



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: September 4, 2015

RE: **Resolution 2015-051**
Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) 2015 Project Priorities

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board of Directors is asked to approve the 2015 TRAC project priorities. The Planning and Programming Committee recommended this item for approval at its July 10, 2015 meeting.

BACKGROUND

The TRAC has the responsibility for selecting major new transportation projects for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The TRAC announced the solicitation of projects for its 2015 round on May 28, 2015 and applications were due June 30, 2015. Projects eligible for submittal were projects that have a total cost greater than \$12 million, add transportation capacity or reduce congestion, and are critical to the mobility, economic development, and quality of life of the citizens of Ohio. Four applications have been submitted to the TRAC for projects within the NOACA five-county region. All four applications request funds for further development of existing TRAC projects. There were no applications submitted for new projects in the NOACA region.

In 2014, staff worked with the Transportation Subcommittee and Planning and Programming Committee to develop a new project priority scoring approach using criteria intended to align with NOACA's regional strategic plan vision and goals. At their June 19, 2015 meeting, the TS reviewed the approach and recommended that it be utilized again in 2015 to determine project prioritization. Evaluation and scoring based on this approach results in the following priority listing which is identical to the approved 2014 priority listing:

1. **ODOT District 12: Cuyahoga – Interstate 480 Eastbound Auxiliary Lane** – The project includes construction of an auxiliary lane on I-480EB from the Lee Road entrance ramp to the I-480/I-271 split, just west of the Miles Road exit. The District recently completed the \$7M reconstruction of the Warrensville Center Road Bridge over I-480, which removed a pier that previously limited lane configurations. The District was recently informed of the award of \$5M in ODOT Safety Program funds toward the auxiliary lane project, contingent upon the successful award of TRAC funds. This proposal requests \$9.2 million funding for construction in SFY 2017.
2. **ODOT District 12: Cuyahoga – Innerbelt Corridor Construction Contract Group 7A (IR71 SB)** – The project includes construction of a deceleration lane on I-71 southbound for the SR-176 exit, just south of the West 14th Street overpass. Currently, the entire CCG7 is on Tier 3 of the TRAC for \$162M in construction. ODOT District 12 is requesting to advance \$7M of the \$162M total project to advance construction of the deceleration lane.

3. **ODOT District 12: Cuyahoga – Innerbelt Corridor Construction Contract Group 3 (Central Interchange)** – The project includes improvements to the “Central Interchange” on I-90 between East 9th Street and East 22nd Street, and along I-77 north of the Kingsbury Run Bridge. It is currently a Tier 1 TRAC project with detail design funds in FY2014 and partial construction in FY2025. The project was originally divided into three phases (CCG3A, 3B, and 3C). Design has been initiated for the work of all phases. The TRAC application requests construction funds for all three phases as one construction project in FY2018. The construction year request is based on the anticipated completion of CCG2 in the fall of 2016 and project readiness to meet a continuous construction schedule of the Innerbelt Corridor.
4. **ODOT District 3: Medina – SR – 18 Corridor** – The project is located in Medina County along the east/west corridor of SR-18 between the City of Medina and IR-71. The proposed project will widen this roadway to five lanes from Foote to River Styx Road and from five to seven lanes from River Styx Road to Nettleton Road. This proposal requests additional funding for the next phase of project development including right of way acquisitions and services in SFY 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

With Board approval, the recommended 2015 TRAC project priorities will be communicated to the TRAC for consideration in their evaluation of projects for funding.

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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina, and the areawide water quality management agency for the same region; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) has the responsibility for selecting major new transportation projects for the Ohio Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, eligible projects are those that have a total cost greater than \$12 million, add transportation capacity or reduce congestion, and are critical to the mobility, economic development, and quality of life of the citizens of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the NOACA has received four eligible applications submitted to the TRAC in 2015 for funding consideration; and

WHEREAS, all four applications request funds for further development of existing TRAC projects, there were no applications submitted for new projects this round; and

WHEREAS, the TRAC requires every MPO region to prioritize and rank the projects applying to TRAC for funding consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Subcommittee recommend that staff utilize the TRAC project scoring criteria developed in 2014 to evaluate projects; and

WHEREAS, the staff evaluation considered only the four eligible projects that are applying to TRAC for funding this year and is not considered an evaluation and ranking of the whole NOACA program; and

WHEREAS, the project priorities remain the same as the 2014 approved priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of 45 principal officials serving general purpose local governments throughout and within the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina that:

Section 1. The regional priorities are hereby approved in the following order:

1. **Cuyahoga – Interstate 480 Eastbound Auxiliary Lane** – The project includes construction of an auxiliary lane on I-480EB from the Lee Road entrance ramp to the I-480/I-271 split, just west of the Miles Road exit.
2. **Cuyahoga – Innerbelt Corridor Contract Group 7A (I – 71 SB)** – The project includes construction of a deceleration lane on I-71 southbound for the SR-176 exit, just south of the West 14th Street overpass.
3. **Cuyahoga – Innerbelt Corridor Contract Group 3 (Central Interchange)** – The project includes improvements to the “Central Interchange” on I-90 between East 9th Street and East 22nd Street, and along I-77 north of the Kingsbury Run Bridge.
4. **Medina – SR – 18 Corridor Improvements** – The project is located in Medina County along the

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east/west corridor of SR-18 between the City of Medina and IR-71. The proposed project will widen this roadway to five lanes from Foote to River Styx Road and from five to seven lanes from River Styx Road to Nettleton Road.

Section 2. This resolution does not authorize the commitment of NOACA-controlled federal funds to the above projects.

Section 3. The scoring criteria developed in 2014 shall be utilized by staff for recommendation of project priorities for future TRAC application cycles.

Section 4. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to transmit certified copies of this resolution to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

Section 5. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to communicate these priorities to the TRAC for consideration in their evaluation of the projects for funding decision.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency adopted this 11th day of September 2015.

Secretary: Michael J. Jermann

Date Signed: September 11, 2015