

Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on January 29, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers located at 470 Center Street, Building #8 in Chardon, Ohio.

It is declared and determined that all formal actions of the Board of County Commissioners concerning and relating to the adoption of all resolutions that were adopted in this meeting, and that all deliberations of the Board of County Commissioners that resulted in such formal action were open to the public and were in compliance with all legal requirements, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The President of the Board, Walter M. Claypool opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

DOG WARDEN

Dog Warden Matt Granito explained to the Board that after 6:00 p.m. this evening a no cost "robo-call" was going to be placed to landline phone numbers with a reminder about 2015 dog licenses and that after the deadline of January 31, 2015 the cost would increase from \$15.00 to \$30.00. A brief discussion was held regarding the number of people that don't license their dogs being around 1,500 and that the hope was to track statistics based off the number of licenses purchased each year, after the call was made and the number of non-renewals, noting that the call would include the phone number and website for the Auditor's Office where licenses can be purchased. Mr. Granito stated that he would come back and give the Board an update on the results with hope that if the results are good, they will repeat the call again next year.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – TITLE XX COUNTY PROFILE

Executive Director Craig Swenson explained that the Title XX grant received \$187,000.00 last year that is used for a number of services. Mr. Swenson explained that the proposal must be submitted prior to January 31, 2015 and that they will hold a public hearing in the spring and if the need is there another proposal can be submitted asking for additional funds. Mr. Swenson explained that this allocation is for the same amount that they received last year, adding that the whole amount of the funds were used. Commissioner Claypool inquired about the line items in the proposal being broken down by the services that they will be used for and an estimate of the number of people it is expected to serve.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Title XX County Profiles for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 and October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>

TIME SCHEDULE FOR BOARD APPOINTMENTS – DRAFT POLICY

Commissioner Claypool presented the Board with a DRAFT policy for Board Selection that he had prepared with assistance from David Lair, Christine Blair and Linda Burhenne and that he would like to see it put into the policy manual. It was noted that it was categorized by Board versus Advisory Board positions, and further determined that the Law Library was missing from the list and needed to be added. The Board reviewed a list of appointments that still needed to be made for the Family Services Planning Committee, Western Reserve RC &D, Law Library, Planning Commission, NOC COG – Area 19 WIB, and Fair Housing, and determined a time line to make these appointments based on information that they have currently, as well as the need to obtain additional information to get the appointments made and taken care of and then establish the process to make it easier to do going forward. The Board agreed to review what they received regarding Family Services Planning and fast track these appointments and place them on the February 3rd agenda. Mr. Swenson expressed that he would submit a recommendation for a twelfth person to the committee.

Mr. Claypool brought up the Western Reserve RC & D and that the Board has not paid dues to the organization in several years and brought up the idea of withdrawing. The idea of the Commissioners withdrawing and referring the pending appointment to the Soil and Water Conservation District was brought up and the Board agreed to the following:

Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to withdraw from the Western Reserve R C & D organization and draft an appropriate letter to send requesting any additional procedure that they would need for the Board to formally withdraw.

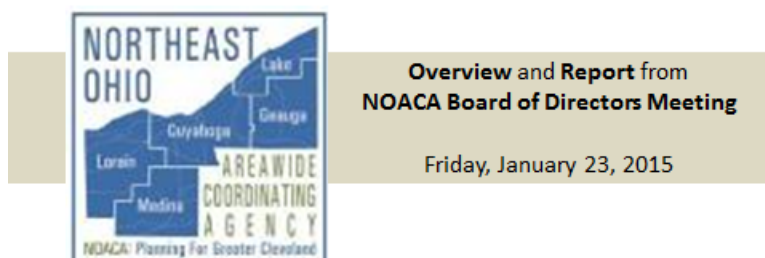
<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>

The Board agreed to review applications for the Law Library that are coming in through referral and look to have the appointment on for the February 24th agenda. Mr. Claypool stated that he wanted to see additional time for the Planning Commission as he was aware of some potential additional applications for consideration. Commissioner Rear expressed concern over having a deadline for a time frame to accept applications in order to get the appointments made. A brief discussion was held regarding the NOC COG being the Board of Officials and that the Area 19 WIB was the Board on which we have vacant positions that need filled but having requirements to those positions. Mr. Lair noted that each of the three counties have 11 positions, and those are specific to education, business, economic development and so forth. Mr. Swenson added Margo Reda was the best person to contact regarding information and possible recommendations for the vacant positions and agreed to set up a meeting to get more information and ideas for possible candidates. Mr. Claypool brought up the Fair Housing Commission and that the Board was overseen by Ms. Stocker at Community Development and that he would be in contact with her to establish a timeframe to make the appointment.

