



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: December 4, 2015

RE: **Resolution No. 2015-065 - Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Implementation Grant Awards**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board of Directors is asked to approve the TLCI implementation grant funding for 19 projects totaling \$506,398.

The Transportation Subcommittee and Planning and Programming Committee recommended this action.

BACKGROUND

NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Program was created in 2006 to provide federal funding assistance to communities and public agencies to contract for the planning of transportation improvements that help advance NOACA's long-range goals. The program has provided support to explore innovative concepts and plans through a comprehensive, community-based planning process, leading to the construction of projects that improve multimodal transportation across the region. Projects identified through funded studies and plans are expected to lead to the development and construction of projects that can secure funding, and/or compete at the regional level for capital funds through NOACA's regional transportation investment process.

At the January 2015 meeting, the NOACA Board adopted a TLCI Policy, which established the use of TLCI funding for implementation grants to fund the construction of multimodal transportation improvements recommended in completed TLCI planning studies or other locally completed plans and studies. The implementation grants are intended to help communities move forward with the development and installation of infrastructure from past completed planning studies.

To inform the process, NOACA collected information from local communities on priorities for TLCI implementation funding. NOACA staff also created a database of completed TLCI planning studies. Using the survey results and TLCI database, NOACA staff identified categories of low-cost improvements focused on the seamless integration of multimodal efforts which include biking, walking and transit. These were the highest needs identified both through the survey and from the analysis of the TLCI database.

TLCI implementation grants were solicited through an online application that included proposed project information, cost, and verification of a 20 percent local match. Online applications were open from April 9 – May 8, 2015.

NOACA received twenty nine TLCI implementation grant applications totaling a request for more than \$1.4 million in federal funds. Detailed evaluation criteria was developed, which was divided into two sections. First, a project pre-screen, which determined if the proposed project resulted from a TLCI or TLCI-like plan and performed an assessment of project cost.

Second, the proposed projects were evaluated on the six objectives established in the TLCI Policy, project type, and cost effectiveness. After applying the evaluation criteria to the 29 proposed projects, 19 projects are recommended for funding totaling \$506,398. The TLCI Policy can be reviewed in attachment 1, and the list of the recommended projects is included in attachment 2.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

One million dollars is available in funding for the 2015 TLCI program. After the Board awarded \$475,000 in TLCI planning grants at the June 2015 meeting, \$525,000 in TLCI funds are available for TLCI implementation grants. The TLCI program is funded from NOACA's Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds during the development of NOACA's annual OWP and biennial TIP. Any remaining TLCI funds from the 2015 program will be carried forward into the next TLCI program.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

