



Governance Committee Meeting

May 8, 2026, 10:00 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: Governance Committee Members

Morris W. Beverage III, Commissioner, Lake County
Justin Bibb, Mayor, City of Cleveland
Carolyn Brakey, Commissioner, Geauga County
James W. Dvorak, Commissioner, Geauga County
Aaron Harrison, Commissioner, Medina County
Jeff Riddell, Commissioner, Lorain County

FROM: Chris Ronayne, Chair
County Executive, Cuyahoga County

DATE: May 1, 2026

RE: Governance Committee

Attached please find materials for the Governance Committee meeting on **Friday, May 8, 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, May 8, 2026
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The public can view the meeting live at: youtube.com/live/vK6ecWvqGkA?feature=share

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

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10. Adjourn	

Next Meeting: **Friday, August 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**
NOACA Offices, 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio



**NOACA Governance Committee
Meeting Minutes**
February 13, 2026
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

County Executive Chris Ronayne, Chair of Governance Committee, convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jim Dvorak made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2025, meeting. Ms. Bonnie Teeuwen seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Public Comments

No public comments were made at this meeting.

Chair's Report

County Executive Ronayne expressed his eagerness to work with members on governance matters before them as the new Chair of Governance Committee. He acknowledged the work completed last year and thanked Trustee Jeff Brandon, the previous Chair, and other members for their efforts. County Executive Ronayne noted that much remains to be done this year and highlighted several new and exciting items on the agenda.

Executive Director's Report

No report was presented at this meeting.

Action Items

Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Governance Committee Focus Areas

Director Grace Gallucci reviewed the following:

- Purpose and goals of the committee
- CY 2025 Focus Areas
- Potential CY 2026 Focus Areas

Director Gallucci welcomed suggestions from the Committee on additional focus areas.

County Executive Ronayne said he expects governance discussions this year to be fluid, with some matters addressed proactively and others in response to external developments. He noted it is difficult to predict the year ahead, but he anticipates the Committee will remain busy. County

Executive Ronayne also mentioned the potential addition of a new subcommittee and expressed interest in working with members, the CEO, and staff to consider consolidating committees where appropriate. He emphasized the need for flexibility in managing workload and staffing.

Director Gallucci said that some consolidation would likely be appreciated by staff and agreed that "consolidation" is probably a better term. She added that they will see how that process develops.

Commissioner Morris Beverage stated that the NOACA 101 session at the last Board meeting was extremely helpful. He noted that, with recent bylaw changes affecting appointments, new members will be joining, and it is important to continue illustrating the Board's processes and history for transparency. He expressed hope that the presentation is available on the website or otherwise accessible to members.

Director Gallucci noted that the NOACA 101 presentation is available on YouTube.

Commissioner Beverage reiterated that NOACA 101 is very beneficial. He indicated that he would wait until the Executive Committee Review agenda item to provide further input.

County Executive Ronayne said he completely agreed with Commissioner Beverage regarding NOACA 101, noting that it was a comprehensive and educational overview of the organization.

Mr. Gall noted that he did not receive a NOACA 101 orientation when he began serving as an alternate on the Board in 2023. He said the session would be particularly valuable for new members to understand how the organization operates. He emphasized that governance and executive matters can be complex, and providing guidance through the 101 session is beneficial. Mr. Gall encouraged early onboarding for new members, especially given frequent elections and changes, and suggested sharing relevant links and resources to help them prepare for their first meetings.

Director Gallucci said she meets with all new members and already has orientation sessions scheduled for incoming members based on recent changes. She noted that alternates are sometimes left out, not intentionally, and that they are invited to attend orientation with their primary member. Director Gallucci acknowledged that in some cases, such as Mr. Gall's, the alternate was not named at the time, so only the board member participated in the orientation. She suggested improving efforts to encourage members to bring alternates and noted that she could provide separate sessions to alternates if needed. She thanked Mr. Gall for bringing the issue to her attention.

County Executive Ronayne concurred. He said that, in addition to board education and one-on-one sessions for new members, the organization also holds the Meet and Greet, which is coming up soon.

Director Gallucci confirmed that the Meet and Greet is scheduled for March before the board meeting.

