

# @AMATS

THE GREATER AKRON AREA'S TRANSPORTATION JOURNAL

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**ABOVE:**

Sam Wallace of the Federal Highway Administration, at podium, addresses the AMATS Policy Committee during its May 15 meeting. Wallace announced that the agency was recertified as the Greater Akron area's metropolitan planning organization. For details, turn to **page 5.**

*Kenmore Leg - Interstate 76 photos  
provided by Ohio Department of  
Transportation - District 4.*



## On the Horizon!

## New TIP, New TO2050....pages 2-3.



# On the Horizon!

## AMATS approves new four-year program and long-range plan

The Greater Akron area has two new paths to the future thanks to the AMATS Policy Committee. During its May 15 meeting, the committee approved a new multi-million-dollar, four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and a new long-range regional transportation plan, *Transportation Outlook 2050* (TO2050).

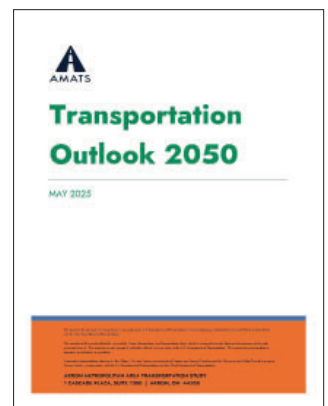
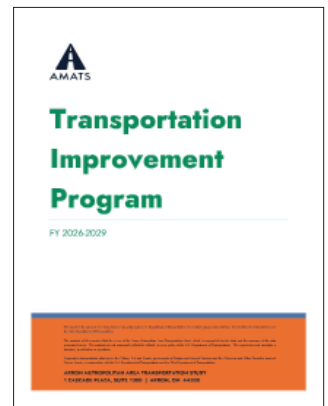
The TIP is a four-year program of highway, public transit, and active transportation projects within the Greater Akron area scheduled to receive federal funds from Fiscal Year 2026 through Fiscal Year 2029. TO2050 is the area's long-range plan that identifies regional transportation goals and presents recommendations for projects to meet identified needs over the next 25 years. The TIP and TO2050 are key elements of the regional transportation planning process within Portage and Summit counties and northeastern Wayne County.

AMATS Planning Administrator Matt Stewart explains that the agency must prepare these items as the Greater Akron area's federally designated metropolitan planning organization. Stewart says that the TIP and TO2050 underwent an extensive public engagement process that culminated in mid-April. The AMATS Staff relied on public feedback in crafting both items.

The new TIP provides slightly less than \$1.07 billion with nearly \$416.7 million to be invested in area highway improvements and \$526 million in regional public transit service over the program's four-year span. The TIP also provides \$8.4 million for the area's growing active transportation network of pedestrian and cycling facilities.

One of the most significant highway projects in the TIP is the \$85.8 million capacity improvement project of the Kenmore Leg on Interstate 76 in Akron, which is scheduled to begin in 2027. Other notable projects include the \$21.9 million widening to four lanes of South Arlington Road in Green in 2026 and a \$6 million improvement project on state Route 43 in Kent in 2029.

The Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority of Portage County and METRO of Summit County — are scheduled to receive a total of more than \$3.8 million to modernize their transit fleets in 2026. Active transportation investments include \$2 million for the construction of Phase 3 of the Rubber City Heritage Trail in Akron in 2029 and \$820,000 for the construction of Phase 4A of the Heartland Trail in Chippewa Township in 2026.



**Continued Next Page**



### COMING SOON:

The \$85.8 million capacity improvement project of the Kenmore Leg on Interstate 76 in Akron, shown at left, is scheduled to begin in 2027. The project is one of the many highway improvements programmed in the new TIP.

Photo provided by ODOT - District 4.

**Continued from Page 2**

The long-term *TO2050* presents broad planning goals for the Greater Akron area such as maintaining a safe, efficient transportation system; increasing mobility for all people; supporting regional economic vitality; and encouraging smart regional land use strategies and development patterns.

*TO2050* recommends that nearly \$9.4 billion be invested in area highway, public transit, and active transportation networks over the next 25 years with nearly \$6.9 billion for the region's highways and slightly less than \$2.5 billion for public transit systems. The plan urges another \$35 million in active transportation investments over the same period.