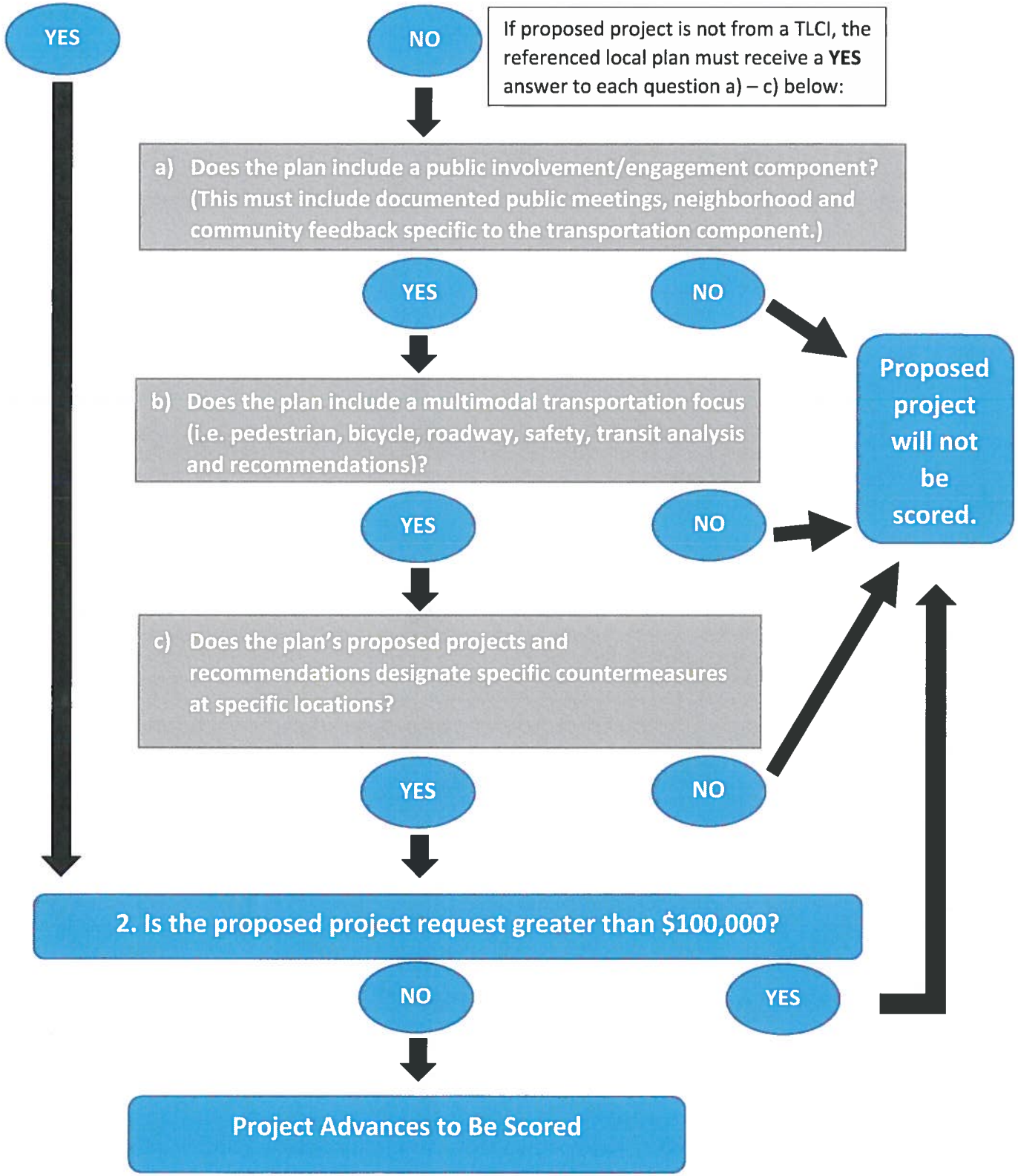
Pending Board approval, NOACA staff will work with the local agencies to program and implement the projects.

