



# Connecting Communities **PLANNING GRANT**

**APPLICATION**

Deadline: October 14, 2011

**The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study** developed the Connecting Communities Initiative to encourage the integration of land use and transportation. The Connecting Communities Planning Grant Program has been created to further this goal.

AMATS has made \$100,000 available for grants up to \$50,000 to be awarded through the Connecting Communities Planning Grant Program. Applications may have more than one sponsor. Applications for no more than two grants may be submitted per sponsor. A selection committee, The Connecting Communities Planning Grant Task Force, will be charged with reviewing sponsors' applications and making recommendations to the Policy Committee.

The program is designed to provide communities with funding to develop transportation plans that will lead to projects eligible for AMATS funds. The grant program is intended to fund transportation plans that focus on livability, multimodal connections, and are consistent with the Connecting Communities Initiative.

Connecting Communities Planning Grant applications should:

- Promote more transportation choices
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support and value existing neighborhoods

Applications may be sent by email, mail or hand delivered, and **must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2011**. Grant awards will be determined by the Policy Committee on December 7, 2011. For more information contact Heather Davis Reidl at [hreidl@akronohio.gov](mailto:hreidl@akronohio.gov) or 330-375-2436.

**Email, mail or hand deliver this complete application and attachments to:**

Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study  
RE: Planning Grant  
806 CitiCenter  
146 S. High St.  
Akron, Ohio 44308

Telephone: 330.375.2436

[www.amatsplanning.org/programs/amats-planning-grant/](http://www.amatsplanning.org/programs/amats-planning-grant/)

## Eligibility

Eligible activities are those that promote economic development as well as encourage alternatives to single occupant vehicles, such as:

- Development of transportation/land-use plans for corridors or neighborhoods, such as streetscape and access management plans
- Bicycle, pedestrian, and transit-oriented development plans
- Those that are consistent with the Livability Principles, shown on the sidebar on this page

To be eligible for a Connecting Communities Planning Grant, a project must:

- Be intended for transportation planning
- Be site specific
- Result in transportation and land use improvements that are consistent with the Connecting Communities Initiative

Ineligible activities include:

- Preliminary Engineering
- Final Design
- Preparation of environmental documentation
- Right-of-way acquisition
- Preparation of bid documents
- Construction

AMATS Connecting Communities Planning Grant 2010 grant recipients can be viewed here:

[www.amatsplanning.org/programs/amats-planning-grant](http://www.amatsplanning.org/programs/amats-planning-grant)

