



March 2015

# 3P | PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



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# INTRODUCTION

Our world is changing at a rapid pace. A torrent of changes both technological and demographic has been unleashed in recent years. There are opportunities for people to share ideas through new media that weren't possible just a few years ago. There are also new voices to be heard in a rapidly changing society whose composition is evolving almost daily.

Change presents new challenges and opportunities to individuals, communities, and even nations. One challenge facing planning agencies such as AMATS is how to harness this change so that the peoples' voices are heard. There is also an opportunity to fashion better transportation systems that not only meet the needs of today, but prepare for tomorrow.

The *Public Participation Plan (3P)* reflects the realities of a changing society. AMATS seeks to foster an environment where the public feels that its insights not only matter, but are encouraged and welcomed.

Throughout the change occurring around us, there is an old transportation adage that still holds true: *The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step*. Our agency actively pursues strategies to encourage the public to take their first steps in getting involved in their region's transportation planning process. AMATS provides many opportunities throughout this process for the public to participate and influence transportation policies.

There are several different ways to get involved with AMATS which are presented in 3P, most notably our Citizens Involvement Committee. Please note that the public is by no means limited to the strategies detailed in these pages. The agency actively seeks new opportunities to exchange ideas with the public and welcomes ideas and suggestions on how to do so.

## What is AMATS?

“AMATS” stands for the **Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study**. We are responsible for transportation planning within the Greater Akron area comprised of Portage and Summit counties and a portion of Wayne County. From highways to bikeways, from buses to trails, our agency plays a role in the planning of the major transportation projects within the area and the funding that makes them possible.

A Policy Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) and a staff are the official players that comprise AMATS with each suited to a particular role in the planning process. To learn more about each, read on.

# AMATS COMMITTEES AND STAFF

## Each Player Has a Role - Even You!

Transportation planning in the Greater Akron area is accomplished through a cast of players. Like any ensemble cast, each player performs a unique role, but their roles are intertwined. The Policy Committee, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) and agency staff are featured players in this cast, but - like any cast - they need feedback. The feedback that they need comes from you - the public - through your participation in the planning process.

As a member of the public, you are encouraged to participate in the planning process. AMATS strives to make the Greater Akron area's transportation planning process as transparent and accessible as possible. The agency regularly:

- Posts timely notices about meeting dates and locations and meeting materials in advance on our website. [amatsplanning.org](http://amatsplanning.org)
- Provides podcasts of past meetings on our agency website and through our podcast subscription service.
- Schedules committee meetings in locations that are accessible for all citizens, including the disabled and transit dependent.

You are welcome to attend any of our committee meetings, all of which are open to the public. Below are descriptions regarding our committees and staff and how you may participate in the regional planning process.

### Policy Committee

Currently, there are 46 voting members of the Policy Committee representing every community in the Greater Akron area. It is this body that decides how the area's federal transportation dollars should be spent. The committee is composed of elected officials, county engineers, transit agencies and representatives from the Ohio Department of Transportation. Its members meet regularly six times a year to make funding decisions, discuss priorities and policies, and collaborate on regional issues.

The Policy Committee provides opportunities for the public to address the committee with the following guidelines:

- Anyone interested in making comments before the Policy Committee may do so during the public comment period at the beginning of the agenda.
- Public comments are limited to three minutes per person, but may be allowed more time by the Policy Committee chairperson.
- Organizations wishing to address the Policy Committee should select one representative to speak during the public comment period.
- Speakers will be asked to fill out an *Audience Participation Form* before addressing the Policy Committee (p18).
- Citizens may contact the AMATS staff by phone at 330-375-2436 or by email at [amats@akronohio.gov](mailto:amats@akronohio.gov) in advance to request time to speak, or may do so in person before the meeting with any AMATS staff member.

### Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC provides technical assistance to the Policy Committee throughout the planning process. The TAC is made up of planners and engineers representing communities, counties and transit providers across the Greater Akron area. The expertise of these members provides the Policy Committee with needed "nuts-and-bolts" insights regarding the area's projects.

### Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC)

The CIC is the forum through which the public may weigh in directly on transportation-related matters. Through its open-meeting format, CIC members may freely discuss issues with AMATS staff members and other players in the region's planning process. The AMATS staff works closely with the CIC members to identify potential discussion topics and in the preparation of necessary meeting materials and the scheduling of guest speakers.

The committee meets quarterly and its membership is open to all who wish to participate. Regular meetings commence at 6:30pm and are usually held in the *Akron-Summit County Public Library* located at 60 South High Street in downtown, which is centrally located and transit accessible in the Greater Akron area. Additional committee meetings may be scheduled by the CIC members if they so desire.

## Staff

The AMATS staff assists all three committees and carries out the “day-to-day” administrative and technical work of the agency. The staff develops the area’s long-range *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* (p13) and the four-year *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* (p15). The staff is a mix of engineers, planners and other professional disciplines.

