

Resolution No. 345-2021

By Council Member Polensek

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Supporting the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's new method of cost-benefit analysis to make recommendations on funding new interstate interchanges, which method includes review of racial and economic equity and environmental sustainability.

WHEREAS, in December, 2020, the board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), approved a new method of cost-benefit analysis to determine whether to recommend interstate interchanges; and

WHEREAS, the new method takes into account traditional measures such as the local cost of traffic congestion, safety, and air pollution, versus economic benefits; however, for the first time it analyzes issues such as racial and economic equity and environmental sustainability across the entire region; and

WHEREAS, NOACA wants to create a better public understanding of how new interchanges could add to a "decades-old, zero-sum pattern" where new access points to interstate highways can spur local development but will move jobs, tax base, and investment from older communities; and

WHEREAS, this Council agrees on the importance of this issue for Northeast Ohio because the region continues to sprawl but is not gaining population; and

WHEREAS, the new cost-benefit analysis would hopefully spur solutions which would be negotiated between the city developing a site and the city or cities losing tax base and jobs; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council supports the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's new method of cost-benefit analysis to make recommendations on funding new interstate interchanges, which method includes review of racial and economic equity and environmental sustainability.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Grace Gallucci, Executive Director, NOACA.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

MDP:rns
5/10/2021

