

RESOLUTION NO. 2002 - 195

AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF DUES TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 (\$49,500.00 - RTA CAPITAL FUND – EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT)

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) conducts comprehensive transportation planning and functions as the metropolitan planning organization for the region in accordance with Federal transportation regulations; and

WHEREAS, Federal transportation policy has increased the flexibility of using highway funds for transit projects with the metropolitan planning organizations in urban areas playing a key role in making decisions on such funding matters; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency through Cuyahoga County has provided the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority with a position on the NOACA Policy Board; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority is obligated to pay annual dues as a condition of having a position on the NOACA Policy Board; and

WHEREAS, the dues payment along with the dues from other participating government units are used to help fund NOACA's activities and to match Federal and State grants used for transportation planning activities.

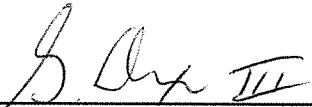
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, that:

Section 1. The General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay NOACA the Authority's FY 2003 (July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003) dues in the amount of forty-nine Thousand Five Hundred (\$49,500.00) Dollars.

Section 2. The payment of the Authority's FY 2003 dues to NOACA will be made in the Authority's calendar year 2003 from the RTA Capital Fund in amount of \$49,500.00 (External Affairs Department Budget), based upon appropriation of the 2003 Budget.

Section 3. This Resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted: December 17 2002



President

Attest: 

CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
STAFF SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

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TITLE/DESCRIPTION: AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF DUES TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 (\$49,500.00 - RTA CAPITAL FUND)	Resolution No.: 2002-195
	Date: December 12, 2002
	Initiator: Taras Szmagala
ACTION REQUEST: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Review/Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

- 1.0 PURPOSE/SCOPE: This action will approve the payment of FY 2003 (July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003) dues to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) as a result of the Authority's gaining a seat on the NOACA Policy Board.
- 2.0 DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION: NOACA functions as the regional planning agency for the five-county area including Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, Geauga and Lake Counties. In this capacity, NOACA is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Cleveland SMSA under Federal transportation regulations. As the MPO for our region, NOACA conducts regional transportation activities and must approve our Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and its listing of projects before Federal and State grants can be received. NOACA also serves as the OMB Circular A-95 review agency for our region and undertakes comprehensive environmental planning activities in both the air and water quality areas.

Federal surface transportation policy makes the Authority's seat on the NOACA Policy Board very important. Federal law provides the flexibility to use highway funds for transit projects in urban areas. The forum for making such decisions is the MPO for an urban area, in our case NOACA. Having a seat on the NOACA Board greatly enhances GCRTA's ability to obtain flexible funds for HOV lanes, park-n-ride lots, rail extensions and other transit projects.
- 3.0 PROCUREMENT BACKGROUND: Does not apply.
- 4.0 DBE/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BACKGROUND: Does not apply
- 5.0 POLICY IMPACT: Active GCRTA participation on the NOACA Policy Board will give the Authority a forum for advocating local policies and practices that encourage greater transit usage. It will assist the Authority in the adoption and implementation of long-range transit plans and in obtaining funding for same, particularly from non-traditional sources such as Federal and State highway funds.
- 6.0 ECONOMIC IMPACT: Having a seat on the NOACA Policy Board will require that the Authority pay annual dues similar to other local governmental units. As indicated in Attachment A (letter from Howard Maier and Neil Hofstetter of NOACA) these dues are used to help fund NOACA activities and match Federal and State grants. Each member county's dues bill is based upon NOACA's annual work program and expected grant revenues.

NOACA's total local dues amount is divided among the five counties according to county population size, using the 2000 census. Within each county, the Board of County

Commissioners determines the dues requested from each community or other jurisdiction. As shown in Attachment B, GCRTA's FY 2003 NOACA dues amount to \$49,500.

- 7.0 ALTERNATIVES: Not authorize payment of NOACA dues. This would result in GCRTA losing its seat on the NOACA Policy Board and the advantages it affords.
- 8.0 RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board approve the payment of NOACA dues for FY 2003 in the amount of \$49,500 in calendar year 2003 for the Authority.
- 9.0 ATTACHMENTS:

A - Letter from Howard Maier, NOACA Executive Director, and Neil Hofstetter, President, dated September 4, 2002.

B- NOACA's invoice for FY 2003

Recommended and certified as appropriate to the availability of funds, legal form and conformance with the Procurement requirements.



CEO, Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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Blair, Commissioner
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Ohio Department of Transportation - District 12

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City of North Ridgeville

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City of Brooklyn

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Gauga County Board of Commissioners

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City of Cleveland

Kenneth W. Roth, Trustee
Columbia Township

Edward W. Rybka, Councilman
City of Cleveland

Mildred M. Teuscher, Commissioner
Lake County Board of Commissioners

Robert A. (Skip) Trimble, City Manager
City of Brunswick

Ex Officio Member:
William T. Skowronski
Chief, Northeast District Office
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Howard R. Maier
Executive Director

• Name Committee Members

September 4, 2002

Mr. Joseph Calabrese, General Manager
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit System
1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Dear Mr. Calabrese: *Jrc*

It's that time of year again for NOACA to ask its members for annual financial support in the form of local dues. Members' dues are the financial foundation of this agency. The dues enable us to obtain matching grants offered both by the U.S. and Ohio Departments of Transportation as well as the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies. It is important to note that NOACA's local dues have not increased for the past dozen years.

We have reached the point where cumulative increases in costs of operating the agency require an adjustment in our local basis of support. Consequently, in May the Governing Board voted to increase dues by 10% for the new fiscal year. The Board believes this is a modest change after twelve years at the same rate (in fact, dues were actually decreased for fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998). When seen in light of the agency's success in qualifying the region for federal highway and transit dollars, as well as helping the area achieve and maintain air and water quality standards, the necessity for the increase makes even better sense.

Under NOACA's Code of Regulations Boards of County Commissioners determine how dues in their respective counties will be assessed. The Cuyahoga County Commissioners have developed a plan that allocates the overall 10% increase proportionately among communities based upon Year 2000 census figures. The dues amount requested in the enclosed invoice reflects your proportion and may differ from last year's request based upon changes in population in your community.

Enclosed is a brochure explaining the nature and extent of the agency's work activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002. The work program, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) information, agency services, and other information about NOACA are also available on our website at www.noaca.org.

Timely payment of dues is important for the continuation of the agency's work. We are fully aware that some communities face very tight budgets in the current economy. If this is a problem for you please contact our Director of Finance, Cheryl Kurkowski, at 216-241-2414, Extension 210. Thank you for your support. Please call us (Howard at 216-241-2414, Extension 380 or Neil at 440-285-2222) if you have questions, comments or would like to schedule an informational meeting.

Sincerely,



Neil C. Hofstetter
President, Governing Board



Howard R. Maier
Executive Director

NCH/HRM/JW/jy/0082n/Enclosures

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Invoice

NOACA
1299 SUPERIOR AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3204
Phone: (216) 241-2414
Fax: (216) 621-3024

Invoice Number: 64
Date: SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

To:

GCRTA
1240 WEST 6TH STREET
CLEVELAND, OH 44113-1331

YOUR P.O. #	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
	2003 NOACA DUES ALLOCATION	\$49,500.00
	FISCAL YEAR 2003 (JULY 1, 2002-JUNE 30, 2003)	

THANK YOU!