

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-2

AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF DUES TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,500.00 (RTA CAPITAL FUND – EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT BUDGET)

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, Cuyahoga County, Ohio:

Section 1. That the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay NOACA the Authority's FY 2006 (July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006) dues in the amount of forty-nine Thousand Five Hundred (\$49,500.00) Dollars.

Section 2. That the payment of the Authority's FY 2006 dues to NOACA will be payable from the RTA Capital Fund, Executive Department Budget, in the amount of \$49,500.00.

Section 3. That this Resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted: _____, 2006 _____
President

Attest: _____
CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
STAFF SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

TITLE/DESCRIPTION: AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF DUES TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,500.00 (RTA CAPITAL FUND – EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT BUDGET)	Resolution No.: 2006-2
	Date: January 19, 2006
	Initiator: Executive
ACTION REQUEST: <input 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 2006 (July 1, 2005- June 30, 2006) 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.

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 Betty Blair 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 2006 NOACA dues amount to \$49,500.

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

Staff Summary And Comments

NOACA FY 2006 Dues

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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:** Payment of the Authority's FY 2006 dues to NOACA will be payable from the RTA Capital Fund, Executive Department Budget, in the amount of \$49,500.00.
- 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 2006 in the amount of \$49,500 in calendar year 2006 for the Authority.
- 9.0 **ATTACHMENTS:**

A - Letter from Howard Maier, NOACA Executive Director, and Robert Klaiber, NOACA President, dated July 1, 2005.

B- NOACA's invoice for FY 2006

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

CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer