

# @AMATS

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## Change is a constant at the 2018 AMATS Annual Meeting

Changes are coming in transportation that will be just as revolutionary as the automobile was more than 100 years ago, according to Rich Granger of DriveOhio. As the day's featured speaker, Granger gave attendees at the 2018 AMATS Annual Meeting a glimpse of those changes during the Oct. 5 gathering at the Sheraton Suites Akron-Cuyahoga Falls.

DriveOhio is an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) initiative to promote smart mobility solutions throughout the state with a focus on autonomous and connected vehicle systems. A fully autonomous vehicle (AV) can drive itself without any human involvement and is equipped with systems to sense its environment and make decisions on what it detects. Connected vehicles (CVs) are equipped with Wi-Fi and radio systems that enable communication and data sharing with other connected vehicles and the surrounding transportation infrastructure.

Granger said that AVs, CVs and their support infrastructure will have ramifications that will reverberate across society. The impacts of these changes will be as great as those made by motorized vehicles on the horse-and-buggy era. Granger predicted that the coming shifts in transportation will not be limited to how people travel from Point A to Point B, but will be much broader in scope. In anticipation of these events, DriveOhio is focused on using AV/CV technology to deliver benefits in four key quality-of-life pillars: safety, reliability, mobility, and workforce.

As DriveOhio's managing director of workforce development, Granger identified several distinct challenges that Ohio's workers may face with these emerging technologies. DriveOhio is analyzing such issues as how to prepare and transition people whose livelihoods will be impacted as these new technologies come online.

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**AN 'AUTO' AUTO FUTURE:** Rich Granger, the Workforce Development Manager for DriveOhio, at podium, describes the technological innovations that are underway in Autonomous/Connected (AV/CV) Infrastructure throughout the state.



**TRANSIT TALK:** PARTA General Manager Claudia Amrhein, seated, far right, describes how new technologies are impacting transit service in Portage County. Other panelists from left include AMATS Director Curtis Baker, SARTA Executive Director Kirt Conrad and METRO Director of Planning and Development Valerie Shea.



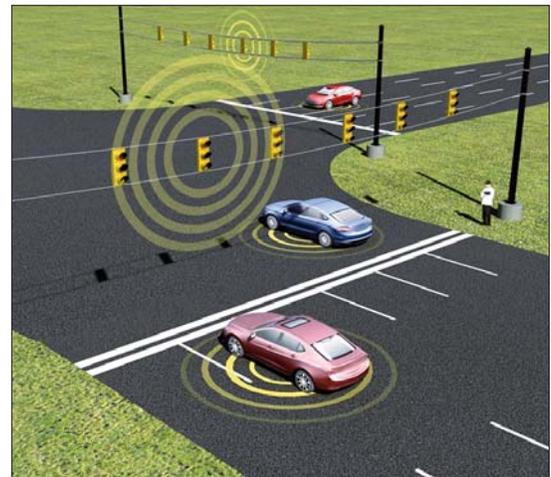
**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:** Lakemore's Fiscal Officer Tracy Fast, at far left, and Mayor Rick Justice chat with Summit County's Economic Development Director Connie Krauss and GIS Administrator Dennis Tubbs.

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Granger's team is also tasked with identifying strategies to bring smart mobility industry jobs to Ohio while ensuring that Ohioans have equitable access to mobility for education and work.

Granger said that six smart mobility projects are underway across the state and 10 more are in the early development stage, including Greater Akron area projects. DriveOhio is discussing potential applications of AV/CV and smart mobility technologies with the city of Akron. "Everything that we do in use cases has to have local resonance. It has to be solving a problem that's in your community. We're not just running some centrally managed basket of technology that we're just going to push out there," he added.

To underscore the need for local involvement, Granger noted that AMATS and the Stark County Area Transportation Study were co-hosting an Oct. 22 DriveOhio Workshop for area stakeholders with interests in AV and CV systems and related technologies ([See DRIVEOHIO, Page 4](#)). Ideas and suggestions from this workshop and others from across the state will be used by ODOT to prepare its upcoming Ohio AV/CV Plan.



