



NOACA Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2025
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

President Chris Ronayne convened the NOACA Board meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

County Executive Ronayne stated that a correction was made to the minutes after the meeting packet was sent out. Mr. John Gall noted that Mayor Sam Alai had called the question for the vote on Resolution 2025-047: Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Mike Dever made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the correction. Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Announcement

President Ronayne expressed sorrow over the sudden passing of Commissioner Richard Regovich from Lake County. He extended condolences to Commissioner Regovich's family and the Lake County community, asking for a moment of silence in his memory. President Ronayne recalled working closely with Commissioner Regovich, describing him as a collaborator and team player deeply committed to economic development and regional cooperation. He noted that Commissioner Regovich's absence will be felt not only in Lake County but throughout the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

Commissioner John Plecnik followed by honoring Commissioner Regovich's legacy, emphasizing the loss felt by his wife, Lynn, their children, and grandchildren. He praised Commissioner Regovich's dedication, professionalism, and compassion, highlighting that he never ignored a resident's concern and worked tirelessly to solve community issues. Commissioner Plecnik credited him with major achievements during his three years on the Board, including constructing the new public defender's office, prosecutor's annex, and Lake County Jail and Safety Center, all while not raising taxes and improving the county's financial stability.

President Ronayne added that Commissioner Regovich was active and engaged up until his passing, attending the last NOACA Board meeting and continuing his community efforts.

Commissioner Plecnik shared that Commissioner Regovich had founded Hearts and Hammers, a nonprofit helping low-income seniors and residents with home repairs, reflecting his lifelong generosity. Even in his final days, Commissioner Regovich remained focused on public service, his last directive being to "build the jail under budget." Commissioner Plecnik concluded that

Commissioner Regovich's humility, dedication, and sense of duty define the example he leaves behind for all public servants.

Director Grace Gallucci shared that beyond being a strong leader, Commissioner Regovich was personable and easy to connect with. She recalled friendly conversations about Big Ten football, noting his nephew plays at Northwestern, and appreciated his down-to-earth nature.

Director Gallucci also announced the passing of former NOACA Board Member and former Mayor of Richmond Heights, David Roche, and offered condolences to his family and friends.

President Ronayne expressed appreciation for all public servants and welcomed Mayor-Elect Jim Petras, the new mayor of Cleveland Heights.

Commissioner Beverage thanked everyone for acknowledging Commissioner Regovich's passing and said it had been a pleasure working with him, adding that he would be deeply missed.

Committee Updates

President Ronayne explained that Committee updates were included in the meeting packet.

Trustee Jeff Brandon stated that the Governance Committee had several special meetings and is recommending a couple of changes to the Code of Regulations. The two changes involve ratification and membership requirements, and there will be a discussion about them later in the meeting.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No one signed in to speak at this meeting.

President's Report

President Ronayne said that the most important business had already been addressed and congratulated the Avon Eagles and the Glenville Tarblooders on their state championship football wins, then asked whether there were any other teams to recognize.

Mr. Gall said Avon had two other state champion teams in volleyball and soccer.

President Ronayne congratulated the teams, noting that Northeast Ohio made a strong showing.

Commissioner Beverage acknowledged the Kirtland Hornets football team for winning their state championship.

Executive Director's Report

Director Gallucci reported on the following:

- **Communications and Outreach**
 - NOACA Mural Dedication
 - NOACA in the News
- **Legislative and Funding Issues**
 - Congress passed a continuing resolution on November 12 to reopen the government after a six-week shutdown. The deadline to finalize FY 2026 appropriations is January 30, with transportation funding potentially advanced earlier in a broader package. It remains unclear whether Congress will accept transportation earmarks.
 - HB 445 has been referred to the House Local Government Committee. Sponsor testimony has been delivered, with hearings expected in 2026. NOACA is working with OARC and AMPO to analyze the legislation.

- New funding opportunities have recently been added to NOACA’s funding webpage. Please check regularly for updates. Links are available for LOS requests and the IJJA Strategy.
- **Overall Work Program (OWP)**
 - Engagements and Meetings for September - December 2025.
 - Board Listening Tours
 - I-71 Crossroads Regional Transportation Study
 - Aerozone Transportation for Economic Development Initiative (TEDI)
 - Phase I of the EV Charging Station Program
- **Announcements**
 - Public Comment is open for Phase 2 EV charging station installations in the City of North Royalton and the City of Solon.
 - NOACA received the Government Finance Officers Association’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its FY2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
 - Upcoming Board Meetings are as follows:
 - January 9, 2026 Special Meeting
 - January 23, 2026 Organizational meeting

President Ronayne asked about the status of earmarks from Washington, D.C., as many communities are relying on them and hoping they will be included in the transportation bill. He also asked whether staff had any updates on the Surface Transportation Bill.

Director Gallucci explained that the Surface Transportation Bill expires at the end of the federal fiscal year, September 30, 2026, and is separate from the earmarks.