NOACA PRESENTATION

Commissioner Claypool gave the following presentation:

NOACA
(Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency)




Mr. Claypool stated that he wanted to have a discussion about NOACA that it was not an attack that he just wanted to discuss the realities, as things are not always what they seem. This is an educational presentation to show you from their material what they are all about.

Objective

- o To provide perspective – the big picture
- o To provide insight – what’s behind the curtain
- o To provide context for how we develop a working relationship with NOACA

Who is NOACA?




NOACA

Overview

- Federally designated metropolitan planning organization for Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Medina and Lorain Counties
- Responsible for regional transportation and environmental planning
- Prepares region’s long-range transportation plan and short-range transportation improvement program
 - Prioritizes and schedules federally funded transportation projects

Mr. Claypool stated that the Federal Government says we have to have MPO’s but specifies nothing about how they are organized, adding that NOACA is unique in the state of Ohio as they are a Council of Government. Mr. Claypool stated that he wants to underline this, as this is what they will tell you.



NOACA

Overview

- Funding Sources:
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
 - US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Annual dues paid by local member governments
 - **Geauga County dues: \$31,773**

Mr. Claypool noted that most of the funding that they handle is the \$0.18 gallon Federal gas tax that is provided, and the \$0.28 gallon Ohio gas tax that is dictated by the Ohio Constitution as to how it is spent. Mr. Claypool stated that we, “Geauga County” pay out about \$260 million a year and get back about \$26 million, noting that it is about \$10 million from Federal Tax and \$16 million from Ohio Tax. Mr. Claypool stated that he feels that no matter where it is purchased it should come back to the County that you live in.

Regionalism vs. Collaboration between Republics

Regionalism	Collaboration between Republics
<p>Regional governments and their initiatives are driven by government, not by the people. Government, by its very nature, seeks to increase its power and overcome any obstacle in its path. Regional Governance diminishes the power of local governments by conferring increasing levels of authority on the executive branch, which implements its authority through appointed bureaucrats unaccountable to the people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centralized planning• Tax Sharing• Unaccountable/unelected nonprofit boards• Remote fiscal management	<p>A Republic is a form of government in which the supreme power rests with the people and representatives or officers are officially granted alienable powers by the people to represent them in “public matters” via a constitution. These alienable powers, given by the people, can also be taken away by the people, if abused by their elected representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No tax sharing• Sovereignty and local accountability maintained• Shared resource agreements between communities• Local fiscal management

Mr. Claypool stated that NOACA is a perfect example of Regionalism, noting that Geauga County only has three votes out of the forty-four member NOACA Board. A local resident inquired why Geauga only has three votes, to which Mr. Claypool explained that it is dictated

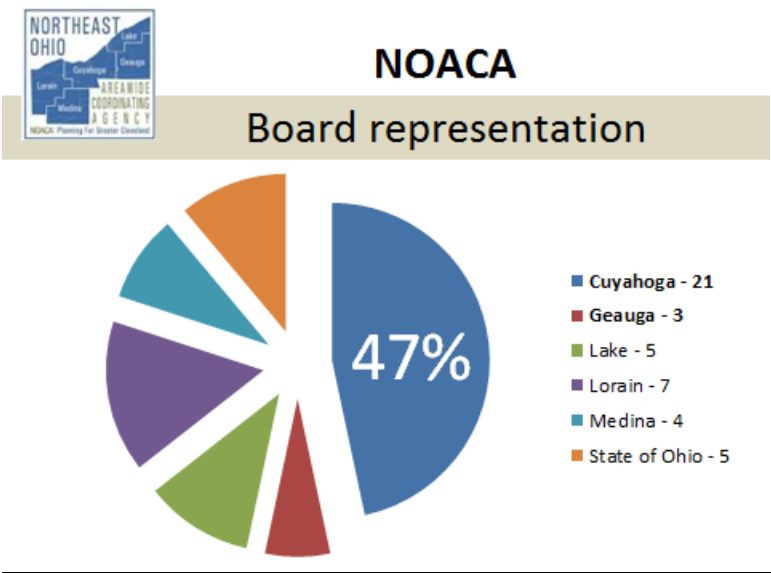
Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015

