CAMATS

THE GREATER AKRON AREA'S TRANSPORTATION JOURNAL

July-December 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

Inside

Crashes Tick Up in Greater Akron Areapages 2-5.

Conversing About 'Collaboration' during AMATS' 2011 Annual Meeting

.....page 6.

Community Focus: Hiram

.....page 7.

COVER:

Congressman Tim Ryan (D-17), background, peruses material on display during AMATS' 2011 Annual Meeting. Ryan was one of the day's featured speakers.



"Although we had a slight increase last year, we're still lower than we were nine years ago. Crashes have been on a downward trend for the last decade"

- Dave Pulay AMATS Transportation Engineer -

Crashes tick up in Greater Akron area

Traffic crashes on the Greater Akron area's roadways and intersections showed a slight increase from 2009 to 2010, according to the latest three-year analysis compiled by AMATS.

The agency bases its analysis on more than 52,000 crash records from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. AMATS identifies and ranks high-crash roadways and intersections by a composite score based on number of crashes, crash rate and severity.

The analysis shows that the total number of area crashes increased by 2 percent to 16,873 in 2010 from 16,471 in 2009. AMATS Transportation Engineer Dave Pulay notes that the 2010 total is still roughly 6,200 *fewer* crashes than in 2002.

"Although we had a slight increase last year, we're still lower than we were nine years ago. Crashes have been on a downward trend for the last decade due to a combination of things, such as the completion of much-needed safety improvements, fewer vehicle miles traveled because of the weak economy and safer vehicles," Pulay observes.

He adds that another possible reason for the increase is that people are taking more "staycations" and traveling closer to home during their vacation time.

The 2008-2010 analysis identifies high-crash roadway sections and intersections in the Greater Akron area. As the agency responsible for transportation planning in the area, AMATS uses this information to identify and plan for safety improvements throughout the region.

Other findings of the analysis are that:

- Motorcycle crashes represented 2 percent of total area crashes, but represented 22 percent of crash-related fatalities. Pedestrian-related crashes represented 1 percent of total crashes, but represented 14 percent of fatalities.
- Akron is home to the area's highest ranked high-crash roadway section located on Canton Road (state Route 91), from the Akron South Corporate line to Triplett Boulevard.
- Portage County is home to the second and third highest ranked high-crash sections located at state Route 44, from Tallmadge Road to Interstate 76, in Rootstown Township and

Continued Next Page

Continued from Page 2

- state Route 59 (East Main Street), from Willow Street to Luther Avenue, in Kent.
- The two highest ranked high-crash intersections in the area are located in Summit County at S. Broadway Street and East Thornton Street in Akron and state Route 91 (Darrow Road) and Graham Road in Stow. The area's third highest ranked intersection is located at state Routes 14 and 44 and state Route 88 (North Freedom Street) in Ravenna.
- Although the total number of area crashes increased, the number of high-crash roadway segments and intersections actually decreased.
- Rear-end crashes are the most frequently occurring crash in the Greater Akron area and accounted for 29 percent of all crashes.

Pulay adds that freeway locations are ranked by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), but notes that the department only studies the top 100 freeway locations statewide that have a higher-than-predicted crash frequency. ODOT's analysis is done using methodology from the recently released Highway Safety Manual. In the Greater Akron area, four freeway locations are on the department's top 100 list.

The map on pages 4 and 5 depicts the four highest ranked high-crash roadway sections, intersections and freeway locations. The analysis is available on the AMATS web site at **amatsplanning.org**.



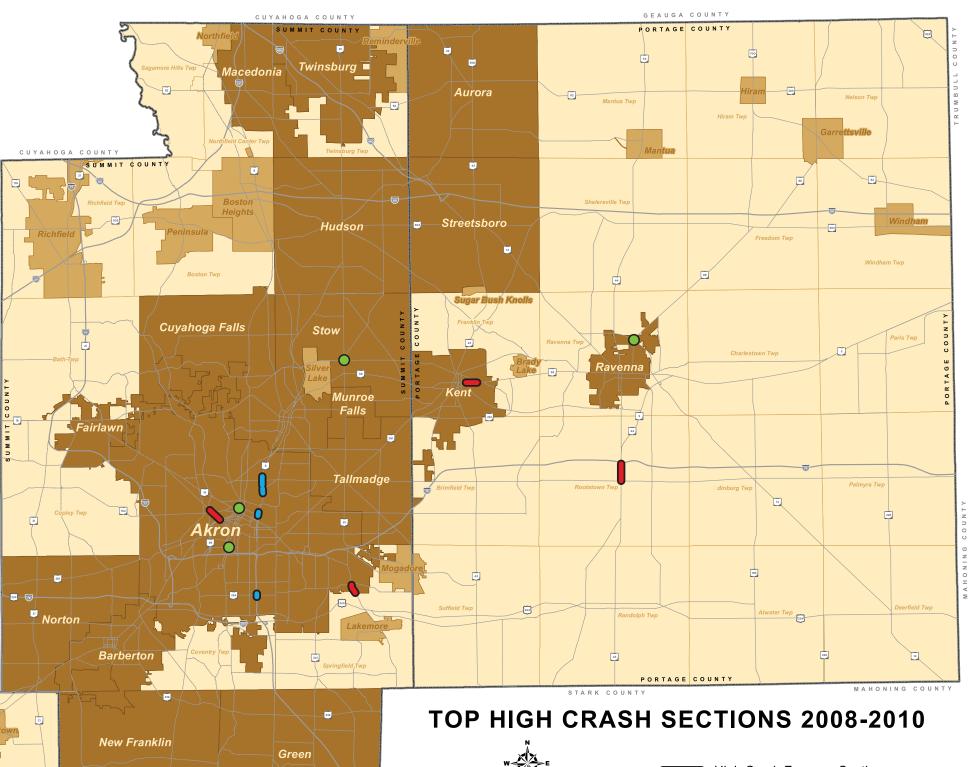
STARK COUNTY

WAYNE COUNTY

Four Highest Ranked Roadway Sections						
Roadway Section	From	То	Location			
Canton Road (state Route 91)	Akron South Corporate Line	Triplett Boulevard	Akron			
State Route 44	Tallmadge Road (County Route 18)	Interstate 76	Rootstown Township			
East Main Street (state Route 59)	Willow Street	Luther Avenue	Kent			
West Exchange Street	Rhodes Avenue	Dart Avenue	Akron			

Four Highest Ranked Intersections				
Street	Intersecting Street	Location		
South Broadway Street	East Thornton Street	Akron		
Darrow Road (state Route 91)	Graham Road	Stow		
State Routes 14 and 44	North Freedom Street (state Route 88)	Ravenna		
Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (state Route 59)	North Howard/Main Street	Akron		

Four Highest Ranked Freeway Locations					
Freeway Section	From	То	Location		
State Route 8	.10 miles south of Glenwood Avenue	Glenwood Avenue Overpass	Akron		
State Route 8	.05 miles south of Perkins Avenue (state Route 59)	.05 miles north of Perkins Avenue	Akron		
State Route 8	.10 miles south of Tallmadge Avenue	Tallmadge Avenue	Akron		
Interstate 77	.05 miles south of Wilbeth Road (state Route 764)	.05 miles north of Wilbeth Road	Akron		





Conversing about collaboration during AMATS' 2011 Annual Meeting

More than 160 people attended the 2011 AMATS Annual Meeting on Oct. 21 at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls. This year's meeting theme was "collaboration" - a word that the public will likely hear more of in the years to come as communities and planners must find new, innovative approaches to pursue improvements due to increasingly scarce government funding.

The Civic Commons assisted AMATS with this year's annual meeting by hosting question-and-answer sessions with the meeting's featured speakers - state Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-68) and Congressman Tim Ryan (D-17) - and facilitating several discussion groups among attendees. The organization's facilitators encouraged attendees to share their experiences and insights regarding interagency and institutional collaboration during the day's activities.

Collaboration and a pooling of resources by communities may become a standard practice rather than the exception. Congressman Ryan told meeting attendees that Congress may begin considering a new federal transportation spending authorization soon.

"The proposal that's being looked at right now cuts spending by about one-third," Ryan observed. The Northeast Ohio Democrat warned the audience about federal austerity measures during the current economy. A member of the House Budget Committee, Ryan said that the U.S. must invest more in its transportation system in order to remain competitive economically with the rest of the world.

Ryan noted that, in the 1960s, the U.S. invested as much as 5 percent of its Gross Domestic Product in transportation. "Today it's less than 2 percent. Investments are necessary. In the past, under Republicans and Democrats, we made them," he added.

During the panel discussion, Richfield Mayor Michael Lyons noted that collaborative efforts among communities and entities may avert future difficulties while providing new insight. "Richfield is working collaboratively with AMATS on a planning project and we benefit greatly from their perspective that we wouldn't be able to have if we just went ahead and did our own individual comprehensive plan," Lyons observed.