President Ronayne reminded board members of the January 9 meeting, explaining that it is necessary to address business items from the Governance and Executive Committees before the January 23 meeting, and asked members to attend to ensure a quorum.

Mr. Skip Claypool inquired whether NOACA was still operating under the FAST Act and asked when it expires.

Director Gallucci clarified that NOACA operates under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, which replaced the FAST Act, and that the IIJA expires on September 30, 2026.

Resolutions/Action Items

Executive Committee

Resolution 2025-048: Regional Strategy for Coordinating Funding Opportunities Update 2nd Quarter SFY 2026

Ms. Alison Ball presented information on the following:

- Background on the Regional Strategy for Coordinating Funding Opportunities
- Attachment Explainer
- Quarterly Updates to Funding Programs
 - Bridge Investment Program FY 2026
- Quarterly Updates to Projects:
 - GCRTA Projects
 - City of Independence

Ms. Ball stated that staff will follow guidance from federal agencies, including USDOT, EPA, and NOAA, continue collaborating with partner communities, support project applications, update the Funding Resources webpage, and refine the CY 2026 Strategy.

Mr. Claypool asked staff to explain the reference to ratification in the sixth “Whereas” clause of the resolution.

Ms. Ball said that ratification, in this context, means approval, and Director Gallucci clarified that it refers to approval by the Board.

Mr. Claypool asked what ratification means in terms of Board approval.

Director Gallucci explained that NOACA adopted a strategy under the IIJA that identifies projects for regional federal applications and allows for quarterly modifications; the current item is a routine change, and ratification simply means approval.

Mr. Claypool asked whether ratification by the five counties was required.

Director Gallucci said no, clarifying that this is not the same ratification referenced in NOACA's Code of Regulations, but rather a stronger word meaning approval by the Board.

Mr. Claypool referenced several projects that were not road or bridge projects. He noted that NOACA is an MPO focused on federally funded road projects, and expressed concern that investments such as beautification projects, bike trails, or other non-road items may not align with federal road funding and could divert resources from roadway projects.

Director Gallucci stated that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), which funds NOACA as the MPO, not only permits but mandates spending beyond roads and bridges, consistent with planning and funding a multimodal transportation system. She noted that NOACA is complying with all regulatory requirements and that staff have aligned the proposed strategy and prioritized applicants with Congressionally approved programs under the IIJA. While program rollouts and criteria have varied under the new administration, the programs remain in place and applicable to NOACA's projects.

Mr. Claypool said he was reviewing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative project and questioned how it ties to the federal road system. He asked whether there is a specific provision in the IIJA or the current funding plan that authorizes the project, noting that staff indicated it was approved under existing funding programs.

Director Gallucci said that every project included in the Regional Strategy corresponds to a program with available funding.

Mr. Claypool asked where he could view that information.

Ms. Ball said the Strategy is available online and noted that USDOT published an IIJA table listing all grant opportunities. She explained that these are discretionary grants, not formula funds allocated to states or MPOs, and that communities may apply directly. She added that early guidance encouraged developing a project pipeline.

Ms. Ball said the Strategy reflects that approach, drawing from projects in the Long Range Plan and IIJA grant opportunities, and includes environmental programs such as the Great Lakes

Restoration Initiative because NOACA serves as both an areawide coordinating agency and an MPO.

President Ronayne stated that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative supports resilient infrastructure for shoreline communities, many of which are represented on the Board, and protects drinking water.

Ms. Bonnie Teeuwen made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-048. Mr. Gall seconded the motion. The Board voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

External Affairs Committee

Resolution 2025-049: CY 2026 Legislative Agenda

Director Gallucci explained that each year, staff prepare a legislative agenda for approval and use in the following year. The agenda is developed with the External Affairs Committee and maintains consistency with past priorities and NOACA's Regional Strategic Plan. She added that Ms. Bev Burtzlaff would outline the specific recommended changes to the document.

Ms. Burtzlaff presented information on the following:

- 2026 Federal and State Legislative Agenda
- Federal Priorities
- Four New Sub-priorities for Federal Priority 1
- No changes to Federal Priorities 2 and 3
- Proposed New Federal Priority 4: Stabilize the Highway Trust Fund
- Alignment with Federal and Local Transportation Priorities

Ms. Burtzlaff stated that, pending Board approval, the CY 2026 Legislative Agenda will be forwarded to federal and state legislative and administrative officials representing Northeast Ohio and will guide NOACA's government affairs work throughout 2026.

Mr. Claypool said he agreed with most of the priorities in the Legislative Agenda, which he found neutral and reasonable. However, he noted that Item 1 references the Carbon Reduction Program, which he believed should be removed. He stated that it did not align with science, might distract from other priorities, and could divert funding from roads and bridges. He planned to propose an amendment to remove that strategy.

As a point of order, President Ronayne noted that when he asked for questions, he had hoped for actual questions first, with discussion to follow. He observed that Mr. Claypool's comment was more of a discussion point and then asked if anyone had any questions about the presentation.