County Executive Ronayne suggested holding an open house for newly elected officials throughout the five-county region, including township trustees, council members, mayors, commissioners, engineers, and legislators. He noted that the event could provide an overview of NOACA, explain how communities apply for project funding, and allow others beyond Board members to learn about the organization

Director Gallucci responded that the idea sounds good.

County Executive Ronayne acknowledged that it would require more work for staff.

Director Gallucci remarked that staff welcome additional work.

Mr. Gall made a motion to approve the CY 2026 Focus Areas. Commissioner Dvorak seconded the motion.

Commissioner Harrison asked whether the action item would limit the Committee's flexibility for the rest of the year, noting that some items might arise spontaneously.

Director Gallucci responded that the action item does not tie the Committee's hands. She explained that it applies only to the Committee, does not require Board approval, and serves as a motion to move forward with the plan. She emphasized that it is very flexible.

Commissioner Harrison clarified that the item is more in the nature of providing direction rather than imposing a formal requirement.

The Committee voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Aviation Subcommittee

County Executive Ronayne explained that the idea for an aviation subcommittee originated in a conversation with Commissioner Morgan McIntosh, who has aviation experience, and was supported by Director Gallucci. He discussed the potential consolidation of subcommittees and advisory committees, noting a desire to avoid adding complexity to the organizational structure.

County Executive Ronayne provided context regarding regional airport changes, particularly discussions about the potential closure of Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland. He noted that each county has ongoing aviation activities, including capital improvements and potential capacity at local airports, which could absorb demand if Burke were to close. He emphasized that, as a metropolitan planning organization, NOACA, should be prepared for changes in aviation and related transportation logistics. He explained that the proposed aviation subcommittee would allow the organization to stay informed and organized as regional developments occur. He invited Director Gallucci to proceed with the presentation.

Commissioner Dvorak noted that Geauga County also has an airport.

Commissioner Harrison noted that, in addition to Medina Municipal Airport, there are other airports in Medina County.

County Executive Ronayne stated that he believed that all 88 Ohio counties have some form of airport aviation service.

Commissioner Dvorak referenced an initiative attributed to Jim Rhodes.

Mr. Gall clarified that 84 counties in Ohio have airport aviation service.

County Executive Ronayne acknowledged the correction and noted the importance of including Geauga County airports on the list.

Commissioner Dvorak remarked that if Burke were to close, traffic could shift to Geauga County.

County Executive Ronayne responded that the proposed aviation subcommittee should include representation from all five counties to ensure each has a voice.

Director Gallucci shared her experience as a passenger being diverted from Hopkins to Burke due to overflow and noted that all five counties could play a role depending on future developments.

Ms. Teeuwen expressed appreciation for the discussion, describing the potential closure of Burke as a critical and unprecedented moment. She noted that while the FAA does not favor airport closures, Mayor Bibb is focused on opening Cleveland's lakefront to the public. She emphasized the importance of a comprehensive regional approach to managing aviation traffic and supported the creation of the subcommittee.

Director Gallucci added that, beyond the Burke discussion, NOACA is increasingly focused on aviation as part of regional transportation planning. She referenced the Aerozone TEDI surrounding Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and NOACA's regional positioning around the international airport. She also noted NOACA's participation in DriveOhio's Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Initiative, which addresses drones and their impact on land and air transportation. She stated that these broader air mobility considerations support further exploration of an aviation subcommittee.

Director Gallucci presented information on the following:

- Possible activities of aviation subcommittee
- Possible structure of aviation subcommittee
- Examples of aviation activities at other MPOs

Director Gallucci noted that, based on the Committee's input, additional research would be conducted and a proposed charter and membership list may be drafted. She stated that NOACA is not the first organization to consider an aviation committee and that peer agencies have established similar efforts. She thanked County Executive Ronayne for giving the idea serious consideration and referenced his recent interview in *Crain's*, where he mentioned the concept.

County Executive Ronayne stated that the Committee faces two primary questions: what the scope of work would be and how the group would be structured organizationally. He invited staff guidance but opened the floor for discussion. He noted that aviation trends are evolving, including smaller aircraft, personal air taxis, and increased drone activity. He suggested the Committee may want to hear from Baldwin Wallace University regarding its work on drone grids and acknowledged broader questions about oversight, potentially by ODOT. He observed that drone delivery of goods, including pharmaceuticals and packages, is increasing and said the proposed subcommittee would be forward-looking. County Executive Ronayne credited Commissioner McIntosh for raising the issue and referenced regional considerations if Burke were to close. He welcomed input from committee members.

