



# Air Quality

## Subcommittee Meeting

**March 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m.**

NOACA Offices, 1299 Superior Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44114

RSVP to 216-241-2414 ext. 282  
or [boardliaison@mpo.noaca.org](mailto: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  
Corey Czinger, Environmental Specialist, ODOT District 12  
Maribeth Feke, Director of Programming and Planning, GCRTA  
Tim Fischer, Manager of the Division of Air Pollution Control, Northeast District Office,  
Ohio EPA  
Nicholas J. Gorris, P.E., Sanitary Engineer, Geauga County  
Chris Kosman, Trustee, York Township, Medina County  
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

**FROM:** David Hearne, Chair  
Commissioner, Division of Air Quality, Cleveland Department of Public Health

**DATE:** March 13, 2026

**RE: Air Quality Subcommittee**

Attached please find materials for the Air Quality Subcommittee meeting on **Friday, March 20, 2026, 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, March 20, 2026**  
**9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

The public can view the meeting live at: [youtube.com/live/oC9SUq-hu0?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/oC9SUq-hu0?feature=share)

**AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

	<b>Page</b>
1. Call to Order	
a. Pledge of Allegiance	
2. Minutes of December 19, 2025, Meeting	1
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items	
4. Chair's/Executive Director's Report	
5. Action Items (no items)	
6. Presentation/Discussion Items	
a. Future Action	
b. Information	
i. Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Subcommittee Focus Areas	10
ii. NOACA Air Quality Program Update	11
iii. Gohio Commute Outreach and Performance Measures	13
iv. NOACA Vanpool Program Update	15
v. NOACA's Air Quality Forecasting Update	16
7. Reports/Updates	
8. Old Business	
9. New Business	
10. Adjourn	

Next Meeting: **Friday, June 12, 2026, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**  
**NOACA Offices, 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio**



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

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

Ms. Maribeth Feke, Chair of Air Quality Subcommittee, convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Feke acknowledged the passing of former NOACA Chairperson Hunter Morrison and requested a moment of silence from the Subcommittee.

**Meeting Minutes**

Mr. John Gall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 2025. Mr. Dave Schroedel seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made at this meeting.

**Executive Director's Report**

Director Grace Gallucci noted that she did not have a specific report but wanted to thank the Subcommittee for their participation and engagement, which are essential to NOACA's work. She expressed appreciation for members' time, preparation, and contributions, wished them a wonderful rest of the year, and looked forward to a great new year.

**Action Items**

No action items were presented at this meeting.

**Presentation /Discussion Items**

**Air Quality Public Education and Outreach**

Ms. Sarah Mulligan presented information on the following:

- Air Quality Advisory Communications from September 2025 through December 9, 2025
- Public Engagement and Outreach
  - Media Messaging
  - Lake Erie Challenge October 1-31, 2025

Ms. Mulligan stated that NOACA staff will 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: 8,206/34%
  - Non-SOV Trips: 181,770/56%
  - VMT Avoided: 1,858,649/58%
  - CO<sub>2</sub> Avoided (t): 737/64%
  - \$ Saved: \$1,207,362/67%
  - 671 Acres – 1,661 Times
  - 2025 Vanpool Metrics Per Month Per Person
  - 2025 Vanpool Metrics through November
- Platform Administration and Enhancement Metrics
  - Ohio Commuter Challenge
  - Lake Erie Challenge
- Outreach and Promotion Metrics
  - Gohio Commute Office Hours

Ms. Dennis reported that the financial impact includes NOACA's annual \$10,000 budget for the GoOhio Commute platform. She added that staff will provide quarterly updates to the Subcommittee on platform performance metrics.

Mr. David Hearne asked what measures are being taken to establish new or replacement vanpools as existing vanpools sunset.

Ms. Dennis explained that NOACA's Programming Division works with Commute with Enterprise to conduct outreach for the NOACA Vanpool Program. She noted that although 17 vanpools had ended, the program was started in 2022 and many of those vanpools reached their three-year sunset period in 2025. Outreach is conducted jointly by NOACA staff and Commute with Enterprise.

Director Gallucci clarified that the vanpool subsidy is structured as a three-year program, so some vanpools are expected to sunset. While outreach is included in the contract with Commute with Enterprise, staff are also evaluating ways to strengthen direct business outreach and recruitment.

Mr. Hearne asked whether the funding source also sunsets.

Director Gallucci responded that funding sunsets for individual vanpools after three years, but remains available to support new vanpools.

