

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-011  
(INNERBELT BRIDGE FUNDING)**

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

**WHEREAS**, The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the five Ohio counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina; and

**WHEREAS**, as the MPO, NOACA is responsible for transportation planning functions in accordance with the current federal law, including the safety and preservation of the existing transportation system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Innerbelt Bridge was built in 1959, comprises nearly a one-mile span over the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, and carries 138,000 vehicles per day; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years there have been safety concerns related to the Innerbelt Bridge gusset plates and support slope, at one point causing the Ohio Department of Transportation to restrict traffic and load limit the bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Innerbelt Bridge underwent \$10 million in safety-related repairs in recent years, is now three years beyond its designed lifespan, and has a construction similar to that of the Interstate 35 bridge that collapsed in Minneapolis in 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Department of Transportation recognized the above issues and took action to plan for the replacement of the Innerbelt Bridge with dual bridges starting in state fiscal year 2011 and ending in SFY 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Transportation Review Advisory Council had placed the dual Innerbelt Bridge projects on its list of approved projects for these years, but recently delayed construction of the second bridge for nine years until 2023 due to a financial shortfall; and

**WHEREAS**, delaying this project would undoubtedly create extraordinary safety and congestion problems, and

**WHEREAS**, delaying this project could force a choice between maintaining traffic on a bridge that is well beyond its design life, or forcing two-way traffic onto a bridge that was originally intended for one-way traffic, and

**WHEREAS**, the Innerbelt Bridge is vitally important to Greater Cleveland and is a crucial transportation link of statewide and national significance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Innerbelt Bridge is the gateway to Cleveland's Innerbelt, which connects four interstate highways in Cleveland's downtown area, and is essential to economic development in Greater Cleveland and Ohio, and

**WHEREAS**, NOACA's Executive Committee has recommended this resolution for adoption.

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

The NOACA Governing Board opposes any delay in building the Innerbelt Bridge, and urges Governor Kasich to re-consider the state's position regarding the funding timeline for this project. NOACA urgently requests that the state government find a solution to this problem and ensure that this critical infrastructure project is completed on schedule. The safety, mobility and economic needs of Ohio's residents and businesses depend on swift and decisive action by the State of Ohio. We recognize that these are fiscally challenging times, and we hope to partner with the state to help address those challenges.

NOACA also encourages the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Transportation Review Advisory Council to work with NOACA to improve communications about funding problems related to the Innerbelt Bridge and other NOACA-area projects. We hope to improve our partnership with the state through better communications, and we look forward to working with you to improve our infrastructure for all Ohioans.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency adopted this 10th day of February 2012.

Secretary: 

Date Signed: 2.10.12