per the Code of Regulations that Geauga County only has the three Commissioners, adding that last week the Board passed a resolution requesting NOACA set a minimum standard that it be the three Commissioners and the County Engineer. That resident then asked why the County Engineer was not appointed, to which it was again stated that the Code of Regulations states it is the three Commissioners. Mr. Claypool stated that this is the reality of what we have to work with, and that the same Code of Regulations determines how we operate and that the President of NOACA gets to say who is representing us (the County). Nancy McArthur expressed that it is her understanding that all three of the Commissioners can attend and also choose an alternate and asked why the County Engineer was not chosen as an alternate. Mr. Claypool stated that it happened for a variety of reasons, as each of us gets to choose an alternate, adding that he chose Linda Burhenne as his alternate, and since he attends the meetings, Ms. Burhenne will not probably attend, but she has worked for the county for ten years, has served as an alternate for previous Commissioners, and that she knows the county, NOACA and expresses the same thoughts, beliefs and views as himself. Mr. Claypool cannot speak to other choices. There was a brief discussion on the order of alternates being chosen, and why Mr. Spidalieri who had chosen last didn't appoint Mr. Cattell, but instead chose Ms. Laurie who doesn't live in the County and was recently employed at the County. Commissioner Spidalieri responded by explaining that Kim Laurie was born and raised in Geauga County and during her run for candidacy for Commissioner in Lake County, he found that they shared a lot of the same values and views, adding that he doesn't feel it mattered on the voting order, because he had already decided to have Ms. Laurie as his alternate. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that he was under the impression that Mr. Rear was going have Mr. Cattell as his alternate and was surprised when it was changed to Ms. Samide but that he had already decided that Ms. Laurie was his choice. There was discussion about how many meetings that he had attended, to which it was noted he had attended two due to the content on the agenda. It was noted that Mr. Claypool was Mr. Spidalieri's prior alternate and that they had many discussions on the meetings that he had attended for him. Mr. Claypool added that he has known Ms. Laurie for a number of years, that her family lives here and that she now works for the County, and has been doing a good job and attending those meetings and learning about the organization. Mr. Spidalieri added that depending on what is on the agenda he may attend if he needs to but most often will send Ms. Laurie as his alternate. A local resident addressed to the Board that she feels that the alternate positions should be filled by residents of Geauga County, adding that it has nothing to do with either Ms. Laurie or Ms. Burhenne. Mr. Claypool replied that he respects that opinion, but that as an Elected Official you want someone that will best represent you at the table and vote on your behalf. Ms. Laurie stated that she wanted to defend herself since she was there, continuing by stating that she does not represent Lake County because she was not asked to represent them, but that just because she doesn't live in Geauga County currently, that doesn't mean that she had forgotten everything that she experienced and learned growing up in Geauga County. Mr. Claypool expressed that he feels it is very important to get the right people to represent you at the table, and that we needed other people at the table besides the rubber stamper unelected bureaucrats that are at the table.

Local resident Bob Rogish inquired if there would ever be a time that Lake and Geauga could be in a competition for grant money that they may vote for those funds. Ms. Laurie added that it is not a competition, but that it would be a vote for funding of projects. Mr. Rogish asked about the positions that other Counties have like Lorain County to which Mr. Claypool stated that it is done through the Code of Regulations, regarding which Mr. Spidalieri noted that currently Lorain County has two Mayors, the County Engineer, Township Trustees and Commissioners in their seats. It was noted that NOACA decides the number of positions per county and the Commissioners decide their choices to put into those seats, but in the case of Geauga County it dictates that we have the three Commissioners in our seats. Mr. Claypool stated that regarding one of the most important committees, the transportation committee, our County Engineer Joe Cattell sits on that Board along with Deputy Engineers from his office, and that is important to get our projects on the lists for funding. Mr. Claypool stated that the Board votes on a wholesale list of projects, and that the projects are picked by the subcommittees. Mr. Spidalieri added that the Board can choose to send Mr. Cattell as an alternate for a specific meeting if it is necessary for him to be at a meeting adding that Mr. Cattell is a great Engineer and has great communication with the Board and will approach the Board if he needs to have a voice at a meeting. It was stated that there is no one on the Board that doesn't want to best for Geauga County. Mr. Spidalieri added while we are still outnumbered, it would still be nice to have the County Engineer have his own seat on the Board. Mr. Rear stated that a resolution had been previously passed similar to the one done recently regarding having the County Engineer placed as a fourth seat for Geauga County with no results thus far received from NOACA and that the

Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015

County was still only at three seats. Mr. Rear went on to state that his concern of having Mr. Cattell seated as an alternate would not give the Board any kind of bargaining chip or incentive for NOACA to give Geauga that fourth seat, because on NOACA's side that it wouldn't be warranted since he was already on as that alternate.



Mr. Claypool stated that you can clearly see Geauga County is at a disadvantage.

NOACA
Challenges

Resolutions	
2015-004	Regional Strategic Plan
2015-006	Committee Memberships
2015-014	Safety and Operations Council
2015-016	Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Policy
2015-018	NOACA Legislative Agenda

Mr. Claypool stated that these were the resolutions that were before them and while they could have voted no on everything, they only voted no on the ones that were really important, and these were the ones that they voted no on, and one person from Geauga voted yes.

Mr. Claypool stated that this is right out of their regional planning document.