Mr. Gall reported that Lorain County currently has a 5,000-foot runway and has submitted its master plan to the FAA. He said the County is awaiting feedback, which will provide direction on future development. He noted that the plan looks ahead 20 years and expressed hope that the

FAA's review will align with regional planning efforts. He added that potential runway expansion could position the County for future growth.

Commissioner Harrison noted that Medina County does not have any major facilities, only a few municipal airports. He observed that Wadsworth's airport is somewhat more developed than Medina's, while other small rural airports primarily serve hobbyists or emergency services. He noted gaps in northern areas, such as Brunswick and Hinckley, where there are no local airports. Commissioner Harrison stated that, although the County's aviation infrastructure is limited compared with larger metropolitan areas, the proposed aviation committee presents an opportunity. He referenced prior discussions about package delivery and suggested that early involvement could position the region as a pilot area for emerging aviation technologies. He emphasized the importance of being thoughtful when creating new committees or structures, noting that the Governance Committee should clearly define the mission and charge to ensure effectiveness.

Commissioner Beverage said he would not speak to specifics about the Lake County airport but acknowledged ongoing projects, including a new terminal and potential hangar expansion. While he is generally cautious about subject area expansion, he agreed the broader regional airport discussion is important. He noted that if there is serious consideration of closing Burke Lakefront Airport, it would warrant involvement from an organization like NOACA to analyze regional impacts. He also suggested that, in addition to five-county representation, there could be value in including Akron-Canton Airport in the broader regional conversation.

Commissioner Beverage agreed with Commissioner Harrison that aviation is an important topic and emphasized the need for considering committee consolidation. He stated that if Burke Lakefront Airport were to close, NOACA should have a committee tasked with analyzing the regional impacts. He also noted that the Akron-Canton Airport could play a role in the regional discussion, even though it is outside the NOACA region, and suggested that the Committee consider engaging with outside partners while ensuring representation from all five counties.

County Executive Ronayne agreed. He asked Director Gallucci whether it would be possible to include someone from outside the MPO region on the advisory council.

Director Gallucci said NOACA's Air Quality Subcommittee includes members from outside the NOACA footprint because air quality affects them as well and NOACA must work with these outer counties for air quality conformity analysis.

Ms. Teeuwen noted that Cleveland is a direct commercial competitor to Akron-Canton.

County Executive Ronayne noted that the Committee will continue discussions on how an aviation subcommittee shapes up.

Commissioner Dvorak noted that Geauga County Airport has a 3,500-foot by 65-foot runway and is managed day-to-day by a six- or seven-member volunteer Airport Authority Board. Recent improvements included a \$3.3 million taxiway project, with the county's share at \$180,000, and a new 10-hangar building for larger planes funded with \$800,000 from the commissioners, expected to generate \$50,000 annually for maintenance. He also noted that UH MedEvac operates there, and the county invested \$400,000 to remodel their hangar, addressing safety and heating issues, ensuring critical medical services remain local. Overall, Geauga County has made significant airport improvements benefiting residents.

County Executive Ronayne assured Commissioner Dvorak that Geauga County airports would be included on the list.

Commissioner Dvorak suggested that Geauga County's representative on an aviation subcommittee should come from the Airport Authority Board, with an alternate also drawn from that group, given their experience as retired pilots and aviation professionals.

County Executive Ronayne noted that including subject area experts on the aviation committee makes sense. He referenced the Cuyahoga County Airport, where runway length is a limitation, and noted that several companies, including Swagelok and Eaton, regularly use the airport. Cleveland Clinic is a major operator at Burke, influencing corporate flight needs for commuters and freight. He emphasized FlexJet, owned by Kenn Ricci, as one of the largest fractional air services in the country, alongside NetJets, with hundreds of employees in the region managing flights nationwide. FlexJet represents a significant local job growth area. County Executive Ronayne also mentioned the emerging role of drones, distinguishing recreational use from commercial applications, and noted insights from a Baldwin Wallace analyst that a drone grid will need to be developed to manage future transportation of goods and people. Ms. Debbie Berry was invited to add any additional insights about Cuyahoga County Airport.