Mr. Claypool noted that the second paragraph of the same strategy referenced removing barriers for low-income rural and urban communities and asked for an example of such a barrier.

Ms. Burtzlaff explained that most of NOACA's federal transportation programs require a 20% local match, which many rural and urban communities struggle to meet. She noted that there had been ongoing discussion about ways to make it easier for these communities to access federal funds.

Mr. Claypool said that Ms. Burtzlaff's explanation made sense.

Mr. John Picuri said he would be abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Tom Jordan made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-049. Commissioner Jim Dvorak seconded the motion.

Mr. Matt Moss emphasized the importance of the strategies and the work of the External Affairs Committee as presented to the Board. Representing the City of Cleveland, he noted that a quarter of households lack access to a vehicle, and 70% have either no car or only one car. He added that the city must carefully allocate local funding to remain competitive and leverage federal funds to meet both immediate and long-term community needs. He stated that the priorities in the strategy closely align with the city's needs and expressed his support for approval.

Mr. Claypool commented that programs such as the Carbon Reduction Program divert funds from other effective programs for low-income constituencies. He suggested reviewing the strategies to remove items that do not achieve meaningful outcomes, acknowledging that this might make him the "lone voice," but emphasizing his desire for more effective governance.

Director Gallucci clarified that the Carbon Reduction Program is a USDOT formula funding program, not the USEPA's Climate Pollution Program. She noted that removing it would mean NOACA would no longer advocate for it, but that it currently exists under USDOT's IIJA funding.

Mr. Claypool thanked Director Gallucci for the explanation, noting that it was very helpful.

The Board voted. Mr. Picuri abstained from voting. The motion passed by voice vote.

Governance Committee

Resolution 2025-050 CY 2026 Board, Committee, Subcommittee, and Council Meeting Schedule

Ms. Liz Barlik explained that meetings are scheduled to align committee and Board actions with NOACA's required federal and state actions and to ensure thorough review through councils, subcommittees, and committees. She noted that meeting dates are screened to avoid holidays and major regional events, resulting in adjustments such as those around Juneteenth.

Ms. Barlik noted that, beginning next year, the HR Personnel and Organizational Development Subcommittee will be added to the regular schedule with quarterly meetings. She added that Finance and Audit Committee meetings will be moved to follow the External Affairs, Policy, and Planning and Programming Committee meetings on the same day, allowing agency business to be reviewed and recommended prior to the Executive Committee meeting and providing time for debriefings.

Ms. Barlik noted that the Finance and Audit Committee had been informed of this change and raised no objections. She added that additional rescheduling was done in June to accommodate Juneteenth.

Mayor Brennan made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-050. Mr. Moss seconded the motion.

Mr. Picuri suggested rescheduling the Board meeting on September 11, noting it marked the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

President Ronayne agreed and asked staff to revise the meeting schedule accordingly.

Ms. Barlik agreed, noting there was sufficient time to adjust the schedule. She asked Mr. Gembala whether a floor amendment was needed or if it could be done afterward.

Mr. Gembala said the Board could amend now, but it might be easier to handle afterward, noting there would be broad support for the change.

President Ronayne said the Board had three meetings before that date, so unless a sync was scheduled now, the matter could be addressed as a new business item in 2026. He also acknowledged Mr. Gall's steadfast service and noted that Commissioner Riddell had pointed out Fridays are difficult for Lorain County due to Board of Commissioners meetings. He clarified that a commissioner's absence was due to scheduling conflicts, not a lack of interest.

Mr. Gall said that the proposed change to the Finance Committee schedule would help, as Lorain County Board of Commissioners' meetings typically end by noon. He noted that the change would allow Commissioner Riddell to attend NOACA Finance and Audit Committee meetings and described the schedule adjustment as a positive development.

The Board voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Finance and Audit Committee

Resolution 2025-051: Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Recommendation for Funding – MidTown Cleveland Inc.

Director Gallucci addressed questions raised at the committee level regarding the relationship between NOACA and Vibrant NEO. She reminded the Board that a memorandum of agreement exists between NOACA and Vibrant NEO and that a coalition was formed for the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund, which was approved by the Board in 2022. The Brownfields Steering Committee established a process to review applications and make recommendations, which are approved by both the NOACA and Vibrant NEO boards. However, since NOACA serves as the fiscal agent for the grant, the Board has final approval authority over all funding.

Mr. Jason Knauer stated that Resolution 2025-051 would extend a \$750,000 loan to MidTown Cleveland, Inc. from the NOACA-Vibrant NEO Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund, with amended terms and conditions.

Mr. Knauer stated that the property at 3301 Payne Ave., Cleveland (2.534 acres; 38,000 sq. ft.) is a former limited retail site proposed for mixed-use affordable housing and commercial development, potentially including a Cleveland Public Library branch. He noted that the Brownfields Steering Committee reviewed the project application including requested revised loan terms, which were approved by the Vibrant NEO Board on October 28, 2025. MidTown subsequently requested a 15-year repayment term, which was supported by a creditworthiness analysis from Sudsina & Associates, LLC.

