



**Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee
Ohio Department of Transportation District 4
2088 S. Arlington Road
Akron, Ohio 44306**

Thursday, September 24, 2026
1:30 p.m.

Agenda

1. **Call to Order**
 - A. Determination of a Quorum Oral
 - B. Audience Participation
2. **Minutes**
 - A. August 13, 2026 Meeting – **Motion Required** Attachment 2A
3. **Staff Reports**
 - A. Financial Progress Report – **Motion Required** Attachment 3A
 - B. Technical Progress Report Oral
 - C. AMATS Federal Funds Report Attachment 3C
4. **Old Business**
 - A. *Public Participation Plan – Final Draft 3P.* – **Motion Requested** Attachment 4A
5. **New Business**
6. **Resolutions**
 - A. **Resolution 2026-18** – PARTA Purchase of Security Cameras (FY 2026-2029 TIP Amendment #15). – **Motion Required** Attachment 6A
 - B. **Resolution 2026-19** – Approving the FY 2026 Year End Completion Report. – **Motion Required** Attachment 6B
7. **Other Business**
 - A. Report of Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice Chair. Oral
– **Motion Requested**
 - B. 2027 AMATS Meeting Calendar – **Motion Requested** Item 7B
8. **Adjournment**

Next Regular Meeting:
Thursday, December 10, 2026 - 1:30 PM
ODOT District 4
2088 S. Arlington Road, Akron, OH 44306

All mailout material is available on the AMATS Web Site at www.amatsplanning.org



**Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
Technical Advisory Committee
Ohio Department of Transportation District 4
2088 S. Arlington Road
Akron, Ohio 44306**

Thursday, September 17, 2026
1:30 p.m.

Agenda

1. **Call to Order**
 - A. Determination of a Quorum Oral
2. **Minutes**
 - A. August 6, 2026 Meeting – **Motion Required** Attachment 2A
3. **Staff Reports**
 - A. Financial Progress Report – **Motion Required** Attachment 3A
 - B. Technical Progress Report Oral
 - C. AMATS Federal Funds Report Attachment 3C
4. **Old Business**
 - A. *Public Participation Plan – Final Draft 3P.* – **Motion Requested** Attachment 4A
5. **New Business**
6. **Resolutions**
 - A. **Resolution 2026-18** – PARTA Purchase of Security Cameras (FY 2026-2029 TIP Amendment #15). – **Motion Required** Attachment 6A
 - B. **Resolution 2026-19** – Approving the FY 2026 Year End Completion Report. – **Motion Required** Attachment 6B
7. **Other Business**
 - A. 2027 AMATS Meeting Calendar – **Motion Requested** Item 7A
8. **Adjournment**

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2026 - 1:30 PM
ODOT District 4
2088 S. Arlington Road
Akron, OH 44306

All mailout material is available on the AMATS Web Site at www.amatsplanning.org.



**Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
Citizens Involvement Committee
Virtual Meeting**

Thursday, September 17, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Agenda

1. **Welcome**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Items**
 - A. Presentation regarding Attachment 4A – *Public Participation Plan – Final Draft 3P*.
 - B. Presentation regarding Attachment 6A – *Resolution 2026-18* – PARTA Purchase of Security Cameras (Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #15).
4. **Open Discussion**
5. **Adjournment 7:45 P.M.**

Next Regular Meeting:
Thursday, December 3, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.

All mailout material is available on the AMATS Web Site at www.amatsplanning.org

**Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee
Thursday, August 6, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.**

Minutes of Meeting

Recordings of AMATS committee meetings are available in the *Past Meetings* page of the agency web site at <https://www.amatsplanning.org/past-meetings>.

I. Call to Order

A. Vice Chairman Bowling called the meeting to order. The attending members constituted a quorum.

B. Audience Participation

None.

II. Minutes – Motion Required

A. Approval of Minutes

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2026 meeting.

Motion

Larry Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Carol Siciliano-Kilway. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

III. Staff Reports

A. Financial Progress Report

Curtis Baker presented Attachment 3A.

Motion

Jim McCleary made a motion to approve the Financial Progress Report and it was seconded by Larry Jenkins. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

B. Technical Progress Report

Matt Stewart said that the AMATS Annual Meeting is scheduled for Oct. 9. Registration will begin soon.

Mr. Stewart summarized recent developments concerning the proposed BUILD America 250 Act. **Mr. Stewart** said that successor legislation may not be approved by Congress before the current federal transportation authorization

expires Sept. 30, but that a continuing resolution may be approved to sustain transportation funding until Dec. 11.

C. AMATS Federal Funds Report

Amy Prater presented Attachment 3C.

Ms. Prater presented tables concerning STBG, CRP, CMAQ, and TASA Funding Program and Balances dated July 28, 2026.

Vice Chairman Bowling asked Ms. Prater to explain how MPOs may lend funding among themselves. **Ms. Prater** explained how ODOT allows agencies to borrow and lend project funding for fiscal purposes and scheduling.

IV. Old Business

A. AMATS Road Diet Report.

Amelia Hoffmeier presented Attachment 4A.

Motion

***Dave Messner** made a motion to approve the AMATS Road Diet Report and it was seconded by **Carol Siciliano-Kilway**. The motion was approved.*

B. AMATS 2022-2024 Crash Report.

Mr. Stewart presented Attachment 4B.

Motion

***Larry Jenkins** made a motion to approve the AMATS 2022-2024 Crash Report and it was seconded by **Jim McCleary**. The motion was approved.*

V. New Business

A. Public Participation Plan – Draft 3P.

Kerry Prater presented Attachment 5A.

VI. Resolutions

A. Resolution 2026-15 – Approving Amendment #13 to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to revise funding for three projects and add two projects.

Ms. Prater presented Attachment 6A.

Motion

John Cieszkowski made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-15 and it was seconded by Dave Messner. The motion was approved.

B. Resolution 2026-16 – PARTA Service Vehicle Purchase (FY 2026-2029 TIP Amendment #14).

Jeff Gardner presented Attachment 6B.

Motion

Tom Sheridan made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-16 and it was seconded by Dawn Distler. The motion was approved.

C. Resolution 2026-17 – Adopting Performance Measures Targets.

Mr. Gardner presented Attachment 6C.

Motion

Carol Siciliano-Kilway made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-17 and it was seconded by Rocco Yeargin. The motion was approved.

VII. Other Business

A. Formation of Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice Chair.

Vice Chairman Bowling asked for volunteers to serve on a Nominating Committee with him to present a slate of officers to serve as chair and vice chair of the AMATS Policy Committee. The nominating committee will also consider the duration of the committee officers' terms. Portage County Engineer Larry Jenkins and Tallmadge Mayor Siciliano-Kilway agreed to serve with Vice Chairman Bowling and Director Baker on the Nominating Committee.

B. Notification of Air Quality Conformity Concurrence Letters.

Mr. Baker informed the Policy Committee that, per Resolution 2026-08A, he submitted two letters of concurrence with an Air Quality Analysis completed by NOACA for a new project in the Akron Cleveland Air Quality Nonattainment Area. The first concurrence was for the project to be added to NOACA's Long Range Plan, and the second concurrence was for its inclusion in NOACA's Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Baker stated that the project does not have a negative impact on regional air quality budgets.

VIII. Adjournment

A. The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2026.

Motion

*Carol Siciliano-Kilway made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by **Larry Jenkins**. The motion was approved.*

There being no other business, **Vice Chairman Bowling** adjourned the meeting.

**AMATS POLICY COMMITTEE
2026 ATTENDANCE**

M Denotes Member Present A Denotes Alternate Present	Feb 12	Mar 26	May 14	Aug 13	Sept 24	Dec 10
AKRON – Mayor Shammass Malik (DiFiore) (Vollman)	A	A	A	A		
AURORA - Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin (Stark) (Januska)						
BARBERTON - Mayor Shorter Griffin (Carr) (Shreve)	M		M			
BOSTON HEIGHTS – Mayor Ron Antal (Maccarone)						
CLINTON - Mayor William C. McDaniel						
CUYAHOGA FALLS - Mayor Don Walters (Zumbo)	A		A	A		
DOYLESTOWN - Mayor Terry Lindeman						
FAIRLAWN - Mayor Russell Sharnsky (Staten) (Visca)	A					
GARRETTSVILLE - Mayor Rick Patrick						
GREEN - Mayor Rocco Yeargin (Wax Carr)	M	M	M	M		
HIRAM - Mayor Ann Haynam (Schuller)						
HUDSON – Thomas Sheridan (Griffith)	M	M		M		
KENT – City Mgr. David Ruller (Baker) (Bowling)	A		A	A		
LAKEMORE – Mayor Richard Cole (Sayers)	M	A				
MACEDONIA - Mayor Nick Molnar (Gigliotti) (Sheehy)						
MANTUA - Mayor Tammy Meyer (Klemm)						
METRO – Dawn Distler (Leppo) (Wilms)	M	A	M	M		
MOGADORE - Mayor Michael Rick						
MUNROE FALLS - Mayor Allen Mavrides (Bowery)	M	M		M		
NEW FRANKLIN - Mayor Steve Rector (Ganoe)	M	M	M			
NORTHFIELD – Mayor Jenn Domzalski (Hipps)						
NORTON – Administrative Officer Michael Rorar (Binsley)	M	M		A		
ODOT – Gery Noiro (Phillis) (Root)	A	A	M	A		
PARTA – Kelly Jurisch (Proseus) (Schrader)	A	A	M	A		
PENINSULA - Mayor Daniel R. Schneider, Jr.						
PORTAGE COUNTY COMM. – Jill Crawford (Crombie)	M			M		
PORTAGE COUNTY COMM. – Mike Tinlin (Crombie)						
PORTAGE COUNTY COMM. - Sabrina Christian-Bennett (Hlad)	A		A	A		
PORTAGE COUNTY ENGINEER – Larry D. Jenkins, Jr. (Steigerwald)	M	M	M	M		
RAVENNA - Mayor Frank Seman (Finney) (DiSalvo)	A			A		
REMINDERVILLE - Mayor Sam Alonso (Krock)						
RICHFIELD - Mayor Michael Wheeler (Frantz) (Waldemarson)	A	A		A		
RITTMAN – City Mgr. Bobbie Beshara (Lengacher) (Neumeyer)	M	M				
SILVER LAKE – Mayor Therese Dunphy (Housley)						
STOW - Mayor John Pribonic (McCleary) (Jones)	A	A	A	A		
STREETSBORO - Mayor Glenn M. Broska (Cieszkowski) (Gorog)	A	A		A		
SUGAR BUSH KNOLLS - Mayor Jeffrey A. Coffee						
SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER -Al Brubaker (Fulton) (Hauber) (Olson)	A	A	A	A		
SUMMIT COUNTY EXECUTIVE - Ilene Shapiro (Durrant)	A	A	A	A		
SUMMIT COUNTY COMM. & ECON. DEV. – Diane Miller-Dawson	M					
SUMMIT COUNTY COMM. & ECON. DEV. – David Messner	M	M		A		
TALLMADGE - Mayor Carol Siciliano-Kilway (Kidder)	M	A	M	M		
TWINSBURG - Mayor Sam Scaffide (Jeffers)	A	A	A			
WAYNE COUNTY COMM. BOARD - Dominic Oliverio (Piatt)						
WAYNE COUNTY ENGINEER – Scott A. Miller (Jones)		M		M		
WINDHAM – Mayor Lawrence Cunningham, Jr.						

**AMATS POLICY COMMITTEE
2026 ATTENDANCE**

OBSERVERS AND STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Mr. Curtis Baker	AMATS
Mr. Seth Bush	AMATS
Ms. Heather Davis Reidl	AMATS
Mr. Jeff Gardner	AMATS
Ms. Amelia Hoffmeier	AMATS
Mr. Matt Mullen	AMATS
Ms. Amy Prater	AMATS
Mr. Kerry Prater	AMATS
Mr. Matt Stewart	AMATS
 Mr. Tony Urankar	 MS

**Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.**

Minutes of Meeting

Recordings of AMATS committee meetings are available in the *Past Meetings* page of the agency web site at <https://www.amatsplanning.org/past-meetings>.

I. Call to Order

- A. **Chairman Jones** called the meeting to order. The attending members constituted a quorum.

II. Minutes – Motion Required

A. **Approval of Minutes**

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2026 meeting.

Motion

Joe Hadley made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Tracy Sayers. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

III. Staff Reports

A. **Financial Progress Report**

Curtis Baker presented Attachment 3A.

Motion

Tony Demasi made a motion to approve the Financial Progress Report and it was seconded by Brad Kosco. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

B. **Technical Progress Report**

Matt Stewart summarized recent developments concerning the next federal transportation authorization, BUILD America 250 Act. The U.S. Senate is reportedly considering a continuing resolution to sustain transportation funding through Dec. 11 as the current transportation authorization expires Sept. 30.

Mr. Stewart addressed Proven Safety Countermeasures that were introduced by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety in July.

C. **AMATS Federal Funds Report**

Amy Prater presented Attachment 3C.

Ms. Prater presented tables concerning STBG, CRP, CMAQ, and TASA Funding Program and Balances dated July 28, 2026.

Brad Kosco asked what happens if MPOs don't use programmed funding. **Ms. Prater** explained that funds are sometimes deferred until the following programmed year. **Mr. Baker** noted that the state may opt to limit MPOs' access to funding if agencies continually defer programmed funding; AMATS fully utilizes the funding available to its region.

Jim Bowling praised the Staff for its work in overprogramming projects by 25 percent to secure STBG funds for the region.

Chad Root praised AMATS as a "model MPO" for submitting its projects for bid throughout the first three quarters of a fiscal year rather than waiting until the fourth quarter. **Ms. Prater** added that she routinely encourages AMATS-area communities to bid their projects in a timely manner to avert delays.

IV. Old Business

A. AMATS Road Diet Report.

Amelia Hoffmeier presented Attachment 4A.

Joe Hadley asked whether the report was a one-time occurrence or if such reports will be conducted every two or three years. **Mr. Baker** said that AMATS wants to analyze such data continually as it becomes available, possibly in the next five years or less.

Tony Demasi asked how the report's Average Daily Traffic (ADT) thresholds as to when road diets might be necessitated were determined. **Ms. Hoffmeier** said that AMATS used the ADT thresholds established in the *Road Diet Analysis* compiled in 2015 and recent available ADT data compiled over a three-year period.

Motion

Bobbie Beshara made a motion to approve the AMATS Road Diet Report and it was seconded by **Mike Collins**. The motion was approved.

B. AMATS 2022-2024 Crash Report.

Mr. Stewart presented Attachment 4B.

Motion

Jim Bowling made a motion to approve the AMATS 2022-2024 Crash Report and it was seconded by **Kelly Jurisch**. The motion was approved.

V. New Business

A. Public Participation Plan – Draft 3P.

Kerry Prater presented Attachment 5A.

Joe Hadley asked whether AMATS anticipates that online virtual meetings, like the Aug. 6 AMATS Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) meeting, will be how the agency hosts public meetings in the future. Mr. Prater said that online meetings will likely continue for the CIC, but that the agency may still hold in-person meetings depending on the circumstances.

VI. Resolutions

A. Resolution 2026-15 – Approving Amendment #13 to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to revise funding for three projects and add two projects.

Ms. Prater presented Attachment 6A.

Motion

Jim Bowling made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-15 and it was seconded by Tony Demasi. The motion was approved.

B. Resolution 2026-16 – PARTA Service Vehicle Purchase (FY 2026-2029 TIP Amendment #14).

Jeff Gardner presented Attachment 6B.

Motion

Mike Collins made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-16 and it was seconded by Jim Bowling. The motion was approved.

C. Resolution 2026-17 – Adopting Performance Measures Targets.

Mr. Gardner presented Attachment 6C.

Motion

Bobbie Beshara made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-17 and it was seconded by Tracy Sayers. The motion was approved.

VII. Other Business

None.

VIII. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled TAC meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026.

Motion

Mike Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by **Kelly Jurisch**. The motion was approved.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

**AMATS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2026 ATTENDANCE**

M Denotes Member Present	Feb	Mar	May	Aug	Sept	Dec
A Denotes Alternate Present	5	19	7	6	17	3
AKRON ENGINEERING BUREAU - Christine Jonke (Solomon)	M	M	M	M		
AKRON PLANNING DEPT. – Helen Tomic (Garritano)	A	A	A	A		
AKRON TRAFFIC ENGINEERING - Michael Lupica (Meyer)	A	A	A	M		
AURORA - Harry Stark (Cooper)						
BARBERTON – Todd Shreve (Carr)	M	M				
CUYAHOGA FALLS – Rob Kurtz (Paul)	A	M	A	A		
CUYAHOGA FALLS - Tony V. Demasi (Kaser)	M	M		M		
DOYLESTOWN - Eng. Assoc. - Ronny Portz (Mambourg)		A	A	A		
FAIRLAWN – Geary Visca (Staten)		A		M		
GREEN - Wayne Wiethe (Haring)	M	A	A	A		
GREEN - Paul Pickett (Ciocca)	A	A	A			
HUDSON – Nick Sugar (Hannan)	M	M	M	M		
HUDSON – Brad Kosco (Szalay)	M		A	A		
KENT - Jim Bowling	M		M	M		
KENT - Jon Giaquinto (Baker)						
LAKEMORE – Mayor Richard Cole, Jr. (Sayers)	A	A	A	A		
MACEDONIA - Joseph Gigliotti (Sheehy)						
METRO – (Harris) (Meduri) (Richardson)	A	M	A			
MOGADORE – Vacant						
MUNROE FALLS – Mayor Allen Mavrides			M			
NEFCO – Joseph Hadley, Jr. (Lautzenheiser)	M	M	M	M		
NEW FRANKLIN – Joe Hercules (Testa)	M	A	M	A		
NORTHFIELD – Daniel J. Collins						
NORTON – Brian Binsley (Rorar)	M	M	M	M		
ODOT – Chad Root (Bruner) (Phillis)	A	A	A	M		
PARTA – Kelly Jurisch (Proseus) (Schrader)	A	A	M	M		
PORTAGE COUNTY ENGINEER – Mike Collins (Dudek)	A	M	M	M		
PORTAGE CO. REG. PLANNING COMM. – Gail Gifford (Peetz)						
PORTAGE COUNTY SMALL VILLAGES – Tom Hardesty						
PORTAGE COUNTY TOWNSHIP ASSOC – Jeff Derthick (Kovacich)		A	M	M		
RAVENNA - Robert Finney (DiSalvo)	M	M	A			
RICHFIELD – Scott Waldemarson (Frantz) (Neumeyer)		M	M			
RITTMAN – Bobbie Beshara (Lengacher) (Neumeyer)	M	M	M	M		
SILVER LAKE – John Tutak						
STOW – Jim McCleary (Cowan)		M	M			
STOW – Mike Jones (Simpkins)	M	M	M	M		
STREETSBORO – John H. Cieszkowski, Jr. (Broska) (Gorog)	M	M	M			
SUMMIT CO. COMM. & ECON. DEV. – Diane Miller-Dawson (Messner)	A	A	A	A		
SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER - Alan Brubaker (Fulton) (Hauber) (Olson)	A	A	A	A		
SUMMIT COUNTY SMALL VILLAGES – Jason Popiel	M					
SUMMIT COUNTY TOWNSHIP ASSOC. - Richard Reville (Funk)						
TALLMADGE – Jasson Urey (Kidder)	M		M	M		
TWINSBURG – Patrick Jeffers	M	M	A			
WAYNE COUNTY ENGINEER – Scott A. Miller (Jones)						
WINDHAM – Deborah Blewitt (Brown)						

AMATS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2026 ATTENDANCE

M Denotes Member Present
A Denotes Alternate Present

Feb 5	Mar 19	May 7	Aug 6	Sept 17	Dec 3
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NON-VOTING MEMBERS

AKRON CANTON AIRPORT - Renato Camacho

AKRON REG. AIR QUALITY MGT. DIST. – Sam Rubens (Brown) (Vadas)	M	A	A		
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AMATS - Curtis Baker	M	M	M	M	
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CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK – Ivan Kassovic (McMahon)			M		
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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY REP. - Kurt Princic

GREATER AKRON CHAMBER - Alyssa Carpenter	M				
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OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY David Emerman

OHIO TURNPIKE COMMISSION – Anthony Yacobucci

PORTAGE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY – Vacant

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT - Christine Craycroft (Moskos)

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER (CYC) - Mark Posten (Stolfo)

RAILROAD INDUSTRY REP. - William A. Callison (Davis)

SUMMIT METRO PARKS – Mark Szeremet (King) (Rauschenbach) (Saunier)	A	A	A	A	
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TRUCKING INDUSTRY – Vacant

OBSERVERS AND STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Ms. Nora Anderson	Compass Inc. Group
Mr. Tom Flask	LJB
Mr. Jerry Jones	Accenture
Mr. Mike Konrad	American Structurepoint
Ms. Liana Lake	DLZ
Ms. Shane Locke	Patrick Engineering (RINIA)
Mr. George Maki	E. L. Robinson
Mr. Trevor Simpkins	Stow
Mr. Ernie Staten	Fairlawn

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Seth Bush	AMATS
Ms. Heather Davis Reidl	AMATS
Mr. Jeff Gardner	AMATS
Ms. Amelia Hoffmeier	AMATS
Mr. Matt Mullen	AMATS
Ms. Amy Prater	AMATS
Mr. Kerry Prater	AMATS
Mr. Matt Stewart	AMATS

**Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
Citizens Involvement Committee
Thursday, August 6, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.**

Meeting Summary

Members:

Ron Brubaker
Bill Crowley

Tatia Harris
Andy Manka

Pete Mohan
Thomas A. Tatum

Gert Wilms

Staff:

Curtis Baker, Director
Heather Davis Reidl, Mobility Planner
Jeff Gardner, Transit Planner

Amelia Hoffmeier, GIS Planner
Matt Mullen, Transportation Planner
Matt Stewart, Planning Administrator

I. Welcome

Matt Stewart welcomed the AMATS Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) meeting attendees.