Ms. Berry reported that Cuyahoga County Airport is currently reconfiguring taxiways to improve operations. She noted that the hangars are old and in need of rebuilding, which is difficult to finance, though demand exists. She added that she has been consulting with private and corporate stakeholders, including Eaton, and can provide names of individuals who might be interested in participating in the aviation committee.

County Executive Ronayne stated that, while it is too early to begin lobbying or detailed planning for airport-related improvements, the proposed aviation committee may be warranted. He emphasized the importance of avoiding unnecessary additions to the organizational structure and suggested that the Governance Committee consider consolidating certain existing committees. He requested guidance on whether the aviation committee should be established as an advisory committee or a subcommittee and, if the latter, how it should be integrated into the current organizational framework.

Director Gallucci responded that the committee could function as a subcommittee under the Policy Committee or as a council under the Economic Development Subcommittee or the Transportation Subcommittee, which already includes Bicycle/Pedestrian, Transit, and Safety and Operations Councils.

County Executive Ronayne invited input from board members on the governance structure.

Mr. Gall said he favored an economic development perspective, citing Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus and nearby Anduril Industries, which operates large drones from the runway. He emphasized that a runway of sufficient size can drive economic growth and create employment opportunities and noted this perspective would be most beneficial for an aviation subcommittee.

Mr. Hajjar agreed but suggested considering air traffic from a transportation standpoint, questioning how it compares with auto and land travel and whether it should also be addressed at the council level.

Ms. Teeuwen agreed with Mr. Gall, noting that the primary driver and benefit of airports is economic impact, supporting an economic development focus.

County Executive Ronayne proposed having staff refine the details and provide recommendations to the Governance Committee. He asked whether the economic development focus would place the work under the Economic Development Subcommittee.

Director Gallucci noted that the Economic Development Subcommittee is a special subcommittee because it governs the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a requirement of the Economic Development Administration (EDA). It includes private sector members, unlike most other subcommittees, and the majority of its members are not NOACA board members.

County Executive Ronayne added that board members with aviation experience, along with outside subject-matter experts, could be included if all agree.

Director Gallucci noted that the Economic Development Subcommittee would welcome having this as an area of focus for their work.

Commissioner Harrison emphasized that staff should continue to evaluate the structure, noting that air travel expands the regional transportation footprint and requires input from people in outlying areas to ensure credible conclusions.

County Executive Ronayne noted that if Burke Lakefront Airport were to close, coordination with the FAA and a regional plan for reliever airports would be essential. He concluded that there is enthusiasm for pursuing this initiative, and staff should provide recommendations on how it should be housed.

Commissioner Beverage said that while he recognizes the economic development opportunities from air travel, for the purposes of this plan or study, which will involve the FAA, Burke, and federal considerations, air travel is better suited to a transportation discussion. He noted it has a place in both economic development and transportation, but given the FAA coordination required, it may fit more naturally under transportation.

Director Gallucci said she would address some of Mr. Hajjar's questions. At the federal level, aviation falls under USDOT, and at the state level, it is under ODOT, so it is considered transportation. She noted that the Transportation Subcommittee has several councils, including Transit and Bicycle and Pedestrian. Regarding utilization, there is more traffic and more people using airports in the region than passengers on either transit or bicycle, with the number in the millions.

County Executive Ronayne said the discussion was interesting and suggested exploring whether transportation and economic development are mutually exclusive. He proposed that staff research how other COGs and MPOs structure their advisory committees and determine whether a potential aviation advisory committee would report directly to the Board or to one of NOACA's existing committees.

Mr. Gall said he looks forward to staff working through these questions. If the committee ends up under the Transportation Subcommittee, that would be positive. He suggested that members from that Transportation Subcommittee could also participate in the Economic Development Subcommittee, giving them input on that side as well, serving as a liaison or subject matter specialist.