Mr. Hearne asked whether the development of new vanpools is actively being pursued.

Director Gallucci stated that NOACA already has funding for new vanpools through the CMAQ program.

Ms. Feke asked whether the 17 sunset vanpools were through the Veterans Administration (VA) and requested that a list of sunset vanpools be provided to the Subcommittee.

Ms. Dennis responded that most of the sunset vanpools are through the VA, with a few from other organizations. She offered to provide a list to the Air Quality Subcommittee. She added that the Programming Division provides updates on the Vanpool Program and vehicles to other NOACA committees and councils, including the BAC, CAC, and RAC.

Ms. Feke asked Mr. Hearne if the information would be valuable.

Mr. Hearne said it would be helpful.

### **Ohio EPA Serious Nonattainment Redesignation Request**

Mr. Kirk Kallenborn presented information on the following:

- O<sub>3</sub> NAAQS History
- 2023-2025 O<sub>3</sub> Design Values
- Exceptional Events (EE) Demonstration
- Exceptional Events Requirements
- 2023-2025 Design Values
- O<sub>3</sub> Redesignation Request Overview
- Redesignation Request Criteria
- Sierra Club v. U.S. EPA
  - Effects on Redesignation Criteria
- Emission Inventory Related Requirements
- Source Emissions
- Tables of Emissions Inventory Totals
- Average May-September Temperatures at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and Fourth High Daily Maximum 8-Hour Ozone (MDA8) Levels at the Eastlake Monitor (2004-2026)
- Contingency Plans

Mr. Kallenborn stated that staff will continue to monitor the approval status of the Exceptional Event (EE) Demonstration, Redesignation Request, Maintenance Plan, and Attainment Demonstration, noting that all are required for redesignation. He also said staff will monitor RACT submittals, track ozone levels in Northeast Ohio, and provide updates to the Air Quality Subcommittee following final area designations.

Mr. Gall asked Mr. Kallenborn to display the slide on contingency plans and requested additional details on potential future controls for architectural industrial maintenance coatings and automobile refinishing shops.

Mr. Kallenborn responded that these controls had not yet been specifically identified, as they represent potential future issues, and it is unclear what may be required. He offered to provide further information at a future meeting.

Ms. Feke asked Mr. Kallenborn whether he was referring to the EPA when he used the term “they,” and he confirmed that he was.

In response to Mr. Gall’s inquiry, Mr. Tim Fischer added that such sources would be subject to Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT), which involves evaluating available control technologies. He noted that studies on controls for body shops and similar facilities have not

previously been conducted, aside from particulates. Mr. Fischer also complimented Mr. Kallenborn on the presentation, calling it timely and informative on a complex topic.

Ms. Feke congratulated Mr. Kallenborn, noting that December 5th was very recent.

### **CY2025 Air Quality Forecast Accuracy (through November 30)**

Mr. Kallenborn presented information on the following:

- O<sub>3</sub> NAAQS Timeline
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS Timeline
- Three-year Rolling Averages for Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> in NE Ohio Counties
- Air Quality Monitor Locations in Northeast Ohio
- O<sub>3</sub> Monitoring Locations
- PM<sub>2</sub> Monitoring Locations
- Air Quality Forecasts in Northeast Ohio
- NOACA and NOAA 2025 Forecast Performance: O<sub>3</sub>
- Exceedance Days for 2025 (O<sub>3</sub>)
- NOAA Versus NOACA Exceedance Forecast Performance (O<sub>3</sub>)
- Exceedance Stations
- Exceedance Stations: Successful Predictions (2020-2025)
- Range of Observed Max Eight-Hour Average O<sub>3</sub> Values
- Daily Range of Observed Max Eight-Hour O<sub>3</sub> Values - 2025
- Daily Range of Observed Max Eight-Hour O<sub>3</sub> Values - 2024
- O<sub>3</sub> Exceedance Day: June 19, 2024
- O<sub>3</sub> Exceedance Day: June 20, 2024
- O<sub>3</sub> Exceedance Day: June 21, 2024
- O<sub>3</sub> Exceedance Day: June 12, 2025
- O<sub>3</sub> Exceedance Day: July 23, 2025
- NOACA and NOAA 2025 Forecast Performance: PM<sub>2.5</sub>
- Exceedance Days for 2025: PM<sub>2.5</sub>
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitor Performance 2024: Mean Absolute Value Difference
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitor Performance 2025: Mean Absolute Value Difference
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitor Performance 2024: Mean Raw Value Difference
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitor Performance 2025: Mean Raw Value Difference
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitor Performance 2024: Monthly Mean Raw Value Difference
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitor Performance 2025: Monthly Mean Raw Value Difference

Mr. Kallenborn reported that NOAA models forecasted ozone concentrations around the exceedance threshold less accurately in 2025 than in 2024. While there were fewer exceedance events overall, one widespread event on July 15 was completely missed by the 12Z bias-corrected forecast.

