

VIBRANT NEO 2040: VISION AND FRAMEWORK

Policy Committee

April 10, 2026

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is being requested. This item is for information only.

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

VIBRANT NEO 2040 was a 3 year planning process to create a regional vision across 12 counties and 4 MPOs

Who: Stakeholders throughout the region

What: A framework to create a more vibrant, resilient and sustainable Northeast Ohio.

How: Regional engagement using a visioning and scenario planning process

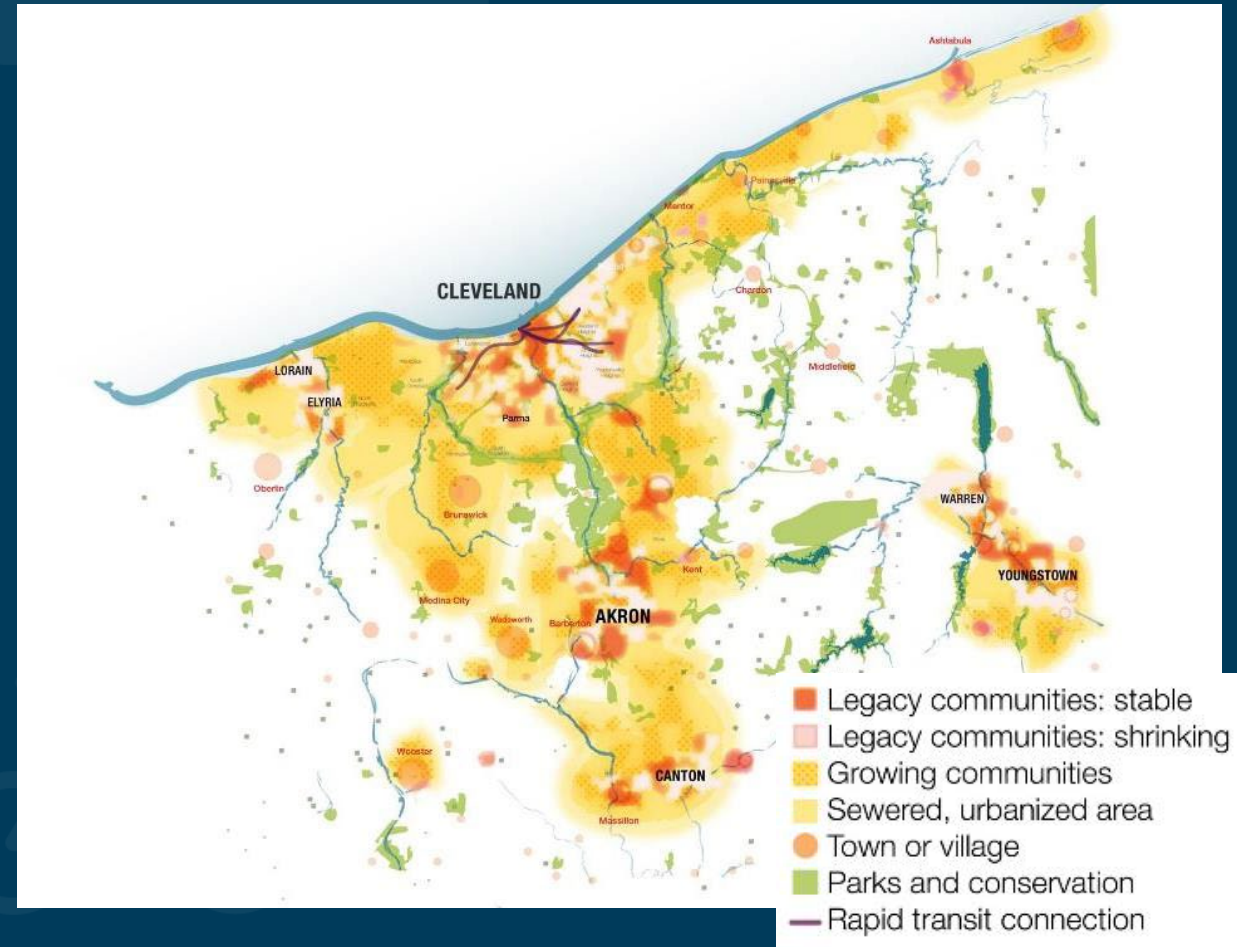


Made possible by Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative Grant from HUD in collaboration with DOT & EPA (\$4.2 million) with NOACA as the grant applicant and recipient on behalf of the local partners.