County Executive Ronayne agreed, noting that staff should provide guidance on where the committee could be housed. He raised a question about regional air system plans: how metropolitan areas create them, whether the FAA involves MPOs in the process, and what might be required from the City of Cleveland regarding the potential closure of Burke. He suggested that producing an air system plan might be part of the committee's work but was uncertain whether that is typically within an MPO's scope or part of an FAA request.

Director Gallucci said staff could research that. There is no direct relationship between MPOs and FAA aviation, as NOACA primarily focuses on surface transportation. However, there is some involvement with maritime aviation and drones/air mobility, which may grow. She corrected her earlier statement: transit ridership is higher than air travel, with transit at about 25+ million passengers, while air travel is approximately 10–12 million, roughly half of transit.

Commissioner Dvorak stated that KraftMaid is one of Geauga County's largest employers, with about 3,000 employees. Last fall, he attended a ribbon-cutting for Growscape, which will hire 500 people. Their facility, built with concrete walls, is about 20% the size of the IX Center and is half a mile from the airport, showing how the airport connects to economic development.

County Executive Ronayne said the feedback was very helpful. He noted that with pending development around Hopkins Airport, such as the stadium, this Governance Committee may become involved in future discussions. Freight carrier service at Hopkins, such as USPS and FedEx, is critical, and MPOs will need to consider transportation to and from airports, especially on high-traffic days like game days or events. He said staff will be asked to provide recommendations on how the aviation committee might be structured, its composition, and where it fits within the NOACA organization. County Executive Ronayne thanked everyone for their feedback and requested that staff study how an aviation-related advisory group could be established within NOACA.

Executive Committee Review

Director Gallucci said the item is for discussion only. The question arose during 2025 meetings of possibly adding a seventh member to the Executive Committee, and she wanted to revisit it. She explained that the Executive Committee currently includes the president, first and second vice presidents (as applicable), secretary, treasurer, immediate past president, and the mayor of the largest city in the five-county region. It must also include at least one governing officer from each county. The mayor of the largest city does not count toward county representation. Director Gallucci also reviewed the Executive Committee charter.

Commissioner Beverage said he supports adding a seventh member to the Executive Committee to avoid 3–3 tie votes that could prevent items from advancing to the full Board. Commissioner Beverage also said that, given recent bylaw changes on representation, he believes the chair and all Executive Committee officers should be elected officials to ensure transparency and accountability to voters.

Mr. Hajjar asked whether the elected official requirement include alternates.

Commissioner Beverage said that while Executive Committee officers should be elected officials, alternates do not need to be, as their actions reflect the elected member they are representing.

County Executive Ronayne noted that adding a seventh member could address the issue of an odd number of members. He also raised the question of leadership and elected officers, asking if every member is already an elected official by virtue of their office.

Director Gallucci said that while all current members are elected officials, in the past some board presidents were not. A 2009 Board resolution required the president and first vice president to be elected officials; it was approved by other counties but not ratified by Cuyahoga County.

County Executive Ronayne noted that the Governance Committee could discuss the proposal.

Mr. Hajjar asked how a seventh member would be selected and where they would come from.

Commissioner Beverage suggested adding a third vice president to allow broader rotation of executive leadership, noting that many suburban mayors and other board members rarely have opportunities to serve as officers. He said this could address representation concerns and offered to let the third vice president rotate ahead of him in the officer rotation to resolve the issue.

Director Gallucci noted that Commissioner Beverage could be slotted as third vice president without losing his place in the rotation.

Commissioner Harrison said the Executive Committee could be expanded without requiring all members to be in the officer rotation. He suggested a broader model that increases representation, gives the Executive Committee more authority, and helps streamline full board meetings.

Commissioner Beverage suggested adding three at-large members and expanding to a nine-person Executive Committee, with six in the officer rotation and three at-large to broaden representation.

Mr. Gall asked how the three at-large members would be selected, suggesting they could be elected or chosen by the full Board at year's end.

County Executive Ronayne said there are multiple ways the Governance Committee could approach this, noting ideas offered by Commissioner Beverage, Commissioner Harrison, and Mr. Gall. He suggested bifurcating the discussion into two tracks: the population of the Executive Committee and leadership representation. He emphasized analyzing options for five-county equity, ensuring an odd number of members, and debating whether the president should be an elected official, noting past success of non-elected presidents. He recommended the Governance Committee take both topics forward for further discussion this year.