Mr. Knauer stated that the financial impact includes a \$750,000 allocation from the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund for eligible expense reimbursement, with expected interest of \$257,123.80 over the loan term. He noted that, pending Board approval and U.S. EPA eligibility determination, the loan would be executed and funds encumbered.

Mr. Claypool stated that, while the project has merit, it appears to fall outside an MPO's responsibilities and is more appropriate for a Council of Governments. He expressed concerns regarding unclear roles, governance, funding sources, Brownfields Steering Committee involvement, and potential liability related to Vibrant NEO. He questioned ownership of the Revolving Loan Fund and noted that the NOACA Board may not fully understand what it was being asked to approve.

President Ronayne stated that the Board was reviewing the governance of the loan fund.

Director Gallucci stated that Mr. Claypool had submitted a public records request for the agreement, which staff provided. She noted that agreements exist between NOACA, Vibrant NEO, and the U.S. EPA, all of which had been approved by the NOACA Board.

Mr. Claypool asked for the names of the members of the Vibrant NEO Board.

Director Gallucci stated that the Vibrant NEO Board dates back to 2010 with the creation of the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC), and that all related documents are available online or have been presented to Mr. Claypool. She offered to discuss the documents with Mr. Claypool individually.

President Ronayne asked whether the base of the loan fund rests with NOACA or another entity.

Director Gallucci confirmed that NOACA is the fiduciary agent for the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund and has final approval authority.

President Ronayne asked whether the funds are held in a NOACA bank account or elsewhere.

Director Gallucci stated that the funds would rest with NOACA; however, because most federal funds are reimbursed after expenditures, there is no money currently held in an account.

President Ronayne asked whether NOACA is acting as a pass-through or conduit, and whether extending the term from 15 to 18 years would allow NOACA-Vibrant NEO to accrue additional interest.

Director Gallucci said yes.

President Ronayne asked whether NOACA-Vibrant NEO would earn incremental interest on approximately \$250,000 over the 18-year term.

Director Gallucci said yes and noted, per Mr. Knauer, that the funds would then be available for loaning again.

Mr. Claypool asked whether the interest would be held in a NOACA bank account.

Director Gallucci stated that the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund is a new program and that NOACA had not yet received or disbursed funds but would maintain a separate account under NOACA's control.

Ms. Wordell confirmed that, under her understanding of the agreement, NOACA would open a separate bank account for the funds, allowing interest to be held and tracked separately.

Mr. Jordan asked who Sudsina & Associates worked for when analyzing the project's creditworthiness.

Director Gallucci said Sudsina was hired to perform financial reviews for NOACA using U.S. EPA funds.

Mr. Jordan noted that sometimes developers offer their own analysis.

Director Gallucci clarified that, in this case, the analysis was conducted for NOACA.

Mr. Jordan asked whether staff could further describe or break out the redevelopment costs beyond the \$47 million figure.

Mr. Knauer said he did not have the full details available, but noted the project includes redevelopment of approximately 120 housing units and 35,000 square feet of commercial space. He added that NOACA was provided a project breakdown and that he would confirm the information and provide it to Mr. Jordan.

President Ronayne suggested that, given the questions raised, a future meeting could include a presentation on the program to address them. He noted, however, that due to development timelines, such a presentation would not be possible before the action today.

Mr. Jordan said that while the redevelopment was expensive, most of the cost is for actual construction, with remediation being a small portion of the overall redevelopment costs.

Ms. Calley Mersmann noted that Vibrant NEO board members are listed online and that, for this project, a state low-income housing tax credit award applies. She added that the state website provides some development information, which could be helpful in the short term before staff can provide more details.

President Ronayne thanked Ms. Mersmann for sharing that information.

Mr. Andy Conrad asked whether the program provides any collateral or guarantees for the loan, and if so, what they are for this project.

Mr. Knauer said that Sudsina & Associates typically recommends collateral, and that the loan agreements include both personal and organizational guarantees, as well as escrow deposits throughout the term to cover any missed payments. Collateral is included based on Sudsina's recommendations.

Mr. Dever made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-051. Mr. James DeRosa seconded the motion.

Mr. Thomas Patrick stated that members had discussed the project at the last Finance and Audit Committee, where he raised questions about the process. He noted that U.S. EPA eligibility, typically completed before Board approval, had been delayed due to the federal government shutdown. For that reason, he had previously voted no and said he would do so again, emphasizing the importance of following the full process to avoid potential issues.

President Ronayne reiterated his earlier request for staff to provide Board members with more information on the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund.

The Board voted. Mr. Claypool and Mr. Patrick voted no. The motion passed by voice vote.

President Ronayne reiterated that staff would follow up with more information on the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund.

Director Gallucci said she planned to present a detailed overview of NOACA's operations at the January organizational meeting. Noting recent Board transitions and unfamiliarity with programs like the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund.

Mr. Claypool requested that Director Gallucci include a discussion of NEOSCC, Vibrant NEO, NEO2050, and NEO2040, noting confusion among these entities and stressing that the NOACA Board needed a full understanding to make informed decisions and avoid liability.

President Ronayne noted the appointment of Mr. Jeff Epstein, President and CEO of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, as NOACA's newest Board member. He noted that Mr. Epstein previously served as Cleveland's Chief Development Officer and as CEO of Midtown Inc.

Planning and Programming Committee

Resolution 2025-052: Second Quarter SFY 2026 Plan and TIP Amendments

Mr. Ed May provided background on the Plan and TIP amendment process and presented information on the following projects, proposed for amendment to the TIP and not receiving NOACA funds:

- CUY SR 087 12.05 Widening (PID 108766)
- LAK SR 615 – 01.69 (PID 124351)
- CUY IR 077 11.11 Replace (PID 21788)
- CUY IR 077 11.21 Major Rehab (PID 105743)
- GCRTA Capital Projects

Mr. May stated that the cost of the programmed projects being amended in the Plan and TIP was \$292.4 million, and the cost of the projects proposed to be amended to the TIP was \$20.4 million. He noted that funding for these projects was committed and/or planned from non-NOACA sources, provided by FHWA and FTA, and administered through ODOT.

Mayor Annette Blackwell made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-052. Mayor Brennan seconded the motion.

The Board voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Resolution 2025-053: CY 2026 Highway Safety Performance Measure Targets

Ms. Kessa Turnbull stated that Resolution 2025-053 adopts a 4% reduction rate for CY 2026 Highway Safety Performance Measure Targets.

Ms. Turnbull presented information on the following:

- Fatalities
- CY 2026 Safety Performance Measure Target Setting
- Historic Fatalities in the NOACA Region
- Fatalities per Year with VMT and Speed Comparison

Ms. Turnbull said that, pending Board approval, the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Plan safety-related targets would be updated.

President Ronayne asked whether the 159 figure represented total fatalities on all roads in the NOACA region over the past year.

Ms. Turnbull said yes, confirming that 159 reflects the total number of fatalities, including crashes with multiple fatalities, not the total number of crashes with fatalities in the region.

President Ronayne noted that the stated goal was a 4% reduction and suggested that geoplotted crash data shared with law enforcement could help identify and address hot spots.

Ms. Turnbull explained that NOACA gets crash data from Ohio Traffic Crash Reports (OH-1), which lead to underrepresenting on property-damage-only crashes and crashes involving non-motorized users, as people often do not call the police when they think they are not seriously injured.

President Ronayne asked whether the primary means of achieving the 4% reduction was public education or communication.

Ms. Turnbull replied that it was a combination of strategies, using a Safe System approach focused on safer vehicles, roads, speeds, users, and improved post-crash care.

Mr. Claypool noted that correlation does not equal causation. Some countries, such as Germany and France, have unlimited speed limits yet fewer crashes and deaths, questioning whether the U.S. focus on speed addressed the right causes. He added that European highways, including the Autobahn, have strict rules such as slower drivers must move right, and drivers cannot eat, drink, or text allowing maximum safe driving freedom. He asked if anybody had looked at that data.

Ms. Turnbull said yes and noted that speed mattered because faster vehicles reduce reaction time and increase stopping distance. She added that the U.S. performs poorly compared to other developed countries. Abroad, high-speed roads are separated from non-motorized users, and city centers have very low speed limits or vehicle bans. In the U.S., a 25 m.p.h. speed limit near people is considered a success.

Mr. Claypool reiterated that European highways, including the Autobahn, have strict rules: slower drivers must move right, and drivers cannot eat, drink, or text. He noted that these rules focus on safety while allowing drivers to travel at high speeds safely.

Ms. Turnbull commented positively on the discussion of distracted driving.

Mr. Picuri suggested that NOACA focus on improving seatbelt usage, which is the lowest in Ohio and aligns with ODOT's efforts in Greater Cleveland.

President Ronayne asked whether the 159 figure included automobile crashes, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Ms. Turnbull confirmed that it did.

President Ronayne noted that NOACA had a benchmark to work with.

Mr. Moss stated that Cleveland's Vision Zero Action Plan and Vision Zero Initiative showed that the most common fatal crashes involved drivers hitting fixed objects, often at high speeds, and sometimes distracted or intoxicated. He added that these crashes relate to speed, roadway design, and seatbelt use, and that the plan uses a "Swiss cheese" approach addressing education, design, and enforcement.

President Ronayne highlighted that the city of Oslo, with 700,000 people, had achieved zero traffic fatalities in a year.

Mr. Moss added that the city of Hoboken also had a year without fatalities.

President Ronayne suggested that the region could aim to implement all these strategies.

Mayor Kim Thomas made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-053. Mayor Alai seconded the motion.