Mr. Kallenborn stated that staff will track the forecast performance of NOACA and NOAA for ozone and fine particulate matter, provide an update to the Air Quality Subcommittee in March 2025, and collaborate with NOAA personnel to report model performance in Northeast Ohio.

Mr. Fischer asked how much relative humidity plays into forecasting ozone exceedances.

Mr. Kallenborn responded that he expects daily forecasts to become his responsibility in the future but are not currently and he will gather that information for the next subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Fischer thanked Mr. Kallenborn for the information.

Mr. Gall asked whether NOACA staff anticipate that forecast accuracy will decline further next year, or if this year represents the worst-case scenario. Mr. Kallenborn explained that for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, models performed worse this year. For ozone, NOACA has only been providing data to NOAA for the past two years, so trends are uncertain. He noted that the differences between observed and forecasted values this year likely represent an anomaly.

Mr. Sokolowski added that the mild ozone year made forecasting more difficult. When exceedances occur at only one or two sites and barely exceed the threshold, they are easier to miss. In contrast, high exceedances across multiple monitors are easier to forecast. He noted that, in this sense, the mild year was somewhat beneficial despite lower model performance.

Ms. Feke asked whether the NOACA staff would discuss the variance among individual stations with NOAA, given the differences of 30–40 points. Mr. Kallenborn said that the wide range makes it difficult to predict which stations will exceed, but staff will raise this issue at the NOAA workshop.

Mr. Gall requested that Mr. Kallenborn bring up the slide showing 2025 ozone exceedance days, noting that the October 4th exceedance was missing. Mr. Kallenborn confirmed that the exceedance was not included in the presentation but had been mentioned.

Mr. Gall commented that the October 4th exceedance occurred under weather conditions of 86°F, 1–6 mph winds, partly sunny skies, 38% humidity, and 30.19 bar pressure, which seemed like a late-season ozone event. Mr. Sokolowski observed that no one anticipated it, noting that Southwest Ohio exceeded almost every day that week, in contrast to NOACA's mild year.

Mr. Sokolowski asked Mr. Fischer if he recalled the meteorological conditions that week.

Mr. Fischer confirmed that it was the October week and noted that the Cleveland exceedance coincided with a Guardians playoff day, with afternoon traffic from Detroit contributing. He added that this was the first October exceedance ever and could not have been prevented unless the game had not occurred.

Commissioner Dvorak requested that Mr. Kallenborn display the slide showing the June 19, 2025, O<sub>3</sub> exceedance and monitor locations. He explained that the Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School monitor is located directly above a bus garage, with diesel fumes beneath it. He stated that if the monitor were moved approximately 100 yards east, readings would likely be significantly lower. He noted that for decades, state legislators have attempted to relocate or remove the Geauga County monitor, expressing concern that its placement affects accuracy.

Director Gallucci responded that this issue has been raised multiple times. The Ohio EPA has indicated that the monitor cannot be moved due to the loss of year-to-year data continuity and comparison challenges. She stated that NOACA could raise the issue again with the Ohio EPA.

Mr. Gall asked whether future NOACA annual reports to EPA could include a note identifying that monitor readings may be skewed due to site conditions.

Director Gallucci stated that NOACA could include such language, though it has not been done annually. She added that NOACA and elected officials from Geauga County have discussed the issue with the Ohio EPA multiple times.

Mr. Sokolowski clarified that bus garages do not emit ozone directly, as ozone forms regionally in the atmosphere over time. He noted that while NOx emissions may contribute to the downwind, the Notre Dame site is no longer a nonattainment area. Historically, Mayfield and Notre Dame were problem sites, but in recent years, ozone concerns have shifted to the districts in Eastlake and Painesville.

Mr. Gall discussed the Lorain County Sheffield monitor, noting its proximity to former steel mill operations and nearby construction and concrete facilities. He stated that the location captures emissions from multiple sources.

Mr. Fischer explained that monitors are often placed in industrial areas to capture emissions. He noted that while many particulate monitors have been removed, the Sheffield ozone monitor remains, for that reason, distinguishing it from the bus garage situation.