The plan presents 47 specific highway project recommendations that include various roundabouts, intersection improvements, and corridor rehabilitations. *TO2050* presents 24 active transportation project recommendations such as new sections of the Rubber City Heritage, Lake Rockwell, and Veterans trails and additional pedestrian-related facilities across the area. The plan's public transit recommendations urge that service be considered an integral land use planning component and that future investments preserve the existing transit network, assets, and supporting facilities.

Stewart notes that the TIP and *TO2050* emphasize system preservation rather than costly and potentially unnecessary expansions. He concedes that, while maintenance of existing transportation systems may not be glamorous, it is necessary. AMATS encourages project sponsors to focus on resurfacing, pavement replacement, and bridge maintenance activities under the new TIP and plan.

"The longer that large preservation projects are delayed, the more expensive that they become. The agency believes that preservation is a fiscally prudent course for the region, and that changes to our system should improve safety and expand non-vehicular options for travel," Stewart observes.

For more information about the TIP, *TO2050* and the regional transportation planning process, please click [here](#).

**IN THE HEARTLAND:**

Active transportation projects, such as the ongoing Heartland Trail in Chippewa Township, shown here, are increasingly significant components of the Greater Akron area's TIP and *TO2050*. Convenient cycling and pedestrian facilities are key elements of AMATS strategies to promote healthy transportation options.



# At your fingerTIPs!

## New interactive map for area's latest Transportation Improvement Program

The latest four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) spanning Fiscal Years 2026 through 2029 ushers a new feature for future programs: An interactive project map.

AMATS Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician Amelia Hoffmeier describes the map as a “public-facing” version of the TIP. The map is available on the agency web site at [amatsplanning.org](https://amatsplanning.org) and visitors may zoom in to project areas. Projects are depicted through lines and points and are color coded by their designated work category on a map of the Greater Akron area.

Once a project is selected, a popup menu presents information regarding phases, limits, funding, and scheduling that visitors to the AMATS web site have come to expect. However, there are also new features that may be unexpected.

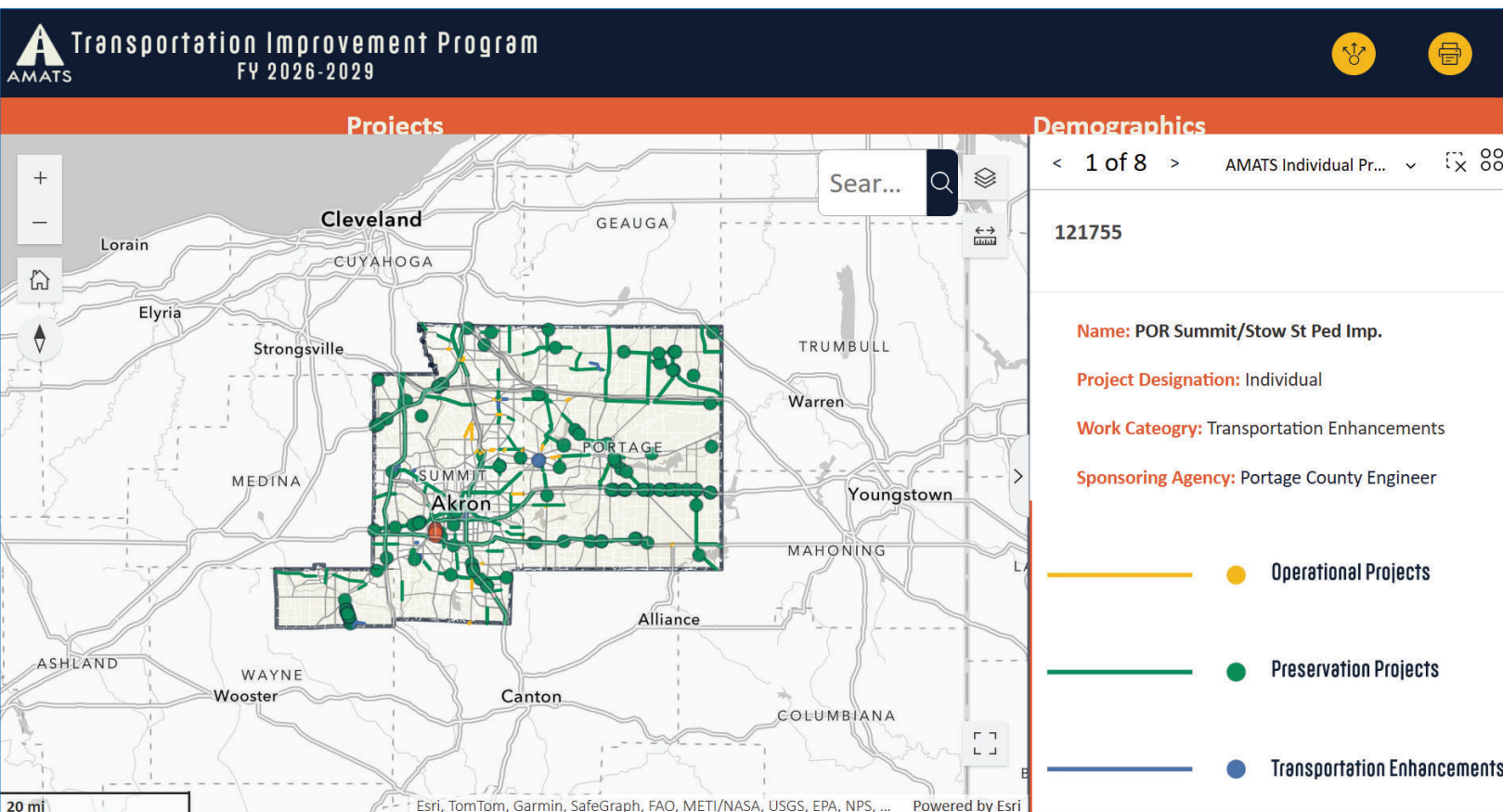
Hoffmeier explains that the map was designed for members of the Greater Akron area who are interested in learning much more about projects. For the first time, visitors may select layers that detail demographic information in project areas such as carless households, elderly, disabled, low-income, and minority populations.