BACKGROUND

The Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC) created to conduct the 3-year planning process:

1. What course is Northeast Ohio on?
2. What future does Northeast Ohio want for itself?
3. How do we make that future a reality?



NEOSCC'S MISSION

To create conditions for a more vibrant, resilient, and sustainable Northeast Ohio that is full of energy and enthusiasm, a good steward of its built and natural resources, and adaptable and responsive to change

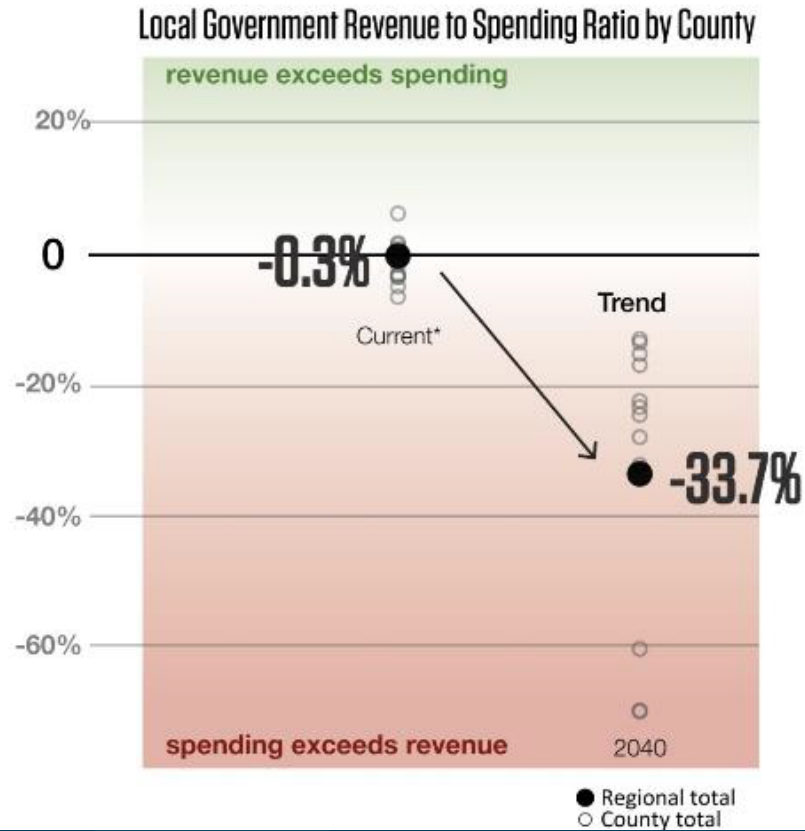
OUTREACH

- 2,925 engaged through Workshops & Imagine MyNEO
- 1,412 engaged through Public Opinion Polling
- 1,263 engaged through other meetings

Total of 5,600 People Engaged



TREND SCENARIO



Financial Outcomes

- Negative fiscal impact across the region
- All counties experience declining revenues compared with costs
- The most fiscally strong county in 2040 is weaker than the weakest county today

