



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: September 1, 2017

RE: **Resolution 2017-034: Allocation of Toll Credits to LOR – SR 83 Enhancements, North Ridgeville**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board of Directors is asked to approve the use of Toll Credits (TC) for the LOR – SR83 Enhancements project, sponsored by the City of North Ridgeville, to increase the NOACA funding participation share.

The Finance and Audit Committee recommend this item for approval.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

ODOT has allocated an annual amount, through SFY 2021, of \$7,584,649 in TC authority to NOACA to use at its discretion to increase the federal payable share of projects financed through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternatives (TAP) set-aside programs. In September, 2015 the Board of Directors approved a Toll Credits policy to define requirements and eligibility criteria to guide the evaluation of NOACA funded projects for the allocation of TC.

The City of North Ridgeville has requested TC for the LOR – SR83 Enhancements project to allow for maximum utilization of NOACA approved funding. The Board of Directors approved funding in the amount of \$52,352 at a rate of 80% participation share of the project in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The city is requesting that the \$52,352 be available at a rate of 100% by using \$10,470 in TC. The city was under the impression that funding expended in the design phase of the project could be used as match to the construction phase, however this is prohibited by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). As a result, the local match was not accounted for in the total cost of construction.

Staff have evaluated the request and have determined that it is eligible for TC under the policy requirements as summarized below:

Policy Requirements	Met?
Request complies with ODOT program requirements	X
Project is eligible under one or more of the following approved programs:	
- NOACA Urban Core Community (90%)	
- NOACA Disadvantaged Urban Core Community (100%)	
- NOACA Environmental Justice Area (100%)	

- NOACA TLCI Planning Study or Implementation Project (100%)	X
Funding available in the current TIP	X
Adequate balance of TCs available in the proposed FY	X
Project is not a capacity expansion project	X

The project is already contained within the NOACA 2018-2021 TIP, therefore the approval of TC would not require a formal Plan or TIP amendment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The request would utilize \$10,470 in TC, while not exceeding NOACA's original funding amount in the project of \$52,352.

NOACA TC balances will be adjusted to account for an additional \$10,470 in TC usage. To date, there has been \$357,713 of the \$22,753,947 of TCs available through SFY 2018.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

With Board approval, appropriate TC balances and project documentation will be modified to reflect the change.

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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, Section 120(j) of Title 23 U.S.C. permits the use of Toll Credits to fulfill some or all of the federal matching fund requirements normally associated with the financing of eligible Title 23 and Title 49 surface transportation capital, operating, or planning projects; and

WHEREAS, the advancement of funding through recent bonding against the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission revenues, that include increased tolls, will result in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) earning a significant balance of Toll Credits (TC); and

WHEREAS, the credits are being made available to NOACA in the amount of \$7.6 million annually, through State Fiscal Year 2021, to increase the federal participation rate for NOACA Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); and

WHEREAS, in September, 2015, the Board of Directors approved a Toll Credits policy that contains parameters for the application of TCs, including requirements, eligible projects and programs, and management procedures; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Ridgeville has requested the use of TC for its LOR – SR83 Enhancements project funded through the NOACA Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) program with Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding; and

WHEREAS, TC would be utilized on the project to increase the NOACA participation share from 80% to 100% to allow for a maximum NOACA funding participation share in the project; and

WHEREAS, the use of TC will not result in an increase of NOACA funds to the project beyond the original Board of Directors approved funding amount of \$52,352; and

WHEREAS, staff have evaluated the request and have determined that it is eligible under the policy requirements; and

WHEREAS, the project is already contained within the NOACA 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), therefore the use of TC does not require a formal Plan or TIP amendment.

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: Toll Credits in the amount of \$10,470 are approved for use on the LOR – SR83 Enhancements project to increase the NOACA participation share from 80% to 100% to allow for a total NOACA funding share in the project of \$52,352.

Section 2: The NOACA 2018-2021 TIP will be modified to reflect the revised funding.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-034
(Allocation of Toll Credits to LOR – SR 83
Enhancements, North Ridgeville)

Section 3: The Executive Director is authorized to transmit certified copies 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 8th day of September 2017.

Secretary: Michael P. Swanner

Date Signed: September 8, 2017