**HOFFMEIER**

“Our map will zoom to a project and provide almost any details that you would like. Visitors also have the option to search for information using project information numbers,” she adds.

The new map went live in mid-May and is available for viewing by clicking its image below.



# Seal of approval

## Federal officials certify AMATS

AMATS was recertified as the Greater Akron area's federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO). A federal certification team comprised of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) officials announced their preliminary decision to recertify the agency as the area's MPO in May.



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

The team concluded that the regional transportation planning process led by AMATS complies with the spirit and intent of federal metropolitan transportation planning laws and regulations. The team described AMATS' approach to regional planning as "a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive process that reflects a significant professional commitment to deliver quality in transportation planning."

Federal certifications of transportation management areas typically span several years with the agency's last certification occurring in 2021. AMATS Director Curtis Baker says that agency officials were pleased with the opportunity to meet with the federal review team and to discuss the agency's practices and new planning approaches.

FHWA Ohio Division Community Transportation Planner Sam Wallace informed the AMATS Policy Committee of the team's preliminary decision during the committee's May 15 meeting. Wallace recounted to the committee that he recently attended an annual national training course for FHWA planners. During the course, AMATS was praised by meeting facilitators for its work in compiling the Greater Akron area's Congestion Management Process, which evaluates regional congestion and recommends improvements for problem areas.

"I think that everyone should be proud of the work that AMATS has done in the transportation planning process," Wallace continued, "The work that AMATS does gets noticed nationally."

The team notified the agency's technical staff of its preliminary decision shortly after completing its on-site review and discussions with agency officials in AMATS' downtown Akron offices.

A final decision regarding agency certification will be released later this year.



### PROUD OF THE PROCESS:

The FHWA's Sam Wallace, at podium, informs the AMATS Policy Committee that the agency was recertified as the Greater Akron area's metropolitan planning organization.

Photo by Kerry Prater - AMATS.



Photos by Laura L. Colant - Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department



### **BICYCLE FUN DAY:**

AMATS representatives were among the participants of the *Bicycle Fun Day* hosted by the Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department on May 17. The day was part of the department's *Summer of Safety* Program.

The Cuyahoga Falls City Hall was home to a temporary bike course, shown at top, during which cyclists were instructed on bicycle safety practices. The event included bicycle safety checks, helmet decorating, and various bike challenges.

