



**NOACA Safety and Operations Council  
Meeting Minutes**  
November 21, 2025  
NOACA Offices  
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

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

Mr. James Kusner, Vice Chair of the Safety and Operations Council, convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Lawrence Hall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 15, 2025. Mr. Shaun Duffala seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Public Comment**

No one signed in to speak at this meeting.

**Executive Director's Report**

Director Grace Gallucci thanked members for attending today's meeting. She noted that under new business, there will be an update on the I-71 Corridor Study.

**Action Items**

No action items were presented at this meeting.

**Presentation/Discussion Items**

**CY 2026 Highway Safety Performance Measure Targets**

Ms. Kessa Turnbull presented information on the following:

- Nonmotorized Fatalities & Serious Injuries
- CY 2026 Safety Performance Measure Target Setting
- Historic Regional Fatalities
- Historic Regional Nonmotorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries
- Nonmotorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries Per Year With VMT and Speed Comparison

Ms. Turnbull stated that, pending Board approval, the Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Plan highway safety performance targets will be updated.

**SFY 2028-2031 TIP Development – Potential Projects for NOACA Funds**

Mr. Ed May presented information on the following:

- Background on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- TIP Components: Roadway and Transportation Alternatives Element, Transit Element, and Appendices
- Development of the SFY 2028-2031 TIP
- Funding programs in the TIP
- TIP Project Alignment
- TIP Project Evaluation Process
- TIP Project Selection and Evaluation Process
  - Step 1: Develop TIP potential project universe
  - Step 2: Screen project universe to align with weNEO2050+ plan
  - Step 3: Coordinate with regional and local sponsors
  - Step 4: Filter the top 25% of the TAM projects
  - Step 5: Evaluate qualifying projects against Regional Significance Criteria and considerations
- TIP Schedule

Mr. May said staff will prepare a report on transportation system needs and deficiencies for community and agency review, incorporating Council input. Council feedback will guide staff in evaluating projects for NOACA funding in the draft SFY 2028–2031 TIP. Funding recommendations will go to the Council in May 2026, and the final draft TIP will be presented to the Planning and Programming Committee in January 2027 and the Board of Directors in March 2027.

Mr. Shaun Duffala asked whether NOACA was dividing roadway segments by VMT.

Mr. May explained that VMT is used only to create a manageable number of segments per county, based on each county and the City of Cleveland’s share of regional vehicle miles traveled.

Mr. Duffala then asked if funding would also be allocated by VMT.

Mr. May said no. Funding will be based on each county and the City of Cleveland’s share of the urbanized population.

Mr. Hall noted that while March 27 seems far off, FHWA appreciates NOACA’s due diligence timeline and extensive public input. He emphasized that safety is a top USDOT priority and encouraged staff to further strengthen safety considerations within the five-step process, given the ambitious targets presented by Ms. Turnbull.

Mr. May agreed.

### **SFY 2026 TLCI Program Applications**

Ms. Leah Telepak presented information on the following:

- Background on the TLCI Program
- TLCI Program Application Summary and Budget Overview
- Planning Study Applications – Total Funding Requested: \$680,000
- Implementation Applications – Total Funding Requested: \$6,280,255

Ms. Telepak said Council input will be included in staff project evaluations, with recommendations presented to the Planning and Programming Committee in January and final Board approval expected in March.

## **Lorain East 28<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor TLCI Study Update**

Mr. Rob Uhlhorn presented information on the following:

- Project Goals
- Complete Street
- Project Study Area
- Project Phases
- Phase 1: Data Collection & Existing Condition Analysis
  - Data Collection
  - Lorain County Transit Network & Crashes
  - Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress
  - Public Meeting #1
- Phase 2: Analysis & Alternatives Development
  - Collecting Traffic Data
  - Crash Analysis Conclusions
  - Traffic Operations Analysis
  - Design Alternatives
  - Design Alternatives – Rail Bridge
  - Design Alternatives – E. 28<sup>th</sup> & Pearl

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

Mr. Hall noted that a Lorain County steel mill may ramp up production again, which could increase freight traffic.

Mr. Uhlhorn said this development further supports the idea of a two-way cycle track on the south side of the street, which staff had already been considering, even with limited existing freight traffic.

### **Reports/Updates**

No reports/updates were presented at this meeting.