II. Discussion Items

A. Amelia Hoffmeier presented Attachment 4A – *AMATS Road Diet Report*.

Andy Manka asked if this report could be found online. **Ms. Hoffmeier** provided a link to the report on the meeting chat - ***AMATS Road Diet Report***. **Mr. Manka** asked who performed the report's statistical analysis. **Ms. Hoffmeier** responded that she performed the analysis.

B. Mr. Stewart presented Attachment 4B – *AMATS 2022-2024 Crash Report Amendment*.

Mr. Manka asked if the omission of 11 high-crash intersections affected any projects or decisions by communities regarding safety issues. **Mr. Stewart** explained that, because the report was approved in February, it is unlikely that the omission would have affected safety funding decisions by communities. **Mr. Stewart** added that crash report data is typically used for communities to make decisions about what roadways or areas they may want to pursue for further study. **Mr. Stewart** said that, to his knowledge, no project decisions were deferred due to the omission of the segments.

Mr. Manka asked about the report's update and approval processes. **Mr. Stewart** explained that the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approved Attachment 4B during its Aug. 6 meeting and that the Policy Committee may follow suit during its Aug. 13 meeting. Pending Policy Committee approval, the AMATS Technical Staff will post the corrected information on the agency's website – amatsplanning.org.

C. **Mr. Stewart** presented Attachment 5A – *Public Participation Plan – Draft 3P*.

Ron Brubaker asked if the 3P details how the Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) operates. **Mr. Stewart** answered yes and noted that the CIC is one of the agency's primary ways of interacting with the public.

D. **Curtis Baker** presented Attachment 6A – *Resolution 2026-15 – Approving Amendment #13 to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to revise funding for three projects and add two projects*.

E. **Jeff Gardner** presented Attachment 6B – *Resolution 2026-16 – PARTA Service Vehicle Purchase (FY 2026-2029 TIP Amendment #14)*.

F. **Mr. Brubaker** summarized developments concerning the Veterans Trail. **Messrs. Brubaker, Baker** and **Stewart** discussed the availability of funding and scheduling for the trail's northern section in the AMATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

G. **Mr. Manka** described the efforts of Vision Zero Akron to improve traffic safety and active transportation alternatives in the Greater Akron area. **Mr. Manka** and **Tatia Harris** discussed a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) feasibility study compiled by METRO in Summit County and an upcoming 14-month Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) study.

III. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the CIC is scheduled for **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2026**.

FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT
AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
May 31, 2026

Description	Annual Budget	Year-to-Date Expenses	% Budget Expended	May Expenses
I. Short Range Planning	\$648,450	\$617,356	95%	\$54,241
FY2025 Carryover	152,600	152,578		0
FY2026	495,850	464,778		54,241
II. Transportation Improvement Program	\$324,500	\$241,934	75%	\$22,320
FY2025 Carryover	74,500	74,430		0
FY2026	250,000	167,504		22,320
III. Continuing Planning & Data Collection Transportation System Update	\$338,000	\$199,883	59%	\$14,660
FY2025 Carryover	38,000	37,945		0
FY2026	300,000	161,938		14,660
IV. Long Range Plan Activity	\$320,300	\$126,941	40%	\$12,303
FY2025 Carryover	15,300	15,277		0
FY2026	305,000	111,664		12,303
V. Service	\$642,115	\$373,020	58%	\$23,785
FY2025 Carryover	150,400	149,369		0
FY2026	491,715	223,651		23,785
VI. OhioRideshare and AQ Advocacy	\$180,000	\$33,085	18%	\$3,129
FY2025 OhioRideshare	80,000	32,707		3,129
FY2025 Air Quality	100,000	378		0
VII. Local	\$25,000	\$20,616	82%	\$132
AMATS local Costs	25,000	20,616		132
VIII. AMATS Transportation Quarterly	\$50,072	\$49,955	100%	\$0
FY2025 Carryover	11,200	11,107		0
FY2026	38,872	38,848		0
IX. GRAND TOTAL AMATS BUDGET	\$2,528,437	\$1,662,790	66%	\$130,571

AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Policy Committee
Technical Advisory Committee
Citizens Involvement Committee

FROM: AMATS Staff

RE: AMATS Federal Funds Report

DATE: September 8, 2026

FY 2027 began on July 1st. So far Glenwood Dr and Eastern Rd of the STBG funds; Air Quality, Rideshare and SR 532/Albrecht Rd of the CMAQ funds; and Springside Dr Sidewalk of TASA have encumbered. AMATS is continuing to use the E-STIP, ELLIS, and ODOT's MPO Dashboard to keep updated on project details.

STBG allocations are lower this year than in previous years due to the FY 2026 loan repayment to NOACA of \$2.8 million. A loan will be needed again this year to cover all the STBG projects as carryover will not cover all FY 2027 estimated expenditures.

Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding from FY 2026 will be carried forward but will not cover the negative balance currently shown in FY 2027. The future of CRP funding is uncertain as the current transportation bill is set to expire September 30, 2026. ODOT has assumed this program will not be continuing and has removed CRP budgeted funds from FY 2027 and beyond, based on that assumption. If this program is not funded in the next transportation bill, AMATS will make all efforts to fulfill the funding commitments through other funding programs or potential loans. No projects have encumbered funds in FY 2027 yet.

CMAQ allocations are much lower this year than in previous years due to the FY 2026 loan repayment of \$5 million to MORPC. A loan will be needed again this year to cover all the CMAQ projects as carryover will not cover all FY 2027 estimated expenditures. CMAQ is a statewide program, so loans are completed internally at a statewide level.

TASA funding is currently positive this year and AMATS expects some carryover funding from FY 2023 through FY 2026. Only Springside Dr Sidewalks funds have encumbered in FY 2027. The remaining TASA funds in FY 2027 are allocated to design phases of two projects.

AMATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
STBG Funding Program and Balances
September 8, 2026

ODOT PID	STBG PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	PHASE	FY 2027	Quarter	FY 2028	Quarter	FY 2029	Quarter	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	Orig. Amt
	Sold												
116505	Glenwood Dr Resurfacing	Twinsburg	C	\$751,701	1								\$787,500
115357	Eastern Rd Resurfacing*	Norton	C	\$58,630	1								
	Pending			\$0									
121863	State Rd Widening	Cuyahoga Falls	R(C)	69,520	1								\$69,520
116741	Hudson Dr Resurfacing	Cuyahoga Falls	C	\$700,000	1								\$700,000
116623	Graham Rd Resurfacing	Stow	C	\$787,500	2								\$787,500
116939	Old Forge/Cleveland/Diagonal/Ravenna Resurfacing	Portage Co	C	\$1,564,328	3								\$1,564,328
116740	Bailey Rd Resurfacing	Cuyahoga Falls	C	\$700,000	3								\$700,000
116557	S Main St Resurfacing	Summit Co	C	\$787,500	3								\$787,500
116556	Albrecht Ave Resurfacing	Mogadore/Summit Co	C	\$787,500	3								\$787,500
121584	Munroe Falls Ave Resurfacing	Cuyahoga Falls	C	\$855,000	3								\$855,000
121572	Graybill Rd Resurfacing	Green	C	\$774,000	3								\$774,000
121594	Tuscarawas Ave & Lake Ave Resurfacing	Barberton	C	\$900,000	3								\$900,000
121687	Eastwood/Munroe Resurfacing	Tallmadge	C	\$1,471,971	3								\$1,471,970
121117	Liberty Rd (north) Resurfacing	Reminderville/Summit Co/Twinsburg	C	\$1,403,100	3								\$1,403,100
121203	S/N Main St Resurfacing	Rittman	C			\$1,053,856	1						\$1,053,856
121591	Eastern Rd & Portage St Resurfacing	Norton	C			\$564,627	1						\$791,264
126177	SR 619 Corridor Improvements	New Franklin	R(C)			520,000	1						\$520,000
118500	SR 59 Alternative Transportation	Kent	C			\$3,212,000	2						\$3,212,000
121863	State Rd Widening	Cuyahoga Falls	(R)C			\$6,030,480	3						\$6,030,480
126448	Clinton Rd Resurfacing	Clinton	C					\$784,382	1				\$784,382
121069	Mogadore Rd Resurfacing	Mogadore	C					\$632,727	1				\$632,727
121889	Brecksville Rd Resurfacing	Richfield	C					\$900,000	1				\$900,000
121824	S Main St Resurfacing	Akron	C					\$800,000	1				\$800,000
121745	White Pond Dr Resurfacing	Akron	C					\$400,000	1				\$400,000
121813	Chamberlain Rd & Mennonite Rd Resurfacing	Portage Co	C					\$900,000	1				\$900,000
121639	Fishcreek Rd Ph 1 Resurfacing	Stow	C					\$900,000	1				\$900,000
121755	Stow St Bridge & Trail Improvements	Portage Co	C					\$2,300,011	1				\$2,300,011
121204	CR 70 (Doylestown Rd) Resurfacing	Wayne Co	C					\$900,000	1				\$900,000
121715	S Main St Reconstruction	Summit Co	R(C)					\$200,000	1				\$200,000
126372	College St Resurfacing	Rittman	C					\$464,576	3				\$464,576
121290	Krumroy Rd Part 1 Resurfacing	Summit Co	C					\$640,000	4				\$640,000
121291	Krumroy Rd Part 2 Resurfacing	Summit Co	C					\$640,000	4				\$640,000
121292	Krumroy Rd Part 3 Resurfacing	Summit Co	C					\$760,000	4				\$760,000
126441	Lake, Park, Main, Springfield Resurfacing	Lakemore	C							\$932,000			\$932,000
126177	SR 619 Corridor Improvements	New Franklin	(R)C							\$4,419,454			\$4,419,454
121904	South Turkeyfoot Rd Resurfacing	New Franklin	C					still shows 2029		\$633,390			\$633,391
121715	S Main St Reconstruction	Summit Co	(R)C							\$5,700,000			\$5,700,000
126340	Waterloo Rd Full Improvements	Akron	C								\$4,100,000		\$4,100,000
126182	Graham Rd Resurfacing	Cuyahoga Falls	C								\$864,844		\$864,844
126379	Prospect St/Summit St Resurfacing	Portage Co	C								\$1,100,000		\$1,100,000
126272	Chamberlin Rd Resurfacing	Twinsburg/Macedonia	C								\$900,000		\$900,000
125920	Fishcreek Rd Ph 2 Resurfacing	Stow	C								\$1,100,000		\$1,100,000
125894	Boston Mills Rd Resurfacing	Hudson	C								\$1,100,000		\$1,100,000
126450	Robinson Ave Resurfacing	Barberton	C								\$1,100,000		\$1,100,000
126432	Sterling Rd/Calaboone Rd/ Edwards Rd Resurfacing	Wayne Co	C									\$1,011,246	\$1,011,246
126314	Portage St/Church St Resurfacing	Doylestown	C									\$1,096,000	\$1,096,000
126270	Arlington Rd Pt 1 Resurfacing	Summit Co	C									\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
126393	E Exchange St Resurfacing	Akron	C									\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000

R = Right-of-Way
C = Construction

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Annual STBG Expenditures	\$11,610,750	\$11,380,963	\$11,221,696	\$11,684,844	\$10,264,844	\$4,307,246
Annual STBG Allocations	\$8,792,776	\$11,613,776	\$11,613,776	\$11,613,776	\$11,613,776	\$11,613,776
Balance	-\$2,817,974	\$232,813	\$392,080	-\$71,068	\$1,348,932	\$7,306,530

AMATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
CRP Funding Program and Balances
September 8, 2026

ODOT PID	CRP PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	PHASE	FY 2027	Quarter	FY 2028	Quarter	FY 2029	Quarter	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	Orig. Amt
116990	Kent Rd Signal Improvements	Stow	C										\$76,007
102745	Darrow Rd Signal Improvements	Stow	C										\$59,885
112026	SR 59-2.14 (E Main St)	Kent	C										\$4,140,000
116917	Arlington Rd Corridor Improvements	Green	C										\$2,000,000
	Sold												
	Pending												
121376	North Mantua St Improvements	Kent	C	\$2,000,000	3								\$2,000,000
121287	Killian Rd/Pickle Rd Roundabout	Summit Co	R(C)					\$240,000					\$240,000
121287	Killian Rd/Pickle Rd Roundabout	Summit Co	(R)C							\$1,750,000			\$1,750,000
121598	Wooster Rd/Hopocan Ave Roundabout	Barberton	R(C)							\$274,400			\$274,400
121598	Wooster Rd/Hopocan Ave Roundabout	Barberton	(R)C								\$1,713,452		\$1,713,452

R = Right-of-Way
C = Construction

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Annual CRP Expenditures	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$240,000	\$2,024,400	\$1,713,452	\$0
Annual CRP Allocations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Balance	-\$2,000,000	\$0	-\$240,000	-\$2,024,400	-\$1,713,452	\$0

**AMATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
CMAQ Funding Program and Balances**

September 8, 2026

ODOT PID	CMAQ PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	PHASE	FY 2027	Quarter	FY 2028	Quarter	FY 2029	Quarter	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	Orig. Amt
	Sold												
118656	Air Quality Advocacy Program	AMATS		\$100,000	1								\$100,000
118659	Rideshare Program	AMATS		\$80,000	1								\$80,000
120949	SR 532 & Albrecht Ave Signal	Mogadore	C	\$286,979	1								\$286,979
	Pending												
125794	Barney's Busy Corners Signal	Cuyahoga Falls	C	\$325,465	3								\$325,465
112869	East Ave Ph 1	Tallmadge	C	\$8,509,995	3								\$8,509,995
121067	Highland Rd Improvements	Macedonia	R(C)	\$213,600	4								\$213,600
123136	Air Quality Advocacy Program	AMATS				\$100,000	1						\$100,000
123138	Rideshare Program	AMATS				\$80,000	1						\$80,000
125877	Fischcreek/Stow Roundabout	Stow	R(C)			\$320,000	1						\$320,000
123137	Air Quality Advocacy Program	AMATS						\$100,000	1				\$100,000
123139	Rideshare Program	AMATS						\$80,000	1				\$80,000
121067	Highland Rd Improvements	Macedonia	(R)C					\$2,006,400	3				\$2,006,400
124198	Air Quality Advocacy Program	AMATS								\$80,000			\$100,000
124202	Rideshare Program	AMATS								\$80,000			\$80,000
125877	Fischcreek/Stow Roundabout	Stow	(R)C							\$3,280,000			\$3,280,000
125984	METRO 3 CNG Buses	METRO	C							\$2,087,395			\$2,087,395
125341	PARTA 4 Clean Diesel Buses	PARTA	C							\$2,310,931			\$2,310,931
124200	Air Quality Advocacy Program	AMATS									\$80,000		\$100,000
124204	Rideshare Program	AMATS									\$80,000		\$80,000
125788	Twinsburg Citywide Signals	Twinsburg	C								\$5,880,753		\$5,880,753

P = PE Environmental
D = Detailed Design
R = Right-of-Way
C = Construction

Annual CMAQ Expenditures	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Annual CMAQ Allocations	\$9,516,039	\$500,000	\$2,186,400	\$7,838,326	\$6,040,753	\$0
Balance	\$1,263,362	\$6,263,362	\$6,263,362	\$6,263,362	\$6,263,362	\$6,263,362
	-\$8,252,677	\$5,763,362	\$4,076,962	-\$1,574,964	\$222,609	\$6,263,362

**AMATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
TASA Funding Program and Balances**

September 8, 2026

ODOT PID	TASA PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	PHASE	FY 2027	Quarter	FY 2028	Quarter	FY 2029	Quarter	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	Orig. Amt
	Sold												
116457	Springside Dr Sidewalks	Summit Co	(P)C	\$608,582	1								\$608,582
	Pending												
125911	Veterans Rails to Trails 2	Hudson	P(D)(C)	\$60,000	1								\$60,000
126343	Rubber City Heritage Trail PH 4	Akron	P(D)(C)	\$167,620	1								\$167,620
126343	Rubber City Heritage Trail PH 4	Akron	(P)D(C)	\$29,580	4								\$29,580
125911	Veterans Rails to Trails 2	Hudson	(P)D(C)	\$84,000	4								\$84,000
125921	Graham Rd Connectivity	Stow	R(C)			\$360,000	1						\$360,000
126174	Schocalog to Sand Run Greenway Ph 1	Fairlawn	C			\$627,604	1						\$627,604
121747	Rubber City Heritage Trail Ph 3	Akron	(P)R(C)			\$45,200	1						\$45,200
121747	Rubber City Heritage Trail Ph 3	Akron	(P)(R)C					\$821,200	1				\$821,200
121754	Headwaters Trail Phase IX	Portage Parks	C					\$1,000,000	4				\$1,000,000
125921	Graham Rd Connectivity	Stow	(R)C							\$720,000			\$720,000
113016	Stow Silver Lake Cuyahoga Falls Bike Connector	Stow	C							\$700,000			\$700,000
116868	Veteran's Trail Rails to Trails	Hudson	C							\$700,000			\$700,000
126343	Rubber City Heritage Trail PH 4	Akron	(P)(D)C								\$902,800		\$902,800
125911	Veterans Rails to Trails 2	Hudson	(P)(D)C								\$956,000		\$956,000
126170	Steese Rd Sidewalk Extension	Green	C									\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

P = PE Environmental
D = Detailed Design
R = Right-of-Way
C = Construction

Annual TASA Expenditures	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Annual TASA Allocations	\$949,782	\$1,032,804	\$1,821,200	\$2,120,000	\$1,858,800	\$1,000,000
Balance	\$1,178,849	\$1,157,849	\$1,157,849	\$1,157,849	\$1,157,849	\$1,157,849
	\$229,067	\$125,045	-\$663,351	-\$962,151	-\$700,951	\$157,849

AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Policy Committee
Technical Advisory Committee
Citizens Involvement Committee

FROM: AMATS Staff

RE: Public Participation Plan - 3P

DATE: September 10, 2026

Introduction

AMATS requests final approval of its latest update of the agency's *Public Participation Plan* also referred to as the "3P." This item was presented as a draft to the Policy Committee, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) in August.

The last comprehensive update of the 3P occurred in 2022 and was modified in 2024 based on input from regional transit officials. The 3P details the policies and strategies that the agency utilizes to encourage an open planning process that supports early and sustained public involvement, timely public notice, and full public access to information regarding key transportation decisions within the Greater Akron area.

The 3P pursues a continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated process among all area stakeholders while providing opportunities for innovative broad-based participation in the development and review of regional transportation plans, programs and policies. The latest version of the 3P continues many of the agency's past practices while incorporating several new charts and text revisions to make the document more readable and visually appealing.

Summary of 2026 Update

The 45-day public comment period for the Draft 3P was scheduled for Aug. 6 through Sept. 20. This period was promoted through a combination of print, social media, and email campaigns. Newspaper advertisements were purchased for the July 30 and Sept. 10 editions of the *Beacon Journal* and the *Record-Courier*. The Draft 3P was promoted on the agency's [X](#) and [Facebook](#) pages and its YouTube channel, [AMATSPanning](#). An email campaign was launched on July 30 to promote the Draft 3P and comment period.

The Draft 3P is available at amatspanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/Public%20Participation%20Plan-2026-Final.pdf until Sept. 20. An online comment form is available at amatspanning.org/form/3p-public-comment-form. The Draft 3P is also accessible through the agency's [X](#) and [Facebook](#) pages and is available for review at the AMATS offices located in Suite 1300 of 1 Cascade Plaza in downtown Akron.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

**September
2026**



Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
1 Cascade Plaza | Room 1300
Akron, Ohio 44308
amatsplanning.org

AMATS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (3P)

September 2026

Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
1 Cascade Plaza / Suite 1300 / Akron, Ohio 44308-1136
Phone: (330) 375-2436
FAX: (330) 375-2275

This report was prepared by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Village, City and County governments of Portage and Summit Counties and Chippewa and Milton Township in Wayne County. The contents of this report reflect the views of AMATS, which is responsible for the facts and accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official view and policies of the Ohio and/or U.S. Department of Transportation. This report does not constitute a standard, specification or regulation.

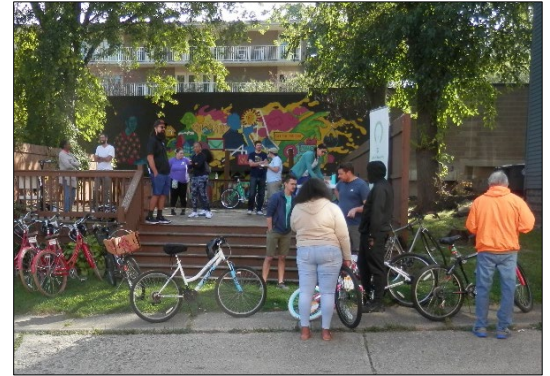
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Introduction

Effective public engagement in transportation planning utilizes early, inclusive, and multi-channel strategies to ensure meaningful, transparent civic participation. This *Public Participation Plan* or "3P" encourages an open planning process that supports early and sustained public involvement, timely public notice, and full transparent public access to information regarding key transportation decisions within the Greater Akron area.

The 3P ensures a continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated process among all area stakeholders while encouraging and providing opportunities for broad-based participation in the development and review of regional transportation plans, programs and policies. Through the 3P, AMATS strives to engage the public at the earliest stages of transportation planning, especially those populations who are traditionally underserved or economically depressed such as the elderly, individuals with disabilities, minority, low-income populations and carless households.



AMATS seeks to foster an environment where the public feels that its insights not only matter, but are encouraged and welcomed. The 3P is updated periodically to reflect changes in local, state or federal legislation; adjust the plan to include new technologies; and to meet the needs of the community. The agency relies on the following guiding principles when updating the 3P:

- AMATS recognizes that every major public policy decision or implemented transportation project significantly affects someone.
- If the agency's decision-making process is open, objective and considers all viewpoints, then policies, programs and projects are usually much more willingly accepted and embraced by affected communities.
- By utilizing a variety of public outreach techniques in multiple formats to provide planning information, the agency will gain a wide audience and solicit input from a greater number of people.
- Coordination and collaboration among as many transportation stakeholders as possible during the planning process produces the most effective and balanced transportation solutions.

Because the agency relies on these principles, the 3P allows the Greater Akron area to meet unforeseen changes creatively and forcefully.

Throughout the change occurring around us, there is an old transportation adage that still holds true: *The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.* Our agency actively pursues strategies to encourage the public to take their first steps in getting involved in their region's transportation planning process. AMATS provides many opportunities throughout this process for the public to participate and influence transportation policies.

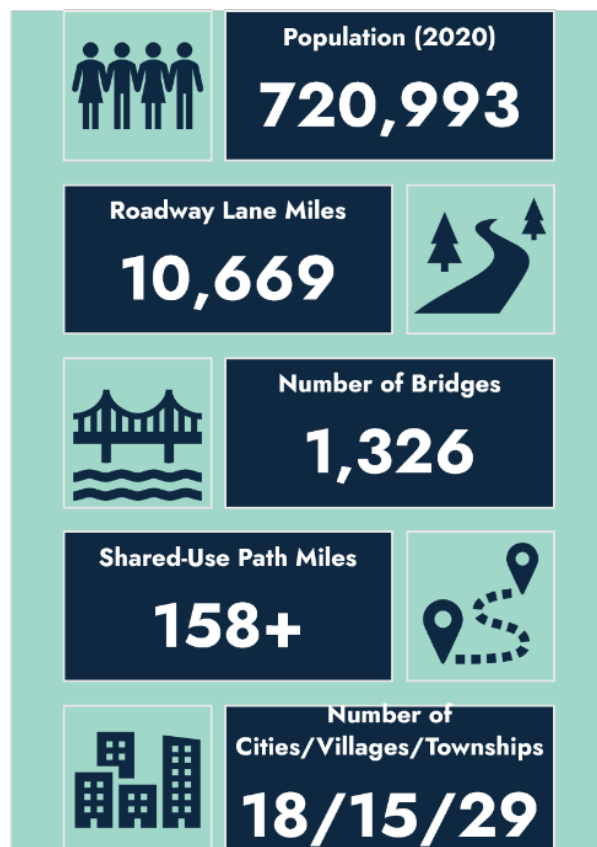
There are several different ways to get involved with AMATS which are presented in the 3P, most notably our Citizens Involvement Committee. Please note that the public is by no means limited to the strategies detailed in these pages. The agency actively seeks new opportunities to exchange ideas with the public and welcomes ideas and suggestions on how to do so.

About AMATS

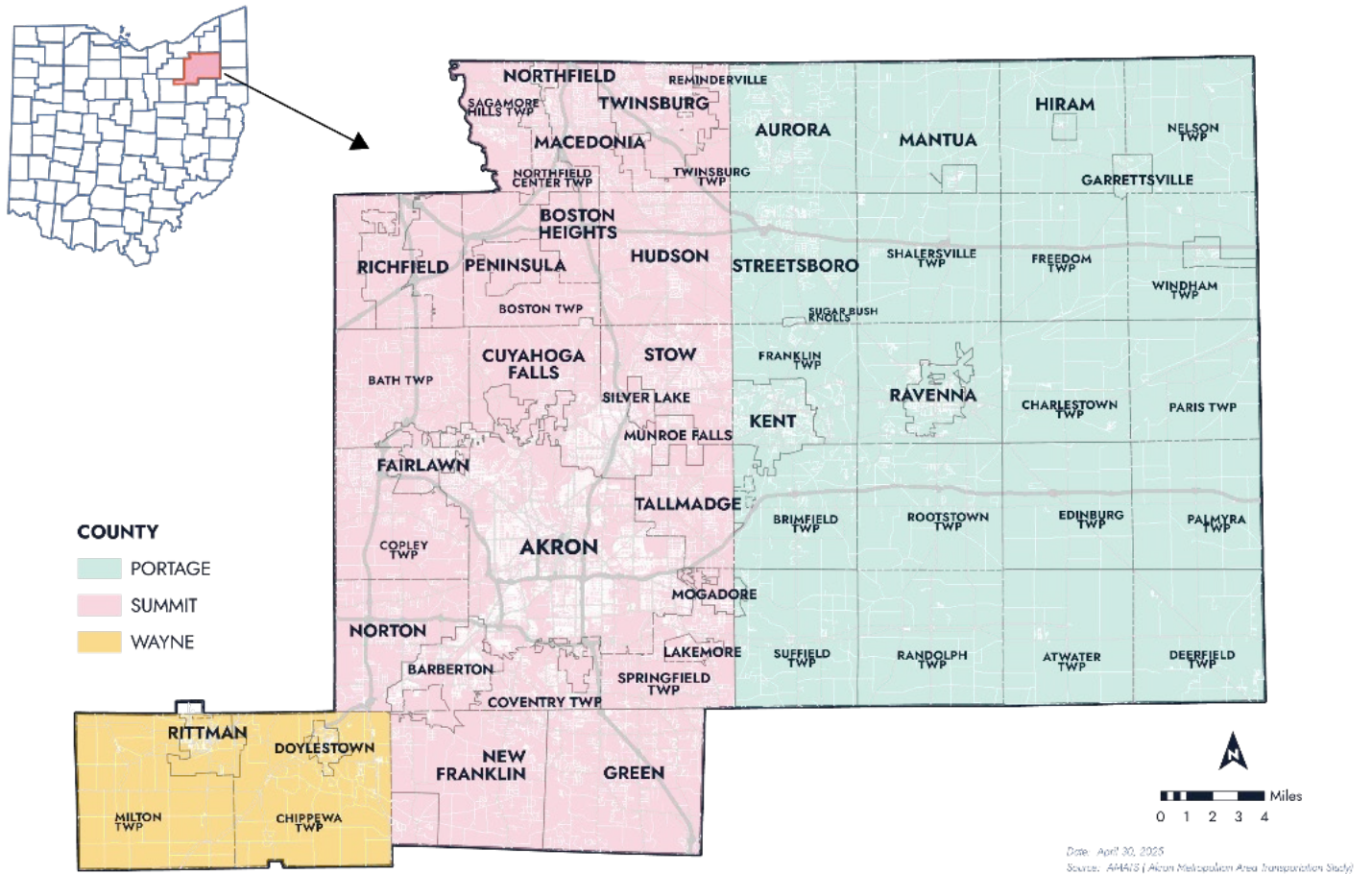
"AMATS" stands for the **Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study**. AMATS is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which are federally authorized agencies responsible for the transportation planning and funding decisions within an urbanized area. The 1962 Federal Aid Highway Act created metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in keeping with the requirement that urban areas have a defined planning process to receive federal aid for transportation programs and projects.

AMATS is the designated MPO responsible for transportation planning within the Greater Akron area comprised of Portage and Summit counties and the northeastern portion of Wayne County. The agency conducts various studies pertaining to the transportation network and plays a key role in the planning and funding of the major transportation projects within the area.

AMATS Area Characteristics



AMATS Service Area



AMATS Committees and Staff

AMATS strives to make the Greater Akron area's transportation planning process as transparent and accessible as possible. Good transportation planning is dependent upon many stakeholders working together to plan an efficient transportation system for the future. Members of the public provide valuable and essential feedback to agency staff and AMATS' three formal committees.

AMATS Committees

The public is welcome to attend any AMATS committee meeting. The following table and descriptions outline the role of AMATS' committees.

AMATS Committees

Committee	Purpose	Composition	Meeting Frequency	Forum
Policy Committee	Decision-making body	Elected government officials, regional transit authorities, ODOT	Generally, six times per year or as needed for special business	In-person (currently ODOT D-4* offices)
Technical Advisory Committee	Advisory/technical review	Planners and engineers representing member communities and agencies	Generally, six times per year or as needed for special business	In-person (currently ODOT D-4* offices)
Citizens Involvement Committee	Advisory/relay public comments to Policy Committee	All members of the public	Six times per year	Online (currently via Teams)
Informal Committees (ad-hoc, steering committees, etc.)	For special initiatives or planning studies	Variable; typically includes citizens, elected officials, and other transportation stakeholders	Dependent upon committee	Dependent upon committee
* Ohio Department of Transportation District 4				

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee is AMATS' decision-making body, responsible for deciding how the area's federal transportation dollars should be spent. Currently, there are 44 voting members of the Policy Committee representing every community in the Greater Akron area (see *Appendix G – Committee Member Communities and Organizations*, p. 34). The committee is composed of elected officials, county engineers, transit agencies and representatives from the Ohio Department of Transportation. Its members meet regularly six times a year to make funding decisions, discuss priorities and policies, and collaborate on regional issues.

The Policy Committee provides opportunities for the public to address the committee with the following guidelines:

- Anyone interested in making comments before the Policy Committee may do so during the public comment period at the beginning of the agenda.
- Public comments are limited to three minutes per person, but may be allowed more time by the Policy Committee chairperson.
- Organizations wishing to address the Policy Committee should select one representative to speak during the public comment period.
- Speakers will be asked to fill out an *Audience Participation Form* before addressing the Policy Committee.

- Citizens may contact the AMATS staff at **330-375-2436** or by email at **amats@akronohio.gov** in advance to request time to speak, or may do so in person before the meeting with any AMATS staff member.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC provides technical assistance to the Policy Committee throughout the planning process. The TAC is made up of planners and engineers representing communities, counties and transit providers across the Greater Akron area. The expertise of these members provides the Policy Committee with needed "nuts-and-bolts" insights regarding the area's projects. The TAC meets one week prior to the Policy Committee.

Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC)

The CIC is the forum through which the public may weigh in directly on transportation-related matters. Through its open-meeting format, CIC members may freely discuss issues with AMATS staff members and other players in the region's planning process.

The committee meets at a minimum of six times a year and its membership is open to all who wish to participate. Regular meetings are held on the same day TAC meets, beginning at **6:30 p.m.** in an online virtual format. Additional committee meetings may be scheduled by the CIC members.

AMATS promotes CIC meetings through regularly scheduled advertisements with the *Beacon Journal*. Additional newspaper advertisements are occasionally purchased if deemed necessary by the staff given the regional significance of and public interest in particular agenda items and topics. The agency also promotes CIC meetings through email and social media campaigns to committee members, interested agencies and groups, and area media.

AMATS Staff

The AMATS staff assists all three committees and carries out the daily administrative and technical work of the agency. The staff develops the area's long-range *Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP) (p. **24-25**) and the four-year *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) (p. **26-27**). More information on AMATS' current staff can be found at <https://www.amatsplanning.org/staff>.

While serving as a liaison between the public and the committees of AMATS, the staff ensures that public comment is considered throughout the region's planning process. The staff welcomes verbal and written comments and strives to respond to concerns in a timely manner. Members of the public may contact the staff through various methods:

Ways to Contact AMATS Staff

Method	Contact Information	Notes
Phone	330-375-2436	Individual staff members' extensions can be available by calling the general phone line
E-mail	amats@akronohio.gov , or direct email address of staff members	Individual staff emails can be located by visiting the AMATS website staff page (https://www.amatsplanning.org/staff) and clicking on the photo of a staff member
Mail	1 Cascade Plaza / Suite 1300 Akron, Ohio 44308-1136	

It is the policy of AMATS that staff members will acknowledge receiving all electronic and written correspondence from members of the public regarding transportation issues of public interest and respond within a timely manner of receiving such correspondence. These initial staff responses should be deemed by the public as acknowledgments by AMATS that their concerns have been received by the agency. Initial responses should not automatically be misconstrued by the public as commitments by the agency or its personnel to address and respond to public concerns. Appropriate agency responses to public concerns may require more time—sometimes in excess of seven days—as circumstances may warrant. AMATS personnel will maintain files documenting all such correspondence throughout the public engagement process as part of its maintenance of transparent permanent records.

The staff is granted the discretion by the AMATS Policy Committee to make minor changes to the *Regional Transportation Plan* and the TIP, and various plan and TIP amendments, reports and studies as may be necessary, such as grammatical and typographical corrections. The staff will present all changes to the *Regional Transportation Plan* and TIP to the AMATS Policy Committee for transparency. (The criteria used by the staff in making such determinations are presented in *Appendix A - Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* (p.24-25) and *Appendix B - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* (p. 26-27) of the 3P.)

If the staff determines that formal amendments to the *Regional Transportation Plan* or TIP are warranted, then the agency will pursue the appropriate public participation procedures specified in Appendices A and B of the 3P.

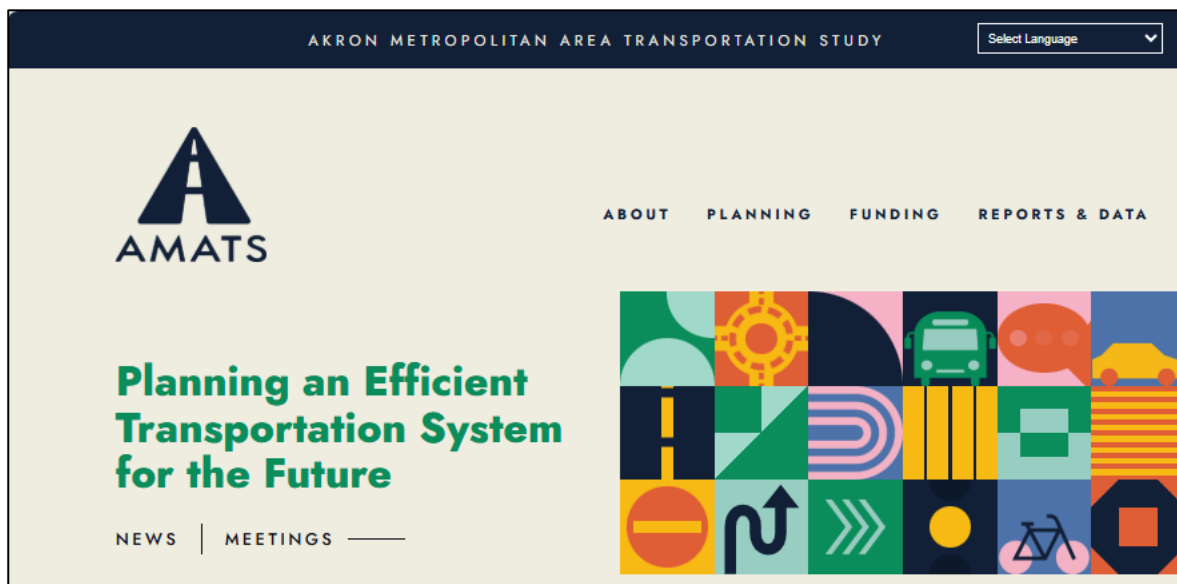
Online Engagement

Online engagement is essential in the dissemination of information to AMATS members and the public. The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) encourages MPOs to utilize a variety of web-based tools and social media to further public involvement and solicit public feedback throughout the planning process. AMATS has had a strong and diverse online presence for many years, allowing the agency to reach a broad audience.

