

**TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
AND BUDGET
FY 2027**



May 6, 2026

AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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**FISCAL YEAR 2027
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
WORK PROGRAM
AND
BUDGET**

AMATS

May 6, 2026

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 the Chippewa and Milton Township areas 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. 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.

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES - FY 2027

OVERVIEW

Efficient use of limited planning resources requires concentration on critical planning issues and problems. The Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget identifies needed planning activities by coordinating many federal, state, regional, and local planning programs. It encourages a comprehensive approach to all functional planning activities of the agencies involved.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) coordinates the preparation and approval of all work programs and budgets in Ohio. As the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) designated by the Governor of Ohio to receive planning funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Metropolitan Transportation Policy Committee of the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is responsible for preparing the Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget (Work Program) for Portage and Summit Counties and the Chippewa and Milton Township areas of Wayne County.

This Work Program implements the overall transportation planning process that is described in the *Prospectus*, last updated in 2020; and Title 23 CFR Part 450 Subpart C Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming. Specific responsibilities, financial participation, and timing are identified and described in the Work Program.

The Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget has several major priorities. It:

1. Reflects the planning requirements and goals of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law on November 15, 2021, and contains many of the same provisions of the previous law, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, with a focus on increasing safe and accessible options for multimodal travel for everyone.
2. Carries out the requirements of the urban transportation planning process in compliance with the US DOT Statewide Planning and Metropolitan Planning Rules.
3. Assists the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) in maintaining the transportation portion of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Summit and Portage Counties.
4. Ensures that the planning requirements for Transportation Management Areas (TMA) are completed.
5. Conducts studies that identify transportation deficiencies.
6. Maintains the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which allocates the federal funds that the area receives.
7. Evaluates the air quality and energy impacts of transportation plans and programs.

8. Supports local planning and project implementation efforts by providing staff services, plan implementation assistance, and dissemination of data.
9. Supports effective management of the sub-allocated federal funds received by AMATS and supports the monitoring and expediting of projects that use these funds.
10. Works with other agencies to update land use and socio-economic information for the AMATS area.
11. Supports operational planning efforts of METRO RTA and PARTA.
12. Maintains a Traffic Congestion Management Process.
13. Assists in the administration of the statewide Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Program in the AMATS area.
14. Assists in the implementation of the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan.
15. Administers the Gohio Commute Program, encouraging people to carpool, use transit service, and use other alternative commute modes.
16. Maintains a Regional Transportation Plan, *Transportation Outlook: 2050*, which meets the transportation needs of people living and working in the AMATS area.
17. Assists ODOT and project sponsors by coordinating major project studies.
18. Assists the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) by prioritizing major/new construction projects.
19. Maintains computer traffic modeling capability.
20. Maintains the regional ITS architecture.
21. Continues to develop performance targets consistent with 23 CFR 450, 23 CFR 771 and 49 CFR 613.

The overall benefits to be derived from the FY 2027 Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget will be the maintenance of effective and ongoing long-range and short-range elements of the transportation planning process. This process will result in the determination of local transportation needs, identification of priorities, and development of transportation improvement projects consistent with needs, priorities, funding and performance. This will ensure that project sponsors in the AMATS area will be eligible to receive federal financial assistance to implement projects.

The major source of funding for activities listed in the Work Program is United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Consolidated Planning funding. Other sources of revenue include federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, as well as state and

local funds. These funds must be matched by state and local funds at a percentage rate of 80/10/10. Remaining funds from the current fiscal year (FY 2026) will be carried over on July 1, 2026 and may be used through December 31, 2026.

Local funds are contributed by each individual member of AMATS. Each member's contribution is based on the AMATS dues structure established by the Policy Committee in 2005. The dues structure is based on population and was updated after the 2020 Census figures were released in December 2021. State funds are provided by ODOT.

AMATS will continue to utilize a portion of its sub-allocated CMAQ funds to maintain and promote the web-based Gohio Commute ride-matching service, as well as promote air quality improvements through the increased use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Residents of the urbanized area will benefit from AMATS planning activities:

1. Transportation air quality planning
2. TIP maintenance
3. Regional Transportation Plan maintenance
4. Rideshare program implementation and the advocacy of alternative forms of transportation
5. Congestion Management Process planning
6. Transportation disadvantaged planning
7. Safety planning
8. Freight planning
9. Land use and transportation integration
10. Development, integration and monitoring of performance measures consistent with the IJA

Coordination between AMATS and ODOT is accomplished through the relationship with ODOT District 4. In addition, coordination is maintained, and assistance is provided to AMATS, by the ODOT Offices of Transportation and Economic Development, Statewide Planning & Research, and Transit.

MAJOR PRODUCTS & ACTIVITIES

The AMATS Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget will produce several major products and activities including:

- Maintaining the current FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program
- Developing the new FY 2028-2031 Transportation Improvement Program
- Maintaining the current Regional Transportation Plan: *Transportation Outlook 2050*
- Management of allocations from the several FHWA and FTA Programs
- Participating in the statewide CMAQ Discretionary Funds Program
- Providing the Annual Report on Roadway Congestion
- Monitoring projects that use federal funds sub-allocated to AMATS
- Integrating performance measures planning as part of the Plan and TIP processes consistent with current federal guidance
- Implementing strategies and monitoring performance measures for improved performance as part of ODOT's MPO Capital Programs Management

- Updating the region's transportation planning agreements in coordination with ODOT to ensure the sharing of performance data and selection of performance targets
- Reviewing Title VI Civil Rights public involvement documentation
- Documenting metropolitan public participation activities, and increasing public participation using web-based tools
- Traffic Counts
- Directing the Gohio Commute and Air Quality Advocacy Programs
- 2026 AMATS Annual Report
- *AMATS Transportation Newsletter* and Web Updates
- Continuing the newest round of Connecting Communities Planning Grants
- Continuing the Pavement Condition Data Collection and Analysis Program
- Developing the Preservation Needs Report
- Beginning to develop the Freight Plan
- Beginning to develop the Active Transportation Plan
- Maintaining the AMATS website
- Completing a new 3P – Public Participation Plan

**AMATS STAFF
FISCAL YEAR 2027**

POSITION	NAME	PERCENTAGE OF TIME SUPPORTED BY AMATS IN FY 2027
Director	Curtis Baker	100%
Accounting Technician	Martha Chandler	100%
Transportation Planning Administrator	Matt Stewart	100%
City Planner IV	Jeff Gardner	100%
City Planner IV	Seth Bush	100%
City Planner IV	Heather Davis Reidl	100%
City Planner IV	Matt Mullen	100%
City Planner I	Eugene Paczelt	100%
GIS Technician I	Amelia Hoffmeier	100%
Planning Aide II – part time	Wali Rahim	100%
Communications Specialist III	Kerry Prater	100%
Transportation Engineer	Amy Prater, P.E.	100%
Transportation Planner III		100%
College Intern		100%

FY 2027
SUMMARY OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK ELEMENTS

	<u>PROGRAM BUDGET</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE¹</u>	<u>AGENCY PERFORMING PLANNING</u>	
<u>601</u>	<u>SHORT RANGE PLANNING</u>			
	601.61 Short Range Planning (Carryover)	\$75,000	F/O/A	AMATS
	601.71 Short Range Planning	\$400,000	F/O/A	AMATS
<u>602</u>	<u>TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM</u>			
	602.61 Transportation Improvement Program (Carryover)	\$100,000	F/O/A	AMATS
	602.71 Transportation Improvement Program	\$250,000	F/O/A	AMATS
<u>605</u>	<u>CONTINUING PLANNING – SURVEILLANCE</u>			
	605.61 Transportation System Update (Carryover)	\$100,000	F/O/A	AMATS
	605.71 Transportation System Update	\$300,000	F/O/A	AMATS
<u>610</u>	<u>CONTINUING PLANNING – REVIEW & REAPPRAISAL</u>			
	610.61 Transportation Plan Update (Carryover)	\$200,000	F/O/A	AMATS
	610.71 Transportation Plan Update	\$450,000	F/O/A	AMATS
<u>625</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>			
	625.61 Service (Carryover)	\$200,000	F/O/A	AMATS
	625.71 Service	\$450,000	F/O/A	AMATS
<u>667</u>	<u>GOHIO COMMUTE AND AQ ADVOCACY</u>			
	667.71 Gohio Commute (PID #118659)	\$80,000	CMAQ	AMATS
	667.72 Air Quality Advocacy (PID #118656)	\$100,000	CMAQ	AMATS
<u>674</u>	<u>TRANSIT EXCLUSIVE</u>			
	674.71 METRO RTA Planning	\$850,000	M	METRO
	674.72 PARTA Planning Activities	\$65,000	9U/P	PARTA
<u>682</u>	<u>LOCAL EXCLUSIVE</u>			
	682.71 Local	\$25,000	A	AMATS
<u>697</u>	<u>PERIODIC REPORT</u>			
	697.71 Transp. Newsletter/Annual Rpt	\$45,579	F/O/A	AMATS
TOTAL		\$3,690,579		

¹ Funding Source:

F - U.S. DOT Planning

O - ODOT

CMAQ - Congestion Mitigation Air Quality

9U - FTA (Section 5307)

