

2012

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PLAN



Planning for Greater Akron
September 2012

AMATS

[am - ats]

- noun

1. acronym for Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study.
2. serves Summit County, Portage County, and Chippewa Township in Wayne County.
3. administers a regional planning process for recommending and financing transportation improvements and strategies.
4. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Origin:

1962; American; federally mandated and funded transportation agency made up of local government representatives and transportation authorities; an MPO is required for any urbanized area with a population over 50,000.

INTRODUCTION

Transportation planning can be complex and difficult to understand. The orange barrels you see on the road can be the result of years and years of planning, engineering and design. There are a number of steps in the process to construct a road, change a bus route, or build a trail. Getting public participation on a project is one of the most critical.

Often times, citizens don't know when or how to get involved in the planning process. Most projects get underway one to five years before construction, yet the first visible sign of a project is when you see the work commencing. For many projects, everything begins when a commitment is made to fund it. If a project is being funded with federal tax dollars, the commitment to fund the project is made by AMATS.

There are several different ways to get involved with AMATS. The agency provides opportunities to address public officials, weigh-in on what the regional transportation system should look like and participate in targeted events and outreach.

The following pages demonstrate ways that AMATS will continue to reach out to be a more transparent, cooperative and helpful agency. They also describe how you can participate and get involved.

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WHAT IS AMATS?

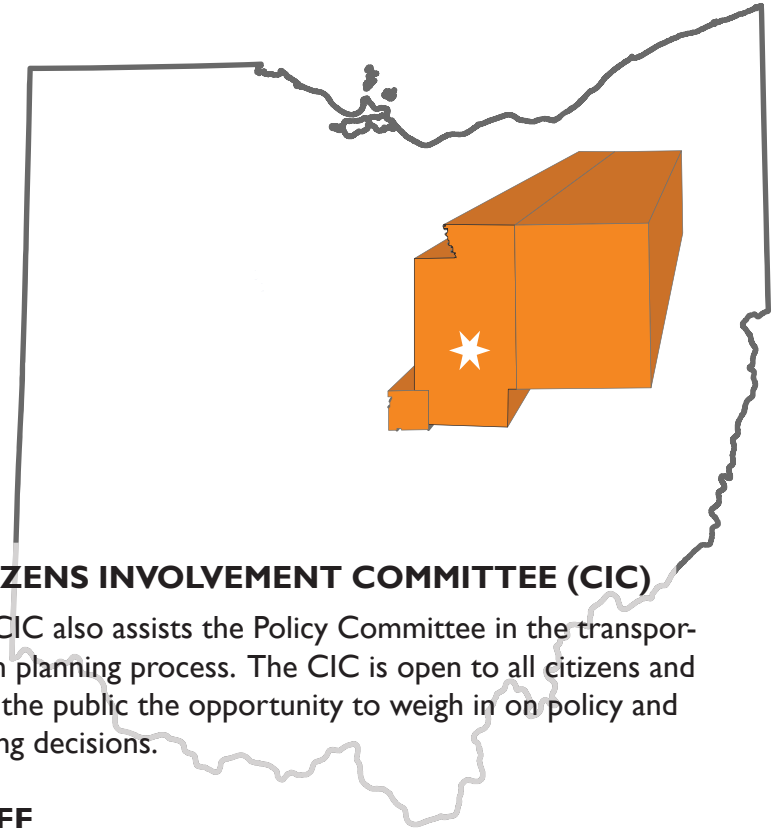
The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is responsible for regional transportation planning in the Greater Akron area. The greater Akron area consists of Summit County, Portage County and Chippewa Township in Wayne County. AMATS is made up of a Policy Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee, a Citizens Involvement Committee, and a staff.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The AMATS Policy Committee is a board of elected officials responsible for deciding how federal transportation dollars should be spent in the region. The board is made up of members from every community in the Greater Akron area. It also includes representatives from the Ohio Department of Transportation, county engineers, and transit agencies. The board meets regularly six times a year to make decisions on funding, discuss transportation policy, and collaborate on issues.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The TAC assists the Policy Committee in the transportation planning process. The TAC is made up of planners and engineers responsible for advising the Policy Committee on technical matters.



CITIZENS INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC)

The CIC also assists the Policy Committee in the transportation planning process. The CIC is open to all citizens and gives the public the opportunity to weigh in on policy and funding decisions.