NOACA
Regional Strategic Plan

Don't listen to what they say, but watch what they do. We are told NOACA takes care of infrastructure (roads, bridges, mass transit, etc.)

"A strategic plan differs substantially from these types of plans. The NOACA Regional Strategic Plan is fundamentally not a transportation planning document, but an organizational development document. It is less concerned with the state of the transportation system, and more concerned with the demographic and economic trends that will shape the region over the next 20 to 30 years. Plans like the TIP and LRTP are tools that NOACA uses."
Source: NOACA Strategic Plan: Introduction, 2nd paragraph, page 1

"Balancing the competing interests of a region of extraordinary diversity, ranging from compact urban neighborhoods to sprawling suburbs and productive agricultural lands, has always been a challenge for NOACA. The NOACA region also faces many challenges related to growth, development and economic sustainability. The regional population is not growing, but is growing older. The regional economy, while showing signs of life in some sectors, has struggled for many years to create jobs and attract outside investment. The region has long experienced expansion in its urban and..."
NOACA Strategic Plan: Introduction, 3rd paragraph, page 1

Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015



NOACA


Regional Strategic Plan Basis

It is important to note that the development of this plan has relied upon the hard work of NOACA's 45-member Board of Directors, its partners, and its stakeholders, as well as on the many current and previous agency plans, transportation plans, and strategic plans of other municipalities and public agencies serving the NOACA region. Plans of particular importance in the development of the Regional Strategic Plan have been:

- NOACA's most recent Long Range Transportation Plan, *Connections* 2035*
- The *Vibrant NEO 2040* report, released in 2013, and the ongoing work of the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC)
- Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's (GCRTA) *Strategic Plan 2010-2020*, released in 2012
- *Broadening Urban Investment to Leverage Transit (BUILT) in Cleveland*, developed by the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) in 2011

What is missing here?

Mr. Claypool stated that what is not in there is the voice of the communities and the voice of the people paying their salaries.



NOACA

Examples

What drives NOACA's plans?

Younger generations, in particular the Millennial generation (born between 1983 and 2000), drive significantly less than previous generations of young Americans. Millennials tend to prefer walkable urban neighborhoods over suburbs, and prefer public transit, bicycling, and walking to driving.

* Source: NOACA Strategic Plan page 9, paragraph 1

Will Geauga County be impacted?

NOACA will foster the success of communities with regard to quality of life and economic strength through targeted transportation investments that create a multimodal regional transportation system in the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina.

* Source: NOACA Strategic Plan page 14, paragraph 2

Mr. Claypool stated that once his kids had kids that not one of them wanted to walk or ride a bike, especially today to all their kids practices and activities. Mr. Claypool stated that he was not allowed to challenge the source and the fundamental premise of the strategy, adding that source is PIRG (Public Interest Research Group). Mr. Claypool stated that the Board at the time, which included Ms. Samide voted to opt out of the plan, sent a resolution that stated we did not want to be included in the plan, but NOACA did not care and included us in the plan anyway.

2010

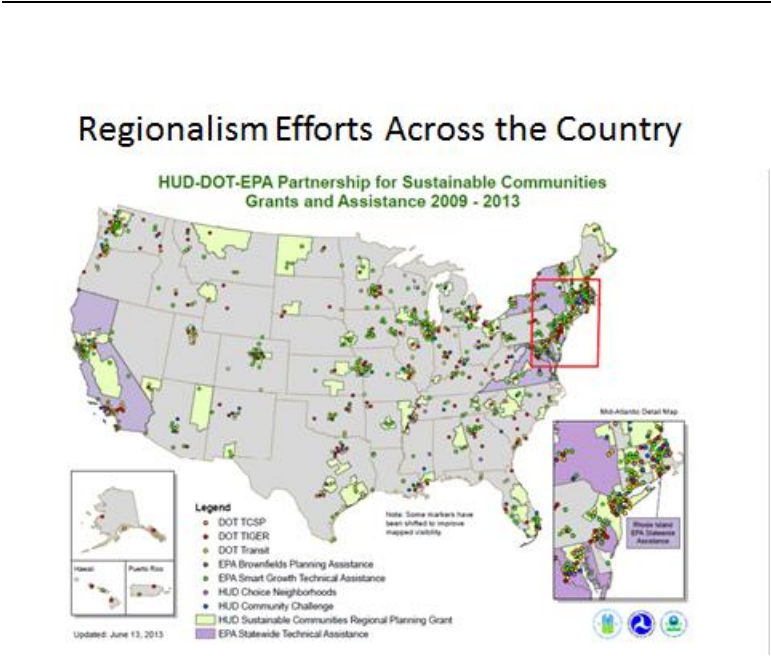


Mr. Claypool stated that this is a segment right out of the HUD Grant. Asking who was the wealthiest county in northeastern Ohio? Geauga, who is not the wealthiest county? Cuyahoga

and who wants the re-distribution of the wealth? Mr. Claypool asked how many people read the grant application that was submitted from NEOSCC – no one, he continued, stating that I asked how many people that read the law that governs NOACA, and the answer was two people, Grace Gallucci and himself. Mr. Claypool asked how many people had read the NEOSCC study that they were ready to approve, four people. Mr. Claypool stated that this is the pattern of how decisions are being made without really understanding what those decisions are based on.