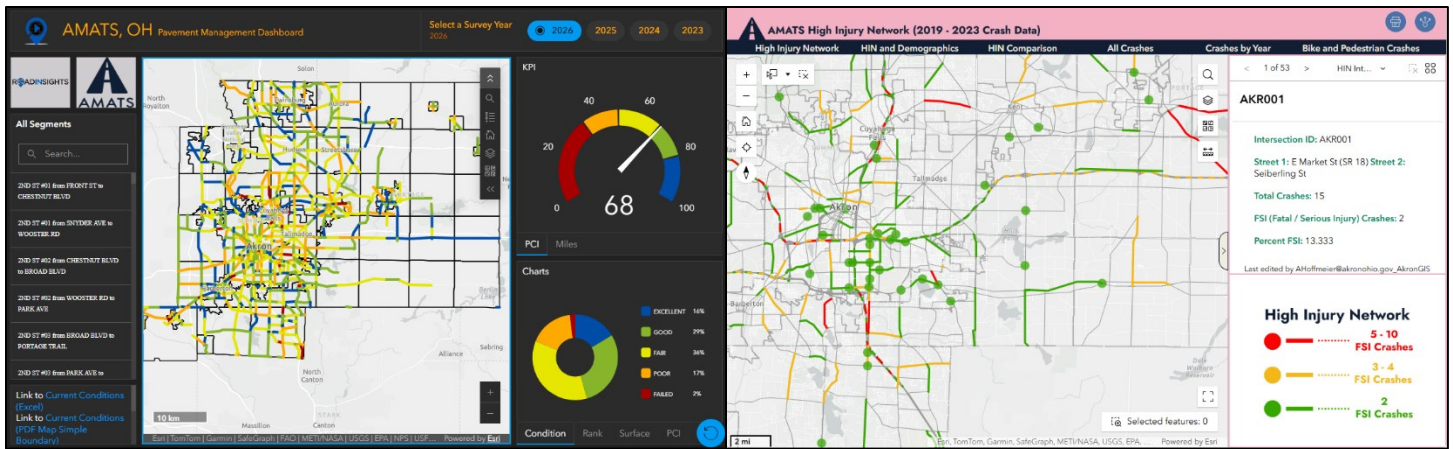
AMATS Website

The AMATS website, amatsplanning.org, is a vital source of information for members and the public alike. The AMATS website was completely updated in 2024 with a key goal being to improve site navigation for visitors. The AMATS website includes several features to present pertinent information. Some highlights of the website include:

Website Feature	Where to Find It
A searchable database to find all AMATS key planning resources	Hover to <i>Reports & Data</i> tab in upper right corner of the screen, then select <i>Reports, Maps & Data</i> (first option). Enter keywords (such as “safety”) or title, or search by category in the dropdown box below the search bar. amatsplanning.org/reports-maps-data
Interactive webmaps that display key data in an easily understandable, visual format.	Hover on <i>Reports & Data</i> tab in upper right corner of the screen. All webmaps are listed below the first option (<i>Reports Maps & Data</i>). <i>Examples of webmaps include congested locations, pavement condition, traffic volumes, safety, programmed/TIP projects, and the regional bicycle network.</i>
Meeting information and recordings	Click on <i>Meetings</i> on the left side of the home page (or by scrolling to the bottom of the home page) to see a list of upcoming meetings and other key events. To review past meeting packets or to listen to meeting recordings, click <i>Past Meeting Materials</i> on the right side of the screen. amatsplanning.org/meetings



AMATS Website Home Page



Examples of AMATS Webmaps: [Pavement Condition](#) (left) and [Safe Streets for All High Injury Network](#) (right)

Social Media

AMATS utilizes various social media platforms to increase public awareness of the agency's role. AMATS is currently active on Facebook, X, and YouTube, but may utilize additional or alternative social media platforms in the future. The table below provides details about AMATS' current social media pages. AMATS staff is open to exploring news ways to reach the public, making participation in the planning process available to everyone.

AMATS Social Media

Platform	Link	Function
	facebook.com/AMATSPanning	To share news stories, events and photos
	x.com/AMATSPanning	To share news stories, events and photos
	youtube.com/@AMATSPanning	To showcase original videos on various topics, such as planning efforts and the AMATS Annual Meeting

It is the policy of AMATS and its personnel to refrain from allowing personal or political biases to influence the agency's use of social media. Information and materials posted through various social media platforms are presented in an apolitical and objective manner with the sole goal of promoting a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative regional transportation planning process for all.

Participation Strategies

AMATS seeks and pursues a variety of innovative strategies to engage citizens and other stakeholders. Much of AMATS' engagement with the public revolves around AMATS work products and key processes. Other engagement centers on agency outreach at various events, allowing AMATS to interface with the public in a more communal and less formal manner.

Engagement Strategies Relating to AMATS Work Products

Like many agencies, AMATS has numerous cyclical planning products. A typical planning cycle is centered around the Long Range Transportation Plan, which is updated every four years. Within that four-year life cycle, various needs or input reports are developed, the TIP is updated twice, and other key documents, such as this 3P, are prepared. The table below lists and describes AMATS' primary work products and processes and the frequency and timing of each.

Primary AMATS Work Products and Update Cycles

Title	What is it?	When is it updated?
Public Participation Plan (3P)	Plan that defines a process for the public and other transportation stakeholders to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.	Every 4 years
3P Amendments	Minor changes to 3P process	As needed (not common)
Transportation Outlook (TO)	Regional long-range (20+ year) metropolitan transportation plan	Every 4 years (final approval typically in May)
TO Amendments	Changes to TO (new projects, revised goals or other policy shifts)	As needed (not common)
Transportation Outlook Input Documents	Needs documents that inform regional planning, e.g., <i>Planning Data Forecast; Highway Preservation Needs Report; Plans for Active Transportation, Micromobility, Transit, and Freight; Congestion Management Process, Annual Report on Congestion, Annual Crash Report, SS4A Action Plan</i>	Most reports are every 4 years, ahead of TO update; some (crash report, report on congestion) occur annually
Other Special Planning Documents	Reports on specific transportation issues, e.g., <i>Roundabout Report, Road Diet Report</i> , and agency newsletters	Variable
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	Regional (four-year) program of funded projects	Every 2 years (final approval typically in Spring)
TIP Amendments	Major changes to TIP (new projects or phases, larger monetary changes, etc.)	Several times per year, before many committee meetings
TIP Administrative Modifications	Minor changes to TIP (smaller monetary or schedule shifts)	Regularly throughout each year
Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects	Status report of all federal transportation projects in the Greater Akron area that had funds obligated within the previous year	Annually (typically in September)
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	Outlines AMATS' planning priorities and activities to be carried out; detailing core functions, work products, and associated financial resources	Annually
Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan	Collaboratively developed, comprehensive strategy that integrates transportation and human services planning to improve mobility for seniors, people with disabilities, and individuals with low incomes	Every 4 years
Title VI Implementation Plan	Document that demonstrates how AMATS complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related federal and state nondiscrimination requirements	Every 4 years
Connecting Communities Planning Grants	Regional plans that seek to create more vibrant livable communities through the integration of transportation and land use planning	Typically, 2 grants every 18-24 months

Each work product dictates unique levels of involvement and tailored engagement strategies. The matrix below explains the outreach techniques typically utilized for each work product.

Outreach Techniques Matrix for Primary AMATS Work Products

Participation Method	Document or Process													
Key Always Occurs— ✓ Sometimes Occurs— ✓	Public Participation Plan (3P)	3P Amendments	Transportation Outlook (TO)	TO Amendments	TO Input Documents	Other Special Planning Documents	Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	TIP Amendments	TIP Administrative Modifications	Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects	Unified Planning Work Program	Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transp. Plan	Title VI Implementation Plan	Connecting Communities Planning Grant Plans
	Document/Process Review													
Draft Item posted on AMATS website	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Final item posted on AMATS website	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Item posted on AMATS website as part of committee meeting packet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Electronic copy emailed to MPO committees (including CIC)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Electronic copy emailed to other identified stakeholders			✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Paper copy viewable at AMATS office upon request	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities to Comment														
Online Comment Form at amatsplanning.org	✓		✓					✓						
Presented and discussed at CIC Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Presented and discussed at TAC and Policy Committee Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Public Survey			✓		✓							✓		✓
Public events (open houses, public meetings, community events, etc.)			✓				✓					✓		✓
Notification														
News Release Created	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Social Media Postings—X and Facebook	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Published Advertisement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Formal Public Comment Period (30 day for TIP and TO, 45 day for 3P)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓							
Email to interested parties and transportation stakeholders (work product sent as link or attachment)			✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Promotional videos posted to YouTube	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓							

Visualization

AMATS incorporates visualization techniques into its work products whenever possible. Visualization aids the presentation of complex data, proposed plans, and various projects. The effective presentation of a plan's impact to the public has become an increasingly essential part of the planning and design of transportation systems as the advance of technology creates new and improved opportunities for improved visualization.

The agency recognizes that planning concepts are clearly conveyed when visual elements are used. Examples of visualization techniques used by AMATS include:

- Maps, photos, and aerial photos
- Sketches, drawings, and artist renderings
- PowerPoint presentations, slide shows, and videos
- Newsletters
- Interactive mapping systems and GIS-based scenario planning tools
- Graphs, flowcharts, and tables
- Dashboard data summaries versus spreadsheets
- Familiar icons and logos
- Concise, comprehensible text
- Bullet lists

The US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides helpful information on using visualization for transportation planning at this accompanying link: [Visualization for Transportation Planning - Visualization In Planning - Scenario And Visualization - Planning - FHWA](#).

Scenario Planning

Scenarios are neither forecasts nor predictions for a given point in time; instead, they represent alternative possible futures. Scenario planning allows AMATS and its planning partners to consider the "what-ifs" of tomorrow and whether those are desirable or undesirable states.

The agency regularly utilizes scenario planning as it permits AMATS and its community members to consider how different policies, plans, and programs will affect a community or region. Such considerations may include corridor planning, financial budgets, long-term risks, population shifts, and system management and operations.

Traditional scenario planning efforts assess possible outcomes by using measures such as traffic congestion, shifts in modal split (the percent use of cars, bicycles, public transit, walking), impacts on open spaces, or contributions to air pollution.

Among the advantages of scenario planning to AMATS are that it:

- Accommodates degrees of uncertainty and ambiguity.
- Allows communities to prepare for a range of plausible futures rather than a single forecast.
- Provides forums for engaging a diverse set of stakeholders to identify critical factors.
- Tests possible decisions and their impacts on multiple future scenarios.
- Encourages system-level thinking.

- Fosters a more adaptive, resilient organization.

Community Outreach

The work of AMATS cannot be done solely from within its offices. Outreach into the greater community is an important role of any MPO because regional transportation organizations depend upon meaningful input from a variety of stakeholders including citizens and various agencies. The following paragraphs explain the ways in which AMATS works alongside other agencies, speaks at various functions, and participates in community events. Those interested in seeking the agency's involvement in an event can contact AMATS at amats@akronohio.gov or at **330-375-2436**. Requests can be made via the agency's Public Information Coordinator.



AMATS Bike-N-Brainstorm event

Agency-to-Agency Outreach

As part of its efforts to fashion a vibrant, livable Greater Akron area, AMATS frequently partners with various civic groups on a host of projects. Among the agency's past partners have been ASIA, Inc., the Barberton Community Foundation, Direction Home Akron Canton, Global Ties Akron, The Kent Environmental Council, The Knight Foundation, Leadership Akron, Neighborhood Development Services, Torchbearers and other non-profits and neighborhood groups.

AMATS also engages representatives of various communities in scheduled online dialogues to discuss the circumstances and needs of the region's unique populations. Agency personnel have also hosted orientation meetings with representatives of new media outlets within the region to promote understanding regarding the regional transportation process.

The agency welcomes opportunities to work with new partners in appropriate community-oriented endeavors.

Speaking Requests

AMATS staff members are available by appointment to discuss technical and policy information with citizens and other interested parties during and outside of the agency's normal business hours. Staffers are also available by appointment to present technical and policy information to the public and to participate in a variety of forums such as panel discussions and presentations to civic groups and associations.

Community Events

Much of AMATS' engagement with the community is focused on its participation in unique events. This engagement presents opportunities to engage with the public beyond mere dialogue. Generally, these events entail a topic-specific activity geared to spur dialogue between participants and area policy makers.

Much of AMATS' community outreach has historically centered around the advocacy of active transportation—human-powered mobility like walking and bicycling—events such as Bike Rodeos, Bicycle Fun Days, Better Block, Jane's Walk, and Bike-to-Work or School events. These events encourage the public, sometimes with a specific focus on youth, to safely utilize active forms of transportation.

One recurring event AMATS helps lead and organize is its longstanding **Bike-N-Brainstorm** program. These events are centered around a group bike ride along key corridors as an alternative way to get feedback about on-road biking. At the end of their ride, group members participate in a brainstorming session with agency personnel and local officials to share their ideas as to what can be done to improve bike travel within the area.

While many of the events AMATS attends are focused on encouraging active transportation, AMATS staff also participate in general community events and festivals upon request. These informal settings can be an ideal way to interact with communities and share what AMATS does for the region.

AMATS welcomes invitations and suggestions from the public to participate in and support community-oriented events benefiting the area's transportation systems.



AMATS staff participating in various community events

Public Information

As part of the agency's efforts to provide the region with a transparent planning process, AMATS disseminates all meeting materials one week prior to scheduled committee meeting dates via email and through postings on its web site - **amatsplanning.org**. The public is encouraged to subscribe to these e-mailings. All that's needed for a subscription to AMATS is a subscriber's name and their email address.

Agency reports, plans and studies are available for review and download on the AMATS web site. Selected draft and interim materials may be available for viewing and downloading only for specified times, such as public comment periods.

Records of committee meetings are available in the form of minutes and MP3 recordings on the agency web site. AMATS will gladly forward pdf or printed versions of committee minutes to the public via email or postal delivery upon request. MP3 recordings may be downloaded from the site.

The agency regularly distributes press releases and other information to Greater Akron area media regarding transportation-related events and developments. The agency publishes an online annual report and a semi-annual newsletter to committee members, the media, and subscribers. Other information and services such as traffic data, project status information, accident data and more are readily available on the agency web site. The staff is available to answer questions regarding information that is not readily available on the site.

AMATS and Civil Rights

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that AMATS shall not, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex, exclude anyone from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. If a member of the public believes that they are the victim of an alleged discriminatory practice by AMATS during the Greater Akron area's transportation planning process, the agency provides a **Nondiscrimination Complaint Form** on our agency web site - amatsplanning.org. Using this form, citizens may describe in detail why they believe that their concerns or needs are not being addressed by the agency.

The agency web site - amatsplanning.org - includes a link to language interpretation software to assist those for whom English is not the first language. Using this link, visitors to our web site can translate pages into other languages including Chinese, French and Spanish. The **AMATS Title VI - Program Procedures and Documentation Plan** provides additional information.

Unique Communities and Populations

Long an adherent to the spirit and wording of Title VI of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the agency will broaden and continue its outreach to the region's many varied communities and populations. The passages below demonstrate that the agency recognizes the importance of these federal requirements throughout the regional planning process.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR), Part 21 states that "no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, or national origin be excluded from the participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal Financial assistance." In June 2019, AMATS adopted a comprehensive **AMATS Title VI - Program Procedures and Documentation Plan**, which defines the agency's program, procedures and means of documentation. AMATS employees are responsible for ensuring that the agency's programs, policies, and services are developed, conducted and implemented without regard to a person's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, ancestry, religion, military status or age. Employees must ensure that ethnic minorities and low-income populations are not adversely impacted and aim to achieve full participation by these groups in the agency's programs, policies and activities. AMATS' Public Information Coordinator and Title VI Coordinator are responsible for initiating and monitoring Title VI activities, preparing required reports, and other responsibilities as required by Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, and Title 49 CFR Part 21.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

The agency prides itself on its ongoing efforts to meet and exceed the standards outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. AMATS will make every effort to arrange for translation, sign language and other special assistance at meetings for individuals with special needs who request them in a timely manner of at least three business days beforehand.

Demographics

AMATS strives to involve various communities in the Greater Akron area that include; *elderly, low-income, minority, individuals with disabilities and carless household* populations during the public participation process. AMATS relies on the definitions of these populations provided by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and utilizes Census and American Community Survey (ACS) information to determine where in the Greater Akron area these populations reside.

Low-Income is defined as a person whose median household income is at or below the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines. AMATS has previously included organizations that either provide resources or knowledge on how to best reach this population during our public participation process which include:

- Metropolitan Housing Authorities
- Veterans Services
- County Health Departments

A **Minority** is defined as a person who is:

- 1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa);
- 2) Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race);
- 3) Asian (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent);
- 4) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands; or
- 5) American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition)

The region is also witnessing growth in its Asian, African and Hispanic populations. These populations have unique interests and needs which will contribute to and influence the area's transportation policies and systems. AMATS recognizes this and strives to foster a dialogue with these and other communities within the area. The agency has initiated dialogues with members of these populations through various organizations including:

- the Akron National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- the Akron Urban League
- Asian Services in Action, Inc.
- Jin Ho Community Center
- Direction Home Akron Canton
- the International Institute of Akron
- the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission
- Torchbearers

The agency also recognizes that the **elderly** (populations are defined as being aged 65 and older) represent another growing segment of the region's population. This population is expected to increase in the following years as the Baby Boomer generation reaches retirement age, many of which will need some sort of transportation assistance as

driving personal vehicles becomes more difficult or impossible for many. Some of the organizations involved in the public participation process include:

- VANTAGE Aging (Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP))
- Summit and Portage County Department of Jobs and Family Services
- Direction Home: Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities
- and other community and neighborhood groups.

AMATS incorporates **Individuals with Disabilities**, which includes people who have hearing, vision, cognitive, physical, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living difficulties. The disabled population is more geographically scattered than the other groups analyzed. AMATS involves the disabled community throughout multiple planning processes and includes organizations and groups such as:

- UDS
- Hattie Larlham
- Summit and Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities

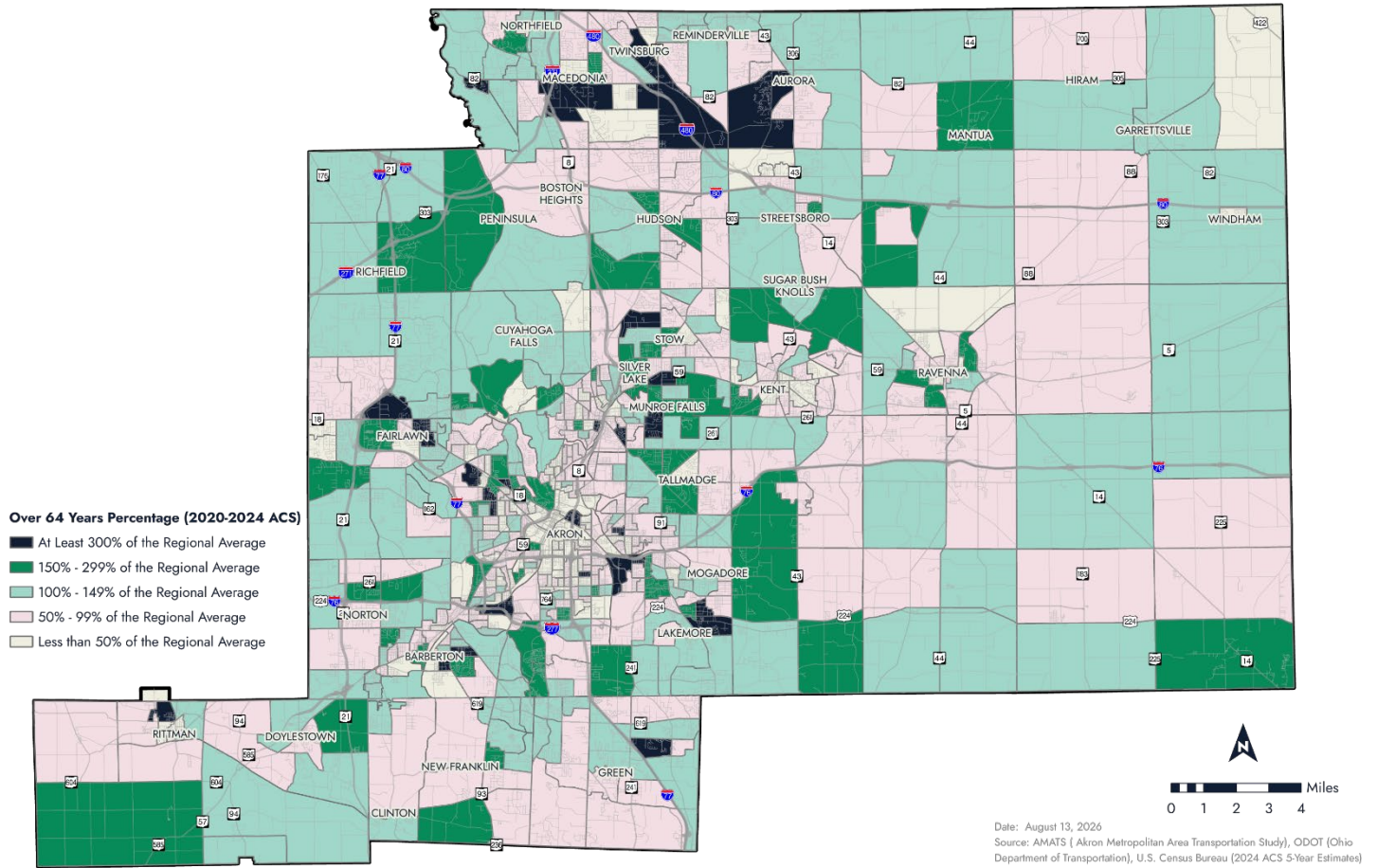
Carless Households are a vulnerable population and an important demographic for the local transit authorities to identify. Carless households in the corresponding map below shows data collected at the household level rather than the individual level and represents the percentage of households within each block group without a car. AMATS relies on the local transit authorities, METRO RTA and PARTA along with American Community Survey Census data to identify this population and include them in the public participation process.

