



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: January 16, 2014

RE: **Resolution No. 2015-014: Establishing a Safety & Operations Council**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board of Directors is asked to adopt **Resolution No. 2015-014**, which approves the establishment of a new Transportation Safety and Operations Council.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) was awarded a federal technical assistance grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) at the end of 2013 as part of the Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP 2). The grant is to evaluate the region's transportation operations capabilities and develop an implementation plan to improve the reliability of the regional transportation system through management and operations. This includes incident management, signal coordination, law enforcement and emergency response, and local agency engineering staff coordination.

NOACA also applied in March 2014 and was notified in early May 2014 that it was awarded grant funding for the second round of implementation projects for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST). The grant was awarded under the Operations and Maintenance module focusing on safety management. The NOACA project will:

- Use INVEST to evaluate the effectiveness of NOACA's Regional Safety Program
- Improve NOACA's safety data analysis and reporting
- Produce a Transportation Safety Action Plan to implement improvements and expand the sustainability of NOACA's Regional Safety Program

The ultimate goal is to improve our region's sustainability by reducing fatal and serious injuries that negatively impact the social and economic principles through loss of life, injury and damages to personal and public property. The INVEST tool will allow NOACA to assess the sustainability of our current Regional Safety Program and incorporate sustainable strategies into the development of a Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP). The results will be used to refine our regional safety goals and objectives, evaluate and prioritize projects and establish safety performance measures and targets.

Because of the overlap between the SHRP 2 project and the INVEST grant and as a recommendation from FHWA, NOACA is proposing to establish a Safety & Operations Council (SOC). The SOC will be an Advisory Council to the Transportation Subcommittee and subsequently to the Planning & Programming

Committee. The intent is to bring together the E's of safety into one group (engineering, enforcement, education, emergency response and evaluation) and provide a forum to discuss overlapping issues of safety and operations.

The SOC would consist of a cross-section of multiple disciplines: local agency planning and engineering staff, law enforcement and emergency responders, ODOT, FHWA, GCRTA, Ohio Traffic Safety Office and community members. It will initially oversee the development of both the SHRP2 implementation plan and NOACA TSAP as part of the INVEST grant. Upon completion of both plans, the SOC will identify and prioritize safety and operations strategies to seek funding and advise the Transportation Subcommittee on transportation system management (TSMO) and operations and safety initiatives. For TSMO this will emphasize the implementation of the SHRP 2 work and for safety, this will focus on strategies to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes.

Section 6.9 of the NOACA Code of Regulations allows for a new Advisory Council to be established to provide ongoing advice and recommendations. Members should be comprised of individuals with sufficient expertise to contribute to the mission and functional activities of the Advisory Council and need not be members of the Board of Directors. When a new Advisory Council is established it is required to draft a written statement of purpose to be distributed to the Standing Committee and subcommittee for review and comment.

NOACA staff will work with the President of the Board and Chair of Transportation Subcommittee to identify specific membership. The purpose of the SOC will be to assist NOACA staff with:

- Providing ongoing safety data analysis
- Developing a high crash corridors program for more targeted systemic safety improvements
- Establishing and monitoring safety performance measures and targets
- Facilitating meetings
- Developing projects and initiatives that target reductions in fatal and serious injury crashes
- Coordinating and supporting safety grant applications to the ODOT District Safety Review Team process and other safety funding sources
- Continuing the Road Safety Assessment program
- Providing ongoing local safety and operations technical assistance to local member agencies

The Transportation Subcommittee did not have a quorum of member present at the October 17, 2014 meeting. The consensus among the attending Transportation Subcommittee members was to recommend Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) review and development of recommendations. The PPC discussed the purpose of the SOC at its November 14, 2014 meeting and recommended its creation.

Once formed, NOACA staff will work with the council to develop a formally written statement of purpose to be distributed to the Transportation Subcommittee for review and comment. Staff will also work with the council to establish a regular meeting schedule and logistics.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact for this decision.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Following Board adoption, staff will work with the Board President and Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee to establish membership and council charter.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-014 ESTABLISHING A
SAFETY AND OPERATIONS COUNCIL**

**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 Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) was awarded a federal technical assistance grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) at the end of 2013 as part of the Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP 2); and

WHEREAS, NOACA also applied in March 2014 and was notified in early May 2014 that it was awarded grant funding for the second round of implementation projects for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST); and

WHEREAS, because of the overlap between the SHRP 2 project and the INVEST grant, FHWA recommends establishing a Safety & Operations Council (SOC). The SOC will be an Advisory Council to the Transportation Subcommittee and subsequently to the Planning & Programming Committee; and

WHEREAS, the SOC will consist of a cross-section of multiple disciplines: local agency planning and engineering staff, law enforcement and emergency responders, ODOT, FHWA, GCRTA, Ohio Traffic Safety Office and community members; and

WHEREAS, the SOC will initially oversee the development of both the SHRP2 implementation plan and NOACA TSAP as part of the INVEST grant. Upon completion of both plans, the SOC will identify and prioritize safety and operations strategies to seek funding and advise the Transportation Subcommittee on transportation system management (TSMO) and operations and safety initiatives.

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 Safety and Operations Council is established.

Section 2. The Executive Director is authorized to establish a regular meeting schedule for the Safety and Operations Council.

Section 3. The Executive Director is authorized to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the 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 23rd day of January 2015.

Secretary: 

Date Signed: 1-23-15