



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: March 4, 2016

RE: Resolution 2016-006 – Transportation Conformity for 2012 PM_{2.5} Standard

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board of Directors is asked to approve submittal of conformity analyses for the 2012 PM_{2.5} Standard. Specifically this action would meet federal requirements for establishing transportation conformity for a new air quality standard.

The Air Quality Subcommittee and Planning and Programming Committee support this recommendation.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

USEPA has finalized nonattainment area designations for the 2012 PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These standards became effective on April 15, 2015. Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties have been designated moderate non-attainment areas under this new standard. Whenever a new nonattainment status is promulgated for an area, that area has one year to establish transportation conformity for the impacted area. This means that NOACA must have a new transportation conformity determination by April 15, 2016.

Transportation conformity is the process of determining that expected future emissions will not lead to a reduction in air quality either over the current state or in relation to budgets established in a State Implementation Plan (SIP) intended to achieve attainment. Depending on the circumstances this determination can be done utilizing new analyses of future conditions or be based on existing analyses.

After consultation with USEPA, FHWA and ODOT, NOACA needed to analyze an additional year, 2021, in addition to previously analyzed years. Staff has completed the analyses and the results are shown in the table on the next page. Note that conformity analyses are pass/fail tests. The Board approves the submittal of the results rather than specifically approving the analyses.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to this action.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

With Board approval, the analyses will be submitted the ODOT, FHWA and USEPA for acceptance.

GG/bd/2895b

Results of Conformity Analyses for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter Standard*

PM_{2.5} Test	2015 Budget	2021 Emissions	2022 Budget	2022 Emissions	2030 Emissions	2035 Emissions
Cuyahoga						
Direct PM		312.62		308.94	274.08	267.44
NOx Precursor		6,945.40		6,519.45	4,826.72	4,517.02
Lorain						
Direct PM		83.40		81.98	94.06	92.97
NOx Precursor		2,091.12		1,971.84	2,460.57	2,316.66
Totals						
Direct PM	659.35	396.02	463.02	390.92	368.14	360.41
NOx Precursor	18,202.07	9,036.52	8,957.18	8,491.29	7,287.29	6,833.68

* Emissions must be less than the established budgets in order to pass the conformity test.

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

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) establishes air pollutant standards pursuant to the Clean Air Act for the preservation public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the USEPA established designations under the new 2012 PM_{2.5} national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) effective April 15, 2015; and

WHEREAS, transportation conformity must be re-established within one year of the designation of a new standard; and

WHEREAS, this conformity determination is a pre-requisite for continued access to federal funds for the construction of transportation projects in our area; and

WHEREAS, NOACA has conducted the necessary analyses (results attached) in coordination with its other nonattainment area partners (AMATS for the Akron area, ODOT for Ashtabula County) to establish conformity; and

WHEREAS, the NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee and Planning and Programming Committee recommend this action.

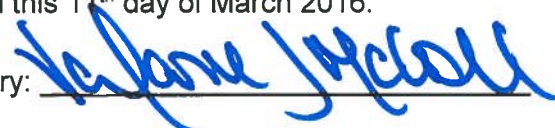
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of 45 principal officials serving general purpose local governments throughout and within the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina that:

Section 1: The conformity analyses for establishing transportation conformity for the 2012 PM_{2.5} standard are approved for submittal.

Section 2: The Executive Director is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this resolution and the analyses 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 March 2016.

Secretary: _____



Date Signed: _____



**RESOLUTION 2016-006
(TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY
FOR 2012 PM_{2.5} STANDARD)**

**Exhibit 1
Results of Conformity Analyses for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter Standard***

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