The agency actively pursues opportunities to collaborate on the development of transportation-related programs and projects with representatives of these populations. Each public process confronts the challenge of getting traditionally underrepresented populations involved in the planning process.

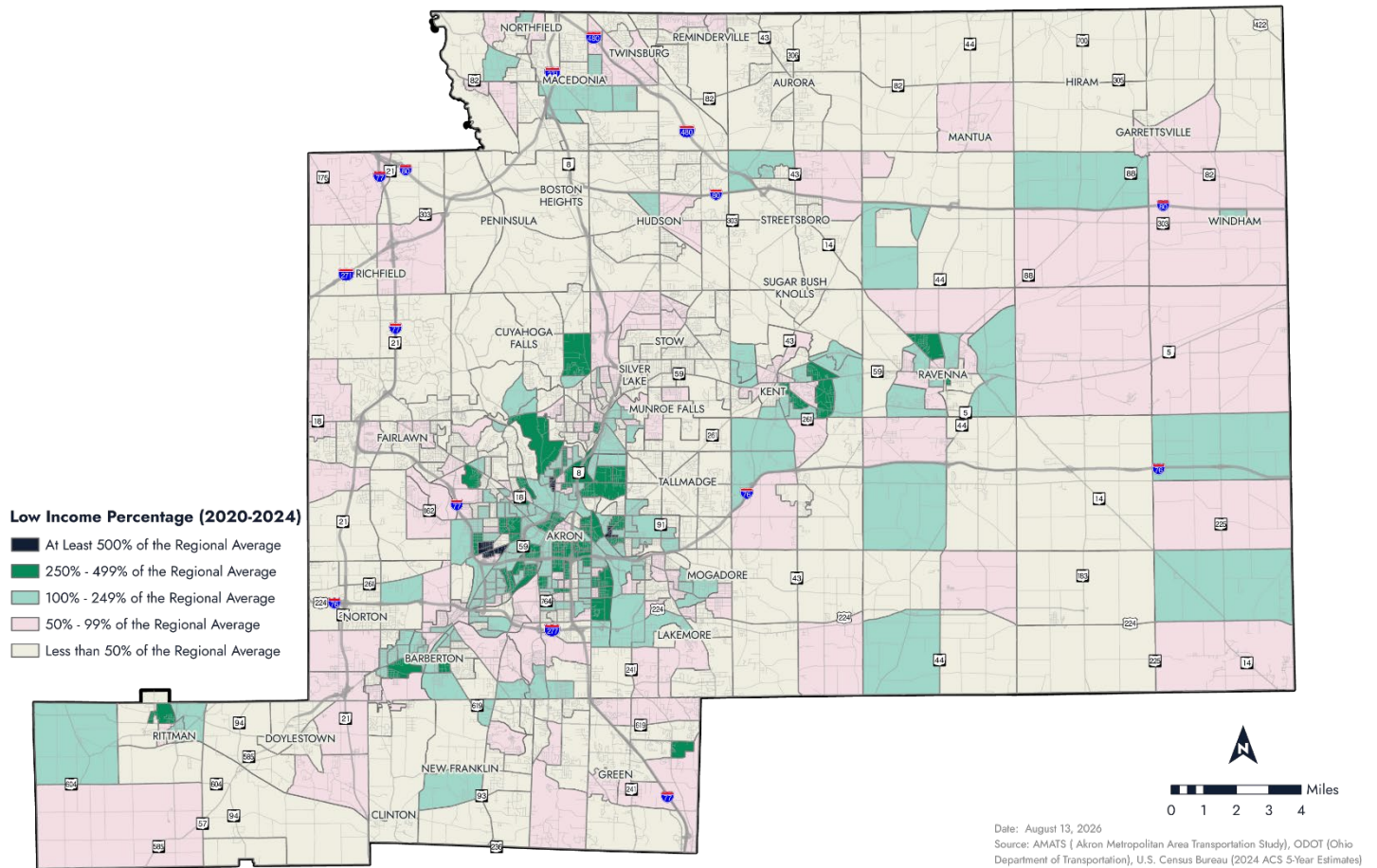
AMATS shall make every effort to accommodate the disparate and varied needs of these populations. The agency shall arrange for language translation assistance in circumstances where such assistance is warranted, e.g., during public meeting in communities where languages in addition to English are primarily spoken. Agency personnel will arrange for American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken language translation assistance to be available if deemed appropriate, feasible and necessary.

The accompanying maps on the following pages illustrate how the present-day regional population based on demographic information gathered (*elderly, low-income, minority, carless-households and individuals with disabilities*) through the United States Census 2020-2025 American Community Survey (ACS) at a Block Group (BG) level data distributed throughout the entire AMATS planning area. For more information on the region's demographics, visit the AMATS website, [reports, maps and data page](#) to explore different GIS experience maps. Some of these webmaps feature demographic information that can be compared to other data. For example, the region's [High Injury Network](#) (HIN) webmap allows users to compare demographic data to the locations of recent crashes.

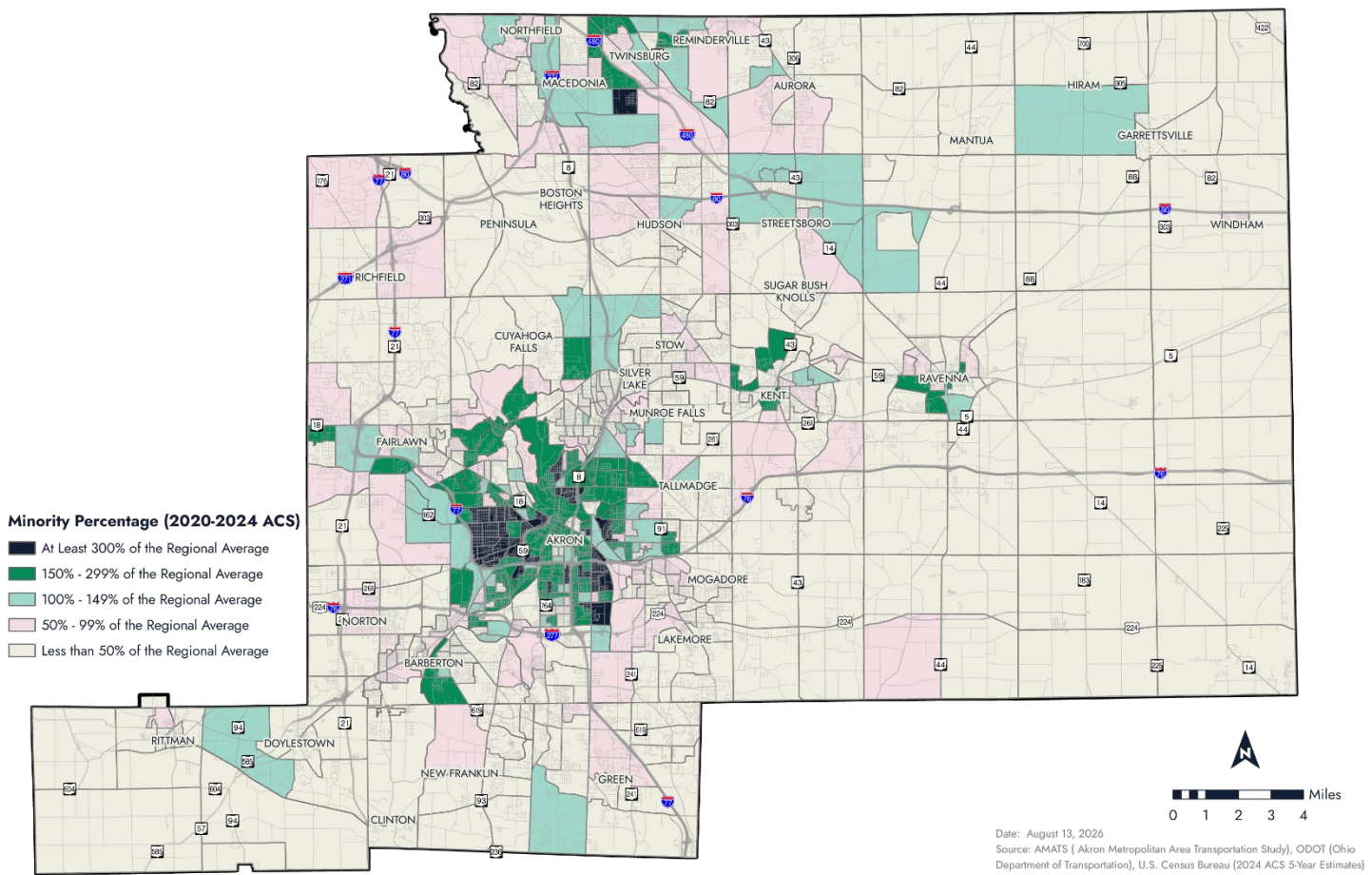
Elderly Population



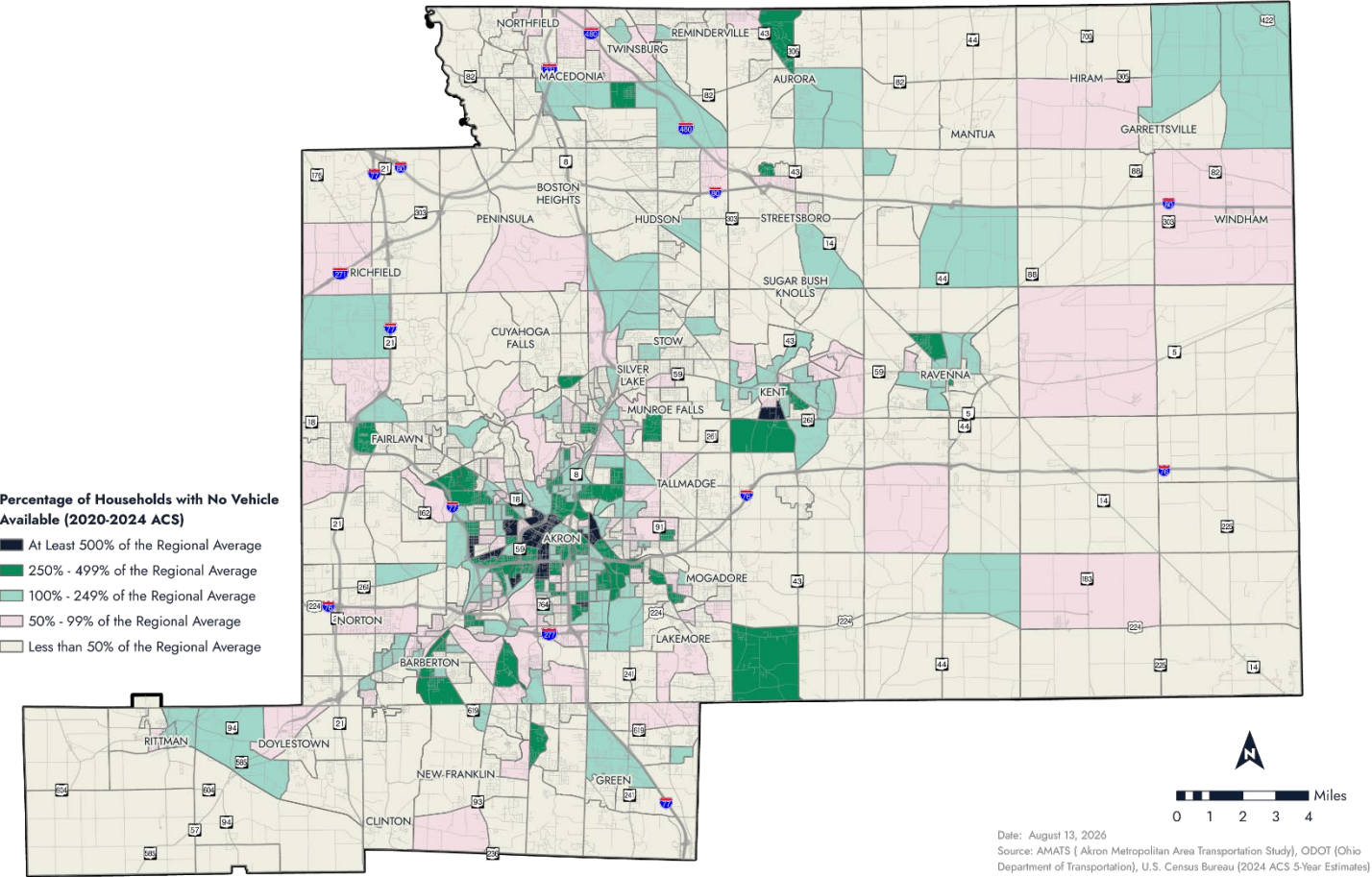
Low Income Population



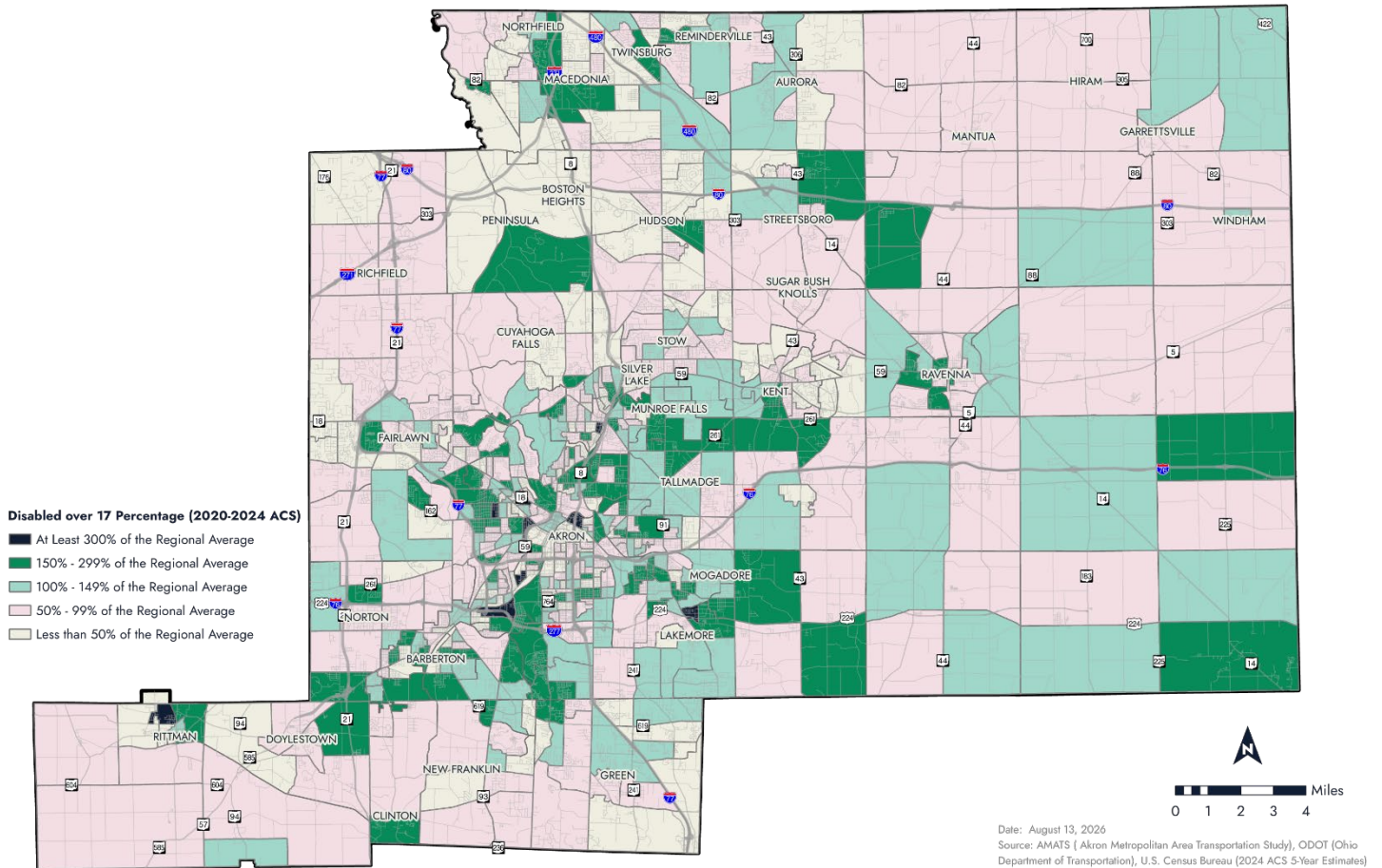
Minority Population



Carless Households



Individuals with Disabilities



Procedure for Addressing and Processing Public Comments

AMATS is committed to fostering a dialogue with our members, stakeholders and the public. Public involvement should inform transportation planners early in the long-range planning process, through the project programming and project development phases of the transportation decision-making process. Effective public involvement allows transportation practitioners to access the public's rich source of ideas and information, which allows for the early identification of opportunities and issues that may affect efficient project implementation. AMATS strives to employ an array of traditional and virtual public involvement techniques and strategies to broaden its engagement to all communities within the planning area. To ensure maximum effectiveness, AMATS routinely monitors the performance of their engagement techniques and strategies.

As a metropolitan planning organization (MPO), AMATS is responsible for:

- actively involving its members, stakeholders and the public in an open, cooperative, and collaborative participation process
- providing meaningful opportunities to influence transportation decisions at any stage
- considering social, economic, and environmental consequences
- demonstrating to the public that transportation projects support land use plans and community values
- consulting with interested parties to develop the Public Participation Plan (3P)
- evaluating the effectiveness of the 3P

To that end, AMATS incorporates a system for handling comments when they are received from the public.

Procedure for Addressing and Processing Public Comments -

1. Receive and acknowledge public comments promptly
2. Direct comments to the agency study director or planning administrator
3. Respond to public comments, answer questions, provide additional information
4. Incorporate survey responses or interactive web applications into planning documents or recommendations. Interactive webmaps allow people to drop pins on locations and leave their ideas or describe their concerns.
5. Incorporate public input into the production of major planning documents and the planning process
6. Demonstrate explicit consideration of and response to public input received during the development of the regional transportation plan (*Transportation Outlook*), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the unified planning work program, or any special studies
7. Incorporate all applicable public comments into the appendices of *Transportation Outlook* or the TIP, along with agency staff responses
8. Incorporate all applicable public comments and survey summaries into the appendices of plans and major studies, such as the Active Transportation Plan and the Safe Streets for All Action Plan.