GG/kas/2877c

Attachment 1

Part I – TLCI Implementation Grant Pre-Screen Criteria

1. Is the project recommended in a completed TLCI plan or is the project from the sponsor of the original TLCI?



TLCI Implementation Grant Score Sheet

Part II: PROJECT SCORING

1. Regional Strategic Plan Goals & TLCI Policy Objectives

TLCI Objectives	Regional Strategic Plan Goals	Evaluation Criteria		60 Points Total
<p>1. Develop transportation projects that provide more travel options through complete streets and context sensitive solutions, increasing user safety and supporting positive health impacts.</p>	<p><i>BUILD A Sustainable, Multi-modal Transportation System</i></p>	<p>a. Provides More Travel/Transportation Options</p>	<p>Does the proposed project improve the use of bicycling, walking, or transit as a transportation mode? Does it contribute to multimodal infrastructure? (5 points)</p>	<p align="center">___/10 points</p>
	<p><i>ENHANCE Quality of Life in Northeast Ohio</i></p>	<p>b. Impacts Public Health</p>	<p>Does the proposed project encourage active transportation? (5 points)</p>	
<p>2. Promote reinvestment in underutilized or vacant/abandoned properties through development concepts supported by multimodal transportation systems.</p>	<p><i>ENHANCE Quality of Life in Northeast Ohio</i></p>	<p>c. Promotes Reinvestment in Neighborhoods and Districts</p>	<p>Is proposed project in a NOACA designated Urban Core Community?</p>	<p align="center">___/10 points</p>
<p>3. Support economic development through place-based transportation and land use recommendations, and connect these proposals with existing assets and investments.</p>	<p><i>PRESERVE Existing Infrastructure</i></p>	<p>d. Supports Existing Assets/Investments</p>	<p>Does the proposed project provide enhancements or amenities to an existing facility? (5 points)</p>	<p align="center">___/10 points</p>
	<p><i>SUPPORT Economic Development</i></p>	<p>e. Supports Economic Development</p>	<p>Does the proposed project support existing land uses or proposed redevelopment? Will it be beneficial for business or employers in the area near the proposed project? (Utilize NEOSCC land use data) (5 points)</p>	
<p>4. Ensure that the benefits and burdens of growth, change and transportation projects are distributed equitably by integrating accessibility and</p>	<p><i>BUILD A Sustainable, Multi-modal Transportation System</i></p>	<p>f. Improves Accessibility</p>	<p>Does the proposed project improve transportation for mobility challenged or disabled persons? (5 points)</p>	<p align="center">___/10 points</p>
	<p><i>PRESERVE Existing Infrastructure</i></p>	<p>g. Serves EJ Populations</p>	<p>Is the proposed project located in an EJ area? (Use existing EJ data) (5 points)</p>	

TLCI Objectives	Regional Strategic Plan Goals	Evaluation Criteria		60 Points Total
environmental justice into projects.				
5. Enhance regional cohesion by supporting collaboration between regional and community partners.	<i>STRENGTHEN Regional Cohesion</i>	h. Collaborates Between Partners	Does the proposed project include more than one agency or department (cross-jurisdictional partnerships)? Does it include stakeholders or community groups? Does the proposed project improve regional cohesion by improving a regional transportation asset?	___/10 points
6. Provide people with safe and reliable transportation choices that enhance their quality of life.	<i>ENHANCE Quality of Life in Northeast Ohio</i>	i. Improves Water & Air Quality	Does the proposed project reasonably reduce mobile emissions? Does the proposed project reduce imperviousness? (Utilize FHWA project types and expected air quality benefits from CMAQ guidance) (5 points)	___/10 points
	<i>ENHANCE Quality of Life in Northeast Ohio</i>	j. Improves Safety	Does the proposed project improve safety, either by reducing safety conflicts or unsafe conditions? (Look at NOACA crash data and reference project types with FHWA list of approved safety countermeasures) (5 points)	

___ TOTAL

2. Project Type

___ / 20 Points

NOACA staff conducted an analysis of completed TLCI plans and their recommendations, and staff also conducted a survey of local agencies regarding completed TLCI plans. The results of the analysis and survey are shown in the table below.

If the proposed project type aligns with one or more of the top needs from the TLCI database and implementation survey analysis results it will receive up to 20 points. Proposed projects can include multiple items from the lists below and scores can be additive, but up to a maximum of 20 points.

Top Needs from TICI Database Analysis & Survey		
Bicycle Recommendations	Pedestrian Recommendations	Transit Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike Lanes (20 points) • Bike Parking (5 points) • Sharrows (10 points) • Wayfinding and Signage (10 points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosswalk Enhancements (20 points) • Lighting (10 points) • Street amenities (5 points) • Wayfinding and Signage (10 points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit Waiting Environment (20 points) • Wayfinding and Signage (20 points)

3. Cost Effectiveness (CE) _____ / 20 Points

A measure of the project’s ability to meet the objectives of the TICI program per dollar invested will allow proposed projects to receive up to 20 points. Points will be awarded based on a sliding scale relative to all of the applications that are received. The following formula will be used to estimate the cost effectiveness:

$$CE = (\text{Points Awarded from Question \#1} + \text{Points Awarded from Question \#2}) / \text{Total Project Cost}$$

Projects scoring less than 40 points from parts #1 and #2 above (50% of available points) will automatically receive 0 points for cost effectiveness.