Mr. Gall added that steel mill operations in Sheffield have been largely eliminated, though future redevelopment remains possible, which could increase readings. He stated that overall air quality is currently in good shape, while acknowledging the job losses associated with the mill closure.

### **Future of Commuter Choice Program**

Ms. Dennis presented information on the following:

- Background on the Commuter Recognition Program
- Trends: Number of Organizations Participating in Commuter Choice Awards by Year
- Outreach
  - Gohio Commute Engagement Survey
- Proposed Framework: Future of the Commuter Choice Program
  - Revitalize the program by removing access to barriers and providing incentives
  - Redesign the program as a tiered structured award system
  - Sunset the program and shift focus to providing transportation demand management support for regional organizations

Ms. Dennis asked members for their input on the future of the Commuter Choice Program and requested that they select one of four options: Revitalize, Redesign, Sunset, or New Ideas.

Ms. Dennis noted that each potential outcome could have different financial impacts for NOACA. She added that NOACA staff will review the feedback from the Air Quality Subcommittee to determine the program's future direction.

Mr. Gall asked Ms. Dennis to display the slide showing the proposed framework so everyone could see the options.

Ms. Dennis clarified that the ideas for revitalizing, redesigning, or sunsetting the program were not set in stone. They were simply concepts, and staff welcomed feedback from the subcommittee.

Mr. Gall said that given the declining numbers and participation shown in the graph, he does not believe redesign is an option NOACA should pursue. While a low-cost, low-effort attempt might spark interest, investing significant time and effort is unlikely to change outcomes. In his view, redesign should not move forward.

Ms. Feke said she does not think revitalization would be effective. She expressed interest in a hybrid approach, combining redesign with a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) focus. She noted the region's diversity and the expansion of trail projects. She suggested tailoring a TDM-focused approach to individual communities, such as highlighting new trails in Painesville in Lake County.

Ms. Feke noted there were no votes in favor of revitalization and asked Mr. Gall whether he supported sunseting or simply opposed redesign.

Mr. Gall stated that he does not support redesign. He questioned the energy source and the feasibility of revitalization. He suggested that sunseting may require less effort and better align with current data, proposing a final year for the program followed by exploration of alternative community transportation options.

Ms. Feke acknowledged some growth, citing RTA's statistics showing increased biking, walking, and first/last-mile trips, particularly in Cuyahoga County. However, she noted uncertainty about regional trends and pointed out that vanpool and Commuter Choice participation are declining. She said she would not want NOACA to completely exit this space.

Mr. Sokolowski asked whether survey feedback indicated that companies lacked personnel to administer the program.

Ms. Dennis confirmed that staffing capacity was an issue for some organizations. She added that very small businesses often did not participate because they did not use sustainable or multimodal transportation themselves and felt the program was not relevant. Staff did not want participants to feel excluded from the awards.

Mr. Sokolowski said this aligns with his expectations, noting that many organizations are doing more with fewer staff. He stated that such programs are often cut to conserve time and personnel, and that participation is unlikely to rebound without funding support.

Director Gallucci said that, based on observing the program since its inception, a key issue is that many participating companies never win. Location- and challenge-based criteria disadvantage some employers, leading to the same organizations winning repeatedly. This raises questions about the program's structure and whether NOACA is truly incentivizing change or simply recognizing a narrow number of companies that can meet the criteria.

Ms. Feke asked Ms. Dennis whether the Subcommittee's feedback provided enough guidance to move forward.

Ms. Dennis said yes and thanked members for their input.

Director Gallucci said she appreciated the feedback and wanted to discuss sunseting further, noting that staff had already considered it internally. She emphasized the need to ensure that choosing sunseting would not create unintended issues.

Mr. Sokolowski asked whether sunseting would allow funds to be redirected toward more focused, targeted outreach.

Ms. Feke asked whether the funding would be repurposed or eliminated.

Ms. Dennis said reallocating the funds was one of the ideas under consideration.

Mr. Sokolowski suggested targeting outreach to specific communities, noting that messages resonate differently in Summit County versus Cuyahoga County. He believed community-specific messaging would be more effective.

Ms. Feke said that the approach feels like a redesign focused on targeted messaging rather than fully eliminating the program's intent.

Mr. Sokolowski clarified that the Commuter Choice Awards themselves would go away.

Director Gallucci confirmed that Mr. Sokolowski was correct.

Mr. Sokolowski said NOACA would discontinue the awards and instead use the funding to support local community initiatives.

Ms. Feke noted that the funds could be used for first/last-mile initiatives, biking events, or similar activities.

Mr. Gall added that the funds could also support external affairs and broader messaging.

Director Gallucci said the focus would be on region-wide messaging, with some targeted to specific communities, while the awards program would be discontinued.

Ms. Feke suggested integrating this approach with the trails program, such as providing technical assistance to businesses and communities near newly funded trails to encourage trail commuting. She noted that some members expressed support for sunsetting the program while preserving its underlying intent.

### **Reports/Updates**

No reports/updates were presented at this meeting.

### **Old Business**

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

### **New Business**

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Dvorak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Mr. Sokolowski seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Air Quality Subcommittee will hold its next meeting on Friday, March 20, 2026, at 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., at the NOACA Offices.

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



**Air Quality Subcommittee  
2025 Attendance Record**

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

X = Member present

A = Alternate present



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY  
MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
**DATE:** March 13, 2026  
**RE:** **Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Subcommittee Focus Areas**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

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

**BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION**

As the parent Committee to the Air Quality Subcommittee, the Planning and Programming Committee discussed and approved the Subcommittee focus areas for 2026 at its January meeting. The focus areas for the Air Quality Subcommittee are:

Regional Climate Action Planning	Ongoing
Air Quality Education and Outreach Program Implementation	Ongoing
Mobile Emissions Reduction Efforts (Gohio Commute & Vanpool, air quality awareness programs)	Ongoing
2026 CMAQ Applications	Ongoing

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact.

**CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS**

Meeting agendas and materials will be developed to address the identified focus areas for CY 2026.

GG:EB:SM:AD



## NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY MEMORANDUM

**TO:** NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
**DATE:** March 13, 2026  
**RE:** **NOACA Air Quality Program Update**

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

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

### **BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION**

NOACA administers a comprehensive set of air quality programs designed to inform and engage the community about the region's air quality challenges and the linkages among air quality, transportation, land use, and public health. They also aim to empower residents, partners, and stakeholders across the region to take actions that improve public health and environmental outcomes, particularly through increased use of alternative transportation modes.

- Air Quality Awareness Week
  - Each spring, NOACA participates in Air Quality Awareness Week, a national outreach initiative led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. During this week, NOACA highlights the importance of clean air through coordinated communications, social media outreach, educational materials, and partner engagement. The campaign focuses on helping residents understand how air quality affects health, particularly for sensitive populations such as children, older adults, and individuals with respiratory conditions. Messaging also emphasizes simple, everyday actions—such as reducing vehicle trips, conserving energy, and avoiding unnecessary idling—that collectively contribute to improved regional air quality.
- Air Quality Forecasting
  - From March through October, NOACA conducts its annual ozone season forecasting. Ground-level ozone forms more readily during warmer months when sunlight and heat interact with emissions from vehicles, industry, and other sources. Throughout ozone season, NOACA monitors daily air quality forecasts and issues public advisories when elevated ozone levels are expected. These alerts encourage voluntary actions to reduce emissions, including carpooling, using public transit, refueling vehicles in the evening, and postponing the use of gasoline-powered lawn equipment. By increasing public awareness and promoting behavior changes during high-risk days, the program helps reduce peak pollution levels and protect community health.
- LEGO Air Sensor Workshop
  - In addition to seasonal outreach efforts, NOACA aims to advance environmental education through hands-on initiatives such as the LEGO Air Sensor Workshop. This interactive program will introduce students to the fundamentals of air quality monitoring and data

collection. Using LEGO-based air sensor kits, participants build devices to measure particulate matter. The workshop will foster interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) while deepening understanding of local environmental conditions. This initiative supports NOACA's broader goal of cultivating informed residents who are equipped to contribute to long-term air quality solutions.

- Commuter Choice Awards
  - During the December 2025 Air Quality Subcommittee meeting, the subcommittee advised NOACA to discontinue the Commuter Choice Awards and refocus staff time and resources on other aspects of NOACA's rideshare program that more directly support transportation demand management goals. As a result, efforts will shift toward targeted outreach to new employers to promote NOACA's rideshare program. Additional emphasis will be placed on enhancing the use of vanpools and expanding outreach and participation in the quarterly commuter challenges.
  
- 2025 Air Quality Trends Report
  - 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. NOACA plans to publish the 2025 Air Quality Trends Report (CY 2024 data) in April 2026.

