

# **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

**Business, Community, Rural, and Emerging Leaders  
Advisory Councils**

**March 27, 2026**

# **ACTION REQUESTED**

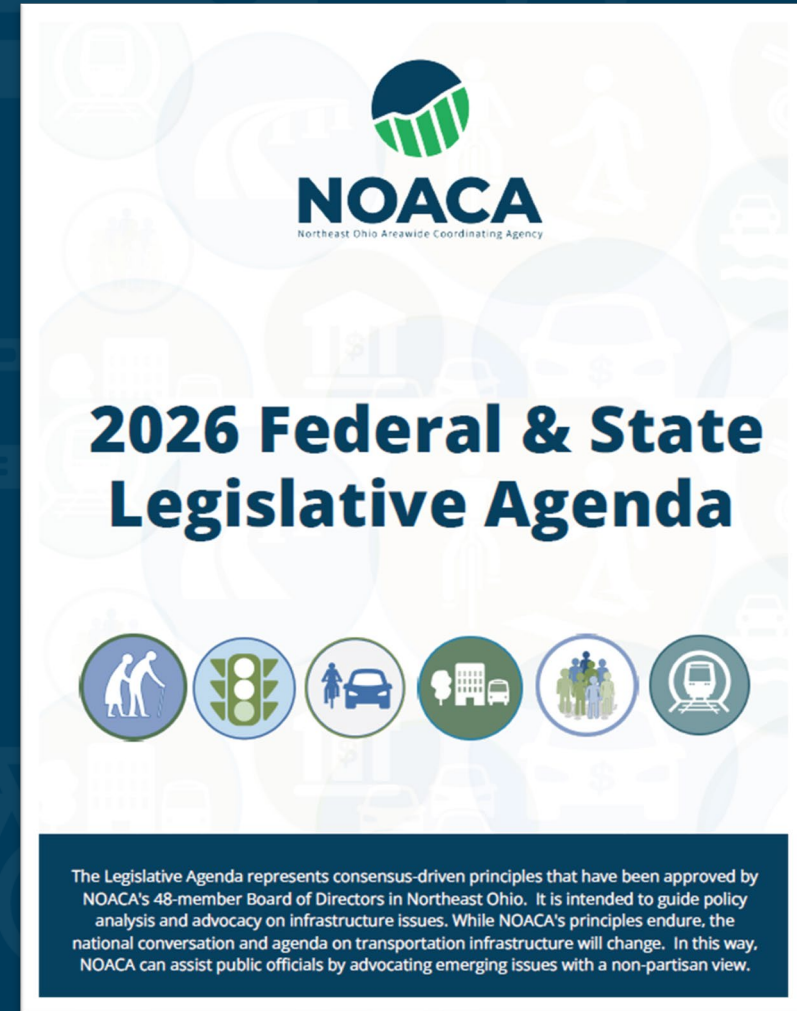
**No action is requested. This item is for presentation and discussion.**

# **PREVIOUS ACTION**

**No previous action.**

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- Board adopted the updated 2026 Legislative Agenda at December 12 meeting
- Specifies Board's priorities for Surface Transportation Reauthorization

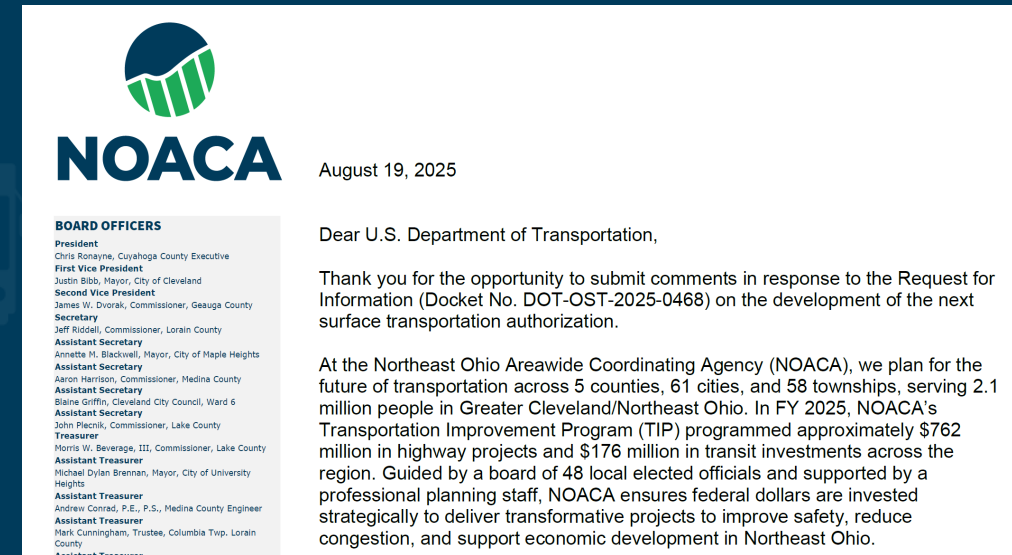


# FEDERAL UPDATES



# SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION

- IIJA/BIL expires September 2026
- Congressional hearings & discussions underway on reauthorization
- NOACA submitted priorities to U.S. DOT, congressional committee leaders, and NE Ohio delegation
- Optimistic timeline for reauthorization yielding to reality: likely 1-2 years continuation of IIJA