A - AMATS Local Share

M - METRO Local Share

P - PARTA Local Share

FY 2027
AMATS STAFF PLANNING WORK ELEMENTS

	<u>PROGRAM BUDGET</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE¹</u>	<u>AGENCY PERFORMING PLANNING</u>	
<u>601</u>	<u>SHORT RANGE PLANNING</u>			
	601.61 Short Range Planning (Carryover)	\$75,000	F/O/A	AMATS
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<u>602</u>	<u>TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM</u>			
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	602.71 Transportation Improvement Program	\$250,000	F/O/A	AMATS
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	605.61 Transportation System Update (Carryover)	\$100,000	F/O/A	AMATS
	605.71 Transportation System Update	\$300,000	F/O/A	AMATS
<u>610</u>	<u>CONTINUING PLANNING – REVIEW & REAPPRAISAL</u>			
	610.61 Transportation Plan Update (Carryover)	\$200,000	F/O/A	AMATS
	610.71 Transportation Plan Update	\$450,000	F/O/A	AMATS
<u>625</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>			
	625.61 Service (Carryover)	\$200,000	F/O/A	AMATS
	625.71 Service	\$450,000	F/O/A	AMATS
<u>667</u>	<u>GOHIO COMMUTE AND AQ ADVOCACY</u>			
	667.71 Gohio Commute (PID #118659)	\$80,000	CMAQ	AMATS
	667.72 Air Quality Advocacy (PID #118656)	\$100,000	CMAQ	AMATS
<u>682</u>	<u>LOCAL EXCLUSIVE</u>			
	682.71 Local	\$25,000	A	AMATS
<u>697</u>	<u>PERIODIC REPORT</u>			
	697.71 Transp. Newsletter/Annual Rpt	\$45,579	F/O/A	AMATS
	TOTAL	\$2,775,579		

¹ Funding Source:

F - U.S. DOT Planning

O - ODOT

CMAQ - Congestion Mitigation Air Quality

A - AMATS Local Share

M - METRO Local Share

600 TRANSPORTATION

ISSUES, PROBLEMS, OPPORTUNITIES

- Land use and development patterns are shaped by, and in turn, stimulate reliance upon the automobile as the dominant mode of travel.
- Transportation needs to transcend the political, modal and financial limitations of the implementing agencies.
- Many residents who do not have access to, or cannot use, an automobile do not have sufficient mobility to satisfy their basic social, economic and personal needs.
- Implementation of capital-intensive improvements using federal funds is time-consuming, costly, and subject to extensive federal requirements.
- State and local funds available for matching are limited.
- The Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require all areas to meet certain air quality standards. Summit County and Portage County are part of the U.S. Census-designated eight-county Cleveland-Akron-Lorain Combined Statistical Area (CSA). Based on air quality readings, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated this area as a maintenance area for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard and marginal nonattainment for the 2015 8-hour ozone standard. USEPA also designated several of the counties in this area (including Summit and Portage) as a maintenance area for PM_{2.5} (particulate matter) under the 2006 annual PM_{2.5} standard. In addition, Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties have been designated as a maintenance area under the 2012 annual PM_{2.5} standard.
- Assist METRO and PARTA in the implementation of the AMATS Area Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan.
- Integrating performance measures planning as part of the Plan and TIP processes consistent with current federal guidance (see 23 CFR 450, 23 CFR 771, and 49 CFR 613).

GOALS

- To provide a transportation development process that seeks and responds to input from a variety of disciplines and interests.
- To integrate consideration of social, economic, environmental, livability and energy impacts into the solution of transportation problems.
- To seek, encourage and facilitate the active involvement of all persons and groups in the planning and implementation of transportation improvements.
- To ensure mobility for all residents with special emphasis on the needs of the elderly and disabled by planning and programming transportation improvements.
- To ensure that Title VI populations are included as part of the transportation planning process.
- To evaluate the local impacts of federal transportation legislation.

GOALS - continued

- To ensure that the AMATS Regional Transportation Plan maintains a twenty-year time horizon and is developed in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion.
- To maintain a Traffic Congestion Management Process.
- To monitor and evaluate past, present and future transportation projects based on established performance measures.
- To provide inclusive, early, and continuing opportunities for active public engagement in the transportation decision making process, virtually and in-person.
- To consider the Coordinated Public Transit / Human Services Transportation Plan as an input to the Regional Transportation Plan.

FY 2027 WORK ELEMENTS

601.61 SHORT RANGE PLANNING – Carryover

601.71

Project Manager: Matt Stewart

Project Team: Jeff Gardner, Heather Davis Reidl, Seth Bush, Kerry Prater, Amy Prater, Matt Mullen, Amelia Hoffmeier

Objectives

1. To provide planning assistance to local communities and agencies to coordinate transportation services for elderly and disabled people, as well as Title VI populations.
2. To comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
3. To maintain necessary information to document compliance with Federal Title VI requirements.
4. To aid the OEPA in updates of "Summit and Portage Counties Portion of the State Implementation Plan" (SIP).
5. To keep citizens and community leaders informed about air quality/transportation planning.
6. To work with project sponsors and ODOT on major project studies.
7. To ensure that transportation services to employment are addressed for low-income populations.
8. To work with the area's public transit operators on transit planning activities.
9. To assist ODOT and the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) by identifying local priorities for projects submitted for Major/New Project funding.
10. Maintain the regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) architecture.
11. To update the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan approximately every four years or as required.
12. To assist local communities with bicycle and pedestrian planning activities.

Previous Work

- Evaluation of Service to the Transportation Disadvantaged
- Title VI Updates
- Summit and Portage Counties Portion of the State Implementation Plan
- Evaluation of Park-and-Ride Alternatives
- Participation in the Akron Beltway Study (2018)
- Public Transportation Planning and Coordination
- Regional ITS Architecture Maintenance Plan
- Prioritization of AMATS area TRAC (ODOT Major/New Construction Program) applications
- Traffic Crashes (2021-2023) Technical Memorandum (December 2024)
- The Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan (January 2024)
- Connecting Communities: A Guide to Integrating Transportation & Land Use (2010)
- High Injury Network update (2025)

601.61/601.71 SHORT RANGE PLANNING – continued

Methodology

1. Refer to *Prospectus*
<https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/AMATS-Prospectus-2020-January-2021-Update.pdf>; 49 CFR Part 37, Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities; FTA Circular 4702.1B Title VI Program Guidelines
2. Refer to "Summit and Portage Counties Portion of the State Implementation Plan" (November 1978), 1993, 2007, and 2011 Updates. Assist OEPA in updating the SIP using current data, revised factors, and/or revised analysis techniques.
3. Utilizing the proprietary StreetLight data software program in coordination with ODOT, AMATS will identify and analyze projects to evaluate the condition, performance, and progress of the transportation system.

Products

1. Attend ODOT District 4 Safety Review Meetings
2. Assistance with major ODOT project studies on an as-needed basis - AMATS is participating as a stakeholder in the development of PID 114865, the SUM 77/8 Braid Project. This project includes corridor improvements along SUM IR 77 just north of Lovers Lane to SR 8 and SR 8 from I-77 to just north of Perkins St including ramp and service road reconfigurations to increase safety and reduce congestion. This work is being led by ODOT District 4
3. Prioritize AMATS area applications for TRAC (ODOT Major/New Construction Program) (as required)
4. Assist agencies in implementing the Coordinated Public Transit / Human Services Transportation Plan (as requested)
5. Coordinate performance measures with ODOT and public transit providers consistent with the IJJA. Adopt or support statewide performance measures as they become available. Review and assess land use issues and active transportation gaps or improvements related to existing and proposed transit routes and facilities. Assessment products could include pedestrian counts, modeling, and a written assessment of location and possible recommendations for improvement
6. Bike and Pedestrian Planning and Coordination (as requested) - Monitor roadway system for serious and fatal bicycle and pedestrian crashes. Periodically, AMATS is asked to analyze an event for infrastructure deficiencies and provide local community with planning assistance related to the event. Assessment products could include traffic counts, crash history, crash plots, and a written summary assessment of location and possible recommendations for improvement
7. Freight Planning and Coordination - When requested, staff will monitor roadway system for unanticipated bottlenecks impacting freight movement, review and assess freight issues and conflicts within the AMATS area, or identify commercial developments that will impact the freight network and assess those impacts. Assessment products could include traffic counts, crash history, traffic generation estimates, modeling, and a written assessment of the location and possible recommendations for improvement. Continued implementation of AMATS Freight Plan (approved September 2024)
8. Preparation of Annual Crash Report - Traffic Crashes and Safety Performance (2023-2025) Technical Memorandum. AMATS will continue to explore capabilities of

601.61/601.71 SHORT RANGE PLANNING – continued

- AASHTOWare safety software and adapt this report to be relevant to AMATS membership and the public
9. Assistance with safety studies (as needed)
 10. Land Use Transportation Coordination (as needed) - Review and assess land use and transportation conflicts within the AMATS area. Identify new land use developments that will impact the transportation network and assess those impacts as needed or as requested. Assessment products could include traffic counts, crash history, traffic generation estimates, modeling, and a written assessment of the location and possible recommendations for improvement
 11. Maintain transportation performance measures data in accordance with federal guidance
 12. Document metropolitan planning public involvement
 13. Safe Streets 4 All Action Plan (SS4A) update as needed including analyzing new crash data from 2021-2025 and updating the online webmap. This task will be dependent upon the continuation of the federal SS4A program. If the SS4A program is not continued, AMATS will likely consolidate aspects of the existing action plan into its existing Annual Crash Report (see #8 above)
 14. Safe Streets 4 All assistance (as needed) – assist communities applying for Safe Streets 4 All Planning and Demonstration Grants or Implementation Grants
 15. Safety/crash related software platforms – staff will continue to explore partnerships with companies offering crash analysis software

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14	#15
Q1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

602.61 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – Carryover

602.71

Project Manager: Matt Stewart

Project Team: Amy Prater, Jeff Gardner

Objectives

1. To update the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), this identifies transportation improvements funded during the next four years.
2. To annually report on the status of all projects programmed in the previous fiscal year of the TIP.
3. To manage the sub-allocations AMATS receives from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program (TASA), Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), and the various FTA programs such as the Section 5307 Urban Formula, Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, and Buses and Bus Facilities Formula Program – 5339(a), Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Program – 5339(b) and Low or No Emission Grant Program – 5339 (c).
4. To monitor and expedite projects using STBG, TASA, CRP, or CMAQ funds sub-allocated to AMATS.
5. To coordinate with ODOT regarding the delivery of AMATS funded projects and establishing annual Lock-Down Schedules.
6. To monitor sources of transportation funding and make this information available to local implementing agencies.
7. To ensure that the TIP is in conformance with the State Implementation Plan and air quality goals; and is within the financial constraints of estimated available funding.
8. Provide public involvement in the TIP development process, incorporating virtual public involvement activities wherever possible.
9. To coordinate with ODOT (and other MPOs as needed) regarding the development and implementation (target setting) of performance measures to be used in TIP development and the project selection process in the AMATS area.