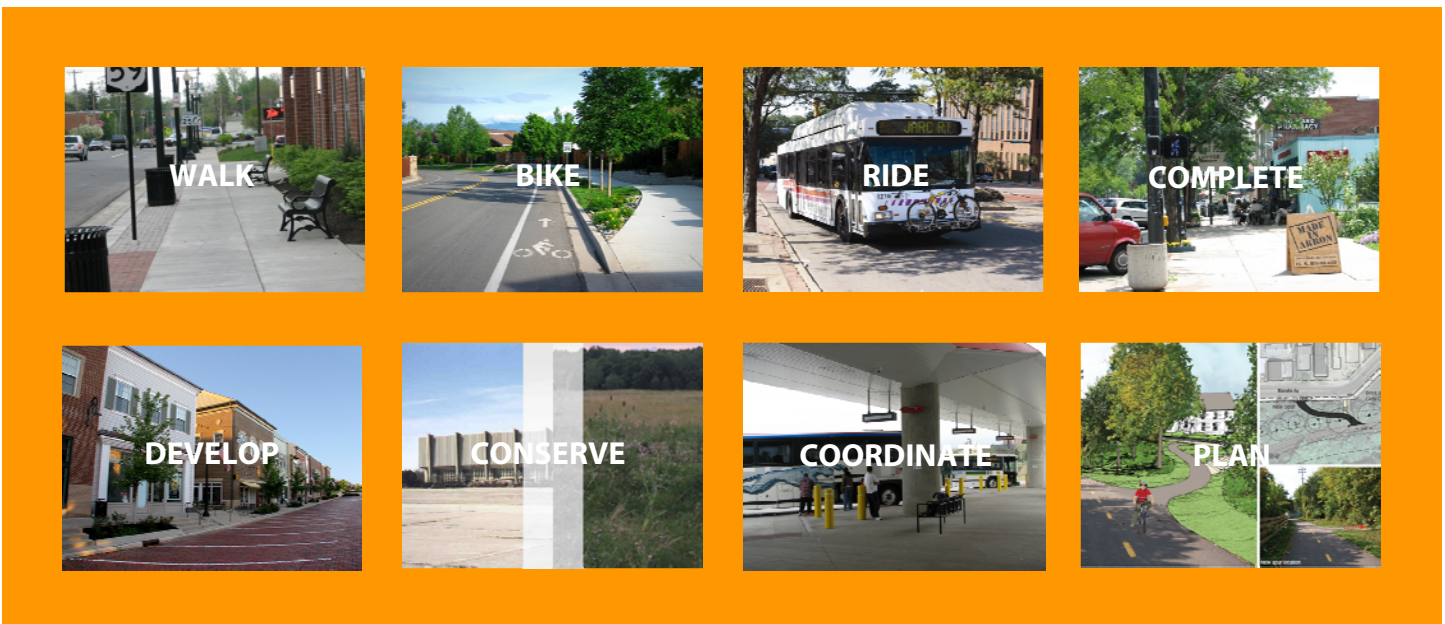
## Livability Principles

- **Provide more transportation choices.** Develop safe, reliable, and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
- **Enhance economic competitiveness.** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets.
- **Support and value existing communities and neighborhoods.** Target federal funding toward existing communities—through strategies like transit-oriented, mixed-use development, and land recycling—to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes. Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods—rural, urban, or suburban.

**Connecting Communities** is a guide to integrate land use and transportation planning, decision making, and investments in the Akron metropolitan area. It is intended to be used as a framework for targeting investments and regional cooperation. For a copy of the report, visit [www.amatsplanning.org/programs/connecting-communities/](http://www.amatsplanning.org/programs/connecting-communities/). Applications should be consistent with one or more of these recommendations.

The recommendations of *Connecting Communities* are:

1. **Improve pedestrian planning and facilities through targeted investments.**
2. **Improve bicycle planning and facilities through targeted investments.**
3. **Enhance public transportation systems to meet the needs of current users and be attractive to new users.**
4. **Incorporate complete streets principles into land use and transportation decisions.**
5. **Implement land use policies that improve community cohesion and reduce urban sprawl.**
6. **Integrate environmental planning into land use and transportation planning.**
7. **Improve inter-agency coordination on regional planning.**
8. **Create a planning grant program to implement Connecting Communities.**



**Application**

Scoring and Timeline — Applications will be evaluated by the Connecting Communities Planning Grant Task Force beginning immediately after the October 14, 2011 application deadline. The Task Force was created to score, review, and recommend projects to the AMATS Policy Committee, which will select the grant recipients at its December 7, 2011 meeting.

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1. Applicant/Sponsor (Implementing Governmental Agency Only). If sponsor is a township please provide a letter of support from County Government or County Engineer (letters of support should be limited to 3).

Community/Agency	
Contact Person	
Phone Number	
Fax Number	
Email Address	
Mailing Address	

2. Project Co-Sponsor (If applicable. Please indicate which agency and contact person will be the lead.)

Community/Agency	
Contact Person	
Phone Number	
Fax Number	
Email Address	
Mailing Address	

3. Connecting Communities Planning Study

Planning Study Title	
Brief Description	
Summary of Expected Final Product(s)	

4. Project Map — Please include a map of the proposed project planning area. If the map is not included in the main document of your application, please list the attached image filenames and include the files as an attachment when submitting.

Image Filenames (if applicable):

**(Please answer the remaining questions in no more than one typed page each and attach to this application)**

5. Describe the planning area boundaries and size. Describe the existing transportation and land use issues. Define the problems facing the area. (10 points)
6. Define the purpose of the study, and the expected outcomes (access management, streetscapes, pedestrian facilities). (10 points)
7. Discuss how this study addresses the following three principles (See page 3 for more detail):
  - a. Provide more transportation choices (5 points)
  - b. Enhance economic competitiveness (5 points)
  - c. Support and value existing communities and neighborhoods(10 points)
8. Explain the public’s involvement in the study. What residents or groups will be included and invited to provide input? (5 points)
9. How will your community plan to implement this planning study? Describe potential funding sources that could be used for implementation. (10 points)