# NOACA REAUTHORIZATION PRIORITIES

- Shift some discretionary funding to formula:
  - Maintain access for regions and communities without harming state DOT funding
- Stabilize Highway Trust Fund, inclusive of transit funding
- Prioritize asset management over expansion
- Safety, sustainability, and multi-modalism
- Passenger rail
- Reduce local match requirements

# REAUTHORIZATION ISSUES

- “Traditional” roads & bridges bill (per House T&I Chairman Graves) or continue multimodal funding?
- Formula vs. discretionary funding
- Continue support for EV infrastructure? EV fees?
- HTF solvency/mass transit account & flex funding for transit
- Permitting reform and faster project delivery
- Safety policies/regulations/funding

# APPROPRIATION STATUS

- FY '26 US DOT appropriations (THUD) enacted 2/3/26
- Multiple transportation earmarks:

## THUD 2026 CPF/CDS APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

PROJECT	FUNDING AWARD	PROJECT SPONSOR	MEMBER OF CONGRESS	NOACA SUPPORT
Royalton Road Reconstruction Phase II	\$4,000,000	City of North Royalton	Rep. Miller	✓
Diverging Diamond Project	\$2,000,000	City of Solon	Rep. Miller	✓
DREAM 66/E. 66th Street Complete Street	\$1,850,000	City of Cleveland	Rep. Brown	✓
Irishtown Bend Stabilization Project	\$1,200,000	Port of Cleveland	Rep. Brown, Sen. Moreno	✓
Beulah Park-Euclid Beach Lakefront Connector Trail	\$850,000	Cuyahoga County	Rep. Brown	✓
Light Rail Track Reconstruction Project	\$250,000	GCRTA	Rep. Brown	✓

# CAPITOL HILL VISITS

## Great Lakes Week: March 3-5



Rep. Marcy Kaptur



Sen. Bernie Moreno



Rep. Max Miller



Sen. Jon Husted



Rep. Bob Latta

Not pictured:  
Rep. Dave Joyce  
Rep. Shontel Brown

# NOACA-US DOT MEETING

- Met with Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs Melissa Mejias-Newton and multimodal team from Office of Governmental Affairs
- Discussion Items
  - Surface Transportation Reauthorization
  - The Role of MPOs in Federal Transportation Policy
  - Passenger Rail Opportunities in Northeast Ohio



# LOT COALITION PRIORITIES

NOACA's priorities align with LOT Coalition (Local Officials for Transportation) priorities:

“Congress created Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations to ensure regional coordination and accountability in federal investment. The next reauthorization should reaffirm that purpose by giving local and regional governments greater authority over the federal funds that support their responsibilities and the assets they manage” – 11/4/25

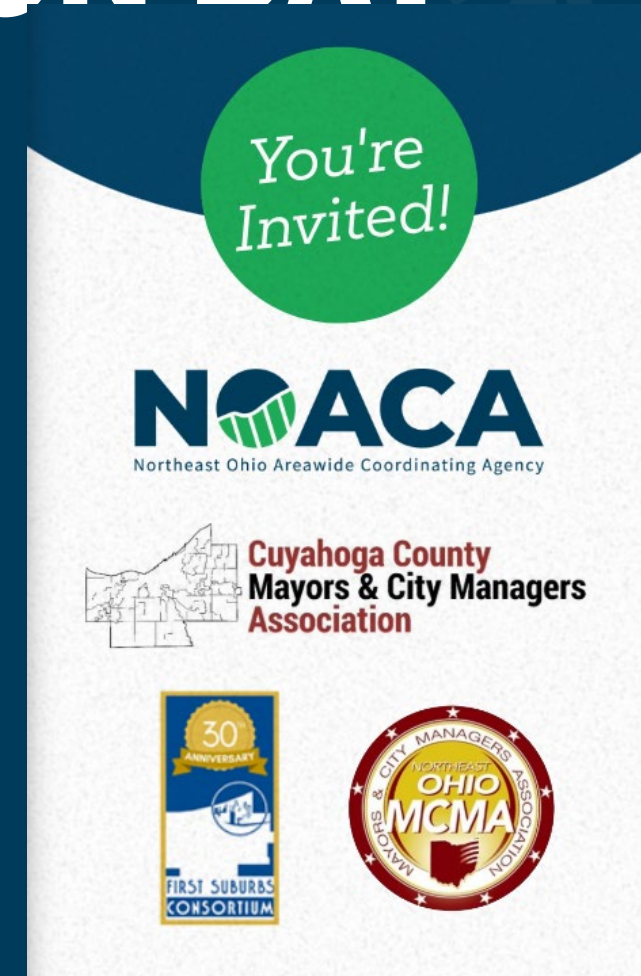


# “BASICS” BILL AS FOUNDATION FOR REAUTHORIZATION

- NOACA working with the LOT Coalition to inform Congress of regional and local priorities contained in the BASICS (Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success) Act:
  - Funding to support regional/local project delivery
  - Expediting repair of deficient roads & bridges
  - Reducing red tape to advance projects more quickly
  - Prioritizing safety