Previous Work

- Biennial TIPs
- Periodic amendments to the TIP
- Air Quality Conformity Evaluations
- Sections of the *AMATS Public Participation Plan* related to the TIP
- Annual recommendations for the FTA Section 5310 (Specialized Transportation Program)
- *AMATS Funding Policy Guidelines*
- Annual Lock-Down Schedules (since FY 2004)
- Project Status Review Meetings

602.61/602.71 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – continued

Methodology

1. Refer to: a) *Prospectus*, <https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/AMATS-Prospectus-2020-January-2021-Update.pdf> b) AMATS Public Participation Plan, <https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/Approved%203P-Public%20Participation%20Plan-December%2012-2024.pdf> c) FTA Circular 7008.1A *Federal Transit Administration Financial Capacity Policy* (see Links Appendix).
2. AMATS will hold enough project status review meetings to ensure that projects are delivered in a timely manner. Lock-down schedules will be developed following ODOT guidance.
3. AMATS will develop and distribute CMAQ Application Forms and Instructions in accordance with the Statewide CMAQ Discretionary Program.
4. In coordination with ODOT (and neighboring MPOs as needed), AMATS will develop criteria that evaluate the condition and performance of the transportation system, describe the progress achieved in meeting performance targets in comparison with the performance in previous time periods, evaluate where the preferred scenario has improved conditions and performance, as well as where local policies and investments have impacted the costs necessary to achieve performance targets.
5. See FTA Program Guidance and Circulars pertaining to coordinated public transit – human services transportation planning. See also the AMATS Funding Policy Guidelines, as well as Memorandum of Understanding with METRO RTA and PARTA regarding transit funding and project selection.
6. The air quality impacts of TIP project amendments will be analyzed using methods developed by the Ohio Department of Transportation, Division of Planning, Office of Statewide Planning & Research.

Products

1. Maintain the new FY 2026-2029 TIP
 - a. Periodic Amendments (as needed)
 - Public Involvement Meetings (as needed)
 - Air Quality Conformity Modeling (as needed)
 - b. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (September)
2. Develop and Approve the new 2028-2031 Transportation Improvement Program
3. Manage STBG and TASA allocations (continuous)
4. Attend Project Scoping meetings (as needed)
5. Project Status Review Meetings (quarterly at a minimum)
6. Assist ODOT with Annual Project Lock-Down Schedule
7. Manage FTA Section 5307, 5310 and 5339 apportionments (continuous)
8. Participate in the Statewide CMAQ Discretionary Program
9. Maintain performance measures as part of the TIP process consistent with current federal guidance

602.61/602.71 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – continued

	#1	#1a	#1b	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9
Q1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Q2	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q3	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Q4	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X

605.61 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM UPDATE – Carryover

605.71

Project Manager: Seth Bush

Project Team: Eugene Paczelt, Wali Rahim, Amelia Hoffmeier

Objectives

1. To monitor the characteristics of the transportation system. Data includes roadway characteristics such as width, section lengths and intersection data; traffic volumes; speed and delay information; traffic crash data; transit characteristics such as ridership, grants, fares, and related information; and other data necessary to provide input to short and long-range planning. Emphasis will be on maintaining highway crash data and collecting detailed information on intersections that show congestion problems. Emphasis will be placed on obtaining traffic counts for the Traffic Congestion Management Process and to establish and develop performance measures and target setting data.
2. To supplement ODOT counts by conducting traffic counts.
3. To purchase additional traffic counting equipment to replace obsolete and stolen equipment.
4. To implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), including efforts to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities, in anticipation of further information and progress/status updates.

Previous Work

- Traffic Volume Maps (1980, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1997, 2000-present continuously updated and available on the AMATS website)
- Federal Aid System, Federal Functional Classifications and AMATS Functional Classification Maps (FY 1986, FY 1993, FY 1994, FY 2004, FY 2011, FY 2019, FY 2026)
- Inventory of Private Providers of Transportation
- Mechanical and manual traffic counts
- Mechanical and manual pedestrian and bicycle counts

Methodology

1. Crash data to be obtained from Ohio Department of Highway Safety. Selected traffic counts to be supplied by ODOT. Refer to *Prospectus* <https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/AMATS-Prospectus-2020-January-2021-Update.pdf>
2. The Staff will count traffic mechanically for 24-hour periods and conduct peak hour manual turning movement counts to supplement traffic counting completed by ODOT. Purchase of additional traffic counting equipment.
3. Assistance to ODOT as requested.

Products

1. Maintain data files including: land use and zoning, population, employment, dwelling unit, and other Census data, motor vehicle registrations, transit ridership, traffic counts, intersection geometrics, signalization, road and street information, pavement and bridge condition ratings, FFC, etc. (on-going). AMATS will continue to partner with Pavement Management Group to collect and analyze the region's pavement conditions (\$121,663)

605.61/605.71 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM UPDATE – continued

- a. Report performance measures consistent with the IJJA
- 2. Mechanical and manual traffic counts (seasonal)
 - a. Update traffic counts on the AMATS website (as available)
 - b. Count traffic on area highways and intersections
- 3. Mechanical and manual bicycle and pedestrian counts (seasonal)
 - a. Update bicycle and pedestrian counts on the AMATS website (as available)
 - b. Count bicycle and pedestrian movement
 - c. Expand bicycle and pedestrian counts through the purchase of additional counting equipment (approximately \$25,000) or through a partnership with ODOT
 - d. Continue to explore non-motorized data collection and analysis partnerships with Kent State University and ODOT’s Highway Safety Department

	#1	#1a	#2	#2a	#2b	#3	#3a	#3b	#3c	#3d
Q1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q2	X	X							X	X
Q3	X	X							X	X
Q4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

610.61 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE – Carryover

610.71

Project Manager: Matt Stewart

Project Team: Amy Prater, Jeff Gardner, Seth Bush, Heather Davis Reidl, Kerry Prater, Matt Mullen, Amelia Hoffmeier

Objectives

1. To maintain a Regional Transportation Plan with a minimum 20-year horizon.
2. To prepare the products needed to update the Regional Transportation Plan.
3. To maintain the Congestion Management Process.
4. To complete Travel Forecasts “in house”.
5. To maintain a public participation plan in accordance with federal guidelines.
6. To institute a Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) management system within the AMATS planning and programming process to achieve desired performance outcomes.
7. To coordinate with ODOT regarding the development and implementation of performance measures to be used in the Regional Transportation Plan update process in the AMATS area.
8. To develop goals and objectives for the transportation system, select performance measures, identify trends and targets, identify strategies and analyze alternatives, develop investment priorities for the Regional Transportation Plan, and engage in on-going monitoring, evaluating, and performance reporting.

Previous Work

- 2000 Model Validation Report
- External Station Forecast (2021)
- AMATS Planning Data Forecast (2024)
- Financial Resources Forecast Technical Memorandum (2016)
- *Transportation Outlook: An Update of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan* (2025)
- 2024 Transit Plan (2024)
- 3P Public Participation Plan (2024)
- Active Transportation Plan 2024 (2024)
- Freight Plan (2024)
- Highway Preservation Needs Report 2050 (2024)
- Congestion Management Process Report (2024)
- Establish Safety Performance Measure goal (December 2017)
- Annual Report on Roadway Congestion (May 2022)
- Climate Resiliency Assessment (August 2022)

Methodology

1. Refer to *Transportation Outlook: An Update of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan*.
2. Work with ODOT Technical Services and ODOT District 4 to update travel models.
3. Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) county level population control totals are reflected in the Regional Transportation Plan and air quality conformity determination and associated travel demand modeling procedures. Any variation from the ODOD

610.61/610.71 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE – continued

county level population control totals, for the Transportation Plan and conformity determination, will require substantial documentation, including interagency consultation. ODOD population control totals are not required for transportation and land use alternatives scenario planning.