A sliding scale will be calculated and divide the cost effectiveness scores into four groups ordered highest to lowest. The four groups will receive the following points:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| • Top 25% of highest CE score | 20 points |
| • 26-50% of highest CE score | 15 points |
| • 51-75% of highest CE score | 10 points |
| • 76-100% of highest CE score | 5 points |

Total: _____ / 100 Points

Priority # if Applicant has more than one submitted application: _____ of _____

Comments:

Attachment 2 – 2015 TLCI Implementation Grant Recommendations

2016 TLCI Implementation Grant Recommendations						
Sponsor Agency	Project Name	TLCI or Other Local Plan	Plan Name	Year Plan Completed	Funding Amount Requested	Total Score
Cleveland	Tremont Pedestrian Bridge Area Enhancement	TLCI	Tremont Pedestrian & Bicycle Linkages	2010	\$8,100	88
Cleveland	Hillside Community Park – access improvements to the E. 79 th RTA Station	Other Local Plan	E. 79 th Street Lot Reimagining	2010	\$16,000	83.5
Cleveland	Clark Avenue Tremont Bike Lanes	TLCI	Clark Avenue Corridor Plan	2015	\$23,366	83.5
Cleveland	Superior Avenue Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (near E. 45 th & Superior Avenue)	TLCI	AsiaTown Transportation & Streetscape Improvement Plan	2010	\$24,000	83
City of Euclid	Euclid Avenue and E. 260 th Street Intersection Improvement Project	TLCI	Destination Euclid: The Euclid Avenue Recreationway Corridor Plan	2013	\$23,500	80.5
City of Cleveland Heights	North Park Buffered Bike Lanes	TLCI	Facilitating Bicycle and Transit Travel in University Circle and Cleveland Heights	2013	\$30,000	80
Cleveland	W. 65 th Street Corridor Enhancements	TLCI	W. 65 th Street Corridor Plan	2013	\$45,600	78.5
Cleveland	Gordon Square Arts District (GSAD) Crosswalk Improvements	Other Local Plan	Gordon Square Arts District Plan	2014	\$25,000	76

Attachment 2 – 2015 TLCI Implementation Grant Recommendations

2016 TLCI Implementation Grant Recommendations						
Sponsor Agency	Project Name	TLCI or Other Local Plan	Plan Name	Year Plan Completed	Funding Amount Requested	Total Score
City of Shaker Heights	Lee Road Bicycle Facilities	TLCI	Lee Road Traffic Study & Corridor Plan	2012	\$80,000	75
Cleveland	University Circle Transit Waiting Improvements	TLCI	Moving Greater University Circle Transportation & Mobility Study	2015	\$45,000	71
City of Chardon	City of Chardon - Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	TLCI	Chardon Bikeway & Pedestrian System Plan	2011	\$16,000	70.5
City of Lakewood	Bike Lakewood Plan Implementation – Madison Avenue Bike Racks	TLCI	Birdtown TLCI	2011	\$9,200	68.5
Cleveland	Pearl Road – Cycling Amenities Enhancement	TLCI	Pearl Road/W. 25 th Street Transportation Corridor Plan	2009	\$10,000	68.5
Cleveland	Gordon Square Arts District Wayfinding	Other Local Plan	Gordon Square Arts District Plan	2014	\$20,000	67
City of North Ridgeville	North Ridgeville Town Center Crosswalk Enhancements at Avon Belden and Bainbridge Roads	TLCI	North Ridgeville Town Center District Study	2011	\$52,352	61
Cleveland	Waterloo Wayfinder System and Health Walk Route	TLCI	Waterloo Streetscape Plan	2007	\$20,000	56
Cleveland	Lorain Avenue Bike Racks - West Park	TLCI	Lorain Avenue Pedestrian Friendly Plan	2013	\$17,500	55.5

