



Policy Committee Meeting

April 10, 2026, 10 a.m.

NOACA Offices, 1299 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114

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

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



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Policy Committee Members
Samuel J. Alai, Mayor, Broadview Heights
Larry Antoskiewicz, Mayor, City of North Royalton
Morris Beverage III, Commissioner, Lake County
Justin Bibb, Mayor, City of Cleveland
Annette M. Blackwell, Mayor, City of Maple Heights
Pamela Bobst, Mayor, City of Rocky River
Jack Bradley, Mayor, City of Lorain
Ben Capelle, Chief Executive Officer, Laketran
Mary Cierebiej, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission
Joe Cimperman, President and CEO, Global Cleveland*
Jeff Epstein, President & CEO, Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority
Marty Gallagher, Commissioner, Lorain County
Meghan George, Mayor, City of Lakewood
Aaron M. Harrison, Commissioner, Medina County
Andy Haupt, P.E., P.S., County Engineer, Geauga County
Matt Hiscock, Director of Public Service, City of Wadsworth
Brian Kazy, Council Member, Ward 13, Cleveland City Council
Calley Mersmann, Director, Planning Commission, City of Cleveland
Matt Moss, Senior Strategist for Transit & Mobility, City of Cleveland
John Picuri, P.E., Deputy Director, ODOT District 12
Jeff Riddell, Commissioner, Lorain County
Chris Ronayne, County Executive, Cuyahoga County

FROM: Kim Thomas, Chair
Mayor, City of Richmond Heights

DATE: April 3, 2026

RE: Policy Committee

Attached please find materials for the Policy Committee meeting on **Friday, April 10, 2026, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at NOACA’s Offices, 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.**

Please note that in addition to the members listed above, any interested Board members are welcome to attend. Notice of this meeting has been publicly posted, and major public media has been notified.



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Friday, April 10, 2026
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The public can view the meeting live at: youtube.com/live/3W6RjsxG-Ls?feature=share

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

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1. Call to Order	
a. Pledge of Allegiance	
2. Minutes of January 30, 2026, Meeting	1
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a. Economic Development Subcommittee (Chair: Joe Cimperman)	8
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items	
5. Chair's/Executive Director's Report	
6. Action Items (no items)	
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9. Old Business	
10. New Business	
11. Adjourn	

Next Meeting: **Friday, July 10, 2026, at 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**
NOACA Offices, 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio



NOACA Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2026
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Councilman Brian Kazy, Vice Chair of the Policy Committee, convened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Councilman Kazy welcomed new Board members to the Policy Committee.

Meeting Minutes

Ms. Mary Cierebiej made a motion to approve the October 10, 2025, meeting minutes. Ms. Bonnie Teeuwen seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Subcommittee Update

Economic Development Subcommittee

Director Grace Gallucci stated that Mr. Joe Cimperman, Chair of the Economic Development Subcommittee, was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict in Columbus and looks forward to the work of the Economic Development Subcommittee.

The Policy Committee received a summary of the Economic Development Subcommittee meeting held in December 2026.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No one signed up to speak at this meeting.

Chair's/Executive Director's Report

No report was presented at this meeting.

Action Items

CY 2026 Policy Committee Focus Areas

Mr. Ronnie Blackshear reviewed the purpose and goals of the committee, the calendar year (CY) 2025 Focus Areas and the following potential CY 2026 Focus Areas:

Potential 2026 Focus Areas	Status
Transportation for Safer Communities Initiative (TSCI), formerly Transportation Safety Program/Policy	New

Potential 2026 Focus Areas	Status
CEDS Policy Outcomes and Performance Measures	Ongoing
weNEO2050+ Policy Areas	New
Agency Policy Review and Updates	New
Other?	

Mr. Blackshear stated that meeting agendas and materials will be created to accomplish the identified focus areas.

Mr. Blackshear asked members if there were any additional focus areas that they would like to include on the list.

Mr. John Picuri stated that weNEO2050+ initiative did not include a clear description. He recalled a staff presentation several months earlier and asked whether the goal was to identify future congestion, potential hotspots, and actionable projects.

Director Gallucci said yes.

Mr. Matt Moss suggested that, in addition to the items listed for 2026, regional climate action planning be included as an ongoing focus area to continue engagement across the NOACA region, particularly around implementation of the playbook referenced earlier.