The Board voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Resolution 2025-054: Medina County FPA Prescriptions Modification Request for the Villas at Hidden Lakes and Stonegate Subdivision in Medina Township

Ms. Sarah Stanzi stated that Resolution 2025-054 modifies wastewater treatment prescriptions for 84 acres in the Medina County FPA, reclassifying 50 acres to “Sewers Expected Within 20 Years” and 34 acres to “Currently Sewered.”

Ms. Stanzi stated that the request allowed the extension of sanitary sewers. She noted that the applicant was the Medina County Sanitary Engineers and that the affected area included two parcels in Medina Township totaling 101.24 acres, with 84 acres requiring a prescription change. She added that notification requirements had been fulfilled and all affected parties were in agreement.

Ms. Stanzi reviewed the current and proposed FPA prescriptions, noting that the modification aligned prescriptions with parcel lines ensured sewer availability for proposed development, and maintained consistency with Clean Water 2020 guidelines.

Ms. Stanzi stated that, pending NOACA Board approval, the modification would be distributed to appropriate agencies and submitted to the Ohio EPA for governor certification.

Mr. Gall made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-054. Mr. Dever seconded the motion. The Board voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Policy Committee (no items)

Presentation/Discussion Items

Code of Regulations Revision – Article IX Ratification

Director Gallucci said the amendments being presented reflected changes proposed by the Governance Committee. He noted that there were two significant changes and yielded to Trustee Brandon, Governance Committee Chair, to provide background.

Trustee Brandon stated that the Governance Committee recommended eliminating ratification for individual county changes to membership, instead making these changes annually at the NOACA organizational meeting in January. He explained that this allows each county more control and flexibility over its Board membership.

Director Gallucci said that was the basis of the change and noted that several steps needed to be taken: one is the elimination of ratification, and the other is specifying the changes required for membership. She turned the presentation over to Ms. Barlik to review the specifics.

Ms. Barlik stated that, following discussion at the June Board meeting, the Governance Committee met to review the Board's current membership, potential changes, and associated ratification requirements. She explained that Article IX currently requires amendments to Article IV to be ratified by each county, prompting discussion on streamlining the approval process to allow changes to take effect more efficiently while providing greater flexibility and control for NOACA's primary members. Ms. Barlik added that at the October 24 meeting, the Committee approved a motion to amend the Code by removing this requirement from Article IX. At the November 14 meeting, the Committee narrowed the scope of the amendment and recommended it to the Board, limiting the exception to ratification in Article IV to the list of members in Section 4.2.

Ms. Barlik then presented the proposed change to Article IX amendments and noted that this item would be presented for action at the special Board meeting on January 9, 2026, in accordance with Article IX of the Code of Regulations, which permits Board action on Code amendments only when notice is given at the preceding regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Mr. Claypool asked whether the proposed change would require notification and ratification by each county.

Mr. Gembala stated that the proposed amendment to the Code's amendment provisions would eliminate the requirement for county ratification, allowing the NOACA Board to amend specific portions of the Code without submitting them to each county.

Mr. Claypool stated that, based on his reading of Article IX, changes to Section 4 require ratification by all counties and indicated he would have the proposal reviewed by counsel, noting that approval in January might still require county ratification.

Mr. Gembala clarified that the contemplated change modifies the amendment provisions themselves so that ratification would not be required for specific sections.

Commissioner Beverage asked whether adoption of the change by the Board would require ratification by all five counties.

Mr. Gembala responded that it would not.

Mr. Capelle asked whether changes to Board appointments could affect dues responsibility if appointees changed annually.

Director Gallucci explained that dues were billed to the counties under the Code, with counties determining whether to pay directly or allocate costs among their representatives, and that NOACA did not mandate how counties distributed dues.

President Ronayne clarified that dues were billed to the Boards of County Commissioners by district or county sector.

Mr. Capelle noted that Laketrans currently received a bill directly from NOACA.

Director Gallucci clarified that Laketrans was billed as a courtesy at the county's direction, but dues were formally charged to the counties, which could choose to pay or sub-allocate them.

President Ronayne stated that the special January 9 meeting was required to introduce the item and conduct the Board vote, and that the meeting was expected to be brief but would require a quorum.

Code of Regulations Revision – Section 4.2 Membership

Ms. Barlik presented information on the following:

- Board Membership
 - Requirements for MPO Governance
 - Current NOACA Board of Directors
 - Proposed Board of Directors and Membership List
- Additional Changes

Ms. Barlik stated that this item would be presented for action at the special Board meeting on January 9, 2026, in accordance with Article IX of the Code of Regulations, which allows the Board to act on Code amendments only when notice is given at the immediately preceding regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Commissioner Beverage thanked the Governance Committee for its extensive work, noting the effort to balance interests across counties and the region while providing flexibility in Board composition. He emphasized that the proposal does not change overall composition or proportionality, but clarifies membership provisions in Sections 4.2(c) through (h), and he thanked Ms. Barlik and Committee members for their work on the revisions.