4. Refer to Congestion Management System Process discussion in the *Prospectus* <https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/AMATS-Prospectus-2020-January-2021-Update.pdf>
5. Refer to Title 23 CFR Part 450 Subpart C Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming. (See Links Appendix)
6. Refer to the AMATS Title VI Plan (approved May 2024).
7. Refer to the AMATS Public Participation Plan <https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/Approved%203P-Public%20Participation%20Plan-December%2012-2024.pdf> (approved December 2024) for public meeting planning, website management, survey distribution and obtaining public comments

Products

1. Maintain the current Regional Transportation Plan: *Transportation Outlook 2050*
 - a. Periodic amendments (as needed)
2. Maintain the travel demand model (as needed)
3. Complete and Approve the new 3P – Public Participation Plan.
4. Develop the Preservation Needs Report
5. Begin Developing the Freight Plan
6. Begin Developing the Active Transportation Plan
7. Develop the Annual Report on Roadway Congestion (September). Continue to monitor the Congestion Management Process (CMP)
8. Integrate performance measures as part of the Regional Transportation Plan update process consistent with federal legislation and guidance
9. Expand online interactive mapping as needed

	#1	#1a	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9
Q1	X	X	X	X				X	X	X
Q2	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Q3	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Q4	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X

625.61 SERVICE – Carryover

625.71

Project Manager: Curtis Baker

Project Team: Matt Stewart, Seth Bush, Heather Davis Reidl, Matt Mullen, Amelia Hoffmeier

Objectives

1. To advise local governments on the effects of local planning, zoning, and traffic engineering decisions on the transportation system per AMATS Service Policy in the Prospectus <https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/AMATS-Prospectus-2020-January-2021-Update.pdf>
2. To disseminate current data to state and local governments and to private citizens and businesses.
3. To advise local governments on the impact of rail freight proposals (as required).
4. To coordinate with ODOT and local governments in the implementation of highway improvements.
5. To actively engage the public in participating in the transportation planning process.
6. Provide planning assistance to METRO RTA and PARTA per AMATS Prospectus.

Previous Work

- Assistance has been provided to ODOT and local agencies regarding current and proposed improvements
- Data dissemination on an ongoing basis
- 1988, 1996, and 2020 Prospectus
- Annual Participation in ODOT District 4’s “Government Day” as needed
- Annual inspections of vehicles purchased with Specialized Transportation Program (FTA Section 5310) funds
- Designed, updated, and maintained the AMATS website
- Planning assistance to METRO RTA and PARTA
- AMATS Planning Grant: Corridor or Area Study in Prospective Community
- Connecting Communities Planning Grants Summary and Strategies Report (2012-2015)

Methodology

1. Methodology for technical memorandum will be developed as appropriate to the individual request. ODOT District 4 will be informed about the work effort as required.
2. The application and scoring system used for the AMATS Planning Grant Program is discussed in the *AMATS Funding Policy Guidelines* and on the AMATS website. As part of the *Connecting Communities Initiative*, AMATS may award funds (up to \$100,000 in grants using Consolidated Planning Grant funds) for the study of a particular transportation corridor or area.

625.61/625.71 SERVICE – continued

Products

1. Plan implementation assistance (as required) - Work with communities to ensure their local comprehensive plans are consistent with AMATS *Transportation Outlook 2050* (Local -led projects); Assist local communities as needed on their connectivity/transportation plans as needed (Local-led projects)
2. Assist ODOT in Reviewing Design Traffic Analyses
3. Provide data for use by others (ODOT District 4 will be copied on all responses to requests)
4. Review transportation impacts of zoning changes, subdivision proposals and development plans (as requested)
5. Assist NOACA and ARAQMD with Ozone Action Day and Particulate Matter (FP3) Alerts
6. Air Quality Coordination (as needed)
7. Assist Ohio EPA by Reviewing EPA Permits to Install (as needed)
8. Maintain the new AMATS website (on-going). AMATS has contracted with Triad to host and maintain the website for \$9,000 each year
9. AMATS Connecting Communities Planning Grant: Corridor Study in Prospective Community (each grant cycle is typically longer than one year)
 - a. AMATS made applications available in February 2026 for the eighth round of funding. For this round, AMATS has made \$100,000 available for up to two \$50,000 grants. It is expected that grant recipients will be announced during the May 2026 committee meetings. During FY 2027, staff will coordinate with the grant recipients to choose a consultant to complete the study. As the process of consultant selection and contract negotiations can take several months, the studies may not get started until 3rd quarter of FY 2027. AMATS staff will then partner with both the consultant and the recipient community on various activities for the benefit of the process. This funding cycle will likely continue into FY 2028 (Consultant-led work)
10. Pop-Up Shop – staff will coordinate and assist communities in creating and executing temporary traffic installations. AMATS will provide staff time as well as materials to member communities (as requested)
11. Assist local communities with applications to secure grants through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (as needed)
12. AMATS will keep members abreast of federal funding updates related to the federal reauthorization expected during FY 2027

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#9a	#10	#11	#12
Q1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q2	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Q3	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

667.71 GOHIO COMMUTE RIDESHARE PROGRAM (PID #118659)

Project Manager: Heather Davis Reidl

Project Team: N/A

Objectives

1. To expand the number of carpools.
2. To monitor and maintain the Gohio Commute website in coordination with NOACA, MORPC, TMACOG, the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, and other agencies across the state.
3. To maintain up-to-date data on potential Gohio Commute participants.
4. To assist individuals in meeting their commuter needs.
5. To monitor program progress and identify program effectiveness.
6. To advocate for modes of transportation that improve air quality.
7. To work cooperatively with the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District (ARAQMD), the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO), the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), and the OEPA to satisfy the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Previous Work

- Promotion of the program through highway signs, public meetings, public service announcements, presentations, calendars, brochures, targeted advertising, radio traffic watch sponsorships, and special events such as business festivals
- General assistance provided to employers and general public in the form of maintaining match files, organizational assistance, empty seat assistance to vanpool participants, cluster analysis, guaranteed ride home program, use of the 1-800 telephone number, and the purging of match files
- Vehicle occupancy studies
- Surveys of participants in the database
- Instituted the Northeast Ohio-based OhioRideshare ride-matching website in coordination with NOACA and The Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
- Created webpage regarding the program on the agency website
- Partnered with agencies across the state of Ohio to update the website to the Gohio Commute program

Methodology

1. Advertising will be used to increase consumer awareness of ridesharing options when appropriate. The program's website will be maintained and continue to accept applications. Special promotions and advertising will be developed. The Gohio Commute telephone line will continue to be maintained with an answering machine to take requests 24 hours a day. The program will use updated carpool info highway signs. Presentations will be made to employers and community groups as requested.

667.71 GOHIO COMMUTE RIDESHARE PROGRAM – continued

2. Coordination with other Ohio ridesharing agencies statewide will be maintained through meetings and correspondence, sharing of newsletter articles and jointly prepared marketing material. The consultant will maintain the Gohio Commute website.
3. Communications materials will be produced and disseminated that advocate the use of alternative modes of transportation, particularly bicycles. The public will be informed of air pollution and its relation to transportation, including voluntary changes that can be made to improve air quality.

Products

1. Anticipate adding new participants to the database throughout the fiscal year
2. Print and distribute Gohio Commute calendar
3. Maintain Gohio Commute website (ongoing)
4. Market Gohio Commute website (as needed) through advertising
5. Assist Gohio Commute participants with web entry (as needed)
6. Provide carpool services for Wayne, Stark and Tuscarawas Counties (as required)
7. Coordinate with other ridesharing agencies in Ohio to begin the process of securing a new contract for 2027 and beyond

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7
Q1	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Q2	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Q3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

667.72 AIR QUALITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM (PID#118656)

Project Manager: Matt Stewart

Project Team: Seth Bush, Heather Davis Reidl, Matt Mullen, Amelia Hoffmeier

Objectives

1. To advocate for modes of transportation that improve air quality and conserve fossil fuel.
2. To work cooperatively with the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District (ARAQMD), the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO), the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), and the OEPA to satisfy the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.
3. Inform the public of the relationship between air pollution and transportation, including the voluntary changes that the public can make to improve air quality.

Previous Work

- Production and promotion of communications materials, as well as the holding of outreach events advocating alternative modes of transportation
- Maintenance of the switching-gears.org website, advocating the use of bicycling as a means of commuting

Methodology

1. Advertising will be used to increase consumer awareness of travel options when appropriate.
2. Education of the public regarding fuel conservation and improvements to air quality in considering alternatives to single-occupancy automobile usage, including dialogue and feedback from those members of the public already engaged in alternative travel modes.
3. Coordination with other AMATS area agencies and social service groups will be maintained through meetings and correspondence, sharing of newsletter articles and jointly prepared marketing material.
4. Communications materials will be produced and disseminated that advocate the use of alternative modes of transportation, particularly bicycles. The public will be informed of air pollution and its relation to transportation, including voluntary changes that can be made to improve air quality.

Products

1. Produce communications materials and hold outreach events advocating alternative modes of transportation (as needed)
2. Support Bike & Brainstorm Events - The purpose of a Bike-N-Brainstorm event is to have an active public meeting where staff and local officials meet with the public, participate in a bike ride through the community, then discuss the experience. This tool provides the opportunity for important public feedback. AMATS will support the work of member communities on one to two events a year, as requested.

667.72 AIR QUALITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM – continued

	#1	#2
Q1	X	X
Q2	X	
Q3	X	
Q4	X	X

674.71 METRO RTA OPERATIONAL PLANNING

Project Manager: Nate Leppo, METRO RTA

Project Team: Tatia Harris, METRO RTA

Objectives

To maintain and enhance existing fixed route and special services, pursue the establishment of other alternative modes, respond to state and federal planning/documentation requirements, and coordinate with other transportation planning activities in the region.