While serving as a liaison between the public and the committees of AMATS, the staff ensures that public comment is considered throughout the region’s planning process. The staff welcomes verbal and written comments and strives to respond to concerns in a timely manner. You may contact the staff by phone at 330-375-2436 or by email at [amats@akronohio.gov](mailto:amats@akronohio.gov). You may contact individual staff members directly by referencing the *Staff Directory* on the AMATS web site at [amatsplanning.org](http://amatsplanning.org). Written correspondence should be addressed to:

AMATS  
806 CitiCenter | 146 S. High Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308

# ON THE WEB

Technology developed in recent years has given AMATS new ways to reach out to the public. The Internet has created boundless opportunities for you and your friends to engage with our agency without the need to leave the comfort of your home.

Along with its two web sites (*amatsplanning.org*, *Switching-Gears.org*), AMATS uses web posting and social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to provide citizens with up-to-the-minute information. The agency also has expanded its practice of posting announcements, meeting information and news on community-oriented sites such as the Summit County Community Calendar, Zvents and other appropriate venues.

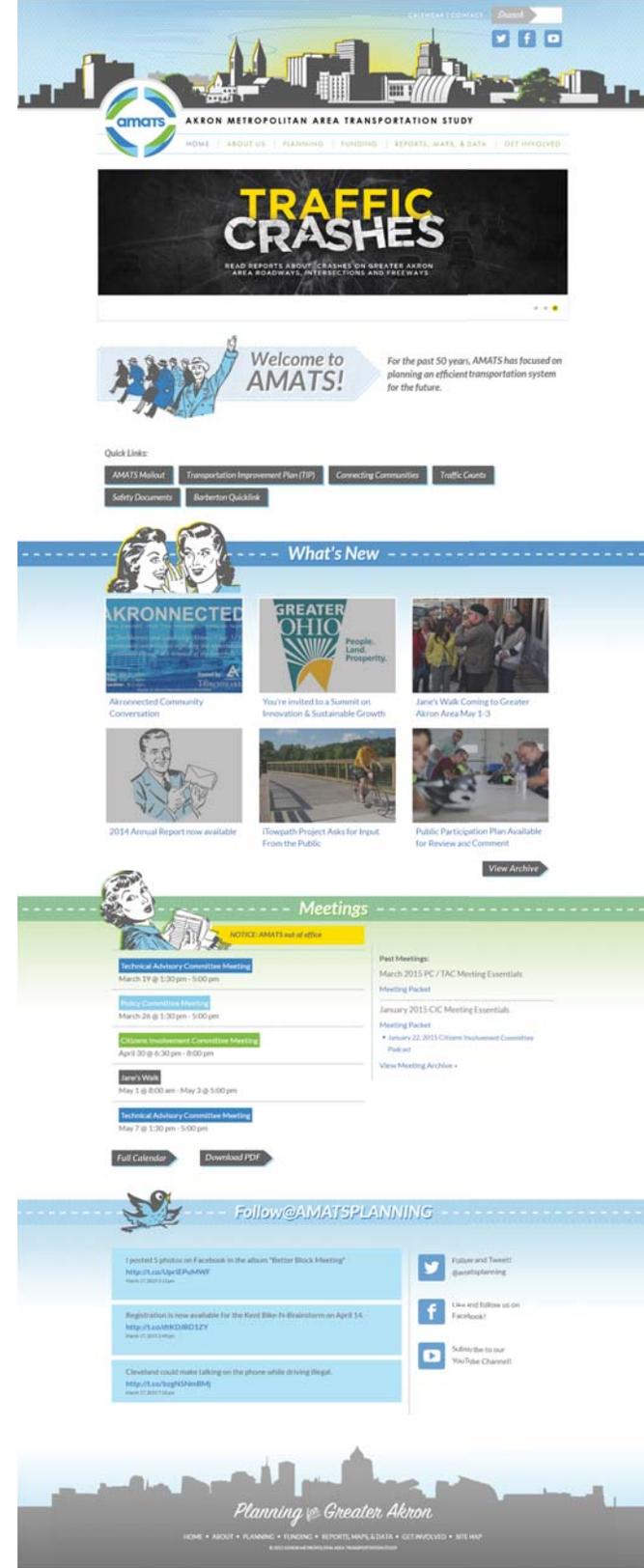
Below are some of the ways that AMATS is harnessing the power of the Internet.

## amatsplanning.org

AMATS updated its website with a re-launch in February 2015. The reason for the updated website is to make the site even more user-friendly than before, with a simplified menu and an emphasis on AMATS news. The website also has an updated and interactive *Reports, Maps & Data* page. The agency is working to show you how your tax dollars are being spent in a clear, easy-to-understand format, including the ability to search through AMATS-funded projects in an interactive *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*.

One of the main goals of the new site has been to make it easier to inform the public about events and provide a way for the public to become more engaged and involved in the planning process. From the *Home* page, a user can check out dates and times for our next Policy Committee, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) meetings as well as take a look at the meeting mailout packets, access several recent news stories under *What's New*, check out our Twitter feed, or search the entire site for a specific topic.

Also accessible from the *Home* page is the *Get Involved* page via the top menu. From the *Get Involved* page, a user can again check the meeting calendar, review recent press releases or the most recent meeting packets, or listen to an MP3 podcast of one of our meetings. The new website will continue to make it easier for users to fill out and submit the *Audience Participation Form* (p18) to speak to the Policy Committee.