NEOSCC
Goals

Historic patterns of development have not led to an equal distribution of community amenities or access to jobs, education, neighborhood services, open spaces, transit, and municipal programs. This has resulted in disparities in health, income, food access, education, and employment options. Our regional planning effort will identify how to best deploy resources to address these historic inequities through targeted community development, use or reuse of existing infrastructure, and the restoration of natural systems throughout the region.



2012

VIBRANT NEO 2040

In 2012 NEOSCC launched **Vibrant NEO 2040: A Framework for Our Future**. Vibrant NEO 2040 is a regional visioning and **decision-making framework**, which will lead to a more **economically and socially equitable** future for the region.

"Vibrant NEO 2040 will be a roadmap that needs to be followed. It will be a plan that we all need to see implemented. So, to ensure Consortium member have bought into Vibrant NEO 2040 and carry its vision, NEOSCC will seek the approval of Vibrant NEO 2040 by its Governing Board in October 2013."

www.vibrantneo.org

Ms. Laurie noted that the Vibrant 2040 Visioning plan is what they spent the money from the grant on. Mr. Claypool added that social equity does not have anything to do with transportation.



Mr. Claypool stated that all of these counties are going to be impacted by this plan, as a Federal effort to push the plan across Ohio and the country. Local resident Elsie Tarcey mentioned the Greenway Project website asking for input that consisted of questions that you could not include any comments or additional input, adding that not everyone wants the bike path.



Mr. Claypool stated that no input was obtained from Geauga County, and questioned who was driving the decision process.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Sample Recommendations

- Promote infill development in established cities and towns
- Develop a robust network of regional centers connected by multimodal corridors
- Maximize investment in existing roads before building new ones



HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Sample Recommendations

- Enhance and integrate regional public transit services
- Make walking, biking, and transit better and more accessible mobility choices



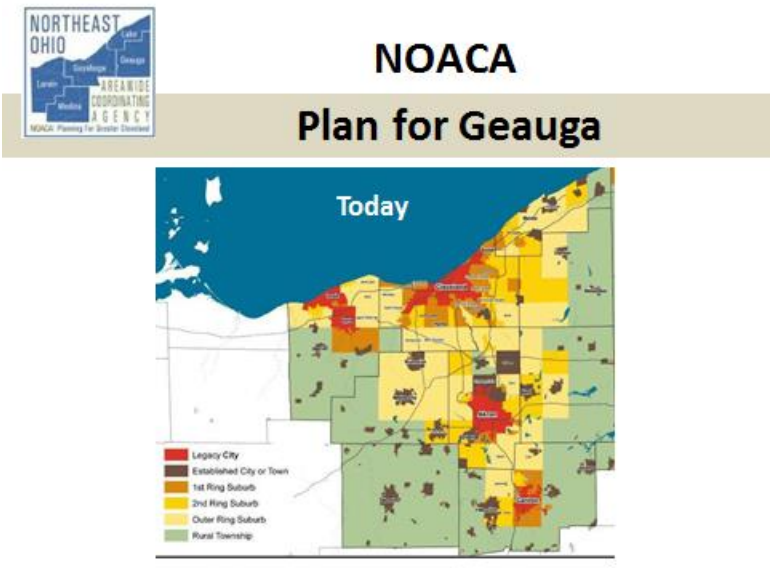
HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Sample Recommendations


- Develop a regional approach to knowledge sharing, coordination, and action on water and soil resources
- Introduce ecological functions to vacant and underutilized urban land as well as public land where such treatments are effective and appropriate
- Partner with individual landowners and organizations to secure ecologically and agriculturally valuable land for future use



Mr. Claypool stated that they have a term called location efficiencies, meaning that if they establish this at a high enough level then people don't have to drive cars, adding that they feel young people want to walk and ride bikes. It's a psychological process that if you hear it enough you will want to do it.