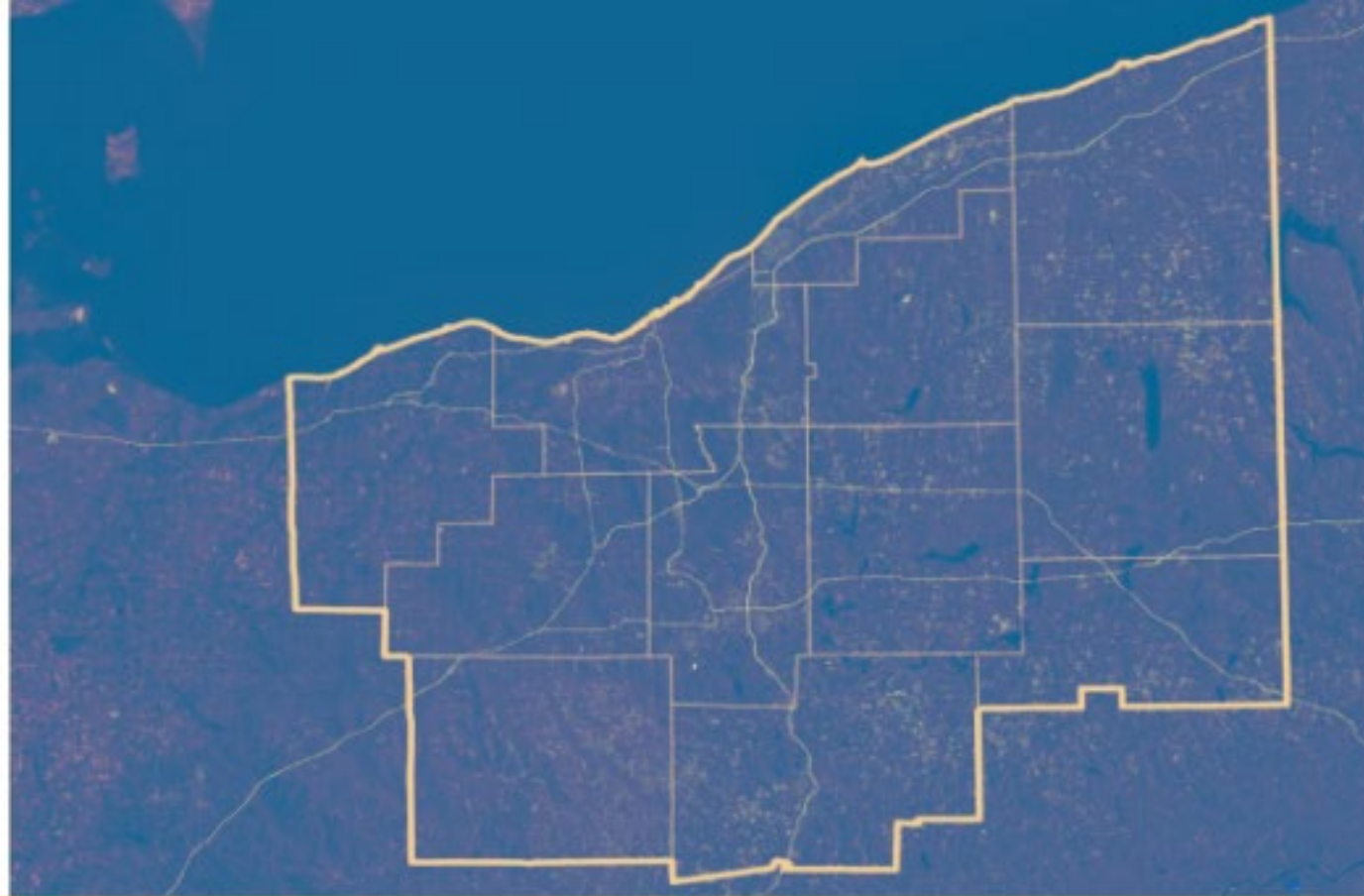
What is driving these changes?

- High Cost of New Infrastructure
- High Rates of Abandonment
- Stagnant employment