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2016 TLCI Implementation Grant Recommendations						
Sponsor Agency	Project Name	TLCI or Other Local Plan	Plan Name	Year Plan Completed	Funding Amount Requested	Total Score
Cleveland Metroparks	Cleveland Metroparks Lakefront Bicycle Amenities	Other Local Plan	Cleveland Metroparks Lakefront Master Plans	2015	\$38,780	55
City of North Olmsted	North Olmsted Bike Rack Initiative	Other Local Plan	2015 North Olmsted Master Plan	2015	\$2,000	50.5
	TOTAL				\$506,398	

The following project was not recommended because of insufficient funding:

Not Recommended for TLCI Implementation Grant Funding						
Sponsor Agency	Project Name	TLCI or Other Local Plan	Plan Name	Year Plan Completed	Funding Amount Requested	Total Score
Cleveland	West 25th Street Transit Waiting Environment Enhancements	Other Local Plan	W. 25 th Street Transit Development Strategy	2015	\$100,000	44.5

Attachment 2 – 2015 TLCI Implementation Grant Recommendations

Ineligible for Funding OR Did Not Meeting Pre-Screen Criteria			
Sponsor Agency	Project Name	Funding Amount Requested	Comments
Chagrin Falls	Crosswalk Improvements	\$125,000	Project exceeds the cost maximum that was established. Will work with project sponsor to reduce project request and application for next round of funding.
Cleveland	Public Bike Repair Stations	\$20,000	Project did not meet pre-screen criteria.
GCRTA	Solar Lighting for RTA Shelters	\$62,400	Project did not meet pre-screen criteria.
Elyria	Kerstetter Way Improvements	\$260,000	Project exceeds the cost maximum that was established. Will work with project sponsor to reduce project request and application for next round of funding.
Cleveland	Red Line Public Art Plan	\$50,000	Project did not meet pre-screen criteria and was awarded \$357,000 by the NOACA Board as part of the MPO carryover program in June 2015.
Cuyahoga County Planning Commission	Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Counter Project	\$50,000	Project did not meet pre-screen criteria.
Olmsted Falls	Lighting-Park Entrance/Parking Lot	\$30,000	Project is not eligible for funding under the new MAP-21 program funding guidelines.
Fairview Park	Lorain Road Street Tree Replacement Project	\$10,000	Project is not eligible for funding under the new MAP-21 program funding guidelines.
Parma	Crossroads of Parma	\$20,000	Project is not eligible for funding under the new MAP-21 program funding guidelines.
TOTAL		\$627,400	

**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, NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Program was created to provide federal funding assistance to communities and public agencies to contract for the planning of transportation improvements that help advance NOACA's long-range goals; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2015, the Board of Directors approved a TLCI policy, which established the use of TLCI funding for implementation grants to fund the construction of multimodal transportation improvements recommended in completed TLCI planning studies or other locally completed plans and studies; and

WHEREAS, the TLCI program is funded from NOACA's Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds during the development of NOACA's annual OWP and biennial TIP; and

WHEREAS, During April and May 2015, NOACA solicited for TLCI implementation grant applications; and

WHEREAS, the proposed projects were evaluated on the six objectives established in the TLCI Policy, project type, and cost effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, after applying the evaluation criteria to the 29 proposed projects, 19 projects are recommended for funding totaling \$506,398

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: Projects and funding amounts contained in Attachment 1 are approved.

Section 2: The Executive Director is authorized to enter into contracts with appropriate entities, as needed, to implement the approved FY 2016 TLCI Implementation Grant program.

Section 3: The Executive Director is authorized to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies.

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 December 2015.

Secretary: 

Date Signed: 12-11-15