

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-033
(Statewide Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
Program (CMAQ))

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, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has directed the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) and its eight largest MPO members, inclusive of NOACA, to develop a statewide Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program; and

WHEREAS, as directed by ODOT, the intent of the statewide program will be to reduce the amount of unspent funds and advance projects of a regional and statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, the statewide CMAQ program will combine the financial resources, totaling \$57 million, of the individual CMAQ programs historically suballocated to and administered by the MPOs; and

WHEREAS, the eight large MPOs, as organized through the OARC, directed the development of a statewide program policy and procedure to guide the management of the program; and

WHEREAS, the draft statewide program was approved by majority vote of the OARC, with stated opposition from NOACA and the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS); and

WHEREAS, despite opposition from NOACA, the statewide program was submitted by OARC to ODOT for acceptance; and

WHEREAS, there are still significant concerns regarding the policy as approved by OARC and accepted by ODOT:

1. Existing Board commitments programmed beyond SFY 2017 will not be honored through the statewide program unless preliminary phases exist in the current 2014-2017 NOACA TIP. These commitments total \$34.4 million and include:
 - a. GCRTA Bus Program - \$10 M
 - b. Cleveland Greenway Corridor Trail - \$6.7 M
 - c. Parma Signals Upgrade Phase II - \$4.6 M
 - d. LAKETRAN Bus Program - \$3.5 M
 - e. Strongsville Signals Upgrade - \$3.4 M
 - f. Cleveland Heights Mayfield Road Signal Upgrade - \$2.7 M
 - g. South Euclid Green Road Signal Upgrade - \$1.6 M
 - h. Middleburg Heights Pearl Road Signal Upgrade - \$1.5 M

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- i. LAKETRAN Market Street Park and Ride - \$388 K
- 2. The OARC is not the appropriate venue for the creation and management of a statewide program as it is not a legally recognized entity entrusted and accountable to the public to prioritize and manage public funds. Also, OARC is not proportionately weighted to population and does not address the individual needs and geographic characteristics of each region; and
- 3. There will not be a reliable level of funding to invest toward regional priorities at NOACA's discretion. Existing SFY 2018 and beyond plan commitments and future funding requests will be submitted to the statewide program for evaluation and funding consideration; and
- 4. The statewide program diminishes the reliability of a resource historically available to the region's transit agencies that have depended on the CMAQ program for the recurring purchase of new transit vehicles and other infrastructure needs, including bus ways; and
- 5. The statewide program will limit flexibility in the management of NOACA Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) suballocated fund sources.

WHEREAS, the intent of the statewide program to reduce the amount of unspent funds and advance projects of statewide significance can alternatively be achieved through coordination of shared goals, priorities, and performance measures to guide individual MPO programs.

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

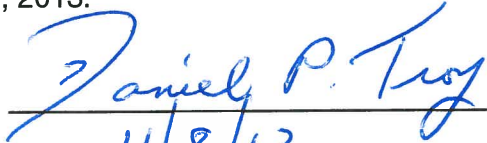
Section 1: The Agency shares the intent of ODOT's statewide program directive to reduce the amount of unspent funds and advance projects of statewide significance.

Section 2: The Agency opposes the OARC-approved statewide program policy given the stated concerns and urges ODOT to reverse the statewide program directive in favor of reinstating the individual MPO programs with collaboration on shared goals, priorities, and performance measures.

Section 3: The Executive Director is authorized to coordinate with ODOT to develop revisions or an alternate policy that addresses the stated concerns.

Section 4: 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 8th day of November, 2013.

Secretary: 
Date Signed: 11/8/13