Previous Work

METRO continually monitors fixed route and special services and adjusts these services as appropriate. In addition, METRO staff prepares Title VI, National Transit Database, Paratransit Plan Updates, and other reports annually. METRO works closely with AMATS, ODOT, and various other Summit County jurisdictions on a variety of projects in any given year.

Methodology

Refer to FTA Guidance on Short Range Transit Planning Activities. All work done on this item will be completed by METRO and funded through METRO's dedicated local tax revenue.

1. Operating data and performance characteristics in the development of various internal management reports and reports required by the federal government will be reviewed. Based upon the performance analysis, specific route changes will be developed and implemented.
2. General or specialized studies which identify barriers to seamless public transportation usage among the region's public transportation systems will be conducted.
3. Coordination with AMATS and the selection of projects are both described more fully in the associated multi-party agreements, memoranda of understanding and AMATS Funding Policy Guidelines.

Products (METRO)

1. Monthly performance reporting for fixed route, demand response, and microtransit - ridership, on-time performance, productivity, service delivery
2. Annual Program of Projects submission and associated federal/state planning reporting
3. National Transit Database report (annual in April)
4. Performance measures coordination with AMATS and ODOT per federal guidance - targets, reporting, documentation
5. BRT Locally Preferred Route Study
6. Transit Asset Management implementation - asset inventory updates, prioritization support, lifecycle/capital planning alignment (ongoing)
7. Bus Rapid Transit Locally Preferred Alternative development and grant readiness - complete Locally Preferred Alternative refinement and documentation for the three priority corridors (A4, B4, C6), including stakeholder/public engagement, partner coordination, conceptual elements needed for implementation planning, and federal readiness materials (as applicable)
8. Superstop program development - advance priority transfer facility upgrades through planning, concept development, partner coordination, and implementation scoping as projects progress

674.71 METRO RTA OPERATIONAL PLANNING – continued

9. Shelter and amenities program implementation planning - update shelter/amenity priorities, confirm delivery approach (including environmental compliance pathway if applicable), and advance the design/engineering procurement and implementation readiness needed to restart the program
10. Continue development and refinement of the EZFare mobile ticketing platform and supporting customer tools as needed
11. Transit Signal Priority planning – evaluate candidate corridors/intersections, coordinate with local jurisdictions, and develop an implementation approach (pilot or phased program)
12. Grant development and administration – pursue, manage, and administer federal/state/local grants, including compliance, reporting, and closeout
13. Title VI analyses and equity/accessibility evaluations, including service and capital change analyses and related policy evaluation where needed
14. Microtransit evaluation and refinement – monitor performance, equity, customer experience, and service design adjustments following countywide/expanded service implementation

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14
Q1	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q2	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q3	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q4	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

674.72 PARTA PLANNING ACTIVITIES
Project Manager: Claudia Amrhein, PARTA
Project Team: Amy Proseus, PARTA

Objectives

To maintain and enhance existing services, fulfill state and federal requirements for planning, documentation, and reporting, identify and be responsive to the transit needs of service area residents, and coordinate with other transportation planning activities.

Previous Work

Monitoring service to identify and implement improvements is ongoing. PARTA's participation in regional transit planning and improvement activities is also ongoing as PARTA works closely with AMATS, ODOT and local jurisdictions on various activities throughout the year. Completing various statistical, financial, and other reports as required and/or needed to document level of service provided is also ongoing.

Methodology

Refer to FTA Guidance on Short Range Transit Planning Activities. All work done on this item will be completed by PARTA and funded through FTA's Section 5307 funds as well as PARTA's dedicated local tax revenue. Coordination with AMATS and the selection of projects are both described more fully in the associated multi-party agreements, memoranda of understanding and AMATS Funding Policy Guidelines.

Products (PARTA)

1. Monthly and annual performance reporting – (ongoing)
2. Transit operations planning technical memoranda (as required)
3. ODOT reporting completed by staff when required, including information involving vehicle inventory, financial statistics, employee statistics, safety and security statistics, and operations and ridership statistics
4. National Transit Database Annual Report, updated monthly but finalized and submitted by the end of April each year
5. Continue to refine communication and resources to enhance and simplify rider access to transit services, as recommended in the 2017 Transit Development Plan (ongoing)
6. Implement elements of the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan (ongoing)
7. Further implementation of NEORIDE coordination effort with other northeast Ohio regional transit agencies (ongoing)
 - a. Continued utilization of the EZfare mobile ticketing platform utilizing Stored Value which will allow better utilization of the service by all passengers, especially those who are considered unbanked
 - b. Continued promotion of the EZfare mobile ticketing platform as a safer and easier way to pay fare
8. Continued implementation of performance measures in coordination with AMATS and ODOT per federal guidance (ongoing)
9. Maintain and evaluate PARTA's Transit Asset Management Plan – Updating in 2026
10. Continue work with Portage County municipalities to increase transit amenities based on ridership, demographics, and safety (ongoing)

674.72 PARTA PLANNING ACTIVITIES – continued

- 11. Plan and implement short-range elements from the 2025 Transportation Development Plan (1-3 years)
- 12. Continue analyzing, planning, and developing routes. (ongoing)
- 13. Complete mandatory reporting year surveys for ridership, to be completed December 2026

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#7a	#7b	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13
Q1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Q4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	

682.71 LOCAL EXCLUSIVE
Project Manager: Curtis Baker
Project Team: Martha Chandler

Objective

To fund expenses not eligible to use federal funds, and to fund the initial outlay for capital items.

Previous Work

Miscellaneous meeting expenses

Methodology

Use local funds for expenses not eligible to use federal funds, based on OMB Uniform Guidance (See Links Appendix). In addition, certain capital items purchased previously using other job codes will now be purchased under this code and then be reimbursed with the applicable job code over the life of the item.

Products

1. Vehicle maintenance and repair
2. Travel and miscellaneous meeting/hospitality expenses (as needed)
3. AMATS marketing expenses (as needed)
4. AMATS Annual Meeting
5. The initial purchase of capital items (as needed)

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
Q1	X	X	X		X
Q2	X	X	X	X	X
Q3	X	X	X		X
Q4	X	X	X		X

697.71 AMATS TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER / ANNUAL REPORT

Project Manager: Kerry Prater

Project Team: N/A

Objectives

1. To prepare a newsletter on a regular basis that describes the accomplishments of the transportation planning process and documents the status of the Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program.
2. To post frequent updates on the AMATS website briefing the public on staff accomplishments and activities.
3. To prepare an annual report of AMATS accomplishments and activities during the previous calendar year.

Previous Work

- Refer to newsletters completed in fiscal years 1994 through 2026
- AMATS Annual Reports (1999 through 2025)

Methodology

Refer to previous newsletters and annual reports for general format. The newsletter will be prepared on a semi-annual basis; the annual report will be prepared on an annual basis.

Information such as planning accomplishments, planning requirements, status of the Regional Transportation Plan and information on programmed transportation improvements will be included in each AMATS newsletter.

Frequent updates on the AMATS website will provide the public with more current reports on staff accomplishments and activities, lower printing costs and lessen the lead time on publication.

Products

1. July-December Newsletter
2. January-June Newsletter
3. Web Updates
4. 2026 AMATS Annual Report

	#1	#2	#3	#4
Q1			X	
Q2	X		X	
Q3			X	X
Q4		X	X	

**INCREASING SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS (ISAATO)
SET-ASIDE**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requires AMATS to set aside 2.5% of its Planning Funds (PL) on planning activities that promote the safe accommodation of all users of the transportation system. Examples of this type of planning include Complete Streets principles, development of transportation plans, activities that increase public transportation ridership, and activities that improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. For FY 2027, AMATS is required to set aside \$28,604 at a minimum and will match this funding at 20%. The table below identifies the 2.5% ISAATO set-aside for AMATS work activities.

MPO	FTA 5303	FHWA PL	CPG	State Match	Local Match	Total	Minimum Set-Aside (PL)
AMATS	\$372,287	\$1,144,176	\$1,516,463	\$189,558	\$189,558	\$1,895,579	\$28,604

Work Element	Work Activities	Estimated ISAATO Activity Spend (CPG)	Estimated ISAATO (PL)
601 - Short Range Planning	Transit Planning and Coordination, Bike and Pedestrian Planning, Traffic Crashes/Bike and Pedestrian Crashes	\$47,500	\$35,839
625 – Service	Planning Grants, Pop-Up Shop	\$100,000	\$75,450
TOTAL		\$147,000	\$111,289

FY 2027 AMATS FRINGE/INDIRECT FIXED RATE

The fixed rate that will be used for FY 2027 is based on the agreed upon Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) rate of 102% for CY 2026. The same rate is assumed for the second half of the fiscal year and therefore has been applied to the financial tables for FY 2027.