STAFF

The AMATS staff serves all the committees and is responsible for carrying out the technical work of the agency. They are responsible for developing the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (p. 16) and the Transportation Improvement Program (p. 17). The staff is made up of individuals from engineering and planning disciplines. They also serve as a liaison between the public and the Policy Committee. The staff sets up the agendas for the CIC and ensures public comment is taken into account on all work products.

AMATS COMMITTEES & ME

AMATS has designed the transportation planning process to be as transparent as possible. Every committee meeting hosted by the agency is open to the public. Meetings and meeting packets are posted in advance on our website (amatsplanning.org). Podcasts of past meetings are also on the website. Each committee has different guidelines for how citizens can engage in the process.

POLICY COMMITTEE

- Anyone interested in making comments before the Policy Committee may do so during the public comment period at the beginning of the agenda.
- Citizens may call (330-375-2436) or email (amats@akronohio.gov) the AMATS staff in advance to request time to speak, or may do so in person before the meeting with any AMATS staff member (see pictures at amatsplanning.org under Staff Directory).
- 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 a public participation form before addressing the committee (p. 18).

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- The public is welcome at meetings of the TAC, although time for public comment is not allotted.

CITIZENS INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

It can be intimidating to get up in front of a large group of unknown people to challenge a policy decision and have your voice be heard. That is why AMATS also convenes a Citizens Involvement Committee to ensure a comfortable environment for citizens to discuss important issues.

The CIC meetings are structured as an open forum for discussion, with agenda items to provide guidance. Attendees are welcome to discuss items on the agenda as well as address any issues not on the agenda.

- The CIC meets the week before the Policy Committee.
- Meetings are always held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. for the convenience of the public.
- The meetings are held in locations that are accessible for all citizens, including the disabled and transit dependent.
- Meetings and agenda items are announced on the AMATS website (amatsplanning.org) and promoted in the Akron Beacon Journal and several community websites.

OTHER WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

In addition to the Citizens Involvement Committee and other committee meetings, AMATS has worked hard to engage the public outside of the office and traditional meeting formats. The agency has also held more meetings on focused topics to gain more in depth insight on various issues and to reach new audiences.

AMATS is also engaging other civic and community groups, such as city councils and rotaries, to discuss what AMATS does and how the agency can be a resource. If you or your community is interested in working with AMATS on an event, or would like us to meet with your organization, contact us at amatsplanning.org or 330.375.2436.

EXAMPLE: BIKE-N-BRAINSTORM

AMATS has begun Bike-N-Brainstorm sessions where we partner with communities to engage cyclists on a particular corridor to make it more bicycle friendly. The first Bike-N-Brainstorm, held in May 2012, was with the City of Akron and looked at the West Market Street Corridor. Participants, led by a City traffic engineer and certified bike instructor, rode together along the corridor stopping at various points to learn how to ride safely on different segments. After the ride a brainstorming session was held to discuss improvements to make the corridor more safe for bicyclists.



ON THE WEB

Technology developed over the past ten 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. AMATS uses web posting and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter 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, Patch, Zvents and other appropriate venues.

WEB DEVELOPMENT

AMATSPANNING.ORG

AMATS revealed a brand new website in August 2010. Since then, work has been done to make the site more user-friendly and to add information and resources. The agency is working to show you how your tax dollars are being spent in a clear, easy to understand format, including creating 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, TAC, and CIC meetings under the *Calendar*, access the most recent news stories under *What's New*, take a look at the meeting mailout packets under *Committee Meetings*, or search the entire site for a specific topic.

Also accessible from the *Home* page is the *Get Involved* page via the left-hand menu. From the *Get Involved* page, a user can again check the meeting calendar, email a staff person about a specific topic, or listen to a podcast of one of our meetings. A feature was also added to make it easier for users to fill out and submit the Audience Participation Form to speak to the Policy Committee.

SWITCHING-GEARS.ORG

The purpose of Switching-Gears.org is to educate people on ways to take advantage of the Greater Akron area's trails and inform them on ways to utilize cycling as a means of transportation. The website also allows users to sign in and create a profile, make new friends, and discuss bike issues. Switching-Gears.org also has a calendar announcing organized bike rides and events in our region.



AMATSPLANNING.ORG

Updated news, videos & pictures.

Easy access to all AMATS meeting materials and information.

Links to Facebook and YouTube pages.

Twitter feed.

Links to OhioRideshare and Switching-Gears.org.

Funded Projects

Search the Interactive List of Projects

PID: County: PORTAGE Location: KENT Highway:
 Project Class: ENHANCEMENT Funding Type: Funding Phase: CONST Project Sponsor:

[Filter Results](#) [Print Results](#)

THE PORTAGE HIKE & BIKE TANNERY PARK SECTION				
COUNTY	LOCATION	CLASS	COST	PID
PORTAGE	KEHT	ENHANCEMENT	\$175,000	9494

FUNDING				
FUND TYPE	PHASE	AMOUNT	YEAR	SPONSOR
TEP-A LOCAL	CONST	\$700,000	2012	KEHT
LOCAL	CONST	\$175,000	2012	

DESCRIPTION: CONSTRUCT MULTI-USE TRAIL FROM FRED FULLER PARK/WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY TO JOHN BROWN TANNERY PARK

THE PORTAGE HIKE & BIKE, BSU GATEWAY SECTION				
COUNTY	LOCATION	CLASS	COST	PID
PORTAGE	KEHT	ENHANCEMENT	\$2,363,700	88917

FUNDING				
FUND TYPE	PHASE	AMOUNT	YEAR	SPONSOR
TEP-A LOCAL	CONST	\$700,000	2012	KEHT
LOCAL	CONST	\$1,663,700	2012	

Maps & Data

Short Term Highway Recommendations

Short term recommendations have already been allocated federal funding

ID	Highway Recommendation	Limits	Description	Current Cost	Purpose and Need	Location
1	Akron Riverwalk Redevelopment		Roadway Improvements for Goodyear Project	\$18,000,000	Economic Development	Akron
2	SR 43 (N Aurora Rd)	SR 82 (Garfield W Rd) to Squire Rd	Widen to 4 Lanes, Turn Lanes	\$9,000,000	Alleviate Congestion	Aurora
3	SR 8	SR 303 to Teneburg Rd	Reconstruct and Reconfigure Interchange Ramps	\$41,000,000	Alleviate Congestion, Improve Safety Conditions	Boston Heights
4	I-80	West of SR 8 to Portage County Line	Widen to Six Lanes	\$28,000,000	Improve Traffic Flow	Boston Heights/Hudson
5	State Rd	Bath Rd to Steels Corners Rd	Turn Lanes, Signal Coordination	\$6,700,000	Improve Traffic Flow	Cuyahoga Falls
6	Graham Rd	Bath Rd to SR 8	Turn lanes, Signal Coordination	\$3,400,000	Improve Traffic Flow	Cuyahoga Falls/Sow
7	Cleveland Massillon Rd	Ridgewood Rd	Roundabout	\$1,100,000	Improve Traffic Flow	Fairlawn/Summit County
8	Arlington Rd	SR 619 (Turkeyfoot Lake Rd) to Green North Corp Line including Jarvis Rd	Reconstruct, Turn Lanes, Signal Coordination and Relocation of Jarvis Rd	\$4,200,000	Improve Safety Conditions, Improve Traffic Flow	Green
9	Arlington Rd	SR 619 (Turkeyfoot Lake Rd)	Reconstruction, Turn Lanes, Additional Thru Lanes on Arlington Rd	\$4,300,000	Alleviate Congestion/Improve Safety Conditions	Green

Clockwise from top left: searchable Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); easy to access Regional Transportation Plan recommendations; Get Involved page; traffic crash points overlaid on Google Maps.

Maps & Data

Select a map:

Traffic Counts

Map Satellite Terrain

Diagonal Rd : NE of Euclid Ave
 2010 ADT = 4120
 Cars : 4054
 Trucks : 66

Get Involved

Get Involved

Public Involvement is a vital component in transportation planning. Public participation provides citizens access to the decision making process as well as a way to voice ideas and needs.

The Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) discusses transportation issues in the region and provides input to the Policy Committee. CIC meetings are open to all area residents and anyone is eligible to join.

Click [here](#) for the 2012 AMATS meeting calendar.

Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
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 Akron, OH 44308-1423
 p: 330-375-2436
 f: 330-375-2275

Contact Us

Name:

E-Mail:

Subject: General Inquiry

Message:

[Search](#)

Documents

- [AMATS Public Participation Plan](#)
- [Audience Participation Form](#)

Podcasts

- [May 17, 2012 Policy Committee Podcast](#)
- [May 10, 2012 Citizens Involvement Committee Podcast](#)
- [May 10, 2012 Technical Advisory Committee Podcast](#)
- [March 22, 2012 Policy Committee Podcast](#)
- [March 15, 2012 Citizens Involvement Committee Podcast](#)
- [March 15, 2012 Technical Advisory](#)



SWITCHING-GEARS.ORG

← Featured events, rides and reports.

Area rides and events.

← Bicycling news and information in the AMATS area, nationally and internationally.

← AMATS Twitter feed.

Better cooperation between cities

Home » Forums » Bright Ideas » Better cooperation between cities

This topic has 2 voices, contains 1 reply, and was last updated by [Curtis Baker](#) 51 days ago.

Viewing 2 posts - 1 through 2 (of 2 total)

Author	Posts
Beth	1
Curtis Baker	1

Mar 26 at 2:49 am #833

There doesn't seem to be a unified effort between local governments. When I brought up the need for a bike lane between Hudson and Streetsboro to the new streetsboro mayor (during his campaign) he had no awareness of the need. If there was some cooperation between the cities, a centralized plan could be developed with regard to funding and a standardized methodology to apply for funding could be created.

The region would also benefit by making the need and plan more visible to our local, regional and State government.

Mar 29 at 1:56 pm #834

Beth,

Curtis Baker

I agree with you. Much of our local planning tends to stop at community borders. We've been trying to promote our bike plan as a way for local communities to see that there is a need for a larger regional connection. I think communities are starting to see the big picture.

AMATS is working on creating a Complete Streets Policy so that when communities come to us for funding we can make sure they consider improvements (like bike lanes) that will complement the regional bike network. It may not solve all our problems, but we are aware of the issue. Thanks for your comment!

Curtis

Account

LOGIN

Username

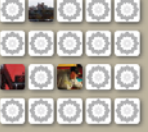
Password

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Information

- [Bike Safety](#)
- [Bike Agencies](#)
- [Bike Clubs & Groups](#)
- [Bike Shops](#)
- [Greater Akron Trails](#)
- [Bike User Map](#)

Greater Akron Trails

[Ohio & Erie Canal towpath](#)

Calendar of Events

« Previous Month May 2012 Next Month »

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 ABC Botzum	2 ABC Reverse Rd Ride	3 ABC Deep Lock Social Ride	4 Blimp City Moon Ride	5 Night Bike Ride Summit Freewheelers RATL ABC 303 Bike & Hike Ride Family Fun Ride	6 BikeQuest 2012
7 Bicycle Friendly Communities	8 ABC Botzum	9 ABC Reverse Rd Ride	10 Velodrome Construction Safety Check & Ride ABC Deep Lock Social Ride Biking 101 AMATS CIC	11	12 Summit Freewheelers RATL ABC 303 Bike & Hike Ride Pedal to the Parks	13
14 National Bike to Work Week	15 National Bike to Work Week ABC Botzum	16 National Bike to Work Week ABC Reverse Rd Ride	17 National Bike to Work Week Velodrome Construction Market St Bike-N-Brainstorm ABC Deep Lock Social Ride	18 Kent State Bike to Work Day Bike to Work Day National Bike to Work Week	19 FirstMerit Towpath Ride National Bike to Work Week ABC 303 Bike & Hike Ride Mini Fondo Cuyahoga River Day	20 FirstMerit Towpath Ride National Bike to Work Week
21 National Bike to Work Week	22 Benefits of Bicycling ABC Botzum	23 ABC Reverse Rd Ride	<div style="background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 10px;"> <p>ABC Deep Lock Social Ride</p> <p>Time: 6:30 pm</p> <p>Deep Lock Quarry Trailhead Parking Lot 5779 Riverview Rd Peninsula, OH</p> </div>			

Bike User Map



Cities

- Akron
- Hudson
- Streetsboro
- Cuyahoga Falls
- Peninsula
- Canton
- Massillon
- Green
- Wooster
- New Franklin
- Marion
- Peninsula
- Amersett
- Rockfield
- Deer
- Strasburg
- Schwaner
- Troschky
- Woodhull
- Woodhull
- Woodhull

Bike Shops

- Akron Bike Center - Akron
- Bