

@AMATS

THE GREATER AKRON AREA'S TRANSPORTATION JOURNAL

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ABOVE:

AMATS releases a first-of-its-kind *Micromobility Report* for the Greater Akron area. The report's approval marks a recognition by the agency of the growing role of micromobility modes of transportation in the regional transportation planning process.

For more, go to **page 4.**

At right, cover, Kent's Stow Street Bridge was one of 21 area projects to get a major boost from AMATS in February.

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21 in '26

21 New Projects for the Greater Akron Area
.....pages 2.

21 in '26

AMATS approves funding for 21 Greater Akron area projects

The AMATS Policy Committee started 2026 by approving almost \$29 million in new funding for 21 highway, resurfacing, and bike and pedestrian projects throughout the Greater Akron area in February.

AMATS is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization serving Portage and Summit counties and northeastern Wayne County. The agency oversees the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Resurfacing, and Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) funding programs on behalf of the region.

During its first meeting of the year, the agency's Policy Committee unanimously approved a slate of 21 projects which will receive funding between now and 2032. Committee approval ends a comprehensive selection process that began last fall when the agency began considering 71 funding applications from area project sponsors.

The STBG Program will fund three large-scale projects totaling more than \$11.3 million in Akron, Kent, and New Franklin. The program provides a flexible funding source for communities seeking to improve highways and bridges on any public road. Akron will receive \$4.1 million in STBG funds to reconstruct Waterloo Road while New Franklin will receive more than \$4.9 million to improve the state Route 619 Corridor.

AMATS also approved \$2.3 million for Portage County to pursue various improvements to the Stow Street Bridge and

surrounding roadway, including a new shared-use path, in Kent.

Resurfacing projects account for the bulk of the new AMATS-approved funding with nearly \$12.7 million scheduled for 13 projects. Several resurfacings are in Akron, Barberton, Hudson, and Stow, each of which will receive \$1.1 million from AMATS while Portage and Summit counties will receive \$1.1 million each to resurface Portage and Summit streets and Arlington Road, respectively. The village of Doylestown will receive more than \$1 million to resurface Church and Portage streets.

The area's trail and sidewalk networks will continue to grow as more than \$4.9 million in TASA funds is slated for five projects across the region. The TASA Program provides funding for projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities that provide transportation alternatives to motor vehicles.

AMATS approved \$1.1 million in TASA funds for Phase 4 of Akron's Rubber City Heritage Trail and Hudson's Veteran's Rails to Trails project, and slightly more than \$1 million for a new multi-use path along Stow's Graham Road. The agency also approved \$1 million for Green's Steese Road sidewalk extension project and nearly \$628,000 for Phase 1 of Fairlawn's Schocalog to Sand Run Greenway project.

For more information, please visit our web site at amatsplanning.org.



GREENLIGHT FOR SR 619!

New Franklin's State Route 619 Corridor Improvement Project was one of three major projects to receive STBG funds. The project will receive \$4.9 million in STBG funds to add a single-lane roundabout, a shared-use path, a pedestrian bridge, and a raised crosswalk.

The Right Direction!

Crashes, fatalities are down in the Greater Akron area

A new AMATS analysis shows that total Greater Akron area crashes have dropped from a recent peak of 16,563 in 2022 to a new low of 14,968 in 2024 marking the first time that area crashes have dropped below 15,000 since 2020. Similarly, crash fatalities and fatal crashes fell from 69 and 68 in 2023 to 51 and 49 respectively in 2024.

The latest analysis is based on AMATS' examination of more than 46,500 crash records obtained from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The agency identified 128 high-crash roadway sections and 217 high-crash intersections within Portage and Summit counties and northeastern Wayne County. Spanning 2022 through 2024, this report includes motor vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian-related crashes.

AMATS Planning Administrator Matt Stewart says that the 2022-2024 *Crash Report* finds that area crashes are continuing their downward trend. Crashes have been trending down from a 10-year peak of almost 19,000 in 2017, according to Stewart.