Mr. Claypool stated that the proposed change limits a County Commissioner's ability to appoint representatives of their choosing, arguing that requiring appointees to be elected or appointed officials restricts commissioners' discretion to select individuals they believe best represent their community.

Commissioner Beverage agreed that the change removes some appointing authority but stated his support, explaining that he prefers Board members to have expertise in areas stated such as environmental planning, land use management, and transportation.

Mr. Conrad expressed concern that, as a transportation-focused organization, the proposal seemed to exclude county engineers and service directors, potentially reducing the level of technical expertise on the NOACA Board.

President Ronayne thanked Mr. Conrad and encouraged him to raise his points at the January 9 meeting, noting that the item was being introduced and was not yet up for a vote.

Mr. Capelle asked whether the objective was to approve the change on January 9 so it could take effect by January 23, 2026.

President Ronayne confirmed that the January 9 meeting was necessary to seat members in time for the January 23 organizational meeting.

Director Gallucci confirmed this objective and explained that some ratification would still be required. She clarified that membership qualification criteria would continue to require ratification, as this represented a material change. However, the proposal would remove the ratification requirement for the listing of members in Section 4.2. Currently, all of Section 4.2 requires ratification; under the proposed change, everything would still require ratification except the member list (formerly Sections (a) through (f), now Sections (c) through (h)). She stated that this

change reflects the Governance Committee's recommendation to give counties flexibility in naming members while maintaining ratification for qualification criteria.

Mr. Picuri agreed with Mr. Conrad's concerns and emphasized the value county engineers bring to Board discussions.

President Ronayne noted that further discussion and a vote would occur at the January 9 meeting, adding that governance is a fluid process and adjustments can be made over time as changes are evaluated.

Mayor Brennan asked whether references to expertise in transportation and land use would include engineers.

Commissioner Beverage confirmed that engineers would qualify under the proposed expertise criteria and could still be appointed. He explained that the proposal does not remove engineers from eligibility, gives elected officials discretion in selecting their delegations, maintains accountability to voters, and leaves Lorain County's membership unchanged.

President Ronayne stated that NOACA counsel Mr. Gembala confirmed Commissioner Beverage's statements were correct.

Mr. Picuri noted that county engineers are elected officials and expressed his view that they should be specifically identified.

Ms. Annie Pease asked Director Gallucci to clarify the procedural ratification requirements for changes to Section 4.2 between that meeting, January 9, and January 23.

Director Gallucci acknowledged the complexity and tight timeline, noting that significant work must be completed by January 23, and deferred procedural specifics to Mr. Gembala.

Mr. Gembala explained that the initial amendment pertained to Article IX, which governs amendments to the Code. Under the Code, amendments require Board approval, except for Article IV, which requires county ratification. Once Article IX is amended, Article IV would continue to require ratification except for Sections 4.2(c) through (h), which list individual positions. Amendments to Section 4.2A would still require county ratification. He stated that the intent is to maintain existing ratification requirements while excluding the individual member listings.

Mayor Meghan George asked whether the proposed change would affect subcommittee appointments or apply only to the Board of Directors.

Director Gallucci confirmed that the change applies only to the Board of Directors.

President Ronayne thanked Director Gallucci, Ms. Barlik, and Mr. Gembala, and advised members to direct any further questions to NOACA staff or counsel.

Old Business

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

New Business

Consent Agenda

Director Gallucci explained that, to expedite Board meetings, staff had proposed using a consent agenda. Routine items would be included on the consent agenda and would not require presentations, lengthy discussion, or debate. Any Board member could request that an item be removed for full presentation and discussion. She noted that Executive Committee action was required to implement this change and deferred to Mr. Gembala for details.

Mr. Gembala stated that the Executive Committee's action would formally authorize including a consent agenda in meeting agendas. Typically, noncontroversial items—such as minutes or routine FPA changes—would be placed on the consent agenda, identified through the established process, and voted on as a single block. Any member could remove an item for full discussion with other action items. The intent was to streamline routine matters and allow more time for substantive discussion.

Director Gallucci added that staff would make Board memos and packets more robust by including additional information, enabling members to review materials in advance and come better prepared. She noted that several Board members had suggested this approach during one-on-one discussions and thanked them for sharing examples from other boards that follow this practice.

President Ronayne emphasized that bundling routine items, such as certain FPAs, would allow more time for substantive issues. He reiterated that any item could still be removed from the consent agenda, either in advance by contacting Director Gallucci or staff, or from the floor if necessary. The overall goal was to be mindful of time while ensuring adequate discussion of important matters.

President Ronayne asked whether any formal action was required.

Mr. Gembala responded that no action was needed at that time.

President Ronayne asked members to contact Mr. Gembala if they had any serious objections.

Public Comment

No one signed up to speak at this meeting.

Chair's Remarks

President Ronayne stated that outgoing Board members will be honored at the January 23, 2026, Board meeting. He noted that Mayor Brennan is among those being recognized and acknowledged his service as Chair of the Planning and Programming Committee, thanking him for his long-standing service to NOACA.