**BUDGET TABLE I
FY 2027 AMATS AREA BUDGET**

WORK DESCRIPTION	FEDERAL CMAQ (RS)	FEDERAL CMAQ (AQ)	FEDERAL CONSOLIDATED PLANNING GRANT			TRANSIT ELEMENTS			TOTAL
			FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	FTA	LOCAL		
			FHWA	ODOT	AMATS	SECTION 5307	METRO	PARTA	
601 SHORT RANGE PLANNING									
Total Subcategory			\$380,000	\$47,500	\$47,500				\$475,000
601.61 Short Range Transp. Planning (PID #122319) (Carryover)			\$60,000	\$7,500	\$7,500				\$75,000
Direct Salary			\$29,703	\$3,713	\$3,713				\$37,129
Direct Fringe			\$20,792	\$2,599	\$2,599				\$25,990
Direct Expense			\$0	\$0	\$0				\$0
Indirect			\$9,505	\$1,188	\$1,188				\$11,881
601.71 Short Range Transp. Planning (PID #125131)			\$320,000	\$40,000	\$40,000				\$400,000
Direct Salary			\$156,436	\$19,554	\$19,554				\$195,545
Direct Fringe			\$109,505	\$13,688	\$13,688				\$136,881
Direct Expense			\$4,000	\$500	\$500				\$5,000
Indirect			\$50,059	\$6,257	\$6,257				\$62,574
602 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM									
Total Subcategory			\$280,000	\$35,000	\$35,000				\$350,000
602.61 TIP (PID #122319) (Carryover)			\$80,000	\$10,000	\$10,000				\$100,000
Direct Salary			\$39,604	\$4,950	\$4,950				\$49,505
Direct Fringe			\$27,723	\$3,465	\$3,465				\$34,653
Direct Expense			\$0	\$0	\$0				\$0
Indirect			\$12,673	\$1,584	\$1,584				\$15,842
602.71 TIP (PID #125131)			\$200,000	\$25,000	\$25,000				\$250,000
Direct Salary			\$99,010	\$12,376	\$12,376				\$123,762
Direct Fringe			\$69,307	\$8,663	\$8,663				\$86,634
Direct Expense			\$0	\$0	\$0				\$0
Indirect			\$31,683	\$3,959	\$3,959				\$39,604
605 CONTINUING PLANNING-Surveillance									
Total Subcategory			\$320,000	\$40,000	\$40,000				\$400,000
605.61 Transportation System Update (PID #122319) (Carryover)			\$80,000	\$10,000	\$10,000				\$100,000
Direct Salary			\$39,604	\$4,950	\$4,950				\$49,505
Direct Fringe			\$27,723	\$3,465	\$3,465				\$34,653
Direct Expense			\$0	\$0	\$0				\$0
Indirect			\$12,673	\$1,583	\$1,583				\$15,842
605.71 Transportation System Update (PID #125131)			\$240,000	\$30,000	\$30,000				\$300,000
Direct Salary			\$59,406	\$7,426	\$7,426				\$74,257
Direct Fringe			\$41,584	\$5,198	\$5,198				\$51,980
Direct Expense			\$120,000	\$15,000	\$15,000				\$150,000
Indirect			\$19,010	\$2,376	\$2,376				\$23,762
610 CONTINUING PLANNING-Review & Reappraisal									
Total Subcategory			\$520,000	\$65,000	\$65,000				\$650,000
610.61 Transportation Plan Update (PID #122319) (Carryover)			\$160,000	\$20,000	\$20,000				\$200,000
Direct Salary			\$79,208	\$9,901	\$9,901				\$99,010
Direct Fringe			\$55,446	\$6,931	\$6,931				\$69,307
Direct Expense			\$0	\$0	\$0				\$0
Indirect			\$25,347	\$3,168	\$3,168				\$31,683
610.71 Transportation Plan Update (PID #125131)			\$360,000	\$45,000	\$45,000				\$450,000
Direct Salary			\$177,426	\$22,178	\$22,178				\$221,782
Direct Fringe			\$124,198	\$15,525	\$15,525				\$155,248
Direct Expense			\$1,600	\$200	\$200				\$2,000
Indirect			\$56,776	\$7,096	\$7,096				\$70,970
625 SERVICE-FHWA									
Total Subcategory			\$520,000	\$65,000	\$65,000				\$650,000
625.61 Service (PID #122319) (Carryover)			\$160,000	\$20,000	\$20,000				\$200,000
Direct Salary			\$79,208	\$9,901	\$9,901				\$99,010
Direct Fringe			\$55,446	\$6,931	\$6,931				\$69,307
Direct Expense			\$0	\$0	\$0				\$0
Indirect			\$25,347	\$3,168	\$3,168				\$31,683
625.71 Service (PID #125131)			\$360,000	\$45,000	\$45,000				\$450,000
Direct Salary			\$99,010	\$12,376	\$12,376				\$123,762
Direct Fringe			\$69,307	\$8,663	\$8,663				\$86,634
Direct Expense			\$160,000	\$20,000	\$20,000				\$200,000
Indirect			\$31,683	\$3,960	\$3,960				\$39,604

**BUDGET TABLE I
FY 2027 AMATS AREA BUDGET**

WORK DESCRIPTION	FEDERAL CMAQ (RS)	FEDERAL CMAQ (AQ)	FEDERAL CONSOLIDATED PLANNING GRANT			TRANSIT ELEMENTS			TOTAL
			FEDERAL FHWA	STATE ODOT	LOCAL AMATS	FTA SECTION 5307	LOCAL METRO PARTA		
667 GOHIO/AQ ADVOCACY Total Subcategory	\$80,000								\$80,000
667.71 GOHio Commute Program (PID #118659)	\$80,000								\$80,000
Direct Salary	\$32,178								\$32,178
Direct Fringe	\$22,525								\$22,525
Direct Expense	\$15,000								\$15,000
Indirect	\$10,297								\$10,297
667 AQ ADVOCACY Total Subcategory		\$100,000							\$100,000
667.72 AQ Advocacy (PID #118656)		\$100,000							\$100,000
Direct Salary		\$44,554							\$44,554
Direct Fringe		\$31,188							\$31,188
Direct Expense		\$10,000							\$10,000
Indirect		\$14,257							\$14,257
682 LOCAL EXCLUSIVE Total Subcategory					\$25,000				\$25,000
682.71 Local Exclusive					\$25,000				\$25,000
Direct Salary					\$2,475				\$2,475
Direct Fringe					\$1,733				\$1,733
Direct Expense					\$20,000				\$20,000
Indirect					\$792				\$792
697 PERIODIC REPORT Total Subcategory			\$36,463	\$4,558	\$4,558				\$45,579
697.71 Agency Transportation Newsletter (PID #125131)			\$36,463	\$4,558	\$4,558				\$45,579
Direct Salary			\$18,051	\$2,256	\$2,256				\$22,564
Direct Fringe			\$12,636	\$1,579	\$1,579				\$15,795
Direct Expense			\$0	\$0	\$0				\$0
Indirect			\$5,776	\$721	\$721				\$7,220
TOTAL 600 CATEGORIES-AMATS	\$80,000	\$100,000	\$2,056,463	\$257,058	\$282,058				\$2,775,579
Direct Salary	\$32,178	\$44,554	\$609,338	\$76,167	\$78,643				\$840,881
Direct Fringe	\$22,525	\$31,188	\$426,537	\$53,317	\$55,050				\$588,616
Direct Expense	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$285,600	\$35,700	\$55,700				\$402,000
Indirect	\$10,297	\$14,257	\$194,987	\$24,375	\$25,167				\$269,082
674 TRANSIT EXCLUSIVE-OTHERS Total Subcategory						\$52,000	\$850,000	\$13,000	\$915,000
674.71 METRO Operational Plng (PID #122917)							\$850,000		\$850,000
674.72 PARTA Planning Activities (PID #118316)						\$52,000		\$13,000	\$65,000
GRAND TOTAL AREAWIDE PLANNING	\$80,000	\$100,000	\$2,056,463	\$257,058	\$282,058	\$52,000	\$850,000	\$13,000	\$3,690,579
Direct Salary	\$32,178	\$44,554	\$609,338	\$76,167	\$78,643	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$840,881
Direct Fringe	\$22,525	\$31,188	\$426,537	\$53,317	\$55,050	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$588,616
Direct Expense	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$285,600	\$35,700	\$55,700	\$52,000	\$850,000	\$13,000	\$1,317,000
Indirect	\$10,297	\$14,257	\$194,987	\$24,375	\$25,167	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$269,082

**BUDGET TABLE II
AMATS RESPONSIBILITY
FISCAL YEAR 2027**

	<u>WORK ELEMENTS</u>	<u>PERSON HOURS</u>		<u>COST SUMMARY</u>		
		<u>AMATS DIRECT</u>	<u>TRANSIT OPERATORS DIRECT</u>	<u>AMATS STAFF</u>	<u>TRANSIT OPERATORS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
601	<u>Short Range Planning</u>	<u>4,750</u>		<u>475,000</u>		<u>475,000</u>
601.61	Short Range Planning (PID #122319) (Carryover)	750		75,000		
601.71	Short Range Planning (PID #125131)	4,000		400,000		
602	<u>Transportation Improvement</u>	<u>3,500</u>		<u>350,000</u>		<u>350,000</u>
602.61	Transportation Improvement Program (PID #122319) (Carryover)	1,000		100,000		
602.71	Transportation Improvement Program (PID #125131)	2,500		250,000		
605	<u>Continuing Planning - Surveillance</u>	<u>4,000</u>		<u>400,000</u>		<u>400,000</u>
605.61	Transportation System Update (PID #122319) (Carryover)	1,000		100,000		
605.71	Transportation System Update (PID #125131)	3,000		300,000		
610	<u>Continuing Planning - Review & Reappraisal</u>	<u>6,500</u>		<u>650,000</u>		<u>650,000</u>
610.61	Transportation Plan Update (PID #122319) (Carryover)	2,000		200,000		
610.71	Transportation Plan Update (PID #125131)	4,500		450,000		
625	<u>Service</u>	<u>6,500</u>		<u>650,000</u>		<u>650,000</u>
625.61	Service (PID #122319) (Carryover)	2,000		200,000		
625.71	Service (PID #125131)	4,500		450,000		
667	<u>GOhio/Air Quality Advocacy</u>	<u>1,800</u>		<u>180,000</u>		<u>180,000</u>
667.71	GOhio Commute Program (PID #118659)	800		80,000		
667.72	Air Quality Advocacy (PID #118656)	1,000		100,000		
674	<u>Transit Exclusive</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,150</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>915,000</u>	<u>915,000</u>
674.71	METRO RTA Operational Planning (PID #122917)		8,500		850,000	
674.72	PARTA Planning Activities (PID #118315)		650		65,000	
682	<u>Local</u>	<u>250</u>		<u>25,000</u>		<u>25,000</u>
682.71	Local	250		25,000		
697	<u>Periodic Report</u>	<u>455</u>		<u>45,579</u>		<u>45,579</u>
697.71	AMATS Transportation Newsletter/Annual Report (PID #125131)	455		45,579		
Total		<u>27,755</u>	<u>9,150</u>	<u>\$2,775,579</u>	<u>\$915,000</u>	<u>\$3,690,579</u>

