and less accurate than those of the model runs against the Moderate/USG threshold (70ppb). Against the Good/Moderate threshold, NOACA staff predicted ozone levels with 83% accuracy compared to 80/78% accuracy for the NOAA 6Z/6Z bias-corrected model runs and 82/79% accuracy for the NOAA 12Z/12Z bias-corrected model runs. Against the Moderate/USG threshold, NOACA staff predicted ozone levels with 94% accuracy compared to 96% accuracy for the NOAA 6Z/6Z bias-corrected model runs and 96/95% accuracy for the NOAA 12Z/12Z bias-corrected model runs. There have been six (6) exceedances in 2025 through October 31.

For 2025, NOACA staff will provide NOAA personnel with forecast verification statistics on NOAA model performance throughout the ozone season (March 1-October 31). NOACA staff will also monitor its own forecast performance and collaborate with others to improve.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Staff will consult and update the Air Quality Subcommittee throughout this process.

GG:EB:JM



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: December 12, 2025
RE: **Future of Commuter Choice Program**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action requested. This item is for information and presentation. NOACA staff seek input from the Air Quality Subcommittee on the future of the Commuter Choice Program.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

In May 2011, NOACA presented to the Board of Directors an update to the Overall Work Plan (OWP) that included a commuter challenge. The challenge would be a friendly competition to encourage people to adopt alternative modes of transportation. Its goal was to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles (SOVs) on the road; promote alternative commuting options; and highlight the social, personal, and environmental benefits of sustainable commuting. Participants registered and tracked daily commutes on NOACA's website and, at the end of the challenge, NOACA compiled the results and awarded prizes to employers based on their rankings.

In 2014, the program—renamed the Commuter Choice Awards (CCA)—added a new tiered recognition system. Organizations were asked to complete a survey about their commuting amenities, options, and programs (e.g., transit pass subsidies, secure bicycle parking, flexible scheduling, etc.). In 2017, the Ohio Association of Regional Councils adopted an enhanced transportation demand management platform called Gohio Commute. NOACA was able to integrate Gohio Commute in the CCA by offering the Commuter Challenge. This month-long challenge, tracked through the platform, allows organizations to track their own employee participation in real-time. At that same time, the CCA incorporated a location score. Organizations that chose an area with access to multimodal transportation options receive higher marks. Based on these scores, NOACA awards organizations gold, silver, or bronze ratings.

However, participation in the Commuter Choice Awards has declined over the years, particularly since the COVID shutdown in 2020 (see Table 1). Despite efforts to engage employers, interest has dropped and the program has not achieved the level of impact originally envisioned. Recognizing this trend, NOACA surveyed current and past participants and found several reasons for the decline. Many respondents noted the level of effort required to participate—completing surveys, promoting the challenge internally, and tracking employee engagement—outweighed the perceived benefits of the recognition they receive. Others reported waning interest among employees. Additionally, some pointed to staff turnover within organizations that disrupted continuity, making it difficult to maintain participation.

Table 1: Commuter Choice Award Participation

Year	Number of Participating Organizations	Number of Individual Participants
2016	30	n/a*
2017	24	186
2018	29	208
2019	38	319
2020	23	98
2021	23	138
2022	25	124
2023	13	37
2024	11	57
2025	5	17

*Number of Individual Participants data comes from the Gohio Commute platform. Gohio Commute did not exist until 2017.

NOACA staff seek input from the Air Quality Subcommittee on potential actions that would either revitalize, redesign, or sunset the Commuter Choice Awards. The proposed framework is as follows:

1. Revitalize the program by removing program access barriers
2. Redesign the program as a structured, tiered recognition framework that incentivizes continuous, measurable advancement across participating organizations
3. Sunset the program and focus on transportation demand management support for regional organizations

Your feedback will be crucial in determining the direction for these awards moving forward, ensuring that they continue to encourage sustainable commuting and remain relevant to our community.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Different outcomes for the Commuter Choice Program may yield different financial impacts to NOACA.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

NOACA staff will review the feedback from the Air Quality Subcommittee to determine the future of the Commuter Choice Program.

GG:EB:JM



TRAVEL OPTIONS FOR NOACA MEETINGS

LOCATION

NOACA is conveniently located in Cleveland's central business district at 1299 Superior Avenue, on the NW corner of Superior and E. 13th Street.

TRANSIT & BICYCLE TRAVEL TO NOACA

NOACA is accessible by transit and bike.

The NOACA office building is situated on several major and minor bus routes. You can plan your transit trip to NOACA by using trip planner tools or with information provided by the region's public transit agencies:

- [GCRTA Trip Planner](#)
- [Geauga County Transit](#)
- [Laketran Trip Planner](#)
- [Lorain County Transit service](#)
- [Medina County Transit](#)

Bikes may be stored and locked at U-racks located directly in front of the building.

PARKING (see map)

The Cathedral Plaza Garage (E. 9th St. and Rockwell Ave.) is currently unavailable due to repairs. The following map shows other parking options. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer reimbursement for these parking lots. Should you have any questions or concerns please let us know.

Parking meters are located along E. 13th Street north of Superior Avenue. Please heed parking signs and note any time restrictions. Payment may be made at these meters with credit card or by using the [ParkMobile](#) mobile device application.

Street parking is also available along Rockwell Avenue, east of E. 13th Street.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

If you need further assistance with travel to or special accommodation for parking at NOACA, please contact Lindy Burt at 216-241-2414, x. 108.