“What’s New”

The revised *What’s New* section allows AMATS to highlight several articles and keep viewers up-to-date with the goings-on at AMATS.

“Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)”

AMATS once again revised the interactive *Transportation Improvement Plan* section making it even simpler to search for projects and funding information.

NAME	CATEGORY
Bike Plan 2012	Bike, Planning, Report
Connecting Communities Planning Areas	Connecting Communities, Map, Planning
Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan	Planning, Report
DRAFT Bike Plan Presentation	Bike, Draft, Planning, Presentation

“Reports, Maps, & Data”

AMATS simplified the *Reports, Maps, & Data* section to make the documents searchable. Now you can simply type what you are looking for in the search box.

Project Funding Details-			
Phase	Fund Type	Amount	Year
P	FMS	\$200,000	2015
P	STATE	\$80,000	2015
C	STP-A		
C	LOCAL		



ABOUT INFORMATION BIKE USER MAP INITIATIVES COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

## 2013 Bike and Ped Counts

In 2013, AMATS completed its second year of compiled bike and pedestrian counts at key locations throughout the region with the purpose of gathering data in analyzing the need for future bicycle facilities. During the months of January, April, May, July, August, September, and October, the agency conducted 24 bike and pedestrian counts at various locations throughout Akron and Kent.

The top three locations with the highest bicycle count included:

**AKRON**

- E Exchange & S Portage Path, 7,111, 45
- W Market St & Portage Path, 7,613, 40

**PENINSULA**

- SR 303 & Akron-Peninsula Rd, 7,133, 13, 141

The top three locations with the highest pedestrian count included:

**UNIVERSITY OF AKRON**

- Sumner & E Exchange Sts, 4,14, 13, 1342
- Grant & E Exchange Sts, 4,16, 13, 1050

**Kent State University**

- Campus Center Dr & Sumner St, 10,2, 13, 1025

**Maps**

- Kent bike counts
- Kent pedestrian counts
- U of A bike counts
- U of A pedestrian counts

If your community would be interested to complete a bicycle and pedestrian count and would like more information about the program, please contact Phyllis Jivden at 330.375.2436 or [jjivden@akronohio.gov](mailto:jjivden@akronohio.gov)

### “Bike and Ped Counts”

AMATS will continue its Bike & Ped counting program into the future. Here you can check out the top locations for bike & ped counts as well as maps of the full counting program.

### “Bike User Map”

The *Bike User Map* is a resource for bicyclists to use to plan routes according to their comfort level and ability. This interactive map can also be printed for use on the go.

### “Calendar of Events”

Switching-Gears *Calendar of Events* is a month-at-a-glance snapshot of events in the area that are open to cyclists of all abilities

ABOUT INFORMATION BIKE USER MAP INITIATIVES COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING DATA

## Calendar of Events

← Previous Month      March 2015      Next Month →

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3 Towpath - Walk the Towpath ABC Bestum Trailhead	4 Towpath public meeting	5 Towpath public meeting	6	7	8
9	10 ABC Bestum Trailhead	11	12	13	14 RD Ideas of March	15
16 Jane's Walk Public Meeting	17 ABC Bestum Trailhead	18	19 BikeThursday	20	21	22
23	24 ABC Bestum Trailhead	25	26 BikeThursday	27	28	29
30	31 ABC Bestum Trailhead					

Submit an event

Your Name:

Please write the event details here:

Email Address:

Event Name:

ABOUT INFORMATION BIKE USER MAP INITIATIVES COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING DATA TRAILS EVENTS NEWS

## Bike User Map

**Legend:**

- EASY (Green)
- INTERMEDIATE (Yellow)
- DIFFICULT (Orange)
- EXPERT (Red)

Icons: TRAILHEAD, BIKE SHOP, WATER, PARKS, EXISTING TRAILS

Print

### About the Map

The Bike User Map is a resource for bicyclists to use to plan routes according to their comfort level and ability. It rates the major roadways in Summit and Portage counties as easy, intermediate, difficult or very difficult to estimate how comfortable it is to bike along a roadway. These ratings include car and truck volumes per day (ADT), posted speed limit, width of the outside lane, Federal Functional Classification and proximity to high vehicle crash locations. The ratings are explained in more detail below.

### About the Ratings

**EASY/BEGINNER**

Low traffic or low traffic roadways where interaction between bicyclists and motorist is safer. Recommended for bicyclists with little or no experience.

**INTERMEDIATE/MODERATE**

Increased traffic volume and speeds making roadways more challenging than Easy roadways. Recommended for bicyclists with moderate experience.

**DIFFICULT/ADVANCED**

Roadways with high traffic volumes or speeds. Recommended for experienced cyclists.

**VERY DIFFICULT/EXPERT**

Roadways that are heavily traveled with fast moving traffic and other potential challenges such as steep slopes or limited visibility. Recommended for experienced cyclists only, and alternate routes should be followed if possible.

