



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: June 5, 2015

RE: **Resolution No 2015-034 - Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Planning Grant Recommendations**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board of Directors is asked to approve the TLCI Planning grants for FY 2016.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Program provides federal funding assistance to communities and public agencies to contract for the planning of transportation improvements that help advance NOACA's long range goals. The program provides support to explore innovative concepts and plans through a comprehensive, community-based planning process, leading to the construction of projects that improve multimodal transportation across the region. Projects identified through funded studies and plans are expected to lead to the development and construction of projects that can secure funding, and/or compete at the regional level for capital funds through NOACA's regional transportation investment process. The TLCI program has provided assistance to communities and public agencies for planning that strengthens community livability since 2006.

At the January 2015 meeting, the NOACA Board adopted a TLCI Policy to support funding for planning grants to support activities that facilitate and promote sustainable development, multimodal transportation, and complete and green streets. The Policy also established funding of implementation grants to fund the construction of low-cost, programmatic multimodal transportation improvements recommended in completed TLCI planning studies or other locally completed plans and studies.

On January 26, 2015, NOACA opened the 2016 TLCI planning grant application to eligible project sponsors in northeast Ohio. The application asked sponsors to detail how their proposed projects would benefit their communities and the region, particularly in relationship to the program objectives and NOACA's long-range

transportation plan goals. Notice of funding availability was made through email to agencies, organizations, and municipalities across the region, and advertisement on social media and NOACA's website.

Applications were due to NOACA on Friday, March 6. NOACA received eleven TLCI planning grant applications totaling a request for \$669,000 in federal funds. The TLCI planning grant recommendations are listed in Attachment 1.

NOACA staff evaluated each planning grant application based on the criteria established in the TLCI Policy that demonstrates project need, relationship to NOACA vision and goals, project organization, project administration and sponsor capacity, partnerships and cross-jurisdictional coordination. Additionally, projects were evaluated for NOACA's Technical Assistance program.

NOACA staff recommends awarding TLCI funding to seven planning grants listed in Attachment 1 totaling \$475,000. Two projects, one in the City of Bay Village and the other in the City of Chardon, are recommended for NOACA's Technical Assistance program.

During staff review, two projects were deemed to be ineligible for TLCI funds and are not recommended for funding:

- A) City of Newburgh Heights – Harvard Road Connector All Purpose Trail – The City of Newburgh Heights proposed a multi-use path along Harvard Avenue to connect to the Metroparks' Washington Park Trail. Because the general location and type of facility is already known, this project should seek funding for preliminary design. NOACA staff will work with Newburgh Heights to identify funding opportunities for design.
- B) City of Brooklyn – Big Creek/I-71 Relocation and Restoration – The City of Brooklyn submitted an application to conduct an economic impact and traffic analysis for removing the ramps at the Denison Interchange on I-71 and proposing a new interchange at Ridge Road. The removal of the Denison Interchange would allow for the stream to be realigned to expand recreational and trail space to connect the Brookside and Big Creek reservations. A preliminary study was completed in February 2015 that developed preliminary alternatives. The bulk of the TLCI application was to support the traffic and economic impact analysis for the new interchange. This is a large interstate capacity project that is inconsistent with the goals of the TLCI Policy. NOACA staff will work with Brooklyn to explore alternatives for seeking funding for the creek restoration through Ohio EPA, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Metroparks. Additionally, staff recommends the City seek funding for an Interchange Modification Study through the Ohio Department of Transportation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is \$1 million in available funding for the 2016 TLCI program and the TLCI Policy allows up to \$500,000 in funding for planning grants. The TLCI planning grant recommendations would allocate \$475,000 of the available \$500,000. The remaining funds will be distributed as part of the TLCI implementation grants.

The TLCI program is funded by an annual set aside from NOACA's Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds during the development of NOACA's annual OWP and biennial TIP.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

With Board of Directors concurrence, NOACA staff will work with the local agencies to program and develop their projects.

GG/ks/jn/2839b

**RESOLUTION NO. NO 2015-034
(TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVABLE
COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (TLCI)
PLANNING GRANTS)**

ATTACHMENT 1

2016 TLCI Planning Grants				
TLCI Planning Grants				
Sponsor	Project Name	Amount Requested	Total Project Cost	Recommended Award
Fairview Park	Center Ridge Road Complete Streets Project	\$64,000	\$80,000	\$64,000
Shaker Heights	Van Aken District Connections Plan	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$60,000
CCPC	Northfield/Warrensville Center Corridor	\$96,000	\$120,000	\$96,000
Gates Mills	Chagrin Valley Connectors	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$60,000
Cleveland	Midway Cycle Track & Protected Bike Facilities	\$60,000	\$92,000	\$75,000
Parma	West Creek Quarry District Initiative	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$60,000
Cleveland	E. 79th Street Transportation Oriented Corridor	\$75,000	\$93,750	\$60,000
		\$475,000	\$610,750	\$475,000
NOACA Technical Assistance				
Bay Village	Cahoon Park Area Connectivity Study	\$40,000	\$50,000	
Chardon	Chardon Sidewalk Connectivity Analysis	\$24,000	\$30,000	
Ineligible for TLCI				
Newburgh Heights	Harvard Road Connector All Purpose Trail	\$52,000	\$65,000	
Brooklyn	Big Creek/I-71 Relocation & Restoration Initiative	\$78,000	\$98,000	
TOTAL REQUESTED/ AWARDED		\$669,000	\$853,750	\$475,000

**RESOLUTION NO. NO 2015-034
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COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (TLCI)
PLANNING GRANTS)**

**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's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Program provides federal funding assistance to communities and public agencies to contract for the planning of transportation improvements that help advance NOACA's long range plan; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the continued success of the program, the proposed TLCI policy continues to support funding for planning grants to support activities that facilitate and promote sustainable development, multimodal transportation, and complete and green streets; and

WHEREAS, in its approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Board of Directors approved up to \$1,000,000 in NOACA federal funds for the Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) program for fiscal year 2016 and up to \$500,000 in funding was available to fund TLCI planning grants; and

WHEREAS, during January and February 2015 NOACA solicited for TLCI planning grant applications. NOACA staff evaluated TLCI planning grant applications for recommendation of funding and for the NOACA Technical Assistance Program; and

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: Projects and funding amounts contained in Attachment 1 are approved.

Section 2: The Executive Director is authorized to enter into contracts with appropriate entities, as needed, to implement the approved FY 2016 TLCI Planning Grant program and NOACA Technical Assistance Program.

Section 3: 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 12th day of June 2015.

**RESOLUTION NO. NO 2015-034
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COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (TLCI)
PLANNING GRANTS)**

Secretary: 

Date Signed: June 12, 2015