# APRIL 1: TRANSPORTATION DAY

- **YOU'RE INVITED:** April 1, 2026
- Check email for invite; RSVP by 3/31
- Focus on surface transportation reauthorization to replace the IIJA, which expires in September
- Featured speaker: Rep. Shontel Brown
- Also featuring speakers from NARC, AMPO, NACO, & NLC (the LOT Coalition: Local Officials in Transportation)



# PASSENGER RAIL ADVOCACY

- **NOACA considering new Corridor ID application when the NOFO opens next year – to improve east-west service through NE Ohio**
- **Meetings ongoing with FRA, Amtrak, business community, advocacy groups, & neighboring states**
- **Creating a coalition to support passenger rail initiatives – especially improvements to east-west service through NE Ohio, and Ohio’s study corridors:**
  - **Cleveland-Columbus-Dayton-Cincinnati**
  - **Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit**

# TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

- External Affairs Committee discussed tracking and educating legislators on new federal legislation re: TOD
- Bills recently introduced in Congress to promote TOD using existing federal credit tools like TIFIA and RRIF
- Would make it easier for communities to access these financing programs to develop housing & mixed-use projects near transit, in alignment with MPO transportation planning

# GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

- GLRI Reauthorization Act passed U.S. House this week
- Bipartisan bill sponsored by Rep. Dave Joyce, with co-sponsors Reps. Shontel Brown, Emilia Sykes, Marcy Kaptur and others
- Reauthorizes funding for conserving the Great Lakes for another 5 years through FY 2031
- Also passed in House: Beaches Environmental Assessment & Coastal Health (BEACH) Act reauthorization
- Now moves to Senate

# OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) offering grants to upgrade accessibility of legacy rail public transportation systems for people with disabilities (Federal Transit Administration, due 5/1/26)
- Ohio Lake Erie Community Grant Program offering grants for environmental restoration & education projects in communities in the Lake Erie watershed (Ohio Lake Erie Commission, due 3/31/26)
- Hart Family Fund for Small Towns offering grants for preservation projects in small towns (National Trust for Historic Preservation, due 5/1/26)
- FY '27 Congressional earmark applications; committee requests close 3/27 in House & 4/20 in Senate

# FY 2026 THUD “EARMARKS”: U.S. DOT

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# FY 2026 THUD “EARMARKS”: HUD

## THUD 2026 CPF/CDS APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUD COMMUNITY PROJECTS

PROJECT	FUNDING AWARD	PROJECT SPONSOR	MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Building & Infrastructure Improvements	\$3,938,000	Chester Township	Rep. Joyce
Field House Construction	\$500,000	City of Sheffield Lake	Rep. Latta
Parma Heights Rehabilitation Project	\$1,000,000	City of Parma Heights	Rep. Miller
Shore Cultural Center Historic Preservation Project	\$850,000	City of Euclid	Rep. Brown
Ward 10 Economic Revitalization Recovery Development	\$1,000,000	Cleveland City Council Ward 10	Rep. Brown
Center for Entrepreneurs Equipment & Retrofitting	\$500,000	Cuyahoga Comm. College District	Rep. Brown

# NOACA'S FUNDING RESOURCES WEBPAGE



- Check regularly for updates
- Link for LOS requests
- Link to IJA Strategy

A screenshot of the NOACA website's 'Funding Resources' page. The page has a blue header with the NOACA logo and navigation links. The main content area is white with a dark sidebar on the left. The sidebar lists various resources, with 'Funding Resources' highlighted. The main content area features a title 'Funding Resources', a font size selector, and a list of funding programs with expandable arrows. Below the list is a section titled 'NOACA Regional Strategy to Coordinate Funding Opportunities: Bringing IJA Transportation Grant Dollars to Northeast Ohio'.

# STATE UPDATES



# UPDATE ON MPO LEGISLATION

HB 455 introduced in Ohio Legislature by Rep. Mike Dovilla (Berea) and Rep. Brian Stewart (Ashville)

- Prevents any single county from holding a voting majority on an MPO board
- Allows Governor to redesignate a county's MPO affiliation
- Clarifies that MPOs may not issue policies that conflict with state or federal law
- Prohibits a chief executive of an MPO from being simultaneously employed outside Ohio

No recent activity; NOACA working with OARC partners to monitor.

# NOACA'S 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEET & GREET



# GOV. DEWINE'S STATE OF THE STATE

- Gov. DeWine delivered his final State of the State address on March 10
- Reiterated support for primary seat belt law
- Similar to his previous successful initiative re: distracted driving law



# DISCUSSION





# NOACA

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

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.