"We suspect that a combination of targeted safety improvement projects within the Greater Akron area and enhanced safety features on new vehicles may be contributing to this decline," Stewart continues, "Safety has always been important in project selection, but we believe that specifically targeting improvements in areas where the most serious crashes occur, as outlined in our ***Safe Streets for All initiative***, will yield positive results."

After an uptick in traffic fatalities in 2020, the area saw reductions in both fatalities and fatal crashes that were closer to pre-2020 levels. Although total crashes and fatalities are trending down, crashes resulting in serious injuries are creeping up. From 2022 to 2024, crashes resulting in serious injuries increased nearly 19 percent from 333 to 405.

While the report's findings are encouraging, AMATS has identified locations in need of improvement. Akron has four and Ravenna Township has three of the 10 highest ranked roadway sections in terms of total crashes and severity. Locations in the cities of Cuyahoga Falls, Ravenna, and Twinsburg round out the top ten worst roadway sections for overall crashes.

Akron's Rhodes Avenue and West Thornton Street and Cuyahoga Falls' Riverview and Ira roads intersections are the two highest ranked intersections in the report's overall crash rankings. The intersection of US 224 and state Route 225 in Atwater and Deerfield townships is the third highest ranked intersection in the region and the highest ranked intersection in Portage County. (An ODOT-funded project to construct a roundabout at the US 224/state Route 225 intersection is scheduled for 2029.)

High-crash locations identified in the report may be used by communities as a starting point when seeking federal Highway Safety Program funds through ODOT for safety improvement projects. The 2022-2024 *Crash Report* is available by clicking [here](#).

It's No Big Deal!

The area's new Micromobility Report

In a first for the Greater Akron area, the AMATS Policy Committee greenlit the region's inaugural *Micromobility Report* in February. The report's approval marks a recognition by the agency of the growing role of micromobility modes of transportation in the regional transportation planning process.

Micromobility encompasses any small, low-speed, human, or electric-powered means of transportation, such as bicycles, scooters, electric bikes (e-bikes), and electric scooters (e-scooters). AMATS Planning Administrator Matt Stewart explains that the report primarily focuses on e-scooters, particularly the emergence of the shared micromobility industry.

Private rental companies, most notably *Spin* in the Greater Akron area, provide e-scooters and e-bikes for short-to-middle individual trips. *Spin* e-scooters are a daily reality on The University of Akron and Kent State University (KSU) campuses. In 2020, *Spin* partnered with the city of Akron to deploy e-scooters throughout the city and at the university. In 2022, *Spin*, the city of Kent, and KSU agreed to provide e-scooters and e-bikes on campus and in surrounding neighborhoods.

The report's seven chapters provide an overview of micromobility usage, regulation, trends, benefits, and challenges. "We also examine micromobility on a local scale

and offer recommendations for the area's future," Stewart adds.

Despite some declines in local shared micromobility trips, AMATS expects that the use of micromobility will continue long-term, especially when considering their potential environmental and traffic mitigation benefits coupled with the region's growing active transportation network of trails and bike lanes.

"Although there are challenges that come with any mode of transportation, the cities of Akron and Kent and their respective universities have successfully incorporated micromobility into their community's transportation fabric and consider micromobility when planning transportation improvements," he adds.

The report presents recommendations for consideration by area policymakers in anticipation of continued public demand for micromobility modes. Pilot programs, improved access to micromobility parking, and proactive approaches to regulations, infrastructure investment, education, promotion, and safety are urged in the report's pages.

The *Micromobility Report* is available by clicking [here](#).



STEWART



Continuing with Connecting Communities

Munroe Falls, Rittman take new steps in connectivity with AMATS

Residents of Munroe Falls and Rittman may soon find it easier to get around in their respective communities thanks to AMATS. In May, the AMATS Policy Committee awarded two \$50,000 grants from the agency's Connecting Communities Planning Grant Program so that both cities may prepare plans that promote neighborhood connectivity.

The Connecting Communities Planning Grant Program promotes active transportation solutions such as walking and cycling in land use planning rather than motor vehicle use. Since its launch in 2010, the program has funded studies throughout the Greater Akron area of Portage and Summit counties and northeastern Wayne County.