VibrantNEO.org

*For a more
vibrant, resilient,
and sustainable
Northeast Ohio*



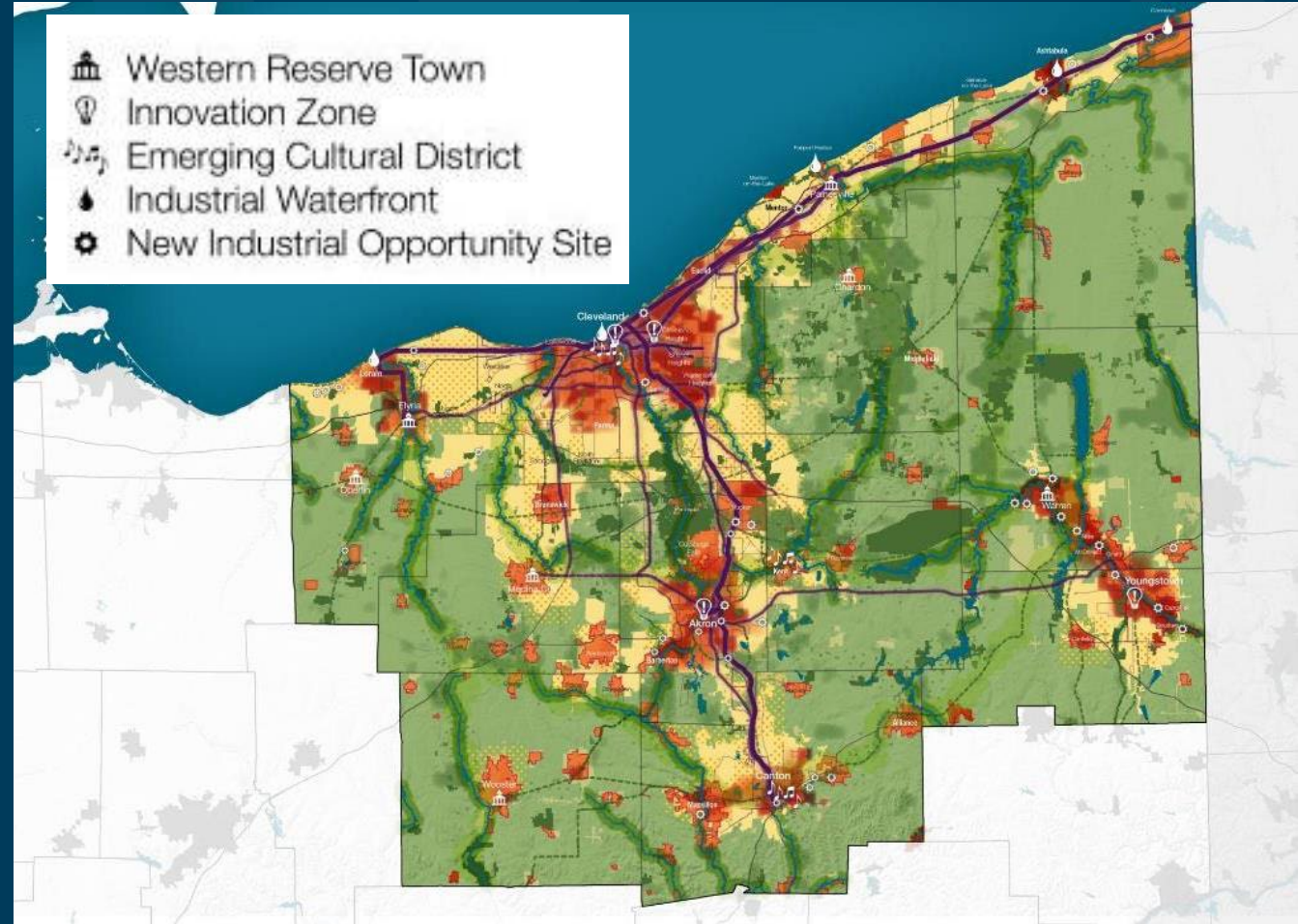
Vibrant NEO 2040

A Vision, Framework, and Action Products for Our Future



VISION COMPONENTS

- **8 Objectives**: the outcomes that the Vision aims to achieve
- **4 Themes**: the key Vision topic areas
- **9 Recommendations and 41 Initiatives**: the steps and tools to realize the Vision.



THEMES



Strengthen Established Communities



Increase Transportation Choice



Preserve and Protect Natural Resources

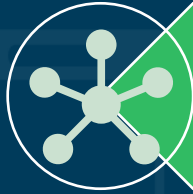


Promote Collaboration and Efficiency

#1 STRENGTHEN ESTABLISHED COMMUNITIES



Focus new residential and commercial development on sites within established communities



Develop robust network of regional job centers connected by multimodal transportation corridors within and between counties



Pursue the remediation, assembly, marketing, and redevelopment of abandoned properties



Encourage a higher frequency of mixed-use development and a range of diverse, affordable housing options

#2 INCREASE TRANSPORTATION CHOICE



Enhance and coordinate the region's rail and bus services



Enhance walking and cycling as transportation options to increase regional mobility and improve public health