Director Gallucci explained that the remaining Regional Climate Action Plan funding of approximately \$300,000 is designated for counties outside Cuyahoga County to carry out those activities. She noted that NOACA does not have additional funding for staff-led work, although funding remains for the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Moss clarified that the purpose of his question was to request that NOACA include Regional Climate Action Planning as a 2026 focus area to reflect ongoing work.

Director Gallucci confirmed that it could be included, with the understanding that there is no new funding and that remaining funds are limited to the four counties outside Cuyahoga County.

Mr. John Gall added that any wording should clearly indicate that activities are limited to available NOACA funding.

Director Gallucci agreed and suggested adding language, indicating that Climate Action Plan efforts will continue through the closeout of the grant.

Ms. Calley Mersmann requested clarification on the “Agency Policy Review and Updates” focus area for 2026, asking whether it followed recent policy adjustments and what it specifically entailed.

Director Gallucci explained that the focus refers to reviewing significant organizational policies, such as the TLCI policy, to determine whether updates are needed and brought to the Policy Committee. She noted that staff could provide more specificity if desired.

Ms. Mersmann stated that the clarification was helpful.

Mr. Blackshear stated that he would provide additional information during the next portion of the CEDS update, noting that there will likely be economic development–related policies that will be brought to the Policy Committee.

Ms. Debbie Berry made a motion to approve the CY 2026 Focus Areas for the Policy Committee as amended. Ms. Cierebiej seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

CY 2026 Economic Development Subcommittee Focus Areas

Mr. Blackshear reviewed the purpose and goals of the subcommittee, the calendar year (CY) 2025 Focus Areas, and the following potential CY 2026 Focus Areas:

Potential 2026 Focus Areas	Status
Implement and refine adopted performance measures	Ongoing
Continue development of a grant strategy	Ongoing
Promote community collaboration through regional projects	Ongoing
Educate communities on the CEDS and its benefits to their areas	Ongoing
Create a centralized repository for all information	Ongoing
EDA approval of the economic development district (EDD) designation	Ongoing

Mr. Blackshear stated that adopting Focus Areas enables the Economic Development Subcommittee to prioritize strategies, coordinate development, and engage public, private, and non-profit sectors in implementing and maintaining the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Councilman Kazy asked to see the slide showing the stakeholder jurisdictions, which mentions Hopkins and NASA Glenn and covers 50 square miles. He requested that Mr. Blackshear explain what else is included in the stakeholder jurisdictions and where it is located.

Mr. Blackshear responded that the area encompasses the City of Brook Park, NASA Glenn, and Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

Director Gallucci added that it is essentially the Aerozone, which includes the cities of Cleveland, Brook Park, Berea, Middleburg Heights, Rocky River, Fairview Park, and North Olmsted.

Councilman Kazy confirmed Director Gallucci’s response.

Ms. Mersmann said she was interested in learning more about opportunities for alignment and collaboration between the Economic Development Subcommittee and the broader Vibrant NEO initiative to support regional economic development across NOACA’s committees and boards.

Director Gallucci asked for clarification on whether Ms. Mersmann was referring specifically to alignment between Vibrant NEO and the Economic Development Subcommittee.

Ms. Mersmann confirmed that this was one example of the alignment she had in mind.

Director Gallucci added that it could also be throughout the agency’s committees and councils.

Ms. Mersmann noted that while NOACA’s five-county footprint is smaller than Vibrant NEO’s, the goals and themes are similar. She expressed interest in fostering greater connectivity between

the two and highlighted brownfield work as one area of overlap, with broader awareness supporting coordination.

Director Gallucci agreed, noting that Ms. Mersmann made a good point. She explained that when NOACA developed Vibrant NEO in partnership with other MPOs and NEFCO, the intention was for each organization to implement Vibrant NEO initiatives through their own boards. She also referenced a recently completed survey showing what communities have already done, emphasizing that greater recognition across NOACA for alignment would be beneficial.

Ms. Cierebiej made a motion to approve the CY 2026 Focus Areas for the Economic Development Subcommittee. Mayor Pam Bobst seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Transportation for Safer Communities Initiatives (TSCI) Policy Update

Director Gallucci stated that the Transportation for Safer Communities Initiative (TSCI) has been discussed at the Policy Committee level for over a year and that some progress has been made. She noted that the policy is not yet ready for committee approval, so staff are shifting focus to a pilot approach, with Ms. Kessa Turnbull providing an update on the current status.