AMATS joined the event as part of the agency's promotion of cycling as an active transportation mode throughout the Greater Akron area.



## Project Updates

The following table lists significant projects that were awarded between December 13, 2024 and May 21, 2025.

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COMPLETION	AMOUNT
<b>State Route 8</b> - Resurfacing and eight minor bridge repairs of state Route 8, from north of Hines Hill Road interchange to Macedonia Commons Boulevard, in Boston Heights and Macedonia.	9/15/2025	\$6,724,513
<b>Old Forge Road Bridge</b> - Bridge replacement over Breakneck Creek, near Johnnycake Road, in Rootstown Township.	10/31/2025	\$739,787
<b>Cleveland Massillon Road Sidewalk</b> - New sidewalk on west side of Cleveland Massillon Road, from state Route 18 to Springside Drive, in Bath Township.	10/31/2025	\$445,246
<b>Ravenna Road</b> - Resurfacing of Ravenna Road, from Old Mill Road to Portage County Line, in Hudson.	10/31/2025	\$907,762
<b>Barberton Sidewalks</b> - Installation of sidewalks in gap sections along North Van Buren Avenue, East Tuscarawas Avenue, East Park Avenue and East Cassell Avenue, in Barberton.	11/1/2025	\$750,534
<b>Kent State Bridge</b> - Bridge replacement over the Little Cuyahoga River, near North Case Avenue, in Akron.	11/30/2025	\$704,250
<b>State Route 261 Bridge</b> - Bridge maintenance on All American Bridge, from state Route 59 to Olive Street, in Akron.	5/30/2026	\$10,998,905
<b>State Route 59 (Kent Road) Signals</b> - Signal upgrades/replacements along state Route 59 (Kent Road), from Sycamore Drive to Fishcreek Road, in Stow.	10/30/2026	\$2,205,400
<b>State Route 91 (Darrow Road)</b> - Reconstruction of Darrow Road, from south corporate to north corporate limit, in Stow. Project also includes minor bridge work to one structure, replace/upgrade curb ramps, sidewalks, storm sewers and traffic signals.	10/31/2026	\$12,885,069
<b>Dillman Road Bridge</b> - Bridge replacement over Wagar Ditch, south of Hudson Aurora Road, in Hudson.	10/31/2026	\$349,505
<b>Ravenna Road at Shepard Road</b> - Intersection improvements including adding right turn lanes on Ravenna Road and left turn lane on Shepard Road, in Twinsburg. Project also includes curb, sidewalks, signal and drainage improvements.	10/31/2026	\$2,697,282
<b>Highland Road at Valley View Road</b> - Intersection improvements in Macedonia.	12/1/2026	\$3,598,322
<b>Interstate 480</b> - Deck replacements on bridges over Stow Road, resurfacing of Interstate 480 from north of Middleton Road to south of Old Mill Road, resurfacing of Stow Road underneath the Interstate 480 bridges, in Hudson.	12/1/2026	\$7,359,020
<b>North Main Street</b> - Corridor upgrades, from Olive Street to Riverside Drive, in Akron.	12/1/2026	\$14,730,808
<b>Interstate 77</b> - Widening of Interstate 77 from four lanes to six lanes, from Ghent Road to Everett Road, in Fairlawn, Bath Township, and Richfield.	9/1/2027	\$52,430,282

## Dates to Remember

Date	Time	Committee/Event	Location
June 19	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Juneteenth Holiday
July 4	1:30 p.m.	*	AMATS Offices Closed - July 4th Holiday
August 7	1:30 p.m.	TAC	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
August 7	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Virtual Meeting
August 14	1:30 p.m.	Policy	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
September 1	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Labor Day
September 18	1:30 p.m.	TAC	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
September 18	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Virtual Meeting
September 25	1:30 p.m.	Policy	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
October 10	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Annual Meeting	Sheraton Suites Akron Cuyahoga Falls
October 13	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Columbus Day
November 11	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Veterans Day
November 27-28	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Thanksgiving
December 4	1:30 p.m.	TAC	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
December 4	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Virtual Meeting
December 11	1:30 p.m.	Policy	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
December 25	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Christmas

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Please visit our web site at: [www.amatsplanning.org](http://www.amatsplanning.org)

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 a portion of 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.