Conclusion

AMATS aims to be as open as possible when it comes to sharing information and explaining why and how transportation decisions are made in the Greater Akron area.

The agency's *Public Participation Plan* or "*3P*" is intended to appeal to as many different interested people through a mix of opportunities and strategies both digital and personal.

AMATS will continue to explore new opportunities for public outreach as they become available. Outreach can be challenging and our agency is committed to receiving as much feedback as possible.

Appendix A - Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

A primary responsibility of AMATS is to prepare and maintain a long-term *Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP) that meets the travel needs of the region. The RTP creates a framework for the region's transportation system through the identification of needs and project recommendations. It also sets the direction for transportation decisions, policy and planning throughout the region.

Public participation is an integral part of preparing the RTP. This is your chance for your voice to be heard! Comments received during the review of the Draft RTP will be presented to the Policy Committee and other stakeholder planning agencies for consideration before final adoption of the RTP by the Policy Committee.

Once a Draft RTP has been created, AMATS will:

- Make copies of the draft available to the public at:
 - AMATS website – amatsplanning.org
 - AMATS office
- Postings on X through **@amatsplanning**
- Post on **facebook.com/amatsplanning**
- Schedule at least one public meeting for review and comment
- Place advertisements in regionally significant newspapers, primarily the *Akron Beacon Journal* and the *Record-Courier*, and other publications deemed as appropriate by the AMATS staff.
- Send news releases
- Regularly maintain and update its lists of those interested parties and transportation stakeholders that receive information pertaining to the area's transportation planning process.

Please note that AMATS will not limit itself to the activities identified above to promote awareness of the Draft RTP and will actively pursue additional opportunities to do so.

Amending the Plan

Periodically, local or state officials request that the approved RTP be modified, or that a project recommendation be added or dropped. Such requests will be identified as either a major or minor amendment. The individual amendment determines which public involvement procedures are appropriate. The procedures for Major and Minor amendments and Administrative Modifications are described below.

Major Amendments

If the amendment involves a project recommendation that includes a new interchange; a new roadway or lane addition greater than one mile in length; a new major public transit project; commuter rail; or has a significant impact on air quality, then it will be considered a major amendment and public involvement for the amendment will follow the same procedures as the Draft RTP.

Minor Amendments

If the amendment does not include a project such as one previously mentioned, it will be considered a minor amendment. Such amendments will be available for public consideration and comment through the appropriate

Meeting Packet link and the *Get Involved* page of the agency website - amatsplanning.org - prior to Policy Committee action.

Administrative Modifications

The staff is granted the discretion by the AMATS Policy Committee to implement minor revisions or administrative modifications to the *Regional Transportation Plan*, and various plan-related amendments, reports, and studies as may be warranted. Such administrative modifications are largely grammatical and typographical corrections or revisions that do not require demonstration of fiscal constraint or an air quality conformity determination.

For the sake of transparency, the staff will present all changes to the *Regional Transportation Plan* to the AMATS Policy Committee regardless as to whether they are amendments or minor administrative modifications.

If adopted by the Policy Committee, amendments and administrative modifications will be included in the RTP and will be posted on the website.

Appendix B - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) is the Greater Akron area's four-year program of highway, public transit, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. It must be consistent with the *Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP). Through the TIP process, projects are scored and selected, providing funding for area transportation projects.

Public participation is necessary in the development of a sound TIP for the area. Comments generated during the review of the Draft TIP will be presented to the Policy Committee and other stakeholder planning agencies for consideration before adoption of the Final TIP document by the Policy Committee.

Once a Draft TIP has been created, AMATS will:

- Make copies of the draft available to the public at:
 - AMATS website – amatsplanning.org
 - AMATS office
- Postings on X through **@amatsplanning**
- Post on **facebook.com/amatsplanning**
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- Place advertisements in regionally significant newspapers, primarily the *Akron Beacon Journal* and the *Record-Courier*, and other publications deemed as appropriate by the AMATS staff.
- Send news releases
- Regularly maintain and update its lists of those interested parties and transportation stakeholders that receive information pertaining to the area's transportation planning process.

Please note that AMATS will not limit itself to the activities identified above to promote awareness of the Draft TIP and will actively pursue additional opportunities to do so.

Amending the TIP

Periodically, state or local officials request that a project in the approved TIP be modified or cancelled or that a new project be added. Such requests will be identified as either a major or minor amendment. The individual amendment determines which public involvement procedures are appropriate. The procedures for Major and Minor amendments and Administrative Modifications are described below.

Major Amendments

If the amendment involves a project that includes a new interchange; a new roadway or lane addition greater than one mile in length; a new major public transit project; commuter rail; or has a significant impact on air quality, then it will be considered a major amendment and public involvement for the amendment will follow the same procedures as the Draft TIP.

Minor Amendments

If the amendment does not include a project such as one previously mentioned, it will be considered a minor amendment. Such amendments will be available for public consideration and comment through the appropriate

Meeting Packet link and the *Get Involved* page of the agency website - amatsplanning.org - prior to Policy Committee action.

Administrative Modifications

The staff is granted the discretion by the AMATS Policy Committee to implement minor revisions or administrative modifications to the *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, and various TIP-related amendments, reports, and studies as may be warranted. Such administrative modifications are largely grammatical and typographical corrections or revisions that do not require demonstration of fiscal constraint or an air quality conformity determination.

For the sake of transparency, the staff will present all changes to the TIP to the AMATS Policy Committee regardless as to whether they are amendments or minor administrative modifications.

If adopted by the Policy Committee, amendments and administrative modifications will be included in the TIP and will be posted on the website.

Appendix C - Involvement of Interested Parties and Public Comment

The *2026 Public Participation Plan* or "3P" describes AMATS' ongoing efforts to engage and involve the public in the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Greater Akron area. 3P is an update to the *2024 Public Participation Plan* and will be an input into the upcoming *Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP) and *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP).

In developing the 3P, AMATS is actively seeking consultation with interested parties and communities. Our agency seeks to develop a policy document that engages the public and other private and public organizations by providing ample opportunities for input and involvement in the area's planning process. It is our goal to base 3P on the insights of the area's citizens, community groups, affected public agencies and representatives of public transportation, freight shipping and pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

The Draft 3P details how the agency will provide opportunities for public comment and involvement throughout the planning process and for its most significant products, the RTP and TIP. These opportunities include posting committee meeting packets and MP3 recordings on the AMATS website and using social media tools and virtual meetings to reach out to new audiences and communities.

AMATS will continue to give special consideration to making all its committee meetings convenient and accessible. Meetings of the AMATS Citizens Involvement Committee are in a virtual format. All materials, plans and information can be accessed 24 hours a day on the AMATS website - amatsplanning.org. Additional review and involvement opportunities are provided during the development of the RTP and the TIP.

AMATS provides a 45-day comment period for the Draft 3P. During the 45-day period, the public may review and present comments for consideration by the AMATS Policy Committee for possible incorporation into the final version of the draft. The Draft 3P was available for public comment for 45 days beginning on **August 6, 2026 through September 20, 2026**. A Public Comment Form for the Draft 3P was available as a pdf for downloading through the agency web site - [amatsplanning](https://amatsplanning.org) - and is presented as part of *Appendix D* with this draft document. The Draft 3P will be presented to the public for review and comment during the **6:30 p.m.** virtual online meetings of the AMATS Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) scheduled for **August 6, 2026** and **September 17, 2026**. These meetings were promoted through advertisements in the *Beacon Journal* and *Record-Courier* newspapers, press releases and various social media. These ads will be included in *Appendix D* when available.

AMATS is continually seeking new ways to engage and involve the public and other agencies. As new opportunities arise, they will be incorporated into the transportation planning process. The 3P will be updated accordingly. The public is encouraged to forward their opinions and suggestions regarding this document to **AMATS Public Information Coordinator Kerry Prater** via email at kprater@akronohio.gov or postal mail at the following address:

Mr. Kerry Prater
AMATS
1 Cascade Plaza / Suite 1300
Akron, Ohio 44308-1136



Comment Form - 2026

Draft Public Participation Plan - "3P"



Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Comments: _____

You may deliver or mail completed forms to:

AMATS
1 Cascade Plaza, Suite 1300,
Akron, OH 44308

To learn more about transportation planning in the Greater Akron area,
please visit us at amatsplanning.org.



3P Public Comment

Public Comment Period is from August 6 to September 20.



AMATS would like your feedback. Between August 6 and September 20, the public comment period for the newest draft of the 3P is open. Please complete the form below.

DRAFT Public Participation Plan (3P) 2026

Name (not required)

Email address

Comments

SUBMIT



Portage roofer offers free help to local homeowner

Diane Smith
For the Record Column
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Portage roofer said he wants to give back to the community and hopes to install a free roof for someone who needs one.

Preston Stewart, owner of Precision Roofing Contractors of America, said the effort is not a contest, but instead an effort to find a deserving person who needs a new roof but can't afford one.

"We want to give back to Portage County, because this is the community that got us to where we are," he said. The effort would provide a complete new roof to "someone we can help the most."

Those looking to nominate a homeowner for the service should call or text 330-729-1507 with the story of the person who needs a roof, along with any pictures needed to make the case. Information on personal circumstances the homeowner is facing, such as a job loss or major illness in the family, also would help.

Stewart took over the business in 2023, following in the footsteps of several family members, including his grandfather.

For many people, needing a new roof can be just the beginning of problems. Damage from a leak can cause damage to belongings and the home's structure.

"We can impact someone in a positive way," he said. "If your roof isn't right, it affects the rest of your house."

Many of Stewart's customers are able to have their projects covered by



Preston Stewart shows a poster for a free roof, which he plans to give away to a family in need in Portage County. Stewart said he wants to give back to the community that helped his business succeed. PROVIDED BY PRECISION ROOFING

insurance - but not all can.

"We see people who need roofs every single day," he said. "We want to

find people who may not be able to afford it."

Reporter Diane Smith can be reached at dsmith@recordjournal.com.

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Freeman

Continued from Page 4A

ter drinking for multiple days.

Another witness, who called 911, said she saw Freeman yelling at McCalister to wake up.

McCalister's brother, Victor Milan, testified that he was on the phone with McCalister when the confrontation occurred. Milan said he heard a man later identified as Freeman demanding money from McCalister and threatening to hit him. Then Milan heard repeated punches.

McCalister died over a week later on Aug. 23, 2025.

As the verdict unfolded, McCalister's family left the court-

room. One family member turned toward Freeman one last time and muttered a single word: "Murderer."

How did Vincente McCalister die?

The medical examiner determined that McCalister died from blunt force trauma to the head, which caused his brainstem to stretch, leading to cardiac arrest and a lack of oxygen to the brain.

Assistant Summit County prosecutor Jami Mitchell told jurors that McCalister had a blood alcohol level of 0.332%.

Alcohol, she said, did not cause his death, it contributed to it.

But Madison and Lowry disagreed. The medical examiner's report, combined with other evidence, left room for ambi-

guity when it said the rubenoid - hemorrhage alone would not have caused his death.

The two attorneys argued that without the alcohol or any other potential substances in his body, McCalister may have lived. McCalister, they said, also may have had a heart attack.

As Ross read the verdict forms, it became clear that jurors sided with Freeman and his two attorneys.

"I didn't do it," Freeman said, crying and sometimes laughing in reaction to the not guilty verdicts.

Bryce Buyukie is an Akron-based reporter who covers the courts and public safety for the Beacon Journal. He can be reached by email at bbuyukie@beaconjournal.com or on X @bryce_buyukie.

Join the CIC virtually Aug. 6

You are invited to join us virtually in a meeting of the Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) of the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS).

The CIC is the forum that gives the public voice regarding transportation issues. The committee relays public comments to the AMATS Policy Committee for their consideration.



The meeting will include a presentation regarding the Draft AMATS Public Participation Plan or "3P." The 3P guides the agency's public outreach activities throughout the transportation planning process in the Greater Akron area. The Draft 3P will be available for public comment at amatsplanning.org until Sept. 20.

The committee will also discuss the AMATS Road Diet Report, which analyzes the effectiveness of the area's recent "road diets." Road diets reduce the number of traffic lanes to improve safety and increase accessibility.

The CIC will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6. Please go to amatsplanning.org/cic-meeting-registration to pre-register for this meeting or call 330-375-2436. Meeting materials will be available at amatsplanning.org.

AMATS is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities can participate fully in public meetings, services, and activities. Anyone who needs an accommodation from AMATS is invited to contact AMATS Public Information Coordinator Karyn Pater at 1 Cascade Plaza, Suite 1300, Akron, OH 44309, (phone) (330) 375-2436 as soon as possible. If you require TDD phone services, call Ohio Relay at 800-752-2729 and they will assist by connecting AMATS at (330) 375-2436.

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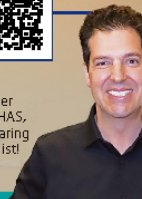
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Christopher Macrides, LHAS,
Licensed Hearing Aid Specialist



4A | THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026 | THE RECORD-COURIER

Portage roofer offers free help to local homeowner

Diane Smith
Rawlens Record-Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Ravenna roofer said he wants to give back to the community and hopes to install a free roof for someone who needs one.

Preston Stewart, owner of Precision Roofing Contractors of America, said the effort is not a contest, but instead an effort to find a deserving person who needs a new roof but can't afford one.

"We want to give back to Portage County, because this is the community that got us to where we are," he said. The effort would provide a complete new roof to "someone who can help the most."

Those looking to nominate a homeowner for the service should call or text 330-729-8377 with the story of the person who needs a roof, along with any pictures needed to make the case. In-

formation on personal circumstances the homeowner is facing, such as a job loss or major illness in the family, also would help.

Stewart took over the business in 2023, following in the footsteps of several family members, including his grandfather.

For many people, needing a new roof can be just the beginning of problems. Damage from a leak can cause damage to belongings and the home's structure.

"We can impact someone in a positive way," he said. "If your roof isn't right, it affects the rest of your house."

Many of Stewart's customers are able to have their projects covered by insurance - but not all can.

"We see people who need roofs every single day," he said. "We want to find people who may not be able to afford it."

Reporter Diane Smith can be reached at dsmith@recordpub.com.

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Anti-ICE activists say they plan to picket Akron-Canton Airport

Charles M. Goshay
Canton Repository
USA TODAY NETWORK

GREEN - A "Stop ICE flights" protest is targeting the Akron-Canton Airport.

Organizers say both Akron-Canton and the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport are serving as portals for deportation flights chartered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The protest, set for 10 a.m. Aug. 1, is being organized by Immigrant Partnership Teams, formed after the 2024 election by Ohioans for Immigrant Rights and the American Friends Service Committee. They operate under the auspices of the Learning Council of Peoria, Colorado.

"The Youngstown and Akron-Canton airports are now part of a shadowy network that moves people from jail to jail and, eventually, to other countries, in six point schedules, all because of the Trump administration's incomprehensible immigration policy and Congress' failure to enact reform," organizers said when announcing the protest.

The nonprofit Human Rights First has reported there have been 66 enforcement flights out of Akron-Canton and 147 out of Youngstown this year.

Susan Gallagher, a local organizer, said the flights depart several times a week.

"What we are hoping to accomplish is to shed more light on this immoral and inhumane activity by ICE that is happening in our own backyard," Gallagher said, adding she has witnessed charters.

"When I started talking to people about what I saw, I found that very few people even knew about these flights. They are occurring in an area that is completely closed to the public, and there is so much going on right now, people are having a hard time keeping up ... The public needs to know how our tax dollars are being spent and why."

Lara Dalpiaz, vice president of air service and business development at Akron-Canton, said no one has contacted the airport regarding a protest.



AKRON-CANTON AIRPORT sign. BALDWIN / CANTON REPOSITORY

"The Akron-Canton Airport Authority has not received any applications for future picketing (protesting) at the airport," Dalpiaz said in a statement. "According to the Akron-Canton Airport Rules & Regulations for Picketing/Information Distribution, groups must contact the Akron-Canton Airport President's Office at least one week prior to the planned date of the event to obtain permission."

Summit County Sheriff's Office spokesman Bill Holland said they were aware of the upcoming event.

"We are not aware of any permits, but we've been working with officials at the Akron-Canton Airport to be prepared for the protest that is scheduled to occur," he said.

The Ohio Immigrant Alliance recently published a statewide analysis of immigrant detention. According to its "Ohio Immigration and Customs Enforcement Activity Report (January 2025 - March 2026)," the number of ICE-contracted facilities in Ohio grew from two at the end of 2024 to six by the end of 2025. In total, 7264 people were detained for ICE in Ohio between January 2025 and March 2026.

Reach Charles at 330-680-8833 or charlie.goshay@cantontimes.com. On Twitter: @cgoshayREP

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Iran

Continued from Page 1A

warships. Iran says it is using new, more capable missiles to attack U.S. ships.

Iran continues to try to hit U.S. naval ships, and for every time they do that or try to do that, they're going to lose tankers," Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters during a visit to Colombia.

After Iran announced its strikes in response, saying it fired on two U.S. ships and eight tankers, reports indicated vessels had been hit in waters near several neighboring countries.

One seafarer was killed aboard the oil products tanker Hercules Star while at anchor off Dubai and another crew member was missing, the vessel's charterer, Peninsula, said. Maritime security sources said it may have been hit by a drone.

The British maritime security agency UKMTO described a vessel in the vicinity that was listing, possibly taking on water after being struck by a projectile.

Reuters could not immediately determine whether this referred to the same ship.

Two Iraqi port officials said a tanker carrying 2 million barrels of fuel oil, the New Andros, had caught fire after being struck by a drone in Iraqi waters. There were no reports of casualties among the 22 crew.

The UKMTO said it had received reports of several merchant ships struck by disabling fire in the northern Gulf and Gulf of Oman, on either side of the strait. It was not immediately able to confirm casualties or environmental impact.

Iran also threatened oil tankers in Kuwait and Bahrain ports, according to a statement carried by state media. A maritime security source reported a liquefied natural gas tanker was damaged in the Emirati port of Khafji.

The IRGC also said on Sept. 9 it had fired ballistic missiles at a base used by

U.S. forces near Al Azraq, in eastern Jordan. Jordan said its air defenses had intercepted 19 of the 20 Iranian missiles, with two falling in unpopulated areas and no casualties. A U.S. official said Iran's strikes in Jordan were ineffective and all American troops were accounted for.

Video filmed in Ash-Shajrah, in northern Jordan, and verified by Reuters showed flashes lighting up the night sky.

Strait choked off

Iran has largely choked off transit through the strait that carried a fifth of global oil before the war.

Washington has responded with a blockade of Iranian ports, and says it has been able to guide many tankers through the strait, although independent monitors say the extent to which oil is escaping has become increasingly difficult to assess. Preliminary data showed just six ships crossing with

transponders on over the last 24 hours.

Escalating combat between Saudi Arabia and the Iran-aligned Houthi movement that controls most populated parts of Yemen has created additional uncertainty for energy markets. A Saudi-backed government based in the south of Yemen has launched a multi-pronged assault on areas controlled by the Houthis, who have threatened Saudi shipping in the Red Sea.

On Sept. 8, the Houthis launched an attack on four cities in Saudi Arabia, causing huge fires at oil installations that were visible from space. Saudi authorities said 73 people were wounded. The Saudi Press Agency released footage showing homes severely damaged and injured patients in the hospital.

A source in Pakistan, which signed a mutual defense pact with Riyadh in August, said Saudi Arabia had carried out retaliatory strikes on Yemen. The Houthis say dozens of people have been killed in Saudi air strikes, which Saudi Arabia has not confirmed.

Schools

Continued from Page 1A

The district expects to receive a one-star rating for its early literacy component, which is the same star rating as last year's report card.