Commissioner Beverage said he liked the idea of adding one member from each county, bringing the total to 11.

County Executive Ronayne said it was not a formal proposal and suggested staff provide information on Executive Committee sizes at other MPOs.

Mr. Gall noted that in the past three years, Executive Committee meetings were limited but decisions were generally smooth, with only one close vote. He said adding a seventh member—or even expanding to nine or eleven—could be considered, and recommended the committee explore ideas for moving forward.

County Executive Ronayne said Cleveland's representation and parity would also need consideration.

Ms. Teeuwen cautioned against expanding to 11, noting the Board is structured by population, and increasing county seats could create inequity.

County Executive Ronayne said the discussion was meant as a conversation, not a firm proposal, highlighting options for both single- and multiple-county representation, and noted that Ms. Teeuwen made a good point.

Director Gallucci noted that while the board and most committees are based on population, the Executive Committee is structured like a Senate, with each county receiving one seat regardless of population, so it operates differently.

County Executive Ronayne said the Governance Committee would further review the issues.

Director Gallucci said the next Governance Committee meeting is May 8.

County Executive Ronayne suggested holding an additional meeting before May 8 due to the Committee's workload.

Reports/Updates

No reports/updates were presented at this meeting.

Old Business

Resolutions 2026-001 and 2026-002 Ratification Update

Ms. Barlik said Lorain, Lake, Geauga, and Medina counties have acted on both items, and NOACA is waiting on Cuyahoga County.

County Executive Ronayne said he and Ms. Berry heard the item received a first reading at Cuyahoga Council.

Ms. Berry confirmed it will go to council committee Tuesday and then to a final reading on February 24 for passage.

2026 Meeting Calendar – September Board Meeting

Director Gallucci stated that the board meeting originally scheduled for September 11 was discussed. A poll indicated that 25% of members were conflicted with that date, while 75% could attend. Director Gallucci noted that the chair, board president, and immediate past president would be unavailable on September 11, prompting a proposal to move the meeting.

County Executive Ronayne explained that this issue was raised at the Board meeting by Mr. John Picuri of ODOT. Mr. Picuri noted that, in deference to the 25th anniversary of 9/11, the Board ought not meet that day.

County Executive Ronayne added that the question before the Governance Committee was whether the meeting could be moved. He emphasized that Mr. Picuri felt the gravity of the anniversary warranted rescheduling.

Commissioner Dvorak asked whether the board meeting could be moved to September 18.

County Executive Ronayne replied that staff could work with the Committee to use September 18 as a potential date.

Ms. Barlik noted that September 18th already had regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings for air quality, transportation, and water quality, but those could be moved to accommodate the board meeting.

Director Gallucci stated that staff could move the board meeting to September 18 and reschedule the subcommittee meetings to September 25.

County Executive Ronayne said he was confident that a date can be set for the September board meeting. He also suggested that staff set a date for special Governance Committee meeting to discuss composition and leadership.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve moving the board meeting from September 11 to September 18 and the subcommittee meetings from September 18 to September 25. Commissioner Dvorak seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

New Business

County Executive Ronayne acknowledged the engineers' comments in recent Board meetings and emphasized the importance of considering their continued representation when deliberating governance composition and leadership. He noted that engineers have made a strong case for maintaining seats at the table alongside elected officials.

County Executive Ronayne noted that, for members from Lake County and eastern Cuyahoga County, the Slovenian Kurentovanje Parade will take place this Saturday at St. Clair and East 65th Street. He mentioned a new exhibit at Slovenian National Hall, which opened the previous night in honor of former Mayor, Governor, and Senator Voinovich. Ronayne encouraged members to view the exhibit, highlighting the discussion of Voinovich's years of public service. He also extended greetings for the festival and wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

Adjournment

Commissioner Dvorak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Mr. Hajjar seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Governance Committee will hold its next regular meeting Friday, May 8, 2026, 10-11:30 a.m., at the NOACA offices.