AMATS Mobility Planner Heather Davis Reidl says that Munroe Falls' *Trails Master Plan* and Rittman's *Active Transportation Plan* were the two highest scoring proposals submitted to the agency from seven applicants across the region.

Munroe Falls identified six roadway corridors - State Route 91, Munroe Road, South River Road, Northmoreland Avenue, Munroe Falls Avenue, and North River Road - as the focus of its study. The *Trails Master Plan* will identify a framework for an active transportation network of sidewalks, paths and trails that will link existing assets such as the Summit Metro Parks Bike & Hike Trail, the Tallmadge Meadows Area, and Munroe Falls Metro Park.

Munroe Falls officials expect that the study's findings will benefit the city's entire population, including older adults, people with disabilities and households without cars. Improving pedestrian and other alternative transportation access along the primary roadways will provide many residents access within a quarter mile of an improvement.

Rittman does not have dedicated bike lanes or multi-purpose trails which would enhance connections throughout the community. Rittman's *Active Transportation Plan* will recommend access improvements between its downtown, surrounding neighborhoods, and nearby trails by encouraging pedestrian and bicycle travel. The plan will consider signage and wayfinding strategies to help pedestrians navigate the downtown, along with improved streetscaping, and potential linkages to the County Line Trail and bicycle facilities.

"Both communities presented solid proposals to pursue vibrant and safe places for all, which aligns with the purpose of Connecting Communities to promote active forms of transportation such as walking, hiking, and cycling through land use and design," Davis Reidl explains.



Project Updates

The following table lists significant projects that were awarded between Oct. 8, 2025 and May 20, 2026.

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COMPLETION	AMOUNT
East Barlow Road - Resurfacing, from Northfolk Southern Railroad to Stow Road, in Hudson.	7/31/2026	\$494,515
State Route 261 - Resurfacing from south of Summit Street to state Route 59 in Kent and Franklin Township.	8/15/2026	\$1,035,990
Heartland Trail Phase 4A - Construction of multiuse trail between existing trail north of Market Street in Marshallville and Coal Bank Road in Chippewa Township.	9/1/2026	\$601,052
State Route 303 - Intersection improvements and new turn lanes on state Route 303 at Diagonal Road in Streetsboro.	9/30/2026	\$1,255,541
State Routes 82 and 306 - Resurfacing on state Route 82, from Aurora Road to Townline Road, and state Route 306, from Aurora Road to Crackel Road, in Aurora.	9/30/2026	\$2,088,525
State Routes 82 and 88 - Resurfacing state Route 82, from west of River Beach Road to Garrettsville west corporate limit and state Route 88, from state Route 303 to state Route 305, in Hiram, Garrettsville, and Mantua townships. Project includes repairs to state Route 700 bridge spanning Eagle Creek and installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons on state Route 88 at Headwaters Trail.	9/30/2026	\$4,051,587
Doylestown Road and Portage Street - Resurfacing of Doylestown Road, from Rittman east corporate limit to Doylestown west corporate limit. Resurfacing of Portage Street, from Moine Road to Doylestown south corporate limit and Doylestown north corporate limit to Eastern Road, in Chippewa Township.	10/1/2026	\$744,336
State Route 91 - Bridge deck replacement on bridge over Cuyahoga River in Munroe Falls.	10/15/2026	\$2,188,488
State Route 261 - Resurfacing including minor bridge work, from Medina Line Road to Romig Road, and I-77 to Edgewood Avenue, in Akron and Norton.	10/15/2027	\$3,560,027
Interstate 77 - Construction of trucking parking along I-77 northbound south of Graybill Road in Green.	10/31/2026	\$3,288,842
Newton Falls Road - Bridge replacement over the Mahoning River in Paris Township.	11/30/2026	\$1,179,000
Hudson Pedestrian Improvements - Installation of high-visibility crosswalks, new curb ramps, sidewalk and countdown pedestrian signals along Aurora, Main, and Streetsboro streets, and the First and Main Street area, in Hudson.	11/30/2026	\$826,865
Snyder Avenue - Bridge replacement over the Tuscarawas River in Barberton.	11/30/2026	\$1,552,387
State Route 93 - Resurfacing from south of Center Road to Johns Road in New Franklin.	11/30/2026	\$496,922