Superintendent Mary Outley has prioritized improving the literacy skills of Akron's youngest learners, previously calling low reading scores a learning problem and an economic development crisis.

She said a child's ability to read by third grade is the gateway to every high-paying job that Akron offers, and, if Akron children can't read, some jobs will go to workers from outside the region.

During the preview presentation, district officials said new strategies, such as increasing the use of phonics and offering tutoring four days a week for the most struggling students, already in place to help students learn to read.

Keith Lischy, Clifford, director of school improvement, said internal monitoring shows the strategies have helped struggling readers catch up to their peers and, in some cases, surpass their classmates in literacy.

But it still will take time for those re-

sults to show up in state passage rates, he said.

"The report card doesn't tell that story yet because it takes more than one year to get proficient," he said. "We've got to walk before we can run."

Angela Carter, executive director of school leadership for elementary schools, said the district hopes to start using a new tool called Paloma, which gives families access to the same kind of lessons that their child is studying in class and allows parents to help their child practice at home.

The cost to purchase Paloma, which could be as much as \$30,000 and covered by federal funds, is expected to be considered at an upcoming school board meeting.

The district also has received a \$40,000 grant from the GEAR Foundation to support the training of teachers in kindergarten through second grade.

Other preliminary report card scores show that some of the gains the district saw in math, science and social studies on last year's report card have needed.

But many of the scores remain higher than previous years. For example, the percentage of students passing the high school Algebra I state test saw double-digit gains on last year's report card, with a pass rate of 47.2% in the 2024-2025 school year.

For this year's report card, only 42.7% of algebra students passed, but that's still a significantly higher than the 2023-2024 school year when the pass rate was 33.3%.

The district expects this year's report card to show continued improvement in the district's graduation rate, rising from 87 stars (not meeting standards) on the last report card to three stars (meeting standards).

The preview presentation did not delve into the metrics behind the graduation improvement, but district officials

previously have said they expect the Class of 2025's four-year graduation rate to exceed 90%, which would be the first time in at least three decades.

Last year's report card shows that 88.9% of students in the Class of 2024 graduated on time.

The district also expects to once again receive four stars, which means it's exceeding state expectations, in the category that looks at how well-prepared students are for future opportunities, including training in a technical field or preparing for work or college.

Reach Akron Beacon Journal education writer Julie Warr at 330-580-8839 or jwarr@akronbeaconjournal.com.

Join the CIC virtually Sept. 17

You are invited to join us virtually in a meeting of the Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) of the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS).

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The meeting will include a presentation regarding the Final Draft AMATS Public Transportation Plan or "3P." The 3P guides the agency's public outreach activities throughout the transportation planning process in the Greater Akron area. The Final Draft 3P will be available for public comment at amatsplanning.org until Sept. 20.

The CIC will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 17. Please go to amatsplanning.org/cic/meeting-registration to pre-register for this meeting or call 330-375-2436. Meeting materials will be available at amatsplanning.org.

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4A | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 | THE RECORD-COURIER

Amy Acton tells Labor Day parade crowd she is 'a fierce warrior'

Amanda Garrett
Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio Democratic gubernatorial candidate Amy Acton spent Labor Day morning campaigning and providing medical care to two women who collapsed during an annual parade on Cleveland's east side.

The day before, Acton was rushed by an armed man at the Canfield Fair in her home county of Mahoning. She was not injured but others were knocked down by the armed man and Acton provided medical care to them, too.

If Acton, who is a medical doctor, was rattled by the armed man on Sept. 6, she didn't show it Monday.

Acton, hardly mentioned the incident, referring to it only as a "rough day" and describing herself as "a fierce warrior in this fight."

"They're making a big mistake when they mistake kindness for weakness," Acton told the crowd gathered at the end of the parade at Luke Easter Park. "It's a fierce commitment to justice."

Many voters at the 54th annual Labor Day Parade & Festival - which marches down Kinsman Avenue and ends in a festival of food trucks, friends and music at Luke Easter Park - said they hadn't heard about what happened to Acton a day earlier. Most said they were more concerned about pocketbook issues than political violence.

Shaunta Jackson of Maple Heights said she is worried about prices.

"The cost of living is astronomical," she said. "Food is a big thing for me. People don't have enough food. Kids in school can't eat."

Jackson said she is also worried for her father, a senior citizen who depends on Medicare Part D for prescription drugs. President Donald Trump's administration announced it will end government subsidies that stabilize Part D premiums at the end of the year.

"It's crucial for my father," she said. "People like Jackson's father will still have drug coverage next year through Part D, but only if they can afford it. Rates and out-of-pocket caps will almost certainly go up without government subsidies. Insurance companies will release new Part D pricing for 2027 later this month."

Jackson, who said she is not affiliated with either major political party, said she has just started to do her candidate research but said she is also looking for someone opposed to the ongoing U.S. military action targeting Iran.

"We shouldn't be at war," she said, after marching in the parade with her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. "It's senseless."

About a block away, Greg Moore was registering people to vote at the Ohio Voter Fund booth.

Both he and Jackson said they've noticed their friends and family have said they are looking forward to voting in November.



Dr. Amy Acton, in straw hat, greets attendees of the 54th annual 11th Congressional District Community Caucus Labor Day Parade and Festival, Sept. 7, 2026, in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Acton is running for governor of Ohio. ANDREW DOLPH/BEACON JOURNAL



Amy Acton supporters get ready for the Labor Day parade in Cleveland on Sept. 7, 2026. ANDREW DOLPH/BEACON JOURNAL

Moore - who helped champion the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and served as chief of staff to former U.S. Rep. John Conaway Jr. - said Ohioans are finally realizing their vote matters.

"I keep reminding people how valuable their vote is - otherwise people wouldn't be working so hard to take it away," Moore said, referring to ongoing moves by the Trump administration to restrict voting.

Among other things, the administration is trying to limit mail-in ballots even though that's how Trump himself has recently cast his ballot. The administration is also challenging voter eligibility issues that are being debated in federal courts.

Moore encouraged Ohioans to look up their voter registration now to make sure it's still active and that the location of their polling place hasn't changed.

He said he is measuring voters that

they can still vote only at their local boards of election, by mail or in person on Election Day. He also reminded Ohioans convicted of felonies that they can vote once they've served their time.

Maya Williams said she will vote for the first time in November. The 18-year-old Cleveland resident said she is looking for someone who will make college more affordable, along with everything else.

"Do these people know how expensive it is out here?" Williams asked, saying her mother cannot afford to spend \$50 to fill up her gas tank and pay for the rising cost of food.

It wasn't clear if Acton had Williams' vote.

Acton says she wants to help heal Ohio amid 'hate and chaos'

During her brief speech Sept. 7, Acton said she was "excited to save public

schools, libraries ... and health care."

She also said she wanted to help heal a state where everyone is "exhausted" by "hate and chaos and vitriol."

Acton said she wants Ohioans to again embrace their "common humanity," before heading to her waiting SUV. Acton declined Sept. 7 to speak with reporters even as she attempted to speak against her Sept. 6 madmenational news.

Patrick Haves, 38, faces two charges of assault and one count of disorderly conduct after being arrested at the Canfield Fair, where witnesses said he charged at Acton. Others who came to see Acton were shoved or pushed to the ground during the incident.

Haves did not show any weapons, but when law enforcement searched him, they found Haves was carrying two handguns, a Taser shock device and brass knuckles.

Law enforcement continues to investigate the motive behind the attack. Public records show that Haves, who graduated from Shaw-Munroe Mills High School in 2006, shared a residence with Andrew James Haves, who may be his brother.

Andrew Haves resigned from a volunteer position with Republican U.S. Sen. Jon Husted's campaign after reports emerged about his prior conviction involving accusations of sexual misconduct involving a minor.

Husted's campaign staff said Haves didn't disclose that conviction and they asked him to resign after learning of the conviction.

It remained unclear Sept. 7 whether Patrick Haves' action against Acton was tied to Andrew Haves' resignation.

But it wasn't the first time Acton has faced public backlash. During the pandemic, when she was serving as Ohio's health director, protesters converged outside Acton's home and at the Ohio Statehouse because they were opposed to mask mandates and other policy efforts aimed at saving lives and preventing illness.

Acton resigned her post amid increasing pushback from Ohio's GOP lawmakers, who control all of state government, only to reemerge as a Democrat running for governor.

On Sept. 7, Acton exited her vehicle at the corner of East 145th Street and Kinsman Road to help an elderly woman who was experiencing a medical emergency about a block away from the stepping-off point for the parade. Acton checked the woman's vitals and encouraged her to sip liquids until paramedics arrived.

Later, toward the end of the 2.1-mile parade, another woman collapsed and Acton knelt beside her, offering her assistance until more paramedics arrived.

It was not clear whether either woman who collapsed was hospitalized.

But Acton made her case, not only for being governor, but for having a doctor on hand during a pandemic hot, sunny September day.

2026 AKRON ANNUNCIATION GREEK FESTIVAL
Sept. 17, 18 & 19, 2026
THURSDAY: 11 A.M. - 9 P.M.
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 11 A.M. TO 10 P.M.
129 S. UNION ST., AKRON 44304

- Guided Church Tours
- Greek Dance Performances
- Online Carry-out Ordering
- Live Music in 3 Areas
- Greek Pastries
- Indoor and Outdoor Dining

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Serving Cleveland with High Quality and Low Prices for Over 20 Years!
krugersmarket.com

Jobs
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www.usajobs.com

Join the CIC virtually Sept. 17

You are invited to join us virtually in a meeting of the Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) of the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS).

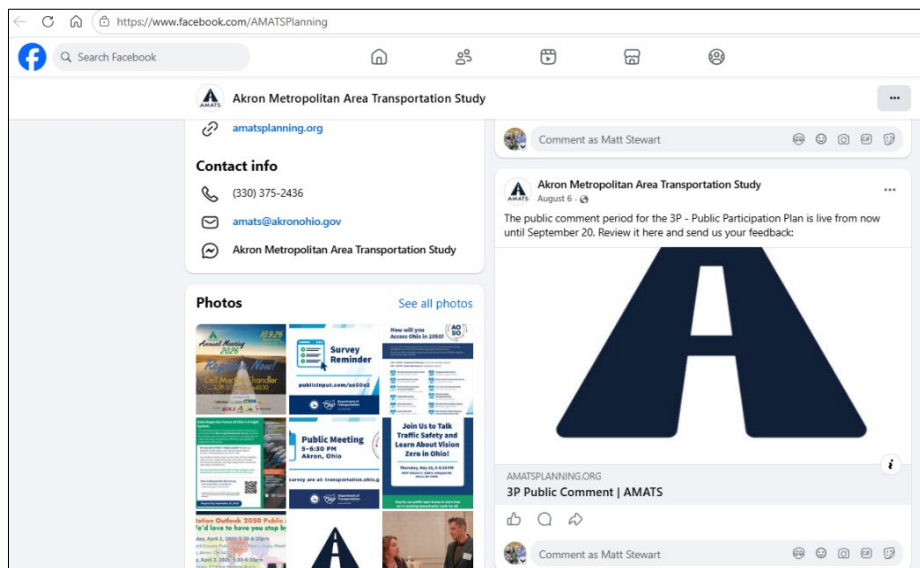
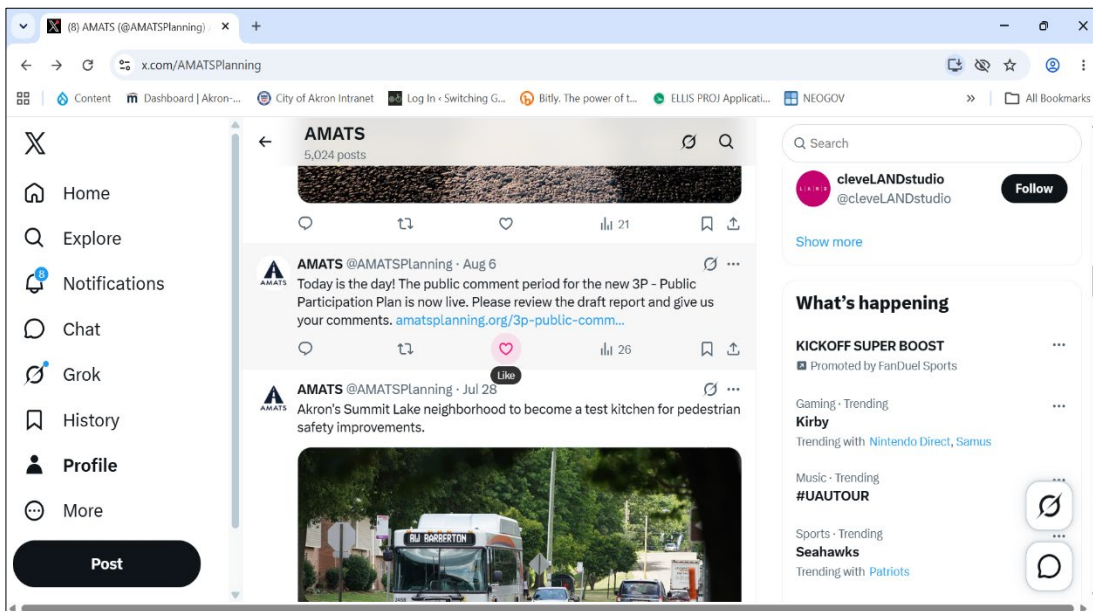
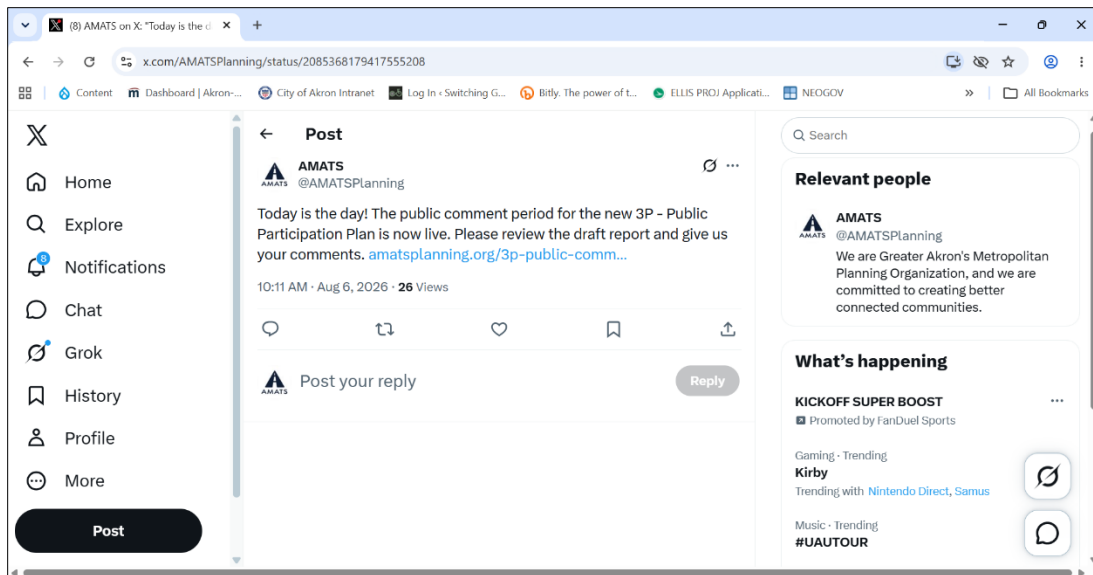
The CIC is the forum that gives the public voice regarding transportation issues. The committee relays public comments to the AMATS Policy Committee for their consideration.

The meeting will include a presentation regarding the Final Draft AMATS Public Participation Plan or "3P." The 3P guides the agency's public outreach activities throughout the transportation planning process in the Greater Akron area. The Final Draft 3P will be available for public comment at amatsplanning.org until Sept. 20.

The CIC will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 17. Please go to amatsplanning.org/cic-meeting-registration to pre-register for this meeting or call 330-375-2436. Meeting materials will be available at amatsplanning.org.

AMATS is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities can participate fully in public programs, services, and activities. Anyone who needs an accommodation from AMATS is invited to contact AMATS Public Information Coordinator Kerry Finner at 1 Cascade Park, Suite 1300, Akron, OH 44309, (330) 375-2436 as soon as possible. If you require TDD (voice service) call Ohio Relay at 800-750-0735 and they will assist by connecting AMATS at (330) 375-2436.







A Greater Voice in Greater Akron

≡ YouTube

69 subscribers

Search



2 views 1 month ago

The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is updating its Public Participation Plan or "3P," but we need one key element to update this plan successfully: You! ...more

Subject: A Greater Voice in Greater Akron
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2026 9:59:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study

1 Cascade Plaza / Suite 1300 / Akron, Ohio 44308-1423 / 330.375.2436
amats@akronohio.gov www.amatsplanning.org

Contact:

Kerry Prater
Public Information Coordinator
330-375-2436
kprater@akronohio.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 30, 2026

Giving You a Greater Voice in Greater Akron – AMATS' New 3P!

The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is updating its *Public Participation Plan* or “3P,” but we need one key element to update this plan successfully: You!

As the Greater Akron area’s federally designated metropolitan planning organization, AMATS needs public participation **as it plans for future improvements to the region’s transportation network**. The 3P identifies the strategies that the agency uses to engage the public throughout the regional transportation planning process. Periodically, AMATS updates its 3P to identify and pursue new, innovative public participation approaches. You are invited to share your ideas as to how we can improve our public outreach efforts.

The Draft 3P will be available for review and comment from **Aug. 6** until **Sept. 20** at amatsplanning.org and our **X** and **Facebook** pages - **@AMATSPlanning**. Please enjoy our YouTube video – **[A Greater Voice in Greater Akron!](#)**

You are invited to attend a virtual meeting of the AMATS Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) scheduled for **6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6**. The CIC meeting will include a presentation and discussion regarding the Draft 3P. Please go to amatsplanning.org/cic-meeting-registration to pre-register for this meeting or call **330-375-2436**.

Meeting materials will be available at amatsplanning.org.

###

Area news

• **STOW** — Summit County residents and businesses can bring Styrofoam, glass bottles and jars, cardboard, cooking oil, campaign signs, string lights and cords, cell phones, laptops and tablets, DVD players and VCRs, televisions (limit two per vehicle) and monitors (limit two per vehicle) to the **ReWorks Collection Center**, 1201 Graham Road, Aug. 24-26 and 28 from 3 to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.summitreworks.com/348/ReWorks-Recycling-Days.

• **GREEN** — Raintree Golf and Event Center is offering residents of Green a 20% discount on green fees every Sunday after 1 p.m. (based on tee time availability). Residents can show proof of residency with a valid driver's license or utility bill at the golf shop to receive the Sunday Fun-day discount. In addition, juniors, age 7-14, can play free on Sundays after 1 p.m., if accompanied by a paying adult. This deal is for walking only. For more information, visit www.golfraintree.com.

• **AKRON** — The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is updating its

Public Participation Plan known as the "3P." AMATS needs public participation as it plans for future improvements to the region's transportation network. The 3P identifies the strategies that the agency uses to engage the public throughout the regional transportation planning process. Periodically, AMATS updates its 3P to identify and pursue new, innovative public participation approaches. Members of the public may share ideas

public outreach efforts. The Draft 3P will be available for review and comment until Sept. 20 at

amatsplanning.org and on social media. Call 330-375-2436 or visit amatsplanning.org for more information.

Wedding announcement

AKRON — Simara Vines and Paul Lewis III were married July 5 at Himelright Lodge located in the Cascade Valley Metro Park. Simara is the daughter of Edwin Pierre and Jasmine Vines, of Norton, and Paul is the son of Paul and Paulette Lewis, who reside in Maryland.