### **Old Business**

No old business was presented at this meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **I-71 Regional Transportation Study**

Director Gallucci stated that Ms. Laurie Adams, a DGL Consulting Engineering serving as NOACA's project manager for this study, is embedded with the project team and working closely with HDR and ODOT throughout the effort.

Ms. Adams presented information on the following:

- Study Overview & Schedule
  - Study Purpose and Need
  - Study Area
  - Previous Studies Along I-71
  - Project Schedule
- Crash Issues & Identified Areas of Concern
  - Crash Analysis

- Identified Areas of Concern
  - I-71/SR 82 Interchange
  - Howe Road/SR 82
  - Howe Road Corridor (Lane Drop)
  - US 42/SR 82
  - West 130<sup>th</sup> St/SR 82
  - I-71 and SR 303 Area
  - I-71 US 42 Interchange
  - W 130<sup>th</sup> St/Grafton Road
  - Grafton Road/Carpenter Road
  - Drake Road/Hunt Road
- Traffic Congestion Grading System & Findings
  - How each area was evaluated
  - Level of Service Grades
  - Existing Traffic Conditions
  - Future Traffic Conditions
  - Most Congested Area – 2050 PM Peak
- Next Steps
  - What to Expect
  - Website & Contact Information

Ms. Adams reported that the first public meeting was held on November 19 at the Strongsville Recreation Center. Based on stakeholder input, NOACA held separate meetings in Strongsville and Brunswick so each community could speak freely. Strongsville had about 150 attendees; Brunswick, in a smaller room, drew about 170, far more than expected. Both meetings generated strong comments, and some residents attended both to hear all perspectives. Public comments are open through December 19. Materials and exhibits are posted on NOACA's website, and feedback can be submitted by email. After the comment period, HDR will review input and continue stakeholder meetings as conceptual alternatives are developed. Ms. Adams noted the study begins with a clean slate, with no predetermined solutions. Another public meeting is planned for May to present and evaluate alternatives. Additional information can be found on NOACA's website. The project email is [noaca@mpo.noaca.org](mailto:noaca@mpo.noaca.org).

Mr. Kusner asked how resident feedback on delays compares with the current capacity analysis.

Ms. Adams said the capacity analysis shows conditions slightly better than residents reported, but congestion varies by day and even by 10-minute intervals. Some residents said it is always severe, while others noted it only happens occasionally. Overall, people were willing to share and provided valuable feedback.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Robert Knopf made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Safety and Operations Council will hold its next meeting on February 20, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

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



# NOACA

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

## Safety and Operations Council (SOC) 2025 Attendance Record

Meeting Dates	2/21/25	5/16/25	8/15/25	11/21/25
<b>BYINGTON</b> , Angela (Mark Papke, Alternate)		A	A	A
<b>DRUM</b> , Brian (Alternate not designated)				
<b>EXLEY</b> , Alan (Kirk Dimmick, Alternate)	A	A	A	A
<b>HAUPT</b> , Andy (Katie Taylor, Alternate)		X	X	X
<b>HOLMES</b> , Gordon (Thomas Mandzak, Alternate)	A		A	X
<b>KLAIBER</b> , Bob (Shaun Duffala, Alternate)	A	A	A	A
<b>KNECHT</b> , Daniel (Alternate not designated)				
<b>KUSNER</b> , James (Tony Toth, Alternate) (Brian Blayne, Alternate on 8/15/25)	X	A	A	X
<b>TBD - FHWA</b> (Lawrence Hall, Alternate)	A	A	A	A
<b>MAVEC</b> , Rob (Rob Knopf, Alternate) (Carter Creviston, Alternate on 8/15/25)	A	A	A	A
<b>MIELKE</b> , Scott (Alternate not designated)				
<b>NEIL</b> , Matthew (Alternate not designated)				
<b>OCKUNZZI</b> , Scott (Julie Cichello, Alternate)	X	X	X	X
<b>PYANOWSKI</b> , Chris (Chris Schoenig, Alternate)	A	X	A	A
<b>RAY</b> , David (A.J. Stoll, Alternate)	X	X	A	X
<b>SCHIPPER</b> , Mike (Floun'say Caver, Alternate)	X	X	X	X
<b>VANSICKLE</b> , Jacob (Jenna Thomas, Alternate)	X		X	X
<b>WOLF</b> , Josh (Alternate not designated)				

X = Member present

A = Alternate present