



**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
MEMORANDUM**

TO: NOACA Board of Directors
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director
DATE: June 5, 2015
RE: Resolution 2015-030 Support for The Bridge to Sustainable Infrastructure Act

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board of Directors is asked to approve a resolution in support for H.R. 1846, The Bridge to Sustainable Infrastructure Act.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

On July 11th 2014, the NOACA Board approved resolution 2014-024, which set out a clear standard of review for evaluating potential funding mechanisms offered during the reauthorization of the current surface bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Resolution 2014-024 stated:

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 The consensus is clear: the current funding system is inefficient, outdated, and does not meet Northeastern Ohio's infrastructure needs.

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.

On April 16th, 2015 Representatives Jim Renacci (R-OH-16), Bill Pascrell, Reid Ribble (R-WI-08), and Dan Lipinski (D-IL-03) introduced H.R. 1846, the Bridge to Sustainable Infrastructure Act. The legislation indexes the federal gas and diesel user fee to inflation, raising \$27.5 billion in funding, sustaining current highway and transit programs for 1.7 years. Meanwhile the legislation creates a bipartisan, bicameral commission to determine a long-term funding mechanism and must make a recommendation to Congress by September 1, 2016. Congress would be required to either act upon the recommendations or any other mechanism that provides at least three years of funding by December 31, 2016. If Congress fails to act then the Federal gas and diesel user fee would increase in order to meet the three year shortfall. If Congress fails to act again, then the user fee would increase to meet the next five year shortfall, ensuring 10 years of predictable funding.

The bipartisan bill currently has 30 bipartisan co-sponsors. This includes Ohio U.S. Representatives Bob Gibbs (R-OH-7), Marcia Fudge, Marcy Kaptur, and Tim Ryan (D-OH-13).

Upon initial analysis, H.R. 1846 meets the criteria set by the NOACA Board last year concerning viable funding mechanisms worthy of Board support. Yet the analysis is worthy of discussion and verification by the NOACA Board.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

The following organizations and public officials support the Bridge to Sustainable Infrastructure Act:

- Chamber of Commerce
- American Trucking Associations (ATA)
- AAA
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)
- Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
- National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA)
- American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI)
- Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
- Associated Equipment Distributors (AED)
- American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
- Portland Cement Association (PCA)
- American Highway Users Alliance
- Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii)
- National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA)
- American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA)
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
- Association for Commuter Transportation
- The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA)
- ASCE Ohio Council of Local Sections (Akron, Central Ohio, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo)
- Mayor Frank Jackson – City of Cleveland, OH
- Mayor Robert Stefanik – City of North Royalton, OH
- Mayor Pam Bobst – City of Rocky River, OH
- Mayor Tom Perciak – City of Strongsville, OH
- Mayor Michael Byrne – City of Parma Heights, OH

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

House rules require Federal legislation to cite a constitutional authority statement. To that end, H.R. 1846 cites the following constitutional provisions as underlying authority:

- **Article I, Section 8, Clause 1:** The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense, and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.
- **Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
- **Article I, Section 8, Clause 7:** To establish Post Offices and post Roads.
- **Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The legislation has the potential of providing \$27.5 billion in short-term funding while offering a path for long-term solvency for the highway trust fund.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

With Board approval, NOACA will express its support of the subject act to the legislature.

**RESOLUTION 2015-030
(SUPPORT FOR BRIDGE TO
SUSTAINABLE
INFRASTRUCTURE ACT)**

**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, as the MPO, 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 July 31, 2015 and Congress and the President have begun to work on reauthorization proposals which will impact Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the NOACA Board Directors approved resolution 2014-024 on July 11th 2014 which set out a clear standard of review for reviewing potential funding mechanisms during the reauthorization of the current surface transportation bill, MAP-21. The Board stated the following conditions:

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.

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; 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 hereby presents this resolution as a statement of support for and endorsement of H.R. 1846, the Bridge to Sustainable Infrastructure Act, and urge the adoption of said legislation into law by the United States Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution to the members of the Greater Cleveland Congressional Delegation and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**RESOLUTION 2015-030
(SUPPORT FOR BRIDGE TO
SUSTAINABLE
INFRASTRUCTURE ACT)**

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the
Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide
Coordinating Agency adopted this 12th day of June
2015.

Secretary: Michael P. Jumper

Date Signed: 6-12-15