



## **NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY**

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** NOACA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

**DATE:** December 4, 2015

**RE:** Resolution 2015-059 NOACA Rural Advisory Council

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

The Board of Directors is asked to approve the development of the NOACA Rural Advisory Council. The External Affairs Committee recommended this action.

#### **BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION**

In recent policy discussions, the question of adequate representation of rural interests has been raised. Although the allocation of most of NOACA's federal resources is based on the population of the urbanized area, it is also important to understand rural transportation and land use needs and desires. Better understanding of planning issues of rural communities will aid the Agency in efficiently producing policies and programs and in performing planning functions that create a harmonious and cohesive regional relationship between urban and rural land uses and their respective constituencies in the NOACA region.

The implementation of a NOACA Rural Advisory Council would be similar to the development of the NOACA Business and Community Advisory Councils. Membership would be comprised of representatives and advocates of rural business and community interests in the NOACA region. Farming businesses, land conservancy advocates, township officials, and representatives of the Amish community would be examples of the constituencies that could be approached to join the proposed Council. Membership will be approved by the External Affairs Committee.

According to NOACA by-laws, Board action is required for the creation of Councils such as a NOACA Rural Advisory Council.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact.

#### **CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS**

Upon approval of the Board, NOACA staff will solicit members of the community to join the Rural Advisory Council consistent with the draft Rural Advisory Council Charter (attached). A proposed slate of members will be submitted to the External Affairs Committee for approval. The Rural Advisory Council will convene subsequent to the final approval of the proposed membership.

## NOACA RURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHARTER

**PURPOSE:** The Rural Advisory Council (CAC) will play an important role in advising NOACA of the public policy and planning priorities of interested parties from rural communities within the NOACA region – and how NOACA planning work can most productively coordinate with rural interests to maximize the beneficial outcomes for urbanized and rural communities alike.

**GOALS:** The NOACA Rural Advisory Council seeks to:

- Promote public awareness of all of NOACA plans and programs to rural communities
- Be an active conduit of communication of planning activities between rural and urban communities

**ACTIVITIES:** The Council will:

- Be a forum by which NOACA will receive comment and advice and facilitate conversation on planning concerns of rural communities
- Be a forum for dialogue between urban and rural planning concerns
- Provide continuous and balanced public representation in the development of regional plans and policies
- Provide Board and staff with guidance that conveys residents' perspectives.
- Ensure the effectiveness of outreach and engagement strategies by working with staff to serve as a "speakers' bureau" and as a local voice to spread awareness.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Rural Advisory Council will have 15 members selected from among religious organizations, social service agencies, nonprofits, voter advocacy groups, health advocacy groups, modal organizations, senior organizations, schools, etc. The membership will consist of 11 that are proportionately defined by county based on rural population, and 4 that are at-large seats as follows: 1 Cuyahoga; 4 Geauga; 1 Lake; 2 Lorain; 3 Medina; 4 At-Large. Membership terms will be two years.

Proportional Representation of Rural Advisory Council				
County	Rural Pop	Percent		Membership
Cuyahoga	7,447	4%	0.485	1
Gauga	59,740	35%	3.890	4
Lake	15,020	9%	0.978	1
Lorain	35,373	21%	2.303	2
Medina	51,345	30%	3.343	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>168,925</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
4 At- Large Members to be apportioned – one to each County except Cuyahoga				

**REPORTING**

**RELATIONSHIP:** The Council reports to the External Affairs Committee.

**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

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**, Article VI, Section 6.1 of the NOACA Code of Regulations establishes the authority of the President of the Board of Directors to establish, with the approval of the Board, advisory councils, necessary or appropriate to provide advice to the Board of Directors relating to specific issues or technical areas of transportation or environmental matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a Rural Advisory Council would constitute a public interaction function consistent with the obligation to maintain a citizen participation program encouraging the participation of citizens in the work and planning of the Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, NOACA staff has become aware of the need to better understand transportation and planning issues pertinent to rural areas of the NOACA region in order to facilitate better understanding and collaboration between urban and rural land uses and related transportation needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the NOACA Rural Advisory Council would be structured and meetings conducted in accordance with the proposed Rural Advisory Council Charter (draft document attached).

**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 Rural Advisory Council is established.

**Section 2.** The Executive Director is authorized to establish a regular meeting schedule for the Rural Advisory Council.

**Section 3.** The Executive Director is authorized to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

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

Secretary: 

Date Signed: 12-11-15