**COMING SOON:** DriveOhio is working to make smart mobility infrastructure, like that shown above, an everyday reality.

The impacts of technological breakthroughs aren't limited to the smart mobility field. Tremendous changes are underway in the transit industry and the Greater Akron area's transit providers are adapting to these forces. The meeting's panel discussion topic was devoted to how the area's providers are utilizing new technologies in their daily operations. Moderated by AMATS Director Curtis Baker, the panel consisted of METRO Director of Planning and Development Valerie Shea, PARTA General Manager Claudia Amrhein, and SARTA Executive Director/CEO Kirt Conrad.

Shea commented that METRO's Automatic Vehicle Locator systems and mobility app have improved services for patrons of the Summit County-based transit authority by providing real-time travel information. PARTA uses similar technologies with its Spot PARTA phone app. "As much as we love to run on schedule, sometimes traffic happens or other incidents happen and we're not able to run exactly on schedule. This gives customers a little better idea of when exactly the bus is going to be there," Shea said.

Still other innovations are changing how buses are powered. METRO's Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station began operation last year and nearly half of its fleet is already CNG-powered. In Stark County, SARTA has constructed a hydrogen fueling station and plans to add hydrogen fuel cell-powered buses to its fleet soon. Amrhein noted that PARTA's upcoming CNG fueling facility will not only benefit the authority, but ultimately all of Portage County. "Hopefully, by the end of the year, we will be opening that station up to the public," Amrhein said.

Baker said that more than 150 people attended the agency's annual meeting this year. As the speaker's podium, stage and dinner plates were being put away in the Sheraton Suites ballroom, Baker noted that the staff will start planning next year's meeting in the coming weeks.

# DriveOhio Workshop starts AV/CV discussion

AMATS, together with its sister agency, the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS), co-hosted a DriveOhio Workshop on Oct. 22 at the Central Park Community Hall in Green.

DriveOhio is an initiative of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to bring together government, industry and research partners to enhance the state's infrastructure for autonomous and connected vehicles (AV/CVs) and the development of smart mobility technologies. Attendees at the Greater Akron area workshop were a mix of community leaders, planners, engineers, emergency service providers and transit operators.

The workshop was the sixth in a series across the state organized by DriveOhio consultant, AECOM. ODOT and DriveOhio are using the workshops to gather insights as to what AV/CV projects are being considered across regions and what safety, traffic or quality of life issues could AV/CV technology help address in communities.

To view a YouTube feature about this workshop, please click [here](#).



## Project Updates

The following table lists significant projects that were awarded between June 12, 2018 and Dec. 14, 2018.

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COMPLETION	AMOUNT
<b>State Route 8</b> - Total pavement replacement, from Graham Road to just north of state Route 303, in Hudson and Stow. Project includes miscellaneous bridge work and slide repair.	7/31/2022	\$58,652,908
<b>State Route 93</b> - Bridge maintenance project spanning the CSX and Akron Barberton Cluster Railway rail lines. Project is located north of Wilbeth Road and south of Kenmore Boulevard in Akron.	8/31/2019	\$1,895,313
<b>State Route 91</b> - Widening, including drainage, curbs, sidewalks, drive aprons, lighting, from Glenwood Drive to the Cuyahoga County line, in Twinsburg.	8/31/2019	\$4,137,647
<b>State Route 59</b> - Bridge maintenance project spanning Interstate 76 in Akron.	6/30/2019	\$875,589
<b>State Route 14</b> - Intersection improvement at state Route 14 and Tallmadge Road in Edinburg Township. Includes adding left turn lanes, signal replacement, curbing and radius improvements on northwest and southeast corners and access management improvements.	10/15/2018	\$1,181,136

### CRASH REPORT AVAILABLE:

The *2015-2017 Crash Report* is now available. The report details the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities on the Greater Akron area's roadways and intersections during the three-year period.

Based on the agency's analysis of nearly 59,000 motor vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian-related crash records provided by the Ohio Department of Transportation, the report shows that injuries resulting from crashes continue to drop, but fatalities are slowly increasing. To view the full report, please click [here](#).



## '3P' update reflects changes in Greater Akron area

The latest version of the AMATS *Public Participation Plan* or "3P" recognizes the changing face of the Greater Akron area. The 3P identifies the strategies that the agency uses to engage and empower the public throughout the regional transportation planning process.