### Cities

- AKRON
- Aurora
- Barberton
- Cuyahoga Falls
- Fairlawn
- Garrettsville
- Green
- Hiram
- Hudson
- Kent
- Manlva
- New Franklin
- Norton
- Peninsula
- Ravenna
- Richfield
- Stow
- Streetsboro
- Tallmadge
- Twinsburg
- Windham

### Bike Shops

- Akron Bike Center - Akron
- Bises's - Akron
- Blimp City - Akron
- Century Cycles - Peninsula
- Eddy's - Stow
- Eddy's - Montrose
- Falls Wheel & Wrench - Cuyahoga Falls
- Kent Cycle - Kent
- Marty's - Stow
- Performance Bicycle - Akron
- Portage Cyclery - Ravenna
- R-D Bike Shop - Barberton
- Summit Cycling Center - Akron

DOWNLOAD PDF OF MAP

## Order Bike Map

Get your own copy of the Bike Users Map, and find out about all the great places to bike in Summit and Portage Counties! Fill out the information below (street addresses, please) and we will ship the map to you FREE.

Your Name:

Your Email:

Address:

Address Line2:

City:

State:

Zip:

## Social Media

Social media has fast become one of AMATS' most utilized tools for public outreach. The agency can interact with the public regarding transportation-related topics instantaneously. Below are some of the most popular media that AMATS uses on a regular basis.



*Twitter* is a great online tool that lets you send messages to your followers in 140 characters or less. Stay up to date with the most relevant news in transportation and land use planning. Follow *@amatsplanning* on Twitter to receive tweets about the latest transportation news.



*Facebook* is a popular social media tool that is increasingly being used by agencies to reach new audiences and AMATS is no exception. The agency's Facebook page (*facebook.com/AMATSPPlanning*) is updated frequently with our latest tweets and pictures of the region. It is also linked to the AMATS website where the public can get more information.



*YouTube* is a social media site that allows users to post videos and share them with friends. Through its channel (*AMATSPPlanning*) the agency presents many special video features highlighting transportation topics. Topics range from meeting summaries to informative features.



### AMATS

@AMATSPanning

We are Greater Akron's Metropolitan Planning Organization, and we are committed to creating better connected communities.

Akron, Ohio

[amatsplanning.org](http://amatsplanning.org)

Joined January 2012

34 Photos and videos



TWEETS 2,654 FOLLOWING 94 FOLLOWERS 354 FAVORITES 11

Edit profile

Tweets Tweets & replies Photos & videos

AMATS retweeted  
**Akron Better Block** @akronbb · Mar 25  
Pop-up shops will transform #NorthHill into a vibrant business district, for a moment s.cleveland.com/eHGhnc via @clevelanddotcom

AMATS retweeted  
**Akron Better Block** @akronbb · Mar 25  
Sneak peak at @akronbb poster! Went to print today @knightfdn @IIAAkron #ImagineAkron #Akron #NorthHill



AMATS @AMATSPanning · Mar 19  
Check out our new user-friendly traffic count map! [bit.ly/19D1gT2](http://bit.ly/19D1gT2)

AMATS @AMATSPanning · Mar 10  
Cities are beginning to realize bikes are an old technology with a bright future.  
[cnn.it/1EQHdff](http://cnn.it/1EQHdff)

AMATS @AMATSPanning · Mar 4  
Akronconnected on May 5 will discuss the removal of the Innerbelt. [bit.ly/1BHK3CJ](http://bit.ly/1BHK3CJ)

Who to follow · Refresh · View all

- Case Western Reserve** @c...  
Followed by NOACA and others  
Follow
- The Better Block** @TheBett...  
Followed by Streetsblog US...  
Follow
- Akron AHA** @AmerHeartAkr...  
Followed by WKSU and others  
Follow

Popular accounts · Find friends

Trends · Change

- #VerizonS6sweeps  
Promoted by Verizon Wireless USA
- #WorldAutismAwarenessDay
- #GarissaAttack
- #ThingsJesusNeverSaid
- Easter
- April Fools
- Finance Minister Joe Oliver
- Kenya
- #HappyBirthdayPattieMalette
- #AlternativeOlympicSports

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# NEW APPROACHES

AMATS continually seeks new approaches to engage the public throughout the transportation planning process. Below are descriptions of some of the newer strategies that our agency has embraced in recent years.

## Public Empowerment

AMATS pursues innovative public *empowerment* strategies that present opportunities to challenge the public beyond mere dialogue. These strategies actively urge the public to tackle transportation issues directly through participation in unique events. Generally, these events entail a topic-specific activity geared to spur dialogue between participants and area policy makers. Following participation in a group endeavor, participants share their ideas and insights gained through firsthand experiences as to what can be done to improve accessibility and livability in a particular locale. Below are several examples used by the agency:

## Active Transportation Conference

AMATS hosts conferences dedicated to transportation-related topics designed to provoke discussions between policy makers and the public. The intent of the conferences are to help communities address and identify needs that policymakers may have overlooked. These conferences are daylong events with featured speakers and breakout sessions.



2014 Active Transportation Conference  
Speaker Dave Cieslewicz



2014 Active Transportation Conference  
Pop-Up Bike Valet



2014 Active Transportation Conference  
Bike-N-Brainstorm Ride

## Better Block

Better Block encourages the public to take one neighborhood block at a time, start small, and actually *do* something. It could be setting up new temporary bike lanes; it could be makeshift street art or furniture; it could be a coffee shop, art gallery or beer garden for a brief period of time. These events help the public experience something new in their neighborhoods by letting them see it, live it and - perhaps most importantly - participate in actually *creating* it.