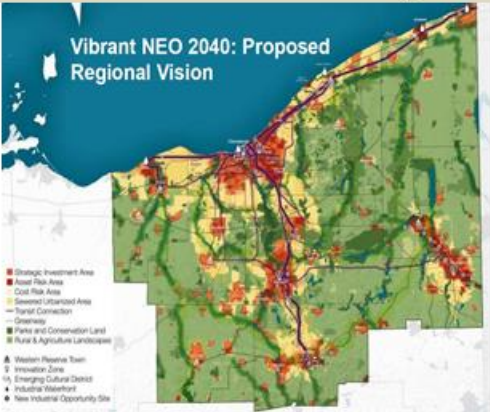



There was discussion with the audience regarding Geauga County being a second ring suburb of Cleveland and being referred to as part of the Greater Cleveland area, and the drive of economic wealth coming from Cuyahoga County, and that the big jobs are in Cleveland. Mr. Spidalieri added that he believed what was being said is that Geauga gives more than what we get back, that we are a donor county. Mr. Claypool added that they want to make decisions for us based on where we live, that their plan is to change the culture and take tax dollars, and the strategic investment areas that they want to connect bike paths and increase the number of parks in our county, noting that the land then comes off the tax rolls and we pay for that.



NOACA


Plan for Geauga





NOACA

Vote Tallies – January 23, 2015



Resolution	Mary	Skip	Kim
Regional Strategic Plan	Yes	No	No
Committee Memberships	Yes	No	No
Safety and Operations Council	Yes	No	-
Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Policy	Yes	No	No
NOACA Legislative Agenda	Yes	No	No

There was discussion on how the voting tally had been obtained since Mr. Rear asked for the tally and that they did not have it, but Ms. Laurie and Mr. Claypool stated that they record it, and anyone voting no has to state their name. Mr. Laurie noted that the tally will be included in the meeting minutes. The audio in this presentation was attempted to be played and could not be heard. Mr. Spidalieri inquired about what Mr. Ryder was inquiring about how the vote is taken, whether or not it is done as a roll call vote or a voice vote, to which it was noted that it is done as a voice vote.

We Elect Our:

- State House Representative
- State Senator
- County Commissioners
- Township Trustees / City Council
- Mayors

Mr. Claypool stated that we elect officials to vote on these things and the NOACA structure undermines that and takes the elected officials out of the equation.

But who is really in control at NOACA?

(b) Membership: Unless otherwise specifically set forth, Standing Committee and Subcommittee members shall be appointed by the President of the Board of Directors with approval of the Board.

Source: NOACA Code of regulations page 10, section 6.2

If NOACA does these things, it will have a real goal and strategy for transforming Northeast Ohio. It will help create the multimodal transportation system that more and more people are seeking. And it will make our region more resilient and sustainable.

Source: NOACA strategic plan page 103, last paragraph.

Mr. Claypool stated that this came out of the last page of the NOACA strategy document, adding that he doesn't want his transportation planning organization being in charge of transforming northeast Ohio, that he wants pot holes filled in, that bridges don't fall down and that our roads and highways are taken care of.

Safety and Operations Council

“The intent is to bring together the E’s of safety into one group (engineering, enforcement, education, emergency response and evaluation) and provide a forum to discuss overlapping issues of safety and operations.”

Do we need yet another bureaucracy sapping our tax dollars and governing our communities?

Mr. Claypool stated that he and Ms. Laurie voted no against the Safety and Operations Council, not that he is against safety, but just not sure if we need another organization having oversight over our agencies. They passed it, so there will be another council.

TLCI Program Goals

NOACA's TLCI planning program is a competitive grant program that funds activities that specifically facilitate and promote sustainable development, multimodal transportation, and complete and green streets.

This is a planning program

Cannot fund activities such as:

- Preliminary Engineering and Design
- Right-of-Way Acquisition
- Construction

NORTHEAST OHIO

Lake
Cuyahoga
Geauga
Lorain
Medina


AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

NOACA: Planning For Greater Cleveland

TLCI PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Environmental Design Group

Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015



NOACA

TLCI Evaluation – April 2013



Since 2006, NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) has helped northeast Ohio plan for more livable communities. Through integrated land use and transportation planning, TLCI planning studies have helped local partners strategize and prioritize redevelopment in conjunction with transportation improvements. Through planning, TLCI sponsors are able to identify and begin to develop both transportation projects and development opportunities that advance NOACA's long-range transportation plan goals and its vision for Greater Cleveland.

The TLCI program provides federal funding assistance to communities and public agencies to complete plans that improve livability¹. Per application round, NOACA's Governing Board awards up to \$1 million in planning grants for eligible sponsors to develop innovative plans through a comprehensive, community-based planning process. Because the TLCI program is meant to lead to project development, only planning activities are eligible for the planning grant. NOACA expects that transportation projects recommended through TLCIs will compete at the regional level for capital funds through NOACA's regional transportation investment process.

