

**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**, NOACA, is responsible for transportation planning functions in accordance with the current federal law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21); and,

**WHEREAS**, MAP-21 expires on September 30, 2014 and Congress and the President have begun to work on reauthorization proposals which will impact Northeast Ohio; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Trust Fund, a primary source of funding for highway and transit projects in Northeastern Ohio, and a subject of debate within reauthorization is projected to have a shortfall in funding in the coming months; and,

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation may consider cash management strategies, reimbursing states weekly and not daily in light of the highway trust fund uncertainty; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Federal gas tax has stood at 18.4 cents per gallon since 1993 while the American Society of Civil Engineers has given U.S. infrastructure a letter grade of "D+" in 2013, while estimating national investment needs at \$3.6 trillion by 2020.

**WHEREAS**, current levels of funding have failed to improve the conditions of infrastructure while the highway trust fund is on the brink of insolvency.

**WHEREAS**, revenues to sustain the Mass Transit Account of the federal Highway Trust Fund have not increased since 1993, leaving the fund with woefully insufficient balances and threatening the stability of the program, and

**WHEREAS**, a new proposal known as the Grow America Act would directly provide more funding to MPO areas of 200,000 or more, thus providing critical resources to address urban mobility needs.

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has proposed to increase the gas tax by 15 cents a gallon over three years, while other stakeholders have proposed indexing the highway trust fund to inflation, implementing a vehicle miles traveled tax, and enhancing public private partnerships.

**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.** It is now time for Congress to pass a comprehensive surface transportation bill with a predictable and sustainable funding mechanism.

**Section 2.** The consensus is clear: the current funding system is inefficient, outdated, and does not meet Northeastern Ohio's infrastructure needs.

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(HIGHWAY TRUSTFUND SHORTFALL)**

**Section 3.** Therefore, any new funding proposal should:

- A. Meet the needs of Northeastern Ohio for a sustainable transportation system that is in a state of good repair;
- B. Provide funding in a way that promotes regional cohesion;
- C. Focus on the preservation of existing infrastructure;
- D. Provide a truly sustainable multi-modal program, thus ensuring that people have choices available for their mobility needs;
- E. Maintain and build on the existing Federal program;
- F. Continue to include a source that is based on the principle of a user fee.

**Section 4.** The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution to President Obama and Governor Kasich, plus all appropriate members of Congress, administration officials and state officials.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the  
Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide  
Coordinating Agency adopted this day in 2014.

Secretary: 

Date Signed: 11 JUL 14