Jason Roberts presents Better Block at the 2014 Active Transportation Conference





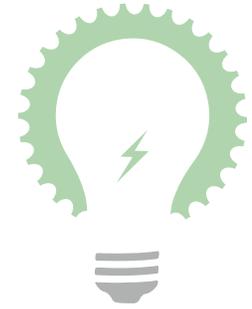
Green Bike-N-Brainstorm



Green Bike-N-Brainstorm

### *Bike-N-Brainstorm*

These events embark on a group bike ride along key corridors as an alternative way to get feedback about on-road biking. At the end of their ride, group members participate in a brainstorming session with agency personnel and local officials to share their ideas as to what can be done to improve bike travel within the area.



*Bike-N-Brainstorm*



Kent Bike-N-Brainstorm



Barberton Bike-N-Brainstorm



Barberton Bike-N-Brainstorm



Barberton Bike-N-Brainstorm

## Jane's Walk

Inspired by Jane Jacobs, these events provide opportunities for people to engage in city planning by meeting and exploring cities through short walking tours. During these tours, participants discuss what can be done to make areas more pedestrian friendly.



The agency also welcomes invitations and suggestions from the public to participate and support community-oriented events benefitting the area's transportation systems.

## Community Outreach

As part of its efforts to fashion a vibrant, livable Greater Akron area, AMATS frequently partners with various civic groups on a host of projects. Among the agency's past partners have been the Barberton Community Foundation, The Knight Foundation, Leadership Akron, Neighborhood Development Services and Torchbearers.

AMATS welcomes opportunities to work with new partners in appropriate community-oriented endeavors. Those interested in seeking the agency's involvement should contact AMATS at [amats@akronohio.gov](mailto:amats@akronohio.gov) or at 330-375-2436.

## Speakers' Bureau

AMATS staff members are available by appointment to discuss technical and policy information with citizens and other interested parties during and outside of the agency's normal business hours. Staffers are also available by appointment to present technical and policy information to the public and to participate in a variety of forums such as panel discussions.

Individuals and groups can request a speaker by contacting AMATS at [amats@akronohio.gov](mailto:amats@akronohio.gov) or at 330-375-2436. Requests should be transmitted via the agency's public information coordinator.

## Public Information

As part of our efforts to provide the region with a transparent planning process, AMATS goes beyond merely accommodating requests for public information - which we will gladly do! The agency disseminates all meeting materials one week prior to scheduled committee meeting dates via email and through postings on its website ([amatsplanning.org](http://amatsplanning.org)). The public is welcome to subscribe to these electronic mailings. All that's needed for a subscription

to AMATS is a subscriber's name and their email address. Postal delivery of materials may be arranged by special request at no charge to recipients.

Many materials, such as our current and past reports, plans and studies are available for review and download on the agency web site. Please note that selected draft and interim materials may be available for viewing and downloading only for specified times, such as public comment periods.

Records of committee meetings are available in the form of minutes and MP3 podcasts on the agency web site. AMATS will gladly forward pdf or printed versions of committee minutes to the public via email or postal delivery upon request. The agency also offers a podcast subscriber service in which committee recordings can be automatically downloaded to your computer as soon as they become available.

In addition, AMATS regularly distributes press releases and other information to Greater Akron area media regarding transportation-related events and developments. The agency also provides a free annual report and a semi-annual newsletter to committee members, the media, and subscribers. Other information and services such as traffic data, project status information, accident data and more are readily available on the agency web site. The staff is available to answer questions regarding information that is not readily available on the site.

# UNIQUE POPULATIONS

AMATS strives to involve low-income and minority groups in the public participation process for the Greater Akron area. The agency recognizes where these groups are located within the region (p10-11) and seeks their involvement throughout the planning process using a mix of outreach strategies involving advertisements, community groups, press releases, social media and other available means. When possible, public meetings are held in locations that are along transit routes and convenient to low-income populations. All public meetings are held in locations accessible to people with disabilities. The aforementioned *Public Empowerment* strategies, such as Better Block and Bike-N-Brainstorms (p6), present valuable opportunities for the agency and members of these populations to coordinate, network and organize activities with direct participation and firsthand experiences given the targeted neighborhood scale of many of these events.

The region is also witnessing growth in its Asian and Hispanic populations. These populations have unique interests and needs which will contribute to and influence the area's transportation policies and systems. AMATS recognizes this and strives to foster a dialogue with these and other diverse communities within the area. Recently, the agency has increased its outreach efforts to these populations by initiating a dialogue with various organizations including:

- the Akron Urban League
- Asian Services in Action, Inc.
- the International Institute of Akron
- the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission
- and other community and neighborhood groups

The agency actively pursues opportunities to collaborate on the development of transportation-related programs and projects with representatives of these populations.

AMATS strives to ensure access to our programs and activities by limited-English proficient persons. Our agency website (*amatsplanning.org*) includes a link to language interpretation software to assist those for whom English is not the primary language. AMATS and its transit providers also publish timetables and route maps in languages other than English.