NEW BILL ON THE WAY: Congressman Tim Ryan (D-17) told the annual meeting audience that federal transportation funding could be cut by one-third under one of the proposed authorizations being considered by Congress.



CIVIL DISCOURSE: State Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-68), at podium, answers a question by MetroParks Planning Chief David Whited, standing, second from right, as The Civic Commons' Dan Moulthrop, standing, facilitates the discussion.



TOPICAL CONVERSATION: The panel discussion addressed topics voted on by the audience. From right: Medina County Commissioner Stephen Hambley, Summit County Councilmember Sandra Kurt, Richfield Mayor Michael Lyons, AMATS Director Jason Segedy and The Civic Commons' Dan Moulthrop.

Project Updates

The following table lists projects that have been awarded between June 24, 2011 and Oct. 17, 2011.

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATES	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
State Route 303 - Bridge reconstruction over the Cuyahoga River in Shalersville Township .	09/14/2012	A.P. O'Horo Co. - Youngstown -	\$892,000
Interstate 77 - Redecking of seven bridges and various repairs, from Cleveland-Massillon Road to Richfield Corporate Line, in Bath Township .	09/30/2013	Kokosing Construction Co. - Fredericktown -	\$6,911,876
Towpath Trail (Park East) - Construction of a bike-and-hike trail, from Thornton Street to Bartges Street, in Akron .	Not Available	Cavanaugh Building Corporation - Akron -	\$712,330
Randolph Road - Resurfacing from Cleveland Avenue to East Mogadore Corporate Line in Mogadore.	10/30/2011	Central-Allied Enterprises, Inc. - Canton -	\$180,263

Community Focus: Hiram

Community Focus presents information about communities within the Greater Akron area.

Founded – In 1817 as Hiram Township in the former Connecticut Western Reserve. Incorporated as a village in 1893.

Population – 1,406 (2010 U.S. Census Bureau) Area – About 0.94 square miles

Policy Committee Member - Mayor Lou Bertrand



History – The village is the home of Hiram College, a liberal arts college of 1,200 men and women. The college's first president was James A. Garfield, who later became the 20th president of the United States. The college's current president is Thomas V. Chema, the former chief executive officer of the Gateway Corp.

Transportation Challenges – The village is located at the intersection of state Routes 700/305 and 82 and is 35 miles southeast of Cleveland. Mayor Bertrand says that the village experiences high pedestrian traffic because of its student and staff populations. The mayor adds that the village needs extensions, repairs and construction of sidewalks along state highways within the village.

"We hope to construct hike and bike trails throughout the village, connecting our various residential neighborhoods to our parks, Hiram College, and to the regional Headwaters Trail. We believe many of our residents and visitors want to walk or ride bikes, so we would like to meet that need," Bertrand observes.

Web site - www.hiramvillage.org

Dates to Remember

<u>Time</u>	Committee/Event	<u>Location</u>
1:30 p.m.	IAC	Stow Safety Building
7:00 p.m.	CIC	Richard Howe House
1:30 p.m.	Policy	Martin University Center
1:30 p.m.	TAC	Stow Safety Building
7:00 p.m.	CIC	Richard Howe House
1:30 p.m.	Policy	Martin University Center
1:30 p.m.	TAC	Stow Safety Building
7:00 p.m.	CIC	Richard Howe House
1:30 p.m.	Policy	Martin University Center
	1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m. TAC 7:00 p.m. CIC 1:30 p.m. Policy 1:30 p.m. TAC 7:00 p.m. CIC 1:30 p.m. Policy 1:30 p.m. TAC 7:00 p.m. CIC

Persons with disabilities needing assistance are asked to contact Billy Soule, Assistant to the Mayor for Community Relations, 166 S. High Street, Room 503, Akron, Ohio 44308, (voice) 330-375-2189, (TDD) 330-375-2345, at least seven (7) days in advance.

@AMATS is published by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, 806 CitiCenter, 146 S. High St., Akron, Ohio 44308-1423. Editorial comments are welcome.

Director - Jason Segedy Editor/writer - Kerry Prater Phone - 330-375-2436 / Fax - 330-375-2275

E-Mail - amats@akronohio.gov Please visit our web site at: www.amatsplanning.org

Publication of *The AMATS Quarterly* is financed primarily by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the counties of and the municipalities within Summit and Portage counties and the Chippewa Township area of Wayne County.

c/o The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study 806 CitiCenter Office Building 146 S. High St. Akron, Ohio 44308-1423