Together, these programs demonstrate NOACA's commitment to proactive air quality management, public education, and regional collaboration aimed at achieving healthier air for all residents. Staff will present these programmatic updates to the Air Quality Subcommittee for awareness and information.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact.

#### **CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS**

NOACA staff will continue to update the Subcommittee on air quality programs.

GG:EB:SM:AD



## NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY MEMORANDUM

**TO:** NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
**DATE:** March 13, 2026  
**RE:** **Gohio Commute Outreach 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>) saved)
4. Platform Administration and Enhancement Metrics (e.g., map layers, events created)

Performance Period: December 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026:

- 80 new users from the NOACA region compared to 80 for same period in 2024-2025
- 3,037 trips logged compared to 2,711 for same period in 2024-2025
- More than \$12,000 saved in calculated commute costs
- More than 7.4 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided

Performance since 2017 for NOACA region:

- 8,270 registered users (4,972 active accounts)
- 184,500 alternative mode trips

- 115 subnetworks representing 78 different organizations
- Users created 51 challenges, 57 incentives, and 186 events
- More than \$1,219,000 saved in calculated commuter costs and 745 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> 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. These updates will be presented to the Air Quality Subcommittee on March 20, 2026, for informational purposes.

GG:EB:SM:AD



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY  
MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
**DATE:** March 13, 2026  
**RE:** **NOACA Vanpool Program Update**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

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

**BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION**

A vanpool program is a structured commuter transportation arrangement in which a group of employees who live in a similar geographic area share a van to travel to and from work on a regular schedule. Vanpool programs are designed to reduce individual commuting expenses, decrease traffic congestion, and lower environmental impacts while improving access to workplaces.

Resolution 2021-031 recommended that a regional Vanpool Program be established by NOACA and funded through the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program. The Ohio Statewide Urban CMAQ Committee approved funding for this program shortly thereafter.

In 2022, NOACA developed the regional Vanpool Program. It includes three subsidy categories to encourage and support new vanpools that:

1. provide transportation for workers who do not have fixed-route public transit options to commute to work; or
2. have participants that live in a NOACA Area of Persistent Poverty; or
3. have full ridership.

NOACA contracted with Commute with Enterprise (CWE) in 2022 and renewed the contract for state fiscal year (SFY) 2026. CWE provides and maintains the vehicles, provides insurance coverage, and co-markets the program with NOACA. Staff calculates metrics to measure the program's effectiveness. As of January 2026, 28 vanpools were participating in the regional program. NOACA staff will present program metrics from calendar year (CY) 2025 as well as current program stats.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact.

**CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS**

Staff will continue to manage the program through coordination with CWE and increased regional outreach. This information will also be presented to the Air Quality Subcommittee on March 20, 2026.

GG:EB:JT:AA



## **NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
**DATE:** March 13, 2026  
**RE:** **NOACA Air Quality Forecasting Update**

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

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

### **BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION**

NOACA forecasts daily peak eight-hour ground-level ozone concentrations and fine particulate matter concentrations. Daily forecasts for ozone began on March 1st and will conclude on October 31st, 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).

NOACA's air quality planning staff are working to modernize and simplify its process. NOACA air quality forecasting is done using a regression analysis model developed in collaboration with Akron Regional Air Quality Management District (ARAQMD). NOACA staff met with ARAQMD to revisit the original design of the model and better understand how the model accounts for the influence of Lake Erie on regional air quality conditions. Staff have also coordinated with the local office of the National Weather Service (NWS) to better understand forecast inputs and metrological variables incorporated into the tool. Additionally, NOACA staff are planning meetings with the City of Cleveland's Division of Air Quality (CDAQ) and Office of Sustainability to further refine forecasting methodologies and protocols.

NOACA staff will continue working with regional stakeholders to streamline forecasting procedures and advisory issuance protocols to enable earlier, clearer, and more effective communication with the region's residents.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

NOACA's air quality forecasting efforts are funded by Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, which provides federal funding to state DOTs, local governments, and transit agencies for projects that reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality in U.S. EPA-designated nonattainment or maintenance areas.

### **CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS**

This information will be presented to the Air Quality Subcommittee on March 20, 2026. Staff will also continue to consult and update the Air Quality Subcommittee throughout this process.

GG:EB:SM



## 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. 13<sup>th</sup> 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 following map shows parking facilities in the vicinity of the NOACA building. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer reimbursement for parking.

On-street, metered parking is also available for up to 2-hour periods along E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street north of Superior Avenue. Please heed parking signs and note any time restrictions. Payment can 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. 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

### TRAVEL ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

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