BUDGET TABLE III
FUND USE BY PERFORMING AGENCY
FISCAL YEAR 2027

DESCRIPTION TITLE & IDENTIFICATION NO.	AMATS	METRO RTA	PARTA
601 Short Range Planning	475,000		
602 Transportation Improvement Program	350,000		
605 Continuing Planning - Surveillance	400,000		
610 Continuing Planning - Review & Reappraisal	650,000		
625 Service	650,000		
667 GOhio and AQ Advocacy	180,000		
674 Public Transportation Exclusive	0	850,000	65,000
682 Local Exclusive	25,000		
697 Periodic Report	45,579		
<hr/>			
TOTALS	\$2,775,579	\$850,000	\$65,000

**AMATS
LOCAL SHARE CALCULATION*
SFY 2027 WORK PROGRAM**

MEMBERS	2020 POP (CENSUS)	LOCAL SHARE PERCENT	CY 2026 LOCAL SHARE
METRO RTA	N/A	14.0%	\$27,574
PARTA	N/A	2.3%	\$4,601
<u>SUMMIT COUNTY</u>			
AKRON	190,469	22.4%	\$44,153
BARBERTON	25,191	3.0%	\$5,839
CUYAHOGA FALLS	51,114	6.0%	\$11,850
FAIRLAWN	7,710	0.9%	\$1,787
GREEN	27,475	3.2%	\$6,369
HUDSON	23,110	2.7%	\$5,357
LAKEMORE	2,926	0.3%	\$678
MACEDONIA	12,168	1.4%	\$2,821
MOGADORE	3,811	0.4%	\$883
MUNROE FALLS	5,044	0.6%	\$1,169
NEW FRANKLIN	13,877	1.6%	\$3,217
NORTHFIELD	3,541	0.4%	\$821
NORTON	11,668	1.4%	\$2,705
REMINDEVILLE	5,412	0.6%	\$1,255
RICHFIELD	3,729	0.4%	\$864
SILVER LAKE	2,516	0.3%	\$583
STOW	34,483	4.1%	\$7,993
TALLMADGE	18,394	2.2%	\$4,264
TWINSBURG	19,248	2.3%	\$4,462
SUMMIT CO. UNINCORP.	76,699	9.0%	\$17,779
<u>PORTAGE COUNTY</u>			
AURORA	17,239	2.0%	\$3,996
KENT	28,215	3.3%	\$6,540
RAVENNA	11,323	1.3%	\$2,625
STREETSBORO	17,260	2.0%	\$4,001
PORTAGE CO. UNINCORP.	80,133	9.4%	\$18,576
<u>WAYNE COUNTY</u>			
DOYLESTOWN	3,051	0.4%	\$707
RITTMAN	6,131	0.7%	\$1,421
WAYNE COUNTY ENGINEER	9,708	1.1%	\$2,250
TOTAL	721,109		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	711,645		\$197,140

* \$0.232 per person

Communities under 2,400 in population do not pay local dues.

Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) Title VI Compliance Questionnaire

General

1. Which office within your organization has lead responsibility for Title VI compliance?

AMATS is a small agency with eleven full-time employees who generally report directly to the Director. The Title VI Coordinator has open and daily access to the agency Director. AMATS is a division of the city of Akron Planning Department and is administered by the city's Human Resources Department and Training/EEO office. Legal matters are referred to the city's Law Department.

2. Who is your designated Title VI Coordinator? Please provide the person's name, title, and contact information.

Title VI contact person for all complaints:

Jeff Gardner

Planner

JJGardner@akronohio.gov

ph. 330.375.2436 ext. 4431

3. Does your organization have a Title VI Program Plan? If so, please provide the website link or attach a copy.

Yes, AMATS has a Title VI (Civil Rights Program Procedures and Documentation) Plan posted on the agency website, and can be found at <https://www.amatsplanning.org/civil-rights-plan>.

4. Does your organization have a Title VI policy? If so, please provide the website link or attach a copy.

It is the policy of AMATS to provide an environment of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in employment as well as in the development of the area's regional transportation policies, plans and programs included in the Regional Transportation Plan (*Transportation Outlook 2050*) and the Transportation Improvement Program. This policy is found on page 7 of the Title VI Plan (see above link) and in the agency's Public Participation Plan.

5. Does your organization have written Title VI complaint procedures? If so, please provide the website link or attach a copy.

Yes, we have a complaint procedure. Please see Appendix B of the current AMATS Title VI Plan, or the AMATS website here <https://www.amatsplanning.org/citizens-involvement-committee>.

6. Does your organization have a Title VI complaint form? If so, please provide the website link or attach a copy.

Yes. The Title VI Complaint Form is posted on the AMATS website and is available at the agency directly. The city of Akron Human Resources and Law Departments also have complaint forms available. <https://www.amatsplanning.org/citizens-involvement-committee>.

7. Does your organization make the public aware of the right to file a complaint? If so, describe how this is accomplished.

Yes. The AMATS Title VI (Civil Rights Program Procedures and Documentation) Plan is available on the AMATS website. Public notices and public meetings concerning the planning process and project funding recommendations make known the ability to file a complaint. Employees and prospective employees of the agency are notified by the Director of the agency as well as the city of Akron Personnel Department of the ability to file a complaint.

In addition, the AMATS Public Participation Plan outlines procedures for the public to access the transportation planning decision making process. The Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan procedures both contain documentation regarding compliance with Title VI requirements. The current AMATS Public Participation Plan is available on the agency website. The complaint form is posted on the agency website.

Please note that AMATS is a division of the city of Akron Planning Department. As such, AMATS operates under the administrative supervision of the mayor of the city of Akron. This administrative supervision includes the laws, regulations and internal processes concerning personnel, employment, EEO, purchasing and contracting. AMATS must work within the City's administrative framework, including review by the Law Department when appropriate.

8. In the past three years, has your organization been named in any Title VI and/or other discrimination complaints or lawsuits? If so, please provide the date the action was filed, a brief description of the allegations, and the current status of the complaint or lawsuit. Describe any Title VI-related deficiencies that were identified and the efforts taken to resolve those deficiencies.

AMATS has not been named in a discrimination complaint or lawsuit in the past three years.

9. Has your organization provided written Title VI Assurances to ODOT? Is the Title VI Assurance included in the MPO self-certification resolution? (Note: this only applies to MPOs; RTPs do not approve self-certification resolutions.) If so, please provide a copy as an attachment.

Yes. Annually, AMATS assures that the planning process is carried out in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21.

See Attachment 6D, Resolution Number 2025-08 of the AMATS Metropolitan Transportation Policy Committee, dated May 1, 2025, for the latest self-certification.
https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/meeting%20materials/TAC%2C%20CIC%20and%20Policy%20Committee%20Meeting%20Packet%20-%20May%202025_3.pdf

10. Does your contract language include Title VI and other non-discrimination assurances?

Yes, language is included in contracts to ensure nondiscrimination and compliance with regulations per the City of Akron’s Code of Ordinances.

11. Do you use any of the following methods to disseminate Title VI information to the public (select all that apply):

i. Title VI posters in public buildings

The city of Akron Human Resources and Law Departments have posted notices at all city buildings.

ii. Title VI brochures at public events

iii. Title VI complaint forms in public buildings

iv. Title VI complaint forms at public events

v. Title VI policy posted on your website.

The AMATS Nondiscrimination Policy Statement can be found here:

<https://www.amatsplanning.org/citizens-involvement-committee>

vi. Title VI Program Plan posted on your website.

<https://www.amatsplanning.org/civil-rights-plan>

vii. Other (Please explain)

Title VI complaint forms posted on our website. <https://www.amatsplanning.org/citizens-involvement-committee>

Public Involvement

12. Does your organization have a Public Participation Plan? If so, please provide the website link or attach a copy. When was the Public Participation Plan most recently updated?

A formalized procedure to provide citizen participation in the transportation planning process is provided in the AMATS Public Participation Plan, updated in December 2024.

<https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/Approved%20P-Public%20Participation%20Plan-December%2012-2024.pdf> This plan was designed to provide maximum opportunity for public involvement in planning activities for the region.

13. Please select which of the following outlets your organization uses to provide notices to different population groups (select all that apply):

i. Neighborhood and community paper advertisements

AMATS regularly advertises committee meetings in the Akron Beacon Journal and continuously contacts The Reporter, a newspaper serving Northeast Ohio’s and the Greater Akron area’s African American population, for additional advertising opportunities.