¹ An overview of livability planning can be found at <http://www.dot.gov/livability>



United States
Department of Transportation

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Livability

Livability 101
Grants and Programs
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Case Studies
FAQs
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Home ► Policy Initiatives ► Livability

Livability



"Livability means being able to take your kids to school, go to work, see a doctor, drop by the grocery or Post Office, go out to dinner and a movie, and play with your kids at the park – all without having to get in your car" - Ray LaRocca




FEEDBACK
Submit questions and comments to:
livability@dot.gov

Related Links

- FTA Livability
- FHWA Livability
- EPA Smart Growth Information
- HUD Sustainable Housing Information

Contact Us
Office of Safety, Energy and the Environment

Mr. Claypool stated that this is the definition of Livability from the Department of Transportation website. Mr. Ryder expressed that this has been going on for a number of years and asked what Mr. Claypool has discovered that is new, that it just appears to escalate over the years. Mr. Claypool stated that while this is true, they are called progressives for a reason, and that we need to start pushing back on them. Mr. Claypool stated that NOACA has not been as deeply involved as they are today, and that is new. Local resident Ms. Poletta explained that what Mr. Claypool is discussing has been in the background and is just been brought to the forefront to her, and she appreciates that. Someone else stated that the difference is people are waking up, and another asked how we get out of this club?



NOACA

Legislative Agenda

NOACA's Legislative Platform

- Represents **consensus-driven** principles that have been approved by NOACA's 45-member board
- Intended to guide policy analysis and advocacy
- Places a premium on **sustainability**

Federal Legislative Priorities

- Specific requests from NOACA to Congress
- Strengthen MPO's control

State Legislative Priorities

- Constitutional Amendment to allow state gas tax dollars to fund multimodal transportation

Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015

Mr. Claypool stated that those advocating for these programs, want to change the Ohio Constitution so that they can take dollars from the gas tax and use them for bike paths and trails, adding that he doesn't have a problem with bike paths and trails but wants them to stand on their own merit. Mr. Claypool stated that he has a meeting set up with ODOT, State Representative LaTourette and Senator Eklund in a week or so to discuss what is happening, and to find out if at the Ohio level there is a way to change this. Mr. Ryder asked if Mr. Claypool had spoken with other MPO's that are in similar situations to Geauga, to which Mr. Claypool stated that out of 88 counties, only 33 are in MPO's. Mr. Claypool stated that what he has found is that they don't read the bills, that they are asleep at the switch and that he hates to say it that way.



NOACA

Legislative Agenda: Ohio Constitutional Amendment

Background: Article XII Section 5(a) of the Ohio State Constitution prohibits the usage of state gas tax funds for any other mode of transportation than highways. This is a Depression-era policy when the Federal program was not inclusive of multimodal transportation.

Requested action: The State of Ohio should allow the same flexibility to solve transportation solutions locally as it demands from the Federal government. For the purposes of the biennial budget, it should be specifically defined what multimodal projects are consistent with Section 5(a) and most importantly what projects can not be funded.

The NOACA issue is complex with no simple answers

Point 1: MPO's are a political reality and Geauga County receives about \$2 million infrastructure dollars through NOACA. To be clear this is our money being routed back through NOACA. Geauga County contributes about \$10 million federal gas tax dollars and receive back about \$2 million. We contribute about \$16 million and receive back \$4 million in Ohio tax dollars.

Point 2: In our current situation Geauga County is at the mercy of NOACA, which is dominated by a progressive Cleveland and Cuyahoga County political structure. To date we have NOT had enough assertive leaders who recognize the challenge, and we need to develop a strategy that looks out for our county.

Point 3: If Geauga County were to leave NOACA, it appears NOACA would still hold jurisdiction over our air and water quality planning, thus providing an avenue to still control other things that they view may impact our air or water.

Point 4: NOACA has a larger plan to transform the region and they will do so using any tactic. This is a part of the Federal plan to transform our way of life. If we don't want to be transformed we need to find strategies to resist encroachments on our local sovereignty.

Mr. Claypool stated that NOACA is a reality; we are not going to leave, adding that he was not going to interfere with or lose the \$2 million dollars that we get for our Engineer to improve our roads and bridges. Mr. Claypool stated that we need to inform people and contact our legislators and tell them no, that there is too much waste in the system. Mr. Claypool stated that on Interstate 71 they are putting soundproofing walls up along farm fields, adding that it costs \$1 million dollars a mile for that wall.

Mr. Claypool stated that NOACA put together four options for Geauga County to leave NOACA, adding that we (Gauga County) never asked for that and that he asked for evidence of the county ever asking to leave NOACA. Mr. Claypool stated that this was not going to be easy and that he doesn't have all the answers.