Approved by the AMATS Policy Committee in December, the latest 3P is the result of an extensive update process that the agency began in late July. The item was also available for review and comment by the public during a 45-day period that concluded in late November. The Draft 3P was also presented to the AMATS Citizens Involvement Committee as a discussion item during the committee's Dec. 6 meeting.

What makes this latest update stand out from previous versions is its inclusion of a Language Assistance Plan for Limited English Proficient Populations (LEP). While AMATS freely offers language and translator assistance for those populations for whom English is not their primary language and for those with special needs, the new 3P is the first to include a detailed policy recognizing the need for such assistance in the region.

AMATS Public Information Coordinator Kerry Prater says that the formal inclusion of an LEP is an acknowledgement by the agency that the Greater Akron area's Asian, Hispanic and various immigrant populations are growing. "One area that is undergoing a dramatic transformation is the North Hill area of Akron. That area is home to a growing Bhutanese community," Prater observes.

He adds that AMATS realizes that language can be a barrier to some when they attempt to access services and exercise their rights. The LEP brings the agency more fully into alignment with federal laws that seek to eliminate such barriers.

The new 3P is available on the agency website by clicking [here](#).



## 2018 marks a successful year for Bike-N-Brainstorms

The AMATS Bike-N-Brainstorm Program capped off a successful 2018. During the year, the program hosted a record number of four events, which drew more than 90 participants from across the Greater Akron area.

Bike-N-Brainstorms (B-N-Bs) are the agency's unique public empowerment events in which participants play a direct role in transportation planning. Participants meet for a bike ride along a designated route in a community. At the end of the ride, cyclists share their thoughts on how to make a community more bike and pedestrian friendly.

AMATS hosted events in Akron, Ravenna, Green and Tallmadge during the months of June, July, August and September. Mayors Gerard Neugebauer of Green and David Kline of Tallmadge led the rides and discussions for their respective communities.

From top to bottom:  
Riders gather at the Lawton Street Community Center for the Akron B-N-B on Copley Road in June; second from top, participants exit the Ravenna City Park and enter Oakwood Street in July; third from top, Green's B-N-B winds through Shriver Street in August; and at bottom, Mayor Kline, standing at left, leads a discussion group following September's Tallmadge B-N-B .



## Dates to Remember

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Committee/Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 1	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - New Years Day
January 17	1:30 p.m.	TAC	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
January 17	6:30 p.m.	CIC	Community Hall at Central Park in Green
January 21	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Martin L. King Day
January 24	1:30 p.m.	Policy	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
February 18	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Presidents' Day
March 14	1:30 p.m.	TAC	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
March 14	6:30 p.m.	CIC	To Be Determined
March 21	1:30 p.m.	Policy	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
May 9	1:30 p.m.	TAC	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
May 9	6:30 p.m.	CIC	To Be Determined
May 16	1:30 p.m.	Policy	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
May 27	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Memorial Day
June 20	1:30 p.m.	TAC	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
June 20	6:30 p.m.	CIC	To Be Determined
June 27	1:30 p.m.	Policy	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
July 4	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - July 4th Holiday
September 2	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Labor Day
September 19	1:30 p.m.	TAC	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
September 19	6:30 p.m.	CIC	To Be Determined
September 26	1:30 p.m.	Policy	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
October 11	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Annual Meeting	Sheraton Suites Akron Cuyahoga Falls
October 14	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Columbus Day
November 11	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Veterans Day
November 28-29	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Thanksgiving
December 12	1:30 p.m.	TAC	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
December 12	6:30 p.m.	CIC	To Be Determined
December 19	1:30 p.m.	Policy	Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A
December 25	*	*	AMATS Offices Closed - Christmas Day

The City of Akron is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public programs, services, and activities. Anyone who is in need of an accommodation from any City department is invited to contact Donald Rice, Director of Human Resources, 166 South High Street, Room 103, Akron, Ohio 44308, (voice) 330-375-2780 as soon as possible. If you require TDD phone service call Ohio Relay at 800-750-0750 and they will assist in contacting the Department of Human Resources at (330) 375-2780.

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