Ms. Turnbull stated that the policy will be refined during the second through fourth quarters, with core fundamentals revised based on stakeholder feedback, and implementation paused until pilot projects are completed. She outlined pilot projects that include planning support for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding applications at the intersection of Richmond, Chardon, and White Roads in Richmond Heights and along Royalton Road (State Route 82) in North Royalton, as well as implementation efforts involving design and engineering. A Parma project will be defined in a later phase, and an additional project has been recommended based on the Community Safety Reports. She also noted a \$450,000 allocation for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

Ms. Cierebiej informed NOACA staff and the Policy Committee that the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission applied for and was awarded a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant in 2024. The county is awaiting revised contract language and is currently in discussion with the Federal Highway Administration, with revisions expected to remove certain immigration and ICE provisions. She noted that the county anticipates moving forward with the grant this year and emphasized the importance of coordinating with NOACA due to the countywide scope of the project.

Ms. Turnbull congratulated Cuyahoga County.

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

Ms. Cierebiej made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. Mayor Bobst seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Policy Committee will hold its next meeting Friday, April 10, 2026, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., at the NOACA offices.

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

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2026 Policy Committee Attendance Record

Meeting Dates	1/30/26	4/10/26	7/10/26	10/09/26
ALAI , Samuel J. David Schroedel, Alternate	X			
ANTOSKIEWICZ , Larry Thomas Jordan, Alternate	A			
BEVERAGE III , Morris TBD, Alternate				
BIBB , Justin Bonnie Teeuwen, Alternate	A			
BLACKWELL , Annette M. Geoff Englebrecht, Alternate	X			
BOBST , Pamela Bill Schneider, Alternate	X			
BRADLEY , Jack Dale Vandersommen, Alternate	A			
CAPELLE , Ben Brian J. Falkowski, Alternate	X			
CIEREBIEJ , Mary Annie Pease, Alternate	X			
EPSTEIN , Jeff Linda Sternheimer, Alternate	A			
GALLAGHER , Marty Thomas Patrick III, Alternate	A			
GEORGE , Meghan Angela Byington, Alternate				
HARRISON , Aaron Stephen D. Hambley, Alternate				
HAUPT , Andy Traci Salkiewicz, Alternate Steve Yaney, Alternate on 1/30/26	A			
HISCOCK , Matthew Patrick Patton, Alternate				
KAZY , Brian Kevin Conwell, Alternate	X			
MERSMANN , Calley Marka Fields, Alternate	X			
MOSS , Matt Sarah O'Keeffe, Alternate	X			
PICURI , John Bob Weaver, Alternate	X			
RIDDELL , Jeff	A			

Meeting Dates	1/30/26	4/10/26	7/10/26	10/09/26
John Gall, Alternate				
RONAYNE , Chris Debbie Berry, Alternate	A			
THOMAS , Kim Bayyinah Brooks, Alternate				
Subcommittee Chair (Ex-Officio Member)				
CIMPERMAN , Joe – Chair, Patrick Mohorcic, Alternate				

X = Member present

A = Alternate present

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**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
MEMORANDUM**

TO: NOACA Policy Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: April 3, 2026
RE: **Subcommittee Updates**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested at this time. This is an information item.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

The Economic Development Subcommittee provides advice and policy recommendations to the Policy Committee to support economic growth and enhance the quality of life. Below is a summary of the March 27, 2026, Economic Development Subcommittee meeting:

Economic Development Subcommittee

Mr. Joe Cimperman chaired the Economic Development Subcommittee meeting Friday, March 27, 2026.

Under presentation/discussion items, the Subcommittee was presented with information on the following:

- Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Economic Development Subcommittee Focus Areas
- CEDS Data and Research
- The State of Manufacturing

A presentation on the NOACA-Vibrant NEO Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund was deferred to the next meeting.

In Reports/Updates, the Economic Development Subcommittee received an update on the status of the Economic Development District (EDD).

The next Economic Development Subcommittee meeting will be Friday, June 5, 2026, 8:30-10 a.m.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Updates of the Subcommittee meetings will continue to be provided to the Policy Committee.

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NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Policy Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: April 3, 2026
RE: **Regional Transportation Investment Policy (RTIP)**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested. This item is for information.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

The [Regional Transportation Investment Policy](#) (RTIP) was adopted in 1998 and is a single document that provides direction for planning, programming, and prioritizing federal-aid transportation investments for the region. It contains policy statements and procedures related to planning requirements, project application requirements, funds management, and public involvement.

