

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-2

AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF DUES TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52,099.00 (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, NOACA 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 2007 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007) dues in the amount of Fifty-Two Thousand, Ninety-Nine (\$52,099.00) Dollars.

Section 2. That the payment of the Authority's FY 2007 dues to NOACA will be payable from the RTA Capital Fund, Executive Department Budget, in the amount of \$52,099.00.

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

Adopted: January 16, 2007



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 2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52,099.00 (RTA CAPITAL FUND, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT BUDGET)	Resolution No.: 2007-2
	Date: January 11, 2007
	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 2007 (July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007) dues to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA).

- 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 urbanized area 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 buses, 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 Stephen Hambley 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 2007 NOACA dues amount to \$52,099.00.

- 3.0 **PROCUREMENT BACKGROUND:** Does not apply.

- 4.0 **DBE/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BACKGROUND:** Does not apply

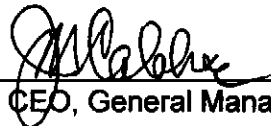
- 5.0 **POLICY IMPACT:** Active GCRTA participation on the NOACA Policy Board will give the Authority a forum for advocating local policies and practices that encourage greater transit usage. It will assist the Authority in the adoption and implementation of long-range transit plans and in obtaining funding for same, particularly from non-traditional sources such as Federal and State highway funds.

- 6.0 **ECONOMIC IMPACT:** Payment of the Authority's FY 2007 dues to NOACA will be payable from the RTA Capital Fund, Executive Department Budget, in the amount of \$52,099.00.
- 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 2007 in the amount of \$52,099.00 in calendar year 2007 for the Authority.
- 9.0 **ATTACHMENTS:**

A - Letter from Howard Maier, NOACA Executive Director, and Stephen Hambley, NOACA President, dated July 3, 2006.

B- NOACA's invoice for FY 2007.

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



CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

ATTACHMENT A

July 3, 2006

Mr. Joseph A. Calabrese, General Manager
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113-1331

Dear Mr. Calabrese:

Each year NOACA asks its members for annual financial support in the form of local dues, which 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. Environmental Protection Agency. NOACA's planning work is essential in qualifying the region for federal highway and transit dollars, as well as helping the area achieve and maintain air and water quality standards.

Enclosed is a brochure "OWP News, April 2006" explaining the nature and extent of the agency's work activities for the fiscal year (FY) beginning July 1, 2006. Also enclosed is a brochure "Northeast Ohio Water Quality" that explains why the region needs NOACA's water quality program. The full Overall Work Program (OWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) information, agency services, and other information about NOACA are available on our website at www.noaca.org.

The FY 2007 OWP and budget, unanimously adopted at the Governing Board's May meeting, recognizes the need to increase NOACA's local revenues so that the agency can:

- 1) access additional federal transportation planning funds available on a matching basis under the new national transportation act; and
- 2) maintain NOACA's ability to respond to areawide water quality planning responsibilities, and provide water quality related community services.

To generate additional local revenues the FY 2007 budget contains a 5.25 percent increase in dues, and the enclosed invoice represents that amount. The Board's longer term revenue strategy includes dues increases in each of the next two years, and seeking additional financial support for the water quality program from selected program beneficiaries who are not NOACA members.

If you have questions about the OWP, budget, or dues increase please call us directly (Howard at 216-241-2414, Extension 380 or Steve at 330-722-9211). We are fully aware that many communities face very tight budgets. If this situation affects your ability to make timely payment of dues, please contact our Director of Finance, Cheryl Kurkowski, at 216-241-2414, Extension 210. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Hambley

Stephen D. Hambley
President, Governing Board

Howard R. Maier

Howard R. Maier
Executive Director

SDH/HRM/JW/jy/0100n
Enclosures

ATTACHMENT B

Invoice

Invoice Number: 60
Date: JULY 3, 2006

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

To:

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

YOUR P.O. #	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
	2007 NOACA DUES ALLOCATION	\$52,099.00
	FISCAL YEAR 2007 (JULY 1, 2006-JUNE 30, 2007)	

THANK YOU!