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Project Updates

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PROJECT	ESTIMATED COMPLETION	AMOUNT
State Routes 14 and 43 - Resurfacing of state Route 14, from Interstate 80 to Portage Pointe Drive, and state Route 43, from Streetsboro south corporate limit to Market Square Drive. Project includes improvements at the state Route 14/state Route 43 and state Route 14/state Route 303/Ranch Road intersections, in Streetsboro.	12/1/2026	\$5,243,877
Cleveland Massillon Road - Resurfacing, from Serfass Road to Grill Road, in New Franklin.	12/1/2026	\$964,750
State Route 91 and Terex Road - Intersection and left turn lane improvements on Terex Road in Hudson.	12/1/2026	\$601,491
State Route 94 - Roundabout installation at the state Route 94, 585, and 604 intersection, in Chippewa Township.	3/1/2027	\$2,062,603
Liberty Road - Construction of a multipurpose trail along the east side of Liberty Road, from Neille Lane to Post Road, in Twinsburg.	6/25/2027	\$2,011,865
Doylestown Road - Bridge replacement over Chippewa Creek in Milton Township.	7/1/2027	\$734,340
US 224 - Resurfacing of US 224, from Portage Line Road to state Route 183, including bridge repairs, in Suffield, Randolph and Atwater townships.	9/30/2027	\$10,954,739
Graham Road - Signal improvements between Bailey Road and Newcomer Road in Stow.	9/30/2026	\$1,932,855
Ravenna Road - Bridge replacement over Norfolk Southern Railroad and reconnecting the Portage Hike and Bike Trail in Franklin Township.	10/1/2027	\$2,666,665
Interstate 277 - Deck replacement over Interstate 77 and resurfacing and installing new culverts at interchange in Akron and Coventry Township.	10/1/2027	\$15,444,559
Wyoga Lake Road - Reconstruction and widening, from East Steels Corners Road to Seasons Road, in Cuyahoga Falls. Roadway will be widened to add a two-way, left turn lane section and add right turn lanes. Project will also extend shared use path to Seasons Road.	11/1/2027	\$7,424,286

Dates to Remember

Date	Time	Committee/Event	Location
January 1	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - New Year's Day
January 19	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Martin Luther King Day
February 5	1:30 p.m.	TAC	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
February 5	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Virtual Meeting
February 12	1:30 p.m.	Policy	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
February 16	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Presidents Day
March 19	1:30 p.m.	TAC	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
March 19	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Virtual Meeting
March 26	1:30 p.m.	Policy	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
May 7	1:30 p.m.	TAC	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
May 7	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Virtual Meeting
May 14	1:30 p.m.	Policy	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
May 25	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Memorial Day
June 19	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Juneteenth Holiday
July 3	1:30 p.m.	*	AMATS Offices Closed - July 4th Holiday
August 6	1:30 p.m.	TAC	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
August 6	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Virtual Meeting
August 13	1:30 p.m.	Policy	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
September 7	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Labor Day
September 17	1:30 p.m.	TAC	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
September 17	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Virtual Meeting
September 24	1:30 p.m.	Policy	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
October 9	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Annual Meeting	Sheraton Suites Akron Cuyahoga Falls
October 12	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Columbus Day
November 11	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Veterans Day
November 26-27	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Thanksgiving
December 3	1:30 p.m.	TAC	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
December 3	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Virtual Meeting
December 10	1:30 p.m.	Policy	ODOT District 4 office @ 2088 S. Arlington Rd. in Akron
December 25	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Christmas

AMATS is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to participate fully in public programs, services, and activities. Anyone who is in need of an accommodation from AMATS is invited to contact AMATS Public Information Coordinator Kerry Prater at 1 Cascade Plaza, Suite 1300, Akron, OH 44308, (voice) (330) 375-2436 as soon as possible. If you require TDD phone service call Ohio Relay at 800-750-0750 and they will assist in contacting AMATS at (330) 375-2436.