#3 PRESERVE AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES



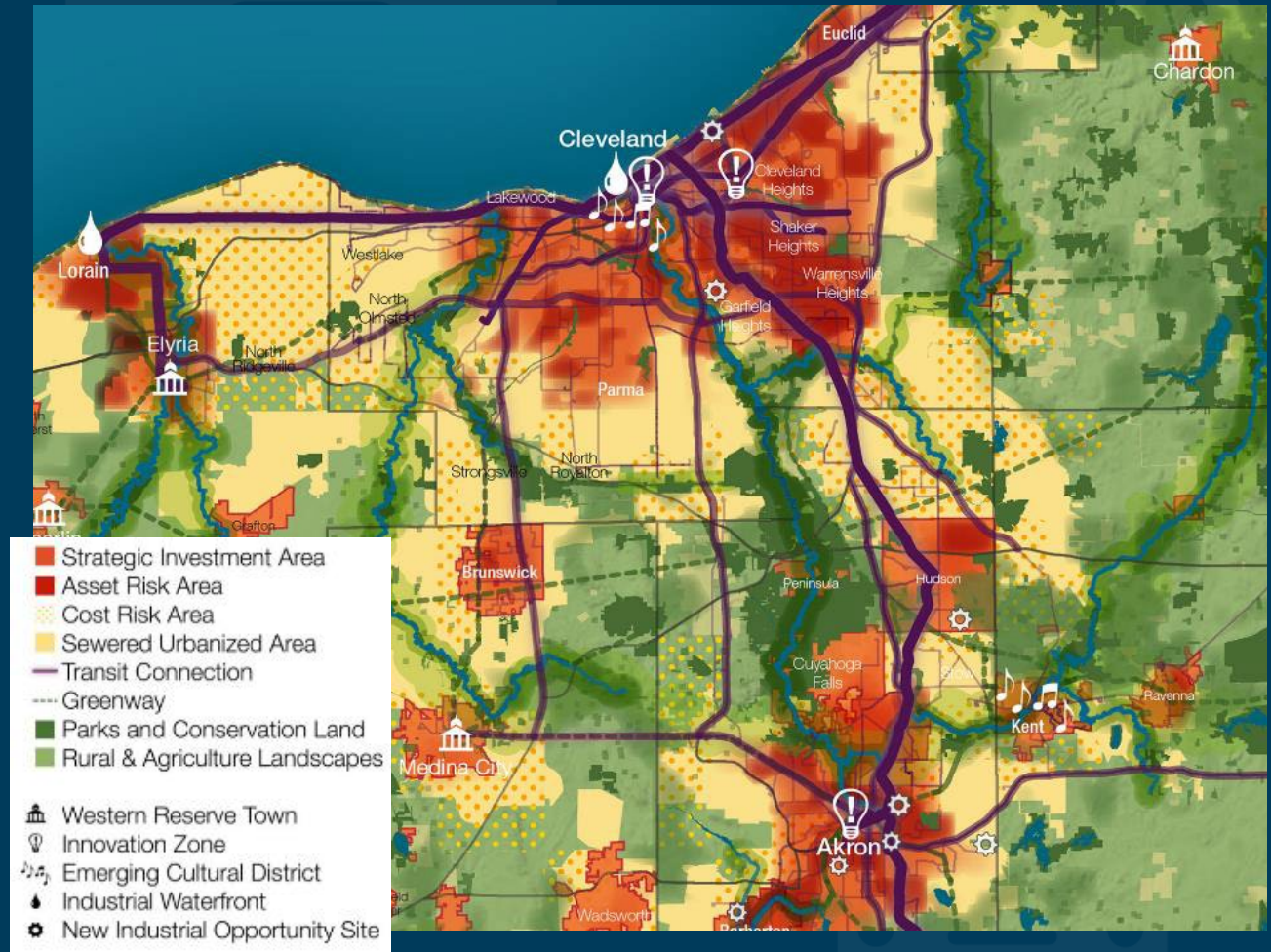
Preserve our natural areas for future generations, provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and develop a regional approach to protecting air, water, and soil quality



Support sustainable agriculture and the local food system in NEO

IMPLEMENTATION

- 41 initiatives that identify ways to implement the Vibrant NEO 2040 Recommendations
- Action products, best practices



IMPLEMENTATION

ASSIST

- Vibrant NEO **helps local governments** maximize opportunities for smart land use management and government efficiencies.

ASSEMBLE

- Vibrant NEO **convenes stakeholders to build consensus and catalyze coordinated actions** to address land use challenges and government efficiency in Northeast Ohio.

ADVOCATE

- Vibrant NEO **advocates** for smart land use policies, and financial incentives for government efficiency **with lawmakers across Northeast Ohio.**

VIBRANT NEO ACTIVITY

- **Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund**
 - Funding available for brownfields remediation projects
- **Mayors Forums**
 - Partnership with Cleveland State University, First Suburbs Consortium
- **Vibrant NEO Champion Awards**
 - Annual awards celebrating communities and organizations

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 inclusion in NOACA's policy work.

- Vibrant NEO Guidebook



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.