Long an adherent to the spirit and wording of both Title VI of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 12898, the agency will broaden and continue its outreach to the region's many varied communities and populations.

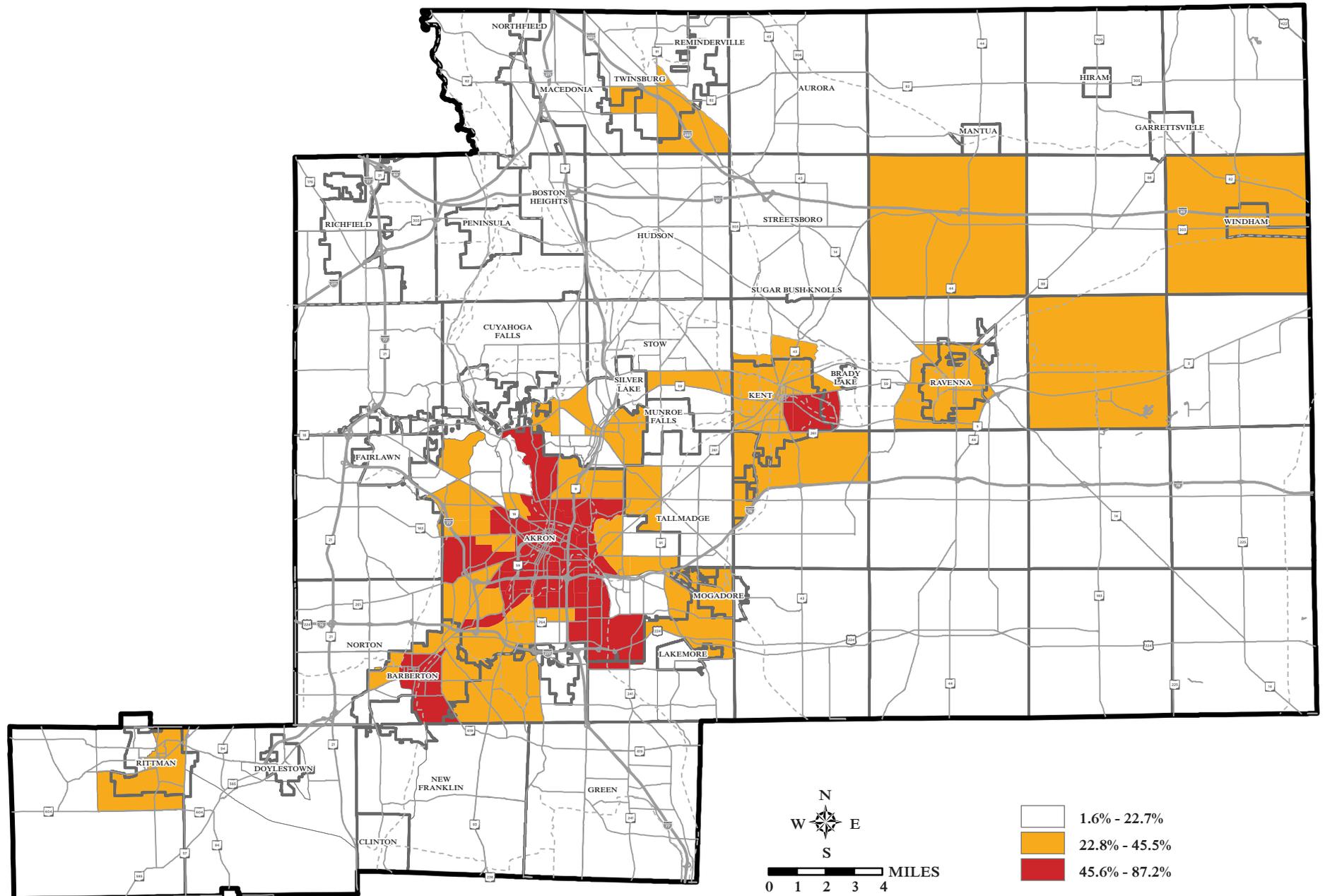
Information on non-discrimination and related policies and procedures is available at [www.amatsplanning.org/document/title-vi-plan-september-2011/](http://www.amatsplanning.org/document/title-vi-plan-september-2011/), "AMATS Title VI Plan 2015." Information on how to file a complaint is available at <http://amatsplanning.org/get-involved/>, "Nondiscrimination Complaint Form."