President Ronayne also recognized Commissioner Regovich, noting that NOACA will present a resolution to the Lake County Board of Commissioners to be shared with his family. He praised Commissioner Regovich's outstanding service to the Board and noted that Mayor-Elect Petras' predecessor also served on the Board.

President Ronayne expressed his appreciation to all Board members for their work over the past year, noting that he will serve as Chair for one more meeting and briefly at the start of the January 23 meeting. He thanked the group for its collegiality and highlighted the value of holding meetings in Lake and Lorain Counties, with hopes of visiting Geauga and Medina Counties in the future.

President Ronayne extended special thanks to Director Gallucci, the senior leadership team, and all NOACA staff for their work in 2025. He highlighted key organizational improvements, including the work of the HR Subcommittee led by Mayor Matt Castelli and Ms. Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, the hiring of NOACA's HR Director, and the addition of Mr. Gembala as NOACA's new legal counsel. He also thanked Board members for their guidance, collaboration, and willingness to serve as resources across counties and projects.

President Ronayne emphasized the importance of maintaining open communication into 2026, noting upcoming challenges such as potential state legislative changes, ongoing governance discussions, and major projects, including those in the Aerozone near the airport. He commended the Board for strong attendance, engagement during lengthy meetings, and consistent support.

President Ronayne concluded by thanking the Board for a productive year, expressing his gratitude for their service, and wishing members and their families a happy holiday season. He emphasized his desire to convey an overall attitude of gratitude.

Mr. Claypool stated that he appreciated President Ronayne's leadership and felt he did a fantastic job.

Adjournment

Mayor Alai made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next meeting will be on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., at the NOACA Offices.

Respectfully submitted,



Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne
NOACA Board President

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



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE

MEETING DATES	1/24/25	3/14/25	6/13/25	9/12/25	12/12/25
BOARD OFFICERS					
BEVERAGE III, Morris W.	X	X	X	X	X
BIBB, Justin	A	A	A	A	A
BLACKWELL, Annette M.	X	X	X	X	X
BRADLEY, Jack	X	X	A	X	X
BRANDON, Jeff	X	X	X	X	X
BRENNAN, Michael D.	X	X	X	X	X
CONRAD, Andy	X	X	A	X	X
CUNNINGHAM, Mark	X	X	X		X
DVORAK, James W.	A	X	A	A	X
GRIFFIN, Blaine A.	X	X	X	X	X
HARRISON, Aaron M.	X	X	X	X	
PLECNIK, John	A	A	A	A	X
RIDDELL, Jeff	A	A	X	A	A
RONAYNE, Chris	X	X	X	X	X
CUYAHOGA COUNTY					
County Government					
CIEREBIEJ, Mary	X/A	X	X	X	A
DEVER, Michael	X	X	A	X	X
HOUSER, Michael J.	A	X	A	A	A
Regional Authorities					
DREYFUSS-WELLS, Kyle	A	A	X	X	X
EPSTEIN, Jeff					X
GUTHEIL, David		A	A	A	
KOOMAR, Paul	A	X	X	A	X
Suburban Regions					
ALAI, Samuel	A		X	X	X
ANTOSKIEWICZ, Larry	X	X	X		A
BOBST, Pamela	X	X	X	X	
CASTELLI, Matthew	X	X	X	X	X
DEGEETER, Timothy	A	X	X	A	X
GAIL, Kirsten Holzheimer	X	X	X	X	X
GEORGE, Meghan	A	X			X
SEREN, Kahlil		X			
CUDA, Tony				X	A
THOMAS, Kim		X	X		X
CITY OF CLEVELAND					

MEETING DATES	1/24/25	3/14/25	6/13/25	9/12/25	12/12/25
DEROSA, James	A	X	A	X	X
FIELDS, Marka	X				
HOWSE-JONES, Stephanie	X	X	X		
KAZY, Brian	A		X	X	X
MCCORMACK, Kerry	X	X	X		
MERSMANN, Calley	A	X	X	X	
O'Keeffe, Sarah		X			
MOSS, Matt			X	A	
SLIFE, Charles					
GEAUGA COUNTY					
BRAKEY, Carolyn	A	X	X	X	X
SPIDALIERI, Ralph	A	A	A	A	A
LAKE COUNTY					
EXLEY, Alan	X	X		X	
CAPELLE, Ben		X	X	X	X
REGOVICH, Richard	X/A	X	A	X	A
LORAIN COUNTY					
BRUBAKER, Kevin	X		X	A	X
CARNEY, Ken	A	A	A	A	A
CORCORAN, Kevin	X		X		X
MOORE, David J.		A	A	A	A
MEDINA COUNTY					
MAGOVAC, Paul	X	X	X	X	
STATE OF OHIO					
AHMED, Ferzan*		A		X	A
EMERMAN, David*	X				
PICURI, John	X	X	A	X	X
Total Members Attend:	42	43	43	39	39

X = Member present A = Alternate present * = Ex officio, non-voting