The RTIP is updated periodically to achieve compliance with the current NOACA Code of Regulations and planning documents, as well as current Federal and State regulations and program directives. Updates have been made through Board approval of revisions to the policy document itself or through separate Board action related to other stand-alone policies that are then reflected in the document. Some recent revisions to the RTIP include:

- adoption of a new policy for the implementation of Complete and Green streets that is inclusive of funding incentives
- implementation of cost thresholds for FHWA and FTA funded projects, to align with changes to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Procedures for Ohio Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- inclusion of the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding allocated under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- increase of the maximum award of Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding for individual projects to \$2 million from \$1.5 million
- authorization of the rescission, amendment or revision of NOACA Policies related to "Environmental Justice Areas" in compliance with Executive Order 14173.

Staff is currently in the process of undertaking a comprehensive review of the RTIP and will subsequently prepare recommendations regarding any appropriate updates to the document. Staff will share the content of the current policy and the approach for the evaluation process at the Policy Committee meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Results of the staff analysis and any recommendations for update to the document will be presented at the July Policy Committee Meeting for potential Board approval in September or December..

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NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Policy Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: April 3, 2026
RE: **Vibrant NEO**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested at this time. This item is for information and discussion.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

In November of 2010, Northeast Ohio was awarded a \$4.25 million federal grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund the development of a regional sustainability plan for a 12-county planning area comprised of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Summit, Stark, Trumbull and Wayne counties. In order to manage the three-year planning process, the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC) was established in January 2011. NEOSCC developed a coordinated and integrated approach of planning efforts for land use, transportation, economic and workforce development, and infrastructure investments.

County-level data was aggregated into a regional framework report, [*Vibrant NEO 2040 – A Vision, Framework, and Action Products for Our Future*](#), which provided recommendations for policies and initiatives focused on supporting four major themes:

1. Strengthen Established Communities;
2. Increase Transportation Choices;
3. Preserve and Protect Natural Resources; and
4. Promote Collaboration and Efficiency

The Vibrant NEO 2040 Vision, Framework and Tools was created to serve as a toolkit of resources for communities of all sizes to create a more vibrant, resilient, and sustainable Northeast Ohio – a region that is full of energy and enthusiasm, a good steward of its build and natural resources, and adaptable and responsive to change.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

NOACA pays annual membership dues of \$1,500.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

The Policy Committee is encouraged to review the recommendations in *Vibrant NEO 2040: A Vision, Framework and Action Products for Our Future* in order to ensure alignment with NOACA's policies.

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NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Policy Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: April 3, 2026
RE: **NOACA-Vibrant NEO Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested at this time. This item is for information and discussion.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

In December 2021, NOACA and NEOSCC (aka Vibrant NEO) formed the NOACA-Vibrant NEO Coalition (the "Coalition") for the purpose of applying to the US EPA for funding to create a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The RLF supports the implementation of Recommendation 3 in the Vision and Framework, to "pursue the remediation, assembly, marketing, and redevelopment of abandoned properties at both the local and regional levels." In September 2022, the US EPA awarded NOACA, the fiscal agent for the Coalition, \$1,000,000 for the RLF. The RLF was awarded \$1,000,000 in 2024 and \$750,000 in 2025 in supplemental funding, totaling \$2,750,000 for the RLF program. The RLF provides loans or subgrants to eligible entities across the 12-county planning area.

The Coalition created a Brownfields Steering Committee, made up of regional subject experts on brownfields remediation and redevelopment, to review applications and make funding recommendations. The Brownfields Steering Committee meets quarterly to review loan applications and is also responsible for establishing and reviewing procedures for administering the program, such as updating the application, site selection criteria, and loan products. By collaborating with Vibrant NEO, NOACA supports the remediation of properties and promotes true regional impact in its five counties, and beyond.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

NOACA serves as the fiscal agent for administering the grant funds. Funds are requested on a reimbursement basis. To date, four RLF loans have been approved by the Vibrant NEO and NOACA Board of Directors, totaling \$1,424,905. The total amount of funding available for loans is \$535,516.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

NOACA staff continue to work with Vibrant NEO members to develop and promote the RLF program. Staff will attend a workshop in Louisville, Kentucky, held by Grow America (US EPA's Technical Assistance for RLFs) April 21-22, 2026, which provides peer-learning opportunities with other EPA RLF Teams. Staff also plan to attend the Ohio Brownfields Conference on May 6, 2026, in Westerville, Ohio.

GG:EB:jk



TRAVEL OPTIONS FOR NOACA MEETINGS

LOCATION

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

TRANSIT & BICYCLE TRAVEL TO NOACA

NOACA is accessible by transit and bike.

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

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

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

PARKING (see map)

The 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. 13th 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. 13th 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.