## Special Needs

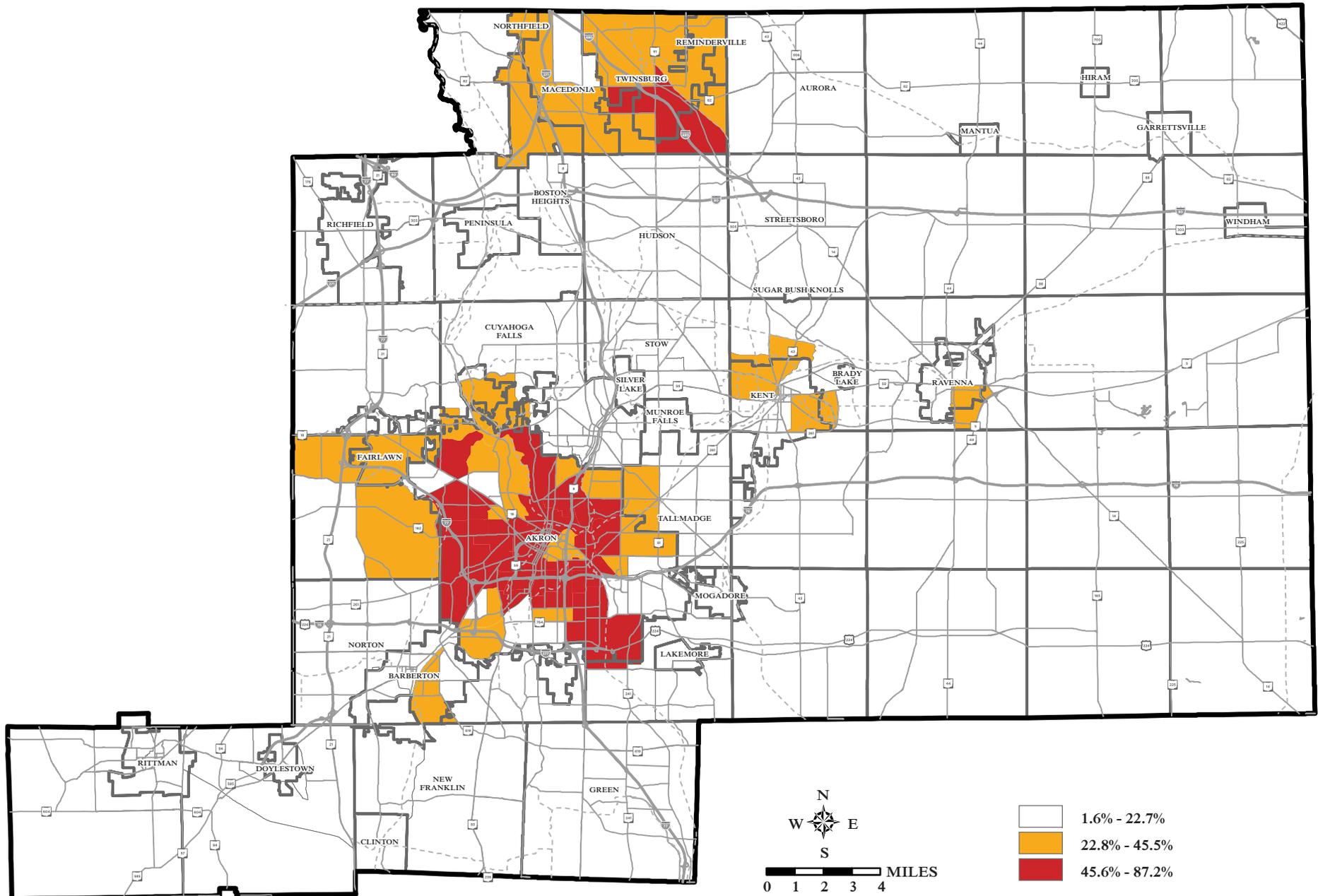
The agency prides itself on its ongoing efforts to meet and exceed the standards outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. AMATS will make every effort to arrange for translation, sign language and other special assistance at meetings for individuals with special needs who request them at least three business days beforehand.

# LOW-INCOME POPULATION

Percent of Total Population At or Below 150% of the Poverty Level



# MINORITY POPULATION



# CONCLUSION

Our agency aims to be as open as possible when it come to sharing information and explaining why and how transportation decisions are made in the Greater Akron area.

Our *Public Participation Plan* or *3P* is intended to appeal to as many different interested people through a mix of opportunities and strategies both digital and personal.

AMATS will continue to explore new opportunities for public outreach as they become available. Outreach can be challenging and our agency is committed to receiving as much feedback as possible.

# APPENDICES

## 21 Appendix A

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

## 22 Appendix B

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

## 23 Appendix C

Involvement of Interested Parties and Public Comment

# APPENDIX A

## Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

A primary responsibility of AMATS is to prepare and maintain a long-term *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* that meets the travel needs of the region. The *RTP* creates a framework for the region's transportation system through the identification of needs and project recommendations. It also sets the direction for transportation decisions, policy and planning throughout the region.

Public participation is an integral part of preparing the *RTP*. This is your chance for your voice to be heard! Comments received during the review of the *Draft RTP* will be presented to the Policy Committee and other stakeholder planning agencies for consideration before final adoption of the *RTP* by the Policy Committee.

Once a *Draft RTP* has been created, AMATS will:

- Make copies of the draft available to the public at:
  - AMATS website ([amatsplanning.org](http://amatsplanning.org))
  - AMATS office
- Tweet on [@amatsplanning](https://twitter.com/amatsplanning)
- Post on [facebook.com/amatsplanning](https://facebook.com/amatsplanning)
- Schedule at least one public meeting for review and comment
- Place advertisements in newspapers including the *Akron Beacon Journal*, the *Record-Courier* and *The Reporter* and other publications deemed as appropriate by the AMATS staff.
- Send news releases
- Regularly maintain and update its lists of those interested parties and transportation stakeholders that receive information pertaining to the area's transportation planning process.

