



Approved:

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Policy Number: 2015-016

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Responsible Division: Planning

## TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (TLCI) POLICY

### POLICY STATEMENT:

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's (NOACA) Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) provides federal funding assistance to communities and public agencies for the planning and implementation of transportation improvements that strengthen community livability. This policy establishes the standard procedures for the TLCI in determining project eligibility, selecting projects, establishing funding levels and links the program to the vision and objectives of the Regional Strategic Plan.

### AUTHORITY:

Ohio Revised Code, Sections § 307, 5501.03(d)

United States Code, Title 23, Section §133,

### PURPOSE:

The TLCI Program provides federal funding assistance to public agencies for the planning and implementation of transportation improvements. To advance the vision and goals of NOACA's [Regional Strategic Plan](#) and [Long Range Transportation Plan](#), TLCI projects shall focus on the following objectives:

- Develop transportation projects that provide more travel options through complete streets and context sensitive solutions, increasing user safety and supporting positive public health impacts
- Promote reinvestment in underutilized or vacant/abandoned properties through development concepts supported by multimodal transportation systems
- Support economic development through place-based transportation and land use recommendations, and connect these proposals with existing assets and investments
- Ensure that the benefits and burdens of growth, change and transportation projects are distributed equitably by integrating accessibility and environmental justice into projects
- Enhance regional cohesion by supporting collaboration between regional and community partners
- Provide people with safe and reliable transportation choices that enhance their quality of life

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The TLCI program provides support to explore innovative concepts and plans that improve multimodal transportation across the region through the administration of planning and implementation grants.

### Planning Grants

TLCI planning grants are awarded to support activities that facilitate and promote sustainable development, multimodal transportation, and complete and green streets. Projects must have logical boundaries, and result in deliverables leading to transportation infrastructure improvements. All TLCI plans will include an analysis of existing conditions, and short and long term recommendations. Plans will also include feasibility studies and implementation strategies to support work subsequent to final plan approval.

To promote coordination on the regional transportation system, priority will be given to planning projects that involve partnerships of multiple local agencies and cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Planning projects that encourage or reinforce single occupancy vehicle travel, suburban/exurban sprawl, or activities otherwise inconsistent with NOACA's Long Range Goals or Regional Strategic Plan are ineligible.

### Implementation Grants

TLCI Implementation Grants fund the construction of low-cost, programmatic multimodal transportation improvements recommended in completed TLCI planning studies or other locally completed plans and studies. Projects that implement NOACA approved planning and technical study recommendations, or other regionally significant connections (in addition to TLCI recommendations) will be prioritized.

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

- Every community and implementing governmental agency in NOACA's five-county region that has legal authority to sponsor a federal-aid capital improvement, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 5501.03, Paragraph (d), are eligible to apply.
- Eligible applicants include: political subdivisions, other state agencies, boards, commissions, regional transit authorities, county transit boards, and port authorities.
- Non-implementing governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations (i.e. Community Development Corporations [CDCs], non-profits, and advocacy organizations) must partner with the eligible governmental entity having jurisdiction over the proposed project to co-sponsor a TLCI grant. Only eligible applicants can complete the planning grant application and assume responsibility for entering into a funding agreement with NOACA to carry out the project.

## PROJECT SELECTION:

### Planning Grants

- Local agencies will submit online applications for planning grants.
- NOACA staff will evaluate each application based on criteria that demonstrates project need, relationship to NOACA vision and goals, project organization, project administration and sponsor capacity, partnerships and cross-jurisdictional coordination.
- NOACA staff will recommend projects to the NOACA Standing Committees and Board based on this evaluation.
- All TLCI planning grant applications will also be considered for implementation as part of NOACA's Technical Assistance program.

### Implementation Grants

- Each program cycle, NOACA staff will work with local agencies through local workshops to inventory potential eligible projects. Potential projects will be derived from previous TLCI planning studies and other local plans and only at the request of the local government agency with jurisdiction.
- NOACA staff will create and maintain a comprehensive TLCI Implementation Database of all of the projects from previous TLCI planning studies and local plans through an annual solicitation of local plans.
- The focus of the awards will be on low-cost infrastructure projects that can be implemented through a coordinated, programmatic approach.
- Examples of eligible projects include:
  - Striping of bike lanes, protected bike lanes, and/or bike boxes
  - Bike parking (racks, corrals, boxes, etc.)
  - Installation of crosswalk infrastructure
  - Construction of Transit Waiting Environments/enhanced shelters
  - Implementation of comprehensive wayfinding programs
- NOACA staff will recommend projects to the NOACA Standing Committees and Board.

## FUNDING:

- The total budget for TLCI awards is determined by the Board of Directors.
- A minimum 20% non-federal match is required for all TLCI awards. In-kind services may not be used for the local match.
- To effectively manage the program, the NOACA Board may limit the funds available within a specific application cycle. TLCI awards are at the discretion of the Board. The Board may also limit the number of awards and funding to applicants within an application cycle.

- Final financial details will not be determined until projects are selected, and no financing will be executed without Board approval.

**SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITY:**

- Preliminary development and detailed design phase activities, including working with NOACA and the appropriate ODOT District Office toward environmental clearance and right-of-way certification.
- Development of the Plans, Specifications and Estimate (PS&E) package, contract administration and funds management activities consistent with the ODOT Locally Administered Transportation Projects Manual of Procedures and other ODOT stated requirements for local-let projects authorized under Ohio Revised Code 5501.03(d).
- Provision of the 20% local funding match requirement for construction and construction engineering related activities.
- Implementation projects are expected to move to construction within 18 months of the award or will not be eligible for this funding.
- Planning projects are expected to be completed within 18 months of the award.

**DEFINITIONS:**

NOACA Board of Directors: NOACA is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and designated areawide water quality management agency for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina in Ohio directed by a 45-member Board, representing all five NOACA counties, plus transit agencies, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, Ohio EPA, and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Multi-Modal Transportation: A connected transportation system that supports cars, freight vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, horse and carriage, rail and public transit.