



**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 2025.

**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:

<b>Potential 2026 Focus Areas</b>	<b>Status</b>
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](#).*



## 2026 Policy Committee Attendance Record

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

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

X = Member present

A = Alternate present