Please note that AMATS will not limit itself to the activities identified above to promote awareness of the *Draft RTP* and will actively pursue additional opportunities to do so.

### Amending the Plan

Periodically, local or state officials request that the approved *RTP* be modified, or that a project recommendation be added or dropped. Such requests will be identified as either a major or minor amendment. The individual amendment determines which public involvement procedure is appropriate.

### *Major Amendments*

If the amendment involves a project recommendation that includes a new interchange; a new roadway or lane addition greater than one mile in length; a new major public transit project; commuter rail; or has a significant impact on air quality, then it will be considered a major amendment and public involvement for the amendment will follow the same procedures as the *Draft RTP*.

### *Minor Amendments*

If the amendment does not include a project such as one previously mentioned, it will be considered a minor amendment. Such amendments will be available for public consideration and comment through the appropriate *Meeting Packet* link and the *Get Involved* page of the agency website ([amatsplanning.org](http://amatsplanning.org)) prior to Policy Committee action.

If adopted by the Policy Committee, amendments will be included in the *RTP* and will be posted on the website.

# APPENDIX B

## Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* is the Greater Akron area's four-year program of highway, public transit, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. It must be consistent with the *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)*. Through the *TIP* process, projects are scored and selected, providing funding for area transportation projects.

Public participation is necessary in the development of a sound *TIP* for the area. Comments generated during the review of the *Draft TIP* will be presented to the Policy Committee and other stakeholder planning agencies for consideration before adoption of the *Final TIP* document by the Policy Committee.

Once a *Draft TIP* has been created, AMATS will:

- Make copies of the draft available to the public at:
  - AMATS website (*amatsplanning.org*)
  - AMATS office
- Tweet on *@amatsplanning*
- Post on *facebook.com/amatsplanning*
- Schedule at least one public meeting for review and comment
- Place advertisements in newspapers including the *Akron Beacon Journal*, the *Record-Courier* and *The Reporter* and other publications deemed as appropriate by the AMATS staff.
- Send news releases
- Regularly maintain and update its lists of those interested parties and transportation stakeholders that receive information pertaining to the area's transportation planning process.

Please note that AMATS will not limit itself to the activities identified above to promote awareness of the *Draft TIP* and will actively pursue additional opportunities to do so.

### Amending the TIP

Periodically, state or local officials request that a project in the approved *TIP* be modified or cancelled or that a new project be added. Such requests will be identified as either a major or minor amendment. The individual amendment determines which public involvement procedure is appropriate.

### *Major Amendments*

If the amendment involves a project that includes a new interchange; a new roadway or lane addition greater than one mile in length; a new major public transit project; commuter rail; or has a significant impact on air quality, then it will be considered a major amendment and public involvement for the amendment will follow the same procedures as the *Draft TIP*.

### *Minor Amendments*

If the amendment does not include a project such as one previously mentioned, it will be considered a minor amendment. Such amendments will be available for public consideration and comment through the appropriate *Meeting Packet* link and the *Get Involved* page of the agency website (*amatsplanning.org*) prior to Policy Committee action.

If adopted by the Policy Committee, amendments will be included in the *TIP* and will be posted on the website.

# APPENDIX C

## Involvement of Interested Parties and Public Comment

The *2015 Public Participation Plan (3P)* describes AMATS' ongoing efforts to engage and involve the public in the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Greater Akron area. *3P* is an update to the *2012 Public Participation Plan* and will be an input into the upcoming *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* and *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*.

In developing *3P*, AMATS actively sought consultation with interested parties and communities. Our agency developed a policy document that seeks to engage the public and other private and public organizations by providing ample opportunities for input and involvement in the area's planning process. It was our goal to base *3P* on the insights of the area's citizens, community groups, affected public agencies and representatives of public transportation, freight shipping and pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

The *3P* details how the agency will provide opportunities for public comment and involvement throughout the planning process and for its most significant products, the *RTP* and *TIP*. These opportunities include posting committee meeting packets and MP3 podcasts on the AMATS website and using social media tools and non-traditional meetings and strategies to reach out to new audiences and communities.

AMATS gives special consideration to making all of its public meetings convenient and accessible. Meetings of the AMATS Citizens Involvement Committee are scheduled in the evenings and in central locations. Also, all materials, plans and information can be accessed 24 hours a day on the AMATS website (*amatsplanning.org*). Additional review and involvement opportunities are provided during the development of the *RTP* and the *TIP*.

The *Draft 3P* was available for public comment beginning on February 11, 2015. The AMATS Policy Committee approved the Final *3P* effective March 27, 2015.

AMATS continually seeks new ways to engage and involve the public and other agencies. As new opportunities arise, they will be incorporated into the transportation planning process. The *3P* is updated accordingly. The public is encouraged to forward their opinions and suggestions regarding this document to AMATS Public Information Coordinator, Kerry Prater via email at [kprater@akronohio.gov](mailto:kprater@akronohio.gov) or postal mail at the following address:

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