- ii. Community radio station announcements
- iii. Church and community event outreach

iv. Targeted fliers distributed in particular neighborhoods

AMATS will distribute fliers in libraries in particular neighborhoods as well as contact the local elected representatives of a particular neighborhood that may be affected by a specific transportation project.

v. Other (Please explain)

AMATS public involvement procedures include public meetings, public open houses, public notices in the media, newsletters, the AMATS website, social media, virtual meeting platforms, and presentations at the AMATS Citizens Involvement Committee.

14. Do you coordinate with local community groups to facilitate outreach to minorities and low-income populations? If so, please list groups.

AMATS regularly sends meeting materials to:

- The Akron National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- The Akron Urban League
- Asian Services in Action, Inc.
- Direction Home Akron Canton
- The International Institute of Akron
- The Ohio Latino Affairs Commission
- Torchbearers
- VANTAGE Aging - Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- And other community and neighborhood groups

15. Do you take the following into consideration when identifying a public meeting location (select all that apply):

- i. **Parking** – abundant handicap accessible parking at all meeting locations
- ii. **Accessibility by public transportation** – direct, public transit line service at all public meeting locations
- iii. **Meeting times** – varied times to try and meet the target audience needs (day and evening)
- iv. **Existence of ADA ramps** - at all meeting locations
- v. Familiarity of community with meeting location

16. Have meeting participants requested special assistance (e.g., interpretation services) ahead of any public event in the past year? If so, describe how the request was addressed.

AMATS does its best to pick venues for public meetings that are ADA accessible and on a transit line. No one has requested special assistance for any of our public meetings over the last year, although many of them have been virtual.

Language Assistance

17. Are you familiar with the four-factor methodology for assessing a potential need for language assistance?

The AMATS Public Participation Plan advises the use of the four-factor methodology for addressing language assistance issues in Appendix E. The four-factor methodology, as well as the engagement of the community in the planning process, is more fully described in both the Title VI Plan and the Public Participation Plan.

18. Are you familiar with the Safe Harbor guideline?

Yes. The Safe Harbor guideline outlines circumstances that can provide a “safe harbor” for subrecipients regarding translation of written materials for language assistance. The Safe Harbor guideline stipulates that, if a recipient provides written translation of vital documents for each eligible language group that constitutes five percent (5%) or 1,000 persons, whichever is less, of the total population of persons eligible to be served or likely to be affected or encountered, then such action will be considered strong evidence of compliance with the recipient’s written translation obligations. Translation of non-vital documents, if needed, can be provided orally. If there are fewer than 50 persons in a language group that reaches the five percent (5%) trigger, the subrecipient is not required to translate vital written materials but should provide written notice in the primary language of the language group of the right to receive competent oral interpretation of those written materials, free of cost.

These safe harbor guidelines apply to the translation of written documents. They do not affect the requirement to provide meaningful access to individuals through competent oral interpreters where oral language services are needed and are reasonable. A subrecipient may determine, based on the four-factor methodology, that even though a language group meets the threshold specified by the Safe Harbor guideline, written translation may not be an effective means to provide language assistance measures. In such cases, background documentation regarding the determination shall be provided in the Title VI Program. See the AMATS Title VI Plan for a complete breakdown of the area’s demographic populations and language groups.

<https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/AMATS%20Title%20VI%20Civil%20Rights%20Program%20Final-May%202024.pdf>

19. Does your organization have a Language Assistance Plan? If so, please provide the website link or attach a copy.

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 6.2 percent of the population of the Greater Akron area speak a language other than English at home. AMATS does not have a stand-alone Language Assistance Plan. The AMATS Public Participation Plan advises the use of the four-factor methodology for addressing language issues. The four-factor methodology, as well as the engagement of the community (English speaking and non-English speaking) in the planning process, is more fully described in both the Title VI Plan and the Public Participation Plan.

20. Has your organization identified vital documents that need to be made available in languages other than English? If so, describe how that need is being addressed.

The AMATS website makes translations available of all the web pages posted on our site. An automatic translation button is present allowing the AMATS website to be made accessible in several languages. People needing translation of specific documents are asked to contact the AMATS office for assistance.

21. Do you have a list of staff who speak languages other than English?

The AMATS staff has several people who can speak languages other than English, such as French, Italian, and American Sign Language.

22. Do you provide free translation services in languages other than English to the public upon request?

Several social service agencies with non-English speaking clients receive public notices and meeting materials for AMATS transportation planning activities. In addition, AMATS maintains a list of agencies available that advocate for or aid non-English speakers. As a division of the city of Akron, AMATS has additional access to translation services upon request.

23. How often do you receive requests for language assistance?

AMATS has never received a request for language assistance.

Title VI Training

24. Who provides Title VI training to your staff?

- i. ODOT staff
- ii. Title VI Coordinator
- iii. **Other (Please explain)**

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has provided several public and on-line seminars in coordination with the USDOT to address Title VI issues. The city of Akron Human Resources and EEO personnel are certified to handle Title VI related claims.

25. How often are Title VI trainings conducted?

ODOT's 2025 Title VI Implementation Plan mentions the Office of Civil Rights Compliance developed trainings that are available to ODOT employees in an e-learning format. AMATS would welcome any training ODOT may provide in the future.

26. How many staff were trained on Title VI this year?

One agency person (the Title VI Coordinator) participates in regular training in coordination with ODOT. The city of Akron Human Resources and Law departments receive regular training and re-certification as required by law.

Transportation Planning Program - Data Collection and Analysis

27. Does your agency maintain documentation describing its procedures for incorporating Title VI requirements into the region’s transportation planning program?

The planning document, *AMATS Title VI Civil Rights Program Procedures and Documentation*, describes the agency’s incorporation of Title VI requirements into the planning process. In addition, the AMATS Public Participation Plan outlines procedures for the public to access the transportation planning decision making process. The Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan procedures both contain documentation regarding compliance with Title VI requirements.

28. Does your organization maintain socio-demographic data and mapping for the transportation planning region?

A wide range of socio-demographic data are compiled as part of the transportation planning process. This data is regularly aggregated to provide an overall profile of the area.

Metropolitan Statistical Area	2020 MSA Population (Estimated)	Median Household Income	% of Pop Age < 18	% of Pop Age 65+	Minority %
Akron, OH MSA	702,219	\$ 72,371	22.0%	17.2%	23%

29. Does your organization use data to identify protected groups for consideration in the planning process?

The AMATS Title VI Plan contains a complete demographic and language assistance analysis of the area’s population. This data is also analyzed spatially as part of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan update process. Significant projects are analyzed for Title VI considerations. See the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2026-2029 for additional information.

30. Does your organization conduct Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program analyses of the impacts that planned transportation system investments will have on affected populations? Discuss the assessment methodology and resulting documentation.

In addition to the geographic/qualitative analysis described above, the AMATS staff also completes a system-wide benefits analysis to demonstrate the ways in which the project recommendations in the TIP or Regional Transportation Plan impact minority and low-income groups in terms of accessibility to the transportation system (highway, bicycle/pedestrian, and transit). For the highway accessibility part of this analysis, the travel-demand model network is used to compare average travel time from a sample of minority and low-income areas to travel times from a sample of non-minority or non-low-

income. The transit part of the analysis compares the accessibility of fixed route transit service to four population sub-groups (minority, low-income, elderly, and transportation disabled) with the accessibility for the general population.

AMATS completes a demographic scan as part of the development of the Regional Transportation Plan and TIP. This analysis identifies geographically the concentrations of minority and low-income population and overlays public transportation and highway recommendations to determine if disproportionately high and adverse effects should be considered in future planning stages. This scan also includes the transit accessibility analysis described above.

31. Does your organization track demographic information of participants in its transportation planning program's public involvement events?

No, AMATS does not track demographic information of participants in the transportation planning program's public involvement events, including attendance at public meetings, public open houses, newsletter requests or visitors to the AMATS web site.

Technical Assistance

32. Provide the name, title, and contact information for the person who completed this questionnaire and the date the questionnaire was completed. Is this the person to contact for follow-up questions? If not, please provide the name, title, and contact information for that individual.

Respondent:

Heather Reidl – 2/27/2026
Mobility Planner
HReidl@akronohio.gov
330-375-2436 ext. 4434

Follow-up:

Jeff Gardner
Planner
JJGardner@akronohio.gov
330-375-2436 ext. 4431

33. Do you have any questions regarding this questionnaire? If so, please include them here along with your email address or telephone number and an ODOT representative will respond.

No questions at this time.

34. Would your organization like Title VI training or other Civil Rights technical assistance from ODOT? If yes, please explain.

The staff would be happy to attend any ODOT seminars/webinars regarding Title VI as they are made available.

LINKS APPENDIX

AMATS website <https://www.amatsplanning.org/>

AMATS Transportation Planning Prospectus

<https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/AMATS-Prospectus-2020-January-2021-Update.pdf>

AMATS 3P - Public Participation Plan

<https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/Approved%203P-Public%20Participation%20Plan-December%2012-2024.pdf>

AMATS Funding Policy Guidelines

<https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/Attachment%204A%202025%20Funding%20Policy%20Guidelines%20FINAL.pdf>

Transportation Outlook 2050

<https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/Transportation%20Outlook%202050.pdf>

AMATS Title VI Plan

<https://www.amatsplanning.org/sites/default/files/docs/reports/AMATS%20Title%20VI%20Civil%20Rights%20Program%20Final-May%202024.pdf>

FTA Financial Capacity Policy <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/fta-circulars/financial-capacity-policy>

Title 23 CFR Part 450 Subpart C Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-23/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-450/subpart-C>

Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>