



Approved:

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Responsible Division: Planning
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) PROGRAM POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's (NOACA) Technical Assistance (TA) Program seeks to increase implementation opportunities and explore innovative approaches to provide local communities with a nexus between regional plans and policies, and project development. Through the TA Program NOACA provides staff 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 TA Program in determining project eligibility, selecting projects, and links the program to the vision and objectives of the Regional Strategic Plan.

AUTHORITY:

Ohio Revised Code, Sections § 5501
United States Code, Title 23, Section §134

PURPOSE:

The TA Program provides local agencies with NOACA staff support and resources to complete transportation planning and assistance for the development of specific projects. To advance the vision and goals of NOACA's [Regional Strategic Plan](#) and [Long Range Transportation Plan](#), TA 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 TA program offers NOACA staff planning expertise on community-based multimodal transportation projects. The program improves the safety, efficiency, and preservation of the transportation system for all users, and improves the quality of life in the region.

TA projects will vary based on local agency needs, but may include:

- Multimodal; bicycle or pedestrian access, transit
- Traffic operation
- Traffic signal evaluations
- Signal warrant analysis
- Traffic calming
- Safety Audit
- Speed zone analysis
- Access management
- Parking assessment
- Public outreach and education assistance

TA projects will have a timeline to be completed in 3 months or less and will produce implementable recommendations within an attainable budget. Communities participating in the TA program will be encouraged to pursue innovative solutions.

ELIGIBILITY:

- 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 TA request. Only eligible applicants can complete the TA application and assume responsibility for entering into an agreement with NOACA to carry out the project.

PROJECT SELECTION:

- An online request form will be made available on NOACA's website. Local agencies can submit a request at anytime.
- The TA project selection process will take place each year as NOACA develops its annual budget and Overall Work Program.
- NOACA staff will evaluate each TA request based on criteria that demonstrates project need, relationship to NOACA's vision and goals, ability for project to be completed in less than three months, and local sponsor's capacity to implement study recommendations.
- Up to 25 percent of NOACA staff time and resources will be reserved to respond to TA requests that arise over the course of the fiscal year outside of the annual solicitation.

FUNDING:

- The total budget and staff resources for the TA program will be determined annually with the development of the Overall Work Program.
- To effectively manage the program, the NOACA Executive Director may limit staff time available within a specific fiscal year.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITY:

- Work with NOACA to develop project scope once Technical Assistance is awarded.
- Providing NOACA with existing conditions data needed for project (mapping, traffic counts, existing plans, etc.), if NOACA does not already possess it.
- Participation from all departments within the local agency relevant to the project.
- Lead any public involvement to accompany the project.
- Project sponsors are not required to provide any financial contribution or local match to receive Technical Assistance.