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



Governance Committee 2026 Attendance Record

MEETING DATES	2/13/26	5/8/26	8/14/26	11/13/26
BEVERAGE III , Morris W. Alternate: TBD	X			
BIBB , Justin Alternate: Bonnie Teeuwen	A			
BRAKEY , Carolyn Alternate: Shane Hajjar	A			
DVORAK , James Alternate: Nick Gorris	X			
HARRISON , Aaron Alternate: Stephen Hambley	X			
RIDDELL , Jeff Alternate: John Gall	A			
RONAYNE , Chris Alternate: Debbie Berry	X			
TOTAL MEMBERS ATTEND:	7			

X = Member present

A = Alternate present



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Governance Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: May 1, 2026
RE: **Aviation Advisory Council Charter**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Governance Committee is asked to consider recommending the Aviation Advisory Council charter to the Executive Committee for placement on the June 2026 Board of Directors meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

At the Governance Committee meeting on February 13 a recommendation was made for the creation of an aviation subcommittee or council. The goal of this group would be to provide a forum for local elected officials and subject matter experts to convene to discuss and collaborate on aviation, air mobility, and air-related transportation planning issues affecting Northeast Ohio. Members could advise on the integration of aviation considerations into NOACA's long-range transportation plan, transportation improvement program, and related planning documents. In addition, members could direct NOACA on aviation-related studies, grants, policies, and emerging technologies as they relate to regional transportation.

At the April 23 special meeting, the Committee reviewed a draft charter for an Aviation Advisory Council. The charter included the proposed membership, goals, and activities of the Council and noted that the Council would report to the Transportation Subcommittee. Attached is an updated charter based on feedback from and discussion at the Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact for this item.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Any additional amendments to the proposed charter and membership list will be made. A final version will be presented to the Transportation Subcommittee for review and the Board for approval.

GG:EB

Attachment 1: Draft Charter for the Aviation Advisory Council

NOACA AVIATION ADVISORY COUNCIL CHARTER

- PURPOSE:** The Aviation Advisory Council (AAC) serves as a technical and advisory body to support NOACA's responsibilities related to guide NOACA's role in supporting the region's aviation system. The AAC provides a forum for coordination among ~~commercial service~~ airports, ~~general~~ aviation facilities, public agencies, and aviation stakeholders to ensure that aviation infrastructure and services are effectively integrated into the region's multimodal transportation system and planning framework.
- GOALS:** The goals of the Aviation Advisory Council are to:
- Promote a safe, efficient, and resilient regional aviation system.
 - Ensure alignment between aviation planning and regional transportation, land use, and economic development goals.
 - Support coordination of aviation-related planning and funding.
 - Elevate the role of aviation in regional mobility, freight movement, emergency response, and economic competitiveness.
- ACTIVITIES:** The Council will:
- Provide technical recommendations to NOACA's staff, subcommittees, committees, and Board of Directors on aviation-related matters.
 - Advise on key issues, risks, and opportunities affecting the regional aviation system.
 - Facilitate information sharing and collaboration across jurisdictions and sectors and encourage best practices
 - Provide recommendations on policy, infrastructure, and partnerships needed to support growth and innovation.
 - Establish regional aviation planning goals.
- MEMBERSHIP:** Membership of the Council shall consist of representatives of public airports and air and aviation subject matter experts with the knowledge, expertise, and necessary to accomplish the Council's purpose. Membership shall consist of at least the following members:
- Five (5) Commissioners or County Executive, or their appointee, one from each of the counties in the NOACA region
 - The Mayor of the city with the largest public airport in the region, or their appointee
 - The President of City Council or the Chair of its Transportation Committee for the city with the largest public airport in the region, or their appointee
 - Five (5) airport directors of public airports, one from each of the five counties in the NOACA region
 - The Airport Director of the largest public airport in the region
 - One (1) member representing ODOT's Office of Aviation or DriveOhio
 - Three (3) members representing the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) or Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) sector; an airport, aviation, or pilot professional association; and/or an airline, fixed base operator, or direct service provider

- Up to three (3) members appointed by the Chair of the Council having expertise as appropriate to accomplish the goals, purpose, and activities of the Council annually

REPORTING

RELATIONSHIP: The Council reports to the Transportation Subcommittee.

MEETINGS: The Council will hold regular meetings on a quarterly basis. Special meetings may be called as needed. A majority of Council members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

AGENDA AND

MINUTES: The Chair will be responsible for establishing agendas for meetings, which will be sent to Council members at least seven days in advance of the meeting. Minutes will be approved by Council members at the following meeting.

STAFFING: Agency staff shall provide the Council with administrative and technical support as directed by the chair.

DRAFT



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
MEMORANDUM**

TO: NOACA Governance Committee
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
DATE: May 1, 2026
RE: **Executive Committee Membership Review**

ACTION REQUESTED

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

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

The membership of the Executive is covered by two sections of [NOACA's Code of Regulations](#). The specific members of the Executive Committee are outlined in Section 6.3, which states, in part:

“...The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President (if any), Secretary, Treasurer, immediate past President of the Board of Directors and Mayor of the largest city in the five-county region. Executive Committee membership shall also include at least one member of the governing officers of each county. The Mayor of the largest city in the five-county region shall not be considered a county representative for this purpose...”

Officers are covered under Section 4.3(a) which states, in part,

“At the first meeting in January each year the Board of Directors shall elect a President, First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors may also elect additional Vice Presidents, one or more Assistant Secretaries and one or more Assistant Treasurers.”

The language of Section 6.3 creates two tracks for Executive Committee membership: 1) officers of the Board of Directors¹ and 2) elected officials from each of the counties in the NOACA region and the Mayor of the largest city in the five-county region. There has been considerable discussion among the Governance Committee as to how to interpret and apply the membership requirements contained in Section 6.3.

A review of officers and Executive Committee members from 2000 to present shows that these two paths frequently overlap, resulting in Executive Committees with as few as six and as many as ten members, depending on who the Board officers were. It also shows that the Governance Committee has intentionally put forth annual officer slates “with specific care to balance representation from among our five counties.”²

¹ For the purposes of this memo, an officer of the Board means the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and/or immediate past President

² “Report of the Nominating Committee to the NOACA Board,” January 2, 2002.

Generally, in years where officers included a mayor, engineer, or other public official from within an individual county, a Commissioner or Executive from that county was also included as a member of the Executive Committee, most likely to accommodate an interpretation of having “at least one member of the governing officers of each county.” For example, if the Lorain County Engineer was an officer, and a Lorain County Commissioner was not, then a Lorain County Commissioner was added to the composition of the Executive Committee.

Similarly, if the City of Cleveland was represented as an officer by an official other than the Mayor, then the Mayor was also included as a member of the Executive Committee, most likely to address the requirement of having “the Mayor of the largest city in the five-county region” as a member. For example, if the Planning Director was an officer, but the Mayor was not, then the Mayor was still included on the Executive Committee.

In other years, including most recently, the Board officers have consisted of a Commissioner or Executive from each county and the Mayor of Cleveland, satisfying all the requirements of Section 6.3 without needing any additional members.

At recent Governance Committee meetings, members have discussed whether the current language in Section 6.3 clearly and sufficiently aligns with the intent and practice of the Board relative to the membership of the Executive Committee. This issue could be addressed in several ways.

1. The Governance Committee can, based on the existing text of the Code and in their role as Nominating Committee, recommend to the Board any slate of officers. In this scenario, the Executive Committee would be comprised of all the Board officers and any additional members necessary to satisfy the geographic representation requirement including the Mayor of Cleveland allowing for six to twelve members.
2. The Governance Committee can recommend a Code amendment to codify the current practice. For example, amending Section 4.3 to explicitly state that there are six officer positions that rotate between members representing each county and the city of Cleveland and amend Section 6.3 that these officers are the members of the Executive Committee.
3. The Governance Committee could recommend a Code amendment to Section 6.3 and/or Section 4.3 to change the current practice and existing requirements while still explicitly stating who can serve as a Board officer and Executive Committee member and the number of members.
4. The membership of subcommittees and committees includes the Chair of any councils or subcommittees that report to that group. NOACA’s HR, Personnel, and Organizational Development Subcommittee currently reports directly to the Executive Committee. Should this subcommittee become permanent, the Chair could be added as a member of the Executive Committee, ensuring a minimum of seven members.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact for this item.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

If directed by the Committee, further research and analysis will be undertaken.

GG:EB



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.