Mr. Ryder asked about the calculations for the gas tax estimate previously given, to which Mr. Claypool stated that Mr. Cattell stated that there are 95,000 registrations, AAA website states that the average car drives 15,000 miles a year and the average mile per gallon is 25 mpg then multiply that by 18 cents for the Federal Tax and 28 cents for the State Tax. In the State of Ohio there is a sheet that shows exactly what is given back to each County within the State, however 75% is taken for ODOT first. Each County is given \$4 million in the State of Ohio from gas tax

Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015

revenues. Mr. Claypool stated that in Geauga County there is about 1000 miles of roads and the County Engineer takes care of 800 of those miles and the State takes care of the other 200, and asked the State why they don't give us the 75% and we'll take care of our own roads, to which the State said you can't do that. Mr. Claypool added that the County Engineer has stated that he could hire people and take care of all the roads. Mr. Claypool stated that as you can see there is a lot more to NOACA than Roads and Bridges and they have a plan with new interest in transforming Northeast Ohio and he plans to resist that plan. Ms. Laurie added that the transportation bills that come out are continuing to give MPO's more authority and now adding authority over housing, through HUD. Mr. Claypool asked when are we going to fight back and say when is it going to stop.

There was discussion with the audience regarding the number of meetings that NOACA holds and how many the Board members have attended versus their alternates. Mr. Claypool added that each of the members has the right to pick their own alternate and the board cannot interfere with each other's choices.

Mr. Spidalieri asked the question, that since we work for the residents if anyone disagreed with the information that has been presented, to which the consensus seemed to be that we want to get our money for our roads, but the rest of NOACA'S activities are just a waste of time. Mr. Spidalieri added that they bring people in and have them do presentations that are mission specific about putting bike paths and trails in, yet as you drive to the meeting you need a mouthpiece because the roads are so bad with pot holes. The issue of Newcomb Road in Middlefield Township was raised again regarding the number of accidents, and the complaints that he hears because the road is a township road and that the County cannot do anything to assist with improving it. Mr. Spidalieri asked how you can put a value on life, the loss of a limb, noting that a family he knows rolled their buggy and the baby fell out of the buggy, and luckily was not injured. Mr. Spidalieri stated that it is tough, but we really need to focus on getting roads repaired that currently put our public at risk. There was discussion about funds being earmarked for specific projects, and that with some level of push back you have a chance to change policy, but with no push back it will continue to go on without question. While not accepting those funds would not have helped the road in Middlefield, he stated that those funds can be used not only for bike paths but also buggy trails and can be used to improve roads for buggy trails. Mr. Claypool stated that awareness is something that needs to happen, because if you are not aware you cannot submit for projects unless you know you can utilize it. Mr. Spidalieri stated that we like rustic Geauga or we'd be living in Cleveland Heights, and while we are never going to stop growth we do need to do something to keep the Amish population here; it is important to understand, if cooler heads prevail, and we take a step back and look at the whole situation, there is a lot of passion, we have great people that support us, we need to get behind them, because we have the best interest in our heart and actions to keep what we have here and to see what we can bring back for Geauga County. Mr. Spidalieri stated that we need to hit the reset button and settle down and give people an opportunity, that we all want the best for our families and for the people of Geauga County. Mr. Spidalieri stated that you need to give us a chance to move forward.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Minutes from November 19, 2014
- b) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending January 14, 2015 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Fri., 1/30 NOACA – Subcommittee meetings, Air Quality 9:00 a.m., Transportation 10:30 a.m., and Water Quality 12:00 p.m., Cleveland

Tue., 2/3 The Commissioners' will hold regular session, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015

Wed., 2/4 NEO Consortium COG Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Building #8

Sun – Tues 2/8- 2/10 Commissioners Training Seminar, Sheraton Columbus

Mon., 2/9 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m., Auditor's Office

*Tue., 2/10 **The regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting has been cancelled.***

Tue., 2/10 Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon

Thu., 2/12 NOACA – Planning and Programming, 11:00 a.m., Cleveland

Fri., 2/13 NOACA – External Affairs 8:30 a.m., Policy 10:00 a.m., Cleveland

Fri., 2/13 Leadership Geauga Government Day, Luncheon, 12:00 p.m. St. Mary's Party Center

*Mon., 2/16 **County offices will be closed for general business due to the President's Day holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

Tue., 2/17 The Commissioners' will hold regular session, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Fri., 2/20 NOACA – Transit Council 9:00 a.m., Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory 10:30 a.m., Cleveland

Mon., 2/23 Family First Council, 2:00 p.m., Mental Health Offices

Tue., 2/24 The Commissioners' will hold regular session, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Thu., 2/26 The Commissioners' will hold regular session, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Fri., 2/27 NOACA – Finance/Audit 8:30 a.m., Governance 10:00 a.m., and Executive 11:30 a.m., Cleveland

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Gauga County Board of Commissioners

Walter M. Claypool

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

Commissioners' Journal
January 29, 2015

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