Resolution 7613-2026 "Accept grant writer proposal"

Resolution 7613-2026 "Accept quote from ANR"

Ordinance 1938-2026 "Prohibiting nuisance animals"

Ordinance 1942-2026 "Amend budget"

This legislation is available for review at the Lakemore Municipal Building, 1400 Main Street, Lakemore, Ohio, 44250, during business hours. **This legislation is also available online at www.lakemoreohio.org.**

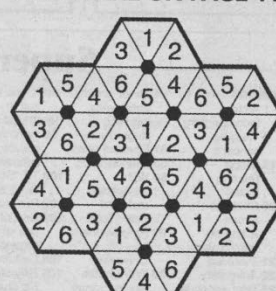
— Tracy Sayers, Village Administrator

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 10; MAGIC MAZE, SUDOKU CHALLENGE & SNOWFLAKE ON PAGE 11

SNOWSHOE TRAUMA ADOPE
KINETICS SHINED RIVAL
INSTANTLY LAADDELIVERS
REDDIIVERTS LAMBS SAG
OPER ERA OATBAR DIKE
BICEPS RUDDDRAMATIZES
CADETS EYE ATONERS
FUDDROOLS PETS ANDSO
ORE SALLIE STLOUTE
GESU TODDDESTIGNS RAHS
NBA EGAN HOOEY GOO
JOLE WREN JUDDDEBUTS
ARRANGE GRO STOATS
MUDDDELINEATES OHSTOP
TSEE TSTORM NYE DREAM
EAR ETHOS BUDDDEBARKS
DEERE ALPS LIVE
KIDDDRIBBLES UTENSILS
INIGO MAITRE ZIRCONIA
AGNES ATCOST INTHREED

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S ESUFED

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9	7	3	8	5	1	2	4	6
7	5	1	3	9	8	6	2	4
6	9	8	2	4	5	1	7	3
3	2	4	1	6	7	9	8	5



Worship Directory

New Worship Directory
advertising options are available. Call
330-665-9595 to find out more!



Messiah Lutheran Church
4700 S. Main St., Akron, OH
www.MessiahLutheran.cc
Sunday Service — 10AM

Event Space Available in Our 5,000
SqFt Community Rec. Center

Call to Plan an Event:
330.644.5766

Queen of Heaven Catholic Church

1800 Steese Road, Green, OH - (330) 896-2345
www.queenofheavenparish.org



Weekend Masses:
Sat. Vigil 4:30pm; Sunday:
8:15am, 11am
Daily Masses: Mon.-Sat. 8:30am
Confessions:
Fri. 9-10am; Sat. 3:00-4:00pm



TEMPLE BAPTIST
CHURCH

UNLESS PEOPLE HEAR EVERYTHING

John 8:12

"I am the Light of the World"

1212 Greensburg Road In The City of Green
330-896-1969 • www.tbclighthouse.org • Temple Baptist Church

~ 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
~ 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
~ Wednesday: Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
~ Wednesday: AWANA Clubs
@ 6:45 p.m.
(Ages 4-6th Grade / Sept.-Apr.)
~ TBC Youth: Sunday @ 9:45 a.m.
& Wednesday @ 7 p.m.

Appendix E - Title VI Complaint Procedures

Any person who believes that he or she has been excluded from participation in or has been denied the benefits or services of any program actively administered by ODOT or its sub-recipients, MPOs and RTPOs, on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, or income status may file a complaint of discrimination under Title VI, other non-discrimination statutes, and executive orders. The person filing the complaint may submit the written complaint to any agency (local government, MPO, ODOT or directly to FHWA/FTA). Once received, the most relevant federal funding source is used to determine which agency will lead the investigation. For FTA-funded programs, most investigative work would be completed at the local level. For FHWA-funded programs, agencies should route the complaint up the government agency hierarchy to the FHWA District Office, who will initiate the investigation. Please see Appendix E for additional information on the Title VI complaint process.

At a minimum, an agency must:

1. Inform the public of the local Title VI policy and outline the steps an individual must complete to successfully file a complaint. This information should be readily available and easy to access. Examples of where Title VI information (and access to complaint forms) might be effectively disseminated include:
 - Prominent placement on the agency's website (home page link and/or a dedicated Title VI page)
 - Posters prominently placed in common areas of agency's facilities
 - Brochures at public events
2. Provide the mailing address where complaints can be filed
3. Provide the contact information of the office that can answer questions regarding the complaint filing process (Title VI Coordinator, etc.)

The AMATS Title VI Complaint Form is included on the following page. The form can be provided in other languages upon request. The full AMATS Title VI Civil Rights Program Procedures and Documentation can be found at: [**AMATS Title VI Civil Rights Program Final-May 2024**](#). The complaint procedure is explained more fully in this document.

**AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (AMATS)
TITLE VI / CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT FORM**

Section I				
Name:				
Address:				
Telephone (Home):			Telephone (Work):	
Electronic Mail (E-Mail) Address:				
Accessible Format Requirements?	Large Print		Audio Tape	
	TDD		Other	
Section II				
Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf?			Yes*	No
*If you answered "yes" to this question, go to Section III.				
If not, please supply the name and relationship of the person for whom you are filing this complaint:				
Please explain why you have filed for a third party: _____				
Please confirm that you have obtained the permission of the aggrieved party if you are filing on behalf of a third party.			Yes	No
Section III				
I believe the discrimination I experienced was based on (check all that apply): ☐ Race ☐ Color ☐ National Origin ☐ Other _____				
Date of Alleged Discrimination (Month, Day, Year): _____				
Explain as clearly as possible what happened and why you believe you were discriminated against. Describe all persons who were involved. Include the name and contact information of the person(s) who discriminated against you (if known) as well as names and contact information of any witnesses. If more space is needed, please use the back of this form. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____				
Section IV				
Have you previously filed a Title VI complaint with this agency?			Yes	No

**AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (AMATS)
TITLE VI / CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT FORM**

Section V

Have you filed this complaint with any other Federal, State, or local agency, or with any Federal or State court?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, check all that apply:

☐ Federal Agency: _____

☐ Federal Court _____ ☐ State Agency _____

☐ State Court _____ ☐ Local Agency _____

Please provide information about a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed:

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone:

Section VI

Name of agency complaint is against:

Contact person:

Title:

Telephone number:

You may attach any written materials or other information that you think is relevant to your complaint.

Signature and date required:

Signature

Date

Please submit this form in person at the address below, or mail this form to:

Jeff Gardner
Title VI Coordinator
Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS)
Suite 1300 PNC Building
1 Cascade Plaza / Akron, Ohio 44308-1136
Phone: 330.375.2436 x.4431
E-Mail: amats@akronohio.gov

Appendix F - Program of Projects Requirement for Transit Projects Akron, OH Urbanized Area

The FTA requires recipients of Section 5307 and 5339(a) funding to develop, publish and submit a detailed Annual Program of Projects (yearly capital program). AMATS assists both local public transit authorities (METRO RTA and PARTA), with public involvement, regarding their annual capital projects development. AMATS publishes a program of projects (POP) each year, for both METRO and PARTA, that lists all the current and upcoming projects for the calendar year and presents the project information to the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Policy Committee and Citizens Involvement Committee's (CIC). The public notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review and comment on the TIP satisfies the Program of Projects (POP) public review requirements of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5307 and 5339 (a) Programs for METRO RTA and PARTA. Any amendments to the program of projects or capital transit plan are reflected through TIP amendments and all amendments follow the same public comment period as the yearly transit POP. Below is an example of language in our resolutions that satisfies the public involvement requirement when making transit amendments to the TIP.

"WHEREAS, public notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review and comment on the TIP will satisfy the Program of Projects (POP) public review requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Program and 5339 (a) Programs;"

For more information on how AMATS interacts with our transit authorities see the Memorandum of Understanding among the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, the METRO Regional Transit Authority, the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority, and the Ohio Department of Transportation Concerning the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process. This can be found on AMATS website at: <https://www.amatsplanning.org/transit>

Appendix G –Committee and Technical Advisory Committee Composition

Policy Committee Members

Akron	Mantua	Rittman
Aurora	METRO RTA	Silver Lake
Barberton	Mogadore	Stow
Boston Heights	Munroe Falls	Streetsboro
Clinton	New Franklin	Sugar Bush Knolls
Cuyahoga Falls	Northfield	Summit County Engineer
Doylestown	Norton	Summit County Executive
Fairlawn	Ohio Department of Transportation—D4	Summit County Comm. & Econ. Dev.
Garrettsville	PARTA	Summit County Comm. & Econ. Dev.
Green	Peninsula	Tallmadge
Hiram	Portage County Commissioners	Twinsburg
Hudson	Portage County Engineer	Wayne County Commissioners
Kent	Ravenna	Wayne County Engineer
Lakemore	Reminderville	Windham
Macedonia	Richfield	

Technical Advisory Committee Members

Akron Engineering Bureau	Lakemore	Ravenna
Akron Planning Department	Macedonia	Richfield
Akron Traffic Engineering	METRO RTA	Rittman
Aurora	Mogadore	Silver Lake
Barberton	Munroe Falls	Stow (1)
Cuyahoga Falls (1)	NEFCO	Stow (2)
Cuyahoga Falls (2)	New Franklin	Streetsboro
Doylestown	Northfield	Summit County Comm. & Econ. Dev.
Fairlawn	Norton	Summit County Engineer
Green (1)	Ohio Department of Transportation—D4	Summit County Small Villages
Green (2)	PARTA	Summit County Township Association
Hudson (1)	Portage County Engineer	Tallmadge
Hudson (2)	Portage County Regional Planning Comm.	Twinsburg
Kent (1)	Portage County Small Villages	Wayne County Engineer
Kent (2)	Portage County Township Association	Windham

The 3P will be discussed during the next CIC meeting scheduled for Sept. 17.

As of the date of this memo, no comments have been received by AMATS. The 3P submitted for final review is the same document shared in August except for additional items in *Appendix D – Comment Forms and Links* as documentation of work completed. If comments are received between today and the conclusion of the public comment period, AMATS will consider the comments and note any changes made to the final 3P.

Comments regarding this item and related practices are welcome and should be sent to AMATS Public Information Coordinator Kerry Prater at kprater@akronohio.gov or 330-375-2436.

AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Policy Committee
Technical Advisory Committee
Citizens Involvement Committee

FROM: AMATS Staff

RE: Resolution 2026-18 – PARTA Purchase of Security Cameras (FY 2026-2029
TIP Amendment #15)

DATE: September 10, 2026

Executive Summary

This memorandum discusses a TIP amendment to add funds for the purchase of security cameras for the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) in FY 2027.

PARTA seeks to replace forty outdated security cameras that have reached the end of their useful life. This project will modernize the video surveillance systems at PARTA's Kent Central Gateway multi-modal facility in downtown Kent, as well as their administrative and maintenance headquarter facility on Summit Road. This project will support the assurance of safe transit service and a secure work environment.

PARTA is requesting the following addition to the TIP:

- Add a Project for the Purchase of Security Cameras (PID 126859)

PARTA requests the addition of \$56,000 in federal funds to replace forty security cameras and associated hardware. The federal funds are sourced from PARTA's share of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 urbanized area allocation. The local share contribution is \$14,000, to match the federal amount. The total project cost for this new PID is \$70,000. The project is scheduled in fiscal year 2027.

PARTA works to ensure that all assets are operating as intended, and maintained in a state of good repair. A state of good repair policy has been created for all capital asset groups. PARTA monitors performance indicators for all capital resources as part of their Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan.

STAFF COMMENTS

As with all TIP amendments, considerations with respect to consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan, financial capability, air quality conformity, public involvement, and civil rights are important.

Regional Transportation Plan

The projects proposed in this amendment are consistent with *Transportation Outlook 2050*, the area's Regional Transportation Plan.

Financial Capability

With respect to financial capability, there are sufficient funds available for this amendment.

Air Quality

The project can be viewed as either exempt from air quality or has been analyzed as part of the air quality networks and has resulted in a finding of compliance with the Clean Air Act.

Therefore, this amendment will not affect adversely the air quality conformity approval of *Transportation Outlook* or the TIP.

Public Involvement

The Staff is recommending that the Policy Committee consider this action as not regionally significant. As a result, the modified procedures in the AMATS *Public Participation Plan (3P)* are appropriate.

Civil Rights

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that AMATS shall not, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex, exclude anyone from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. This requirement also applies to recipients of federal funds, such as PARTA.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Attached to this memo is Resolution 2026-18. This resolution approves the requested changes to FY 2027 of the AMATS Transportation Improvement Program as described above. The Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-18

**OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**PARTA PURCHASE OF SECURITY CAMERAS (FY 2026-2029 TIP AMENDMENT
#15)**

WHEREAS, the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governor, acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation and in cooperation with locally elected officials in Summit and Portage Counties and the Chippewa Township and Milton Township areas of Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of this Committee to develop and maintain the area's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) provides public transportation services in the AMATS area; and

WHEREAS, PARTA intends to maintain their capital assets in a state of good repair as described more fully in their Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan; and

WHEREAS, PARTA is an eligible recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program funds; and

WHEREAS, PARTA is an eligible recipient of state of Ohio General Revenue Funds (GRF); and

WHEREAS, this Committee has analyzed this request and found it to be consistent with *Transportation Outlook 2050*, the area's current Regional Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, these projects have been determined to be in conformity with the State Implementation Plan for air quality; and

WHEREAS, public notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review and comment on the TIP will satisfy the Program of Projects (POP) public review requirements of the FTA Section 5307 Program; and

WHEREAS, this Committee has determined that the effects of this amendment are consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which requires that AMATS shall not, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex, exclude anyone from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-18 Continued

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That this Committee amends the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program as previously specified in the attached memorandum.
2. That this Committee affirms that the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program is in reasonable fiscal constraint.
3. That this Committee affirms consistency with *Transportation Outlook*, the Regional Transportation Plan.
4. That this Committee reaffirms the air quality conformity determination of *Transportation Outlook*.
5. That this Committee considers the necessary public involvement has been carried out as described in the AMATS *Public Participation Plan (3P)*.
6. That this Committee affirms consistency with civil rights requirements.
7. That this Committee authorizes the Staff to provide copies of this Resolution to the appropriate agencies as evidence of action by the Metropolitan Transportation Policy Committee of the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study.

James Bowling, 2026 Vice-Chairman
Metropolitan Transportation Policy Committee

Date

AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Policy Committee Members
Technical Advisory Committee Members
Citizens Involvement Committee Members

FROM: AMATS Staff

RE: Resolution 2026-19 – Approving the FY 2026 Year End Completion Report

DATE: September 10, 2026

This memorandum discusses the status of activities and expenditures for transportation planning in the Akron Metropolitan Area for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The purpose of this resolution is to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Year End Completion Report for transmittal to ODOT.

Each year AMATS prepares a Transportation Planning Work Program that is the basis for federal financial assistance for planning. ODOT requires AMATS, following the close of each fiscal year (June 30), to review the previous year's Work Program and compare the scope of work that was originally proposed to that which was completed. Completion of the Work Program is a prerequisite for certification of the planning process, and this memorandum summarizes the Fiscal Year 2026 Year End Completion Report. The planning work necessary for FY 2026 was completed, and the expenditures were within the budgeted amounts. All items were completed by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Upon approval, this report will be submitted to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Attached is a financial summary of the Fiscal Year 2026 Year End Completion Report for all work elements scheduled during FY 2026. Several significant products and activities were completed during FY 2026, including:

1. Maintained the new FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program as amended
2. Maintained the Congestion Management Process
3. Participated in the Statewide CMAQ Discretionary Funds Program
4. Monitored projects that use federal funds sub-allocated to AMATS
5. Maintained the new Regional Transportation Plan: *Transportation Outlook 2050*
6. The Traffic Crashes and Safety Performance Measures (2022-2024) Technical Memorandum
7. 2025 AMATS Annual Report
8. Promoted commuter alternatives through bicycle and pedestrian advocacy
9. Management of the Gohio Commute Program

10. Continued the Pavement Condition Data Collection and Analysis Program by contracting with Pavement Management Group (PMG)
11. Continued implementation of performance measures as part of the Plan and TIP processes consistent with the IJA
12. Made funding available for the next round of Connecting Communities Planning Grants, the next round of recipients approved by Policy Committee in May
13. Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Action Plan Update
14. Solicited applications for the next round of STBG and TASA funds.

Because AMATS is well within budget, funds were able to be carried over from FY 2026. These funds total approximately \$518,800 (see the attached summary table) and must be expended by December 31, 2026.

Attached is Resolution Number 2026-19 approving the FY 2026 Year End Completion Report and authorizing its submission to ODOT and USDOT as evidence of completing the FY 2026 Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget. All work elements remain within budget. The Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-19

**OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 YEAR END COMPLETION REPORT

WHEREAS, the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governor, acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and in cooperation with locally elected officials in Summit and Portage counties and the Chippewa and Milton Township areas of Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, this Committee is responsible for directing, coordinating and administering the Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget for the AMATS area; and

WHEREAS, an AMATS Year End Completion Report that compares the scope of work proposed in the Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget to the work that was completed, must be prepared annually; and

WHEREAS, this Committee has reviewed and found acceptable the Fiscal Year 2026 Year End Completion Report containing the work scheduled in the FY 2026 Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget and a comparison with progress made on those products.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That this Committee approves the FY 2026 Year End Completion Report.
2. That this Committee directs the AMATS Staff to transmit a copy of this resolution to the United States Department of Transportation and the Ohio Department of Transportation as evidence of completing the FY 2026 Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget.

James Bowling, 2026 Vice Chairman
Metropolitan Transportation Policy Committee

Date

**YEAR END FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT
AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026**

Description		Annual Budget	Year-to-Date Expenses	% Budget Expended	Carryover to FY2027
I.	Short Range Planning	\$679,450	\$678,671	100%	\$0
	FY2025 Carryover	152,600	152,578		0
	FY2026	526,850	526,092		0
II.	Transportation Improvement Program	\$324,500	\$257,052	79%	\$67,000
	FY2025 Carryover	74,500	74,430		0
	FY2026	250,000	182,622		67,000
III.	Continuing Planning & Data Collection Transportation System Update	\$338,000	\$279,323	83%	\$58,500
	FY2025 Carryover	38,000	37,945		0
	FY2026	300,000	241,378		58,500
IV.	Long Range Plan Activity	\$289,300	\$141,678	49%	\$147,500
	FY2025 Carryover	15,300	15,277		0
	FY2026	274,000	126,402		147,500
V.	Service	\$642,115	\$395,198	62%	\$245,800
	FY2025 Carryover	150,400	149,369		0
	FY2026	491,715	245,829		245,800
VI.	OhioRideshare and AQ Advocacy	\$180,000	\$34,156	19%	\$0
	FY2026 OhioRideshare	80,000	33,779		0
	FY2026 Air Quality	100,000	378		0
VII.	Local	\$25,000	\$20,616	82%	\$0
	AMATS local Costs	25,000	20,616		0
VIII.	AMATS Transportation Quarterly	\$50,072	\$49,956	100%	\$0
	FY2025 Carryover	11,200	11,108		0
	FY2026	38,872	38,847		0
IX.	GRAND TOTAL AMATS BUDGET	\$2,528,437	\$1,856,652	73%	\$518,800

2027 AMATS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					New Year's Day	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	18	19	20	21	22
	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday (Observed)					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				TC		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				P		
14	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	15	16	17	18	19
	President's Day					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				TC		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				P		
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				TC		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				P		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	18
				Juneteenth Observed		Juneteenth
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	5	6	7	8	9
Independence Day	Independence Day Observed					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				TC		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				P		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	6	7	8	9	10
	Labor Day					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				TC		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				P		
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					ANNUAL MEETING	
10	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	11	12	13	14	15
	Columbus Day Observed					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	11	12
				Veteran's Day		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	25	26
				Thanksgiving	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	
28	29	30				

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				TC		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				P		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	24
				Christmas Observed		Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	HOLIDAY AMATS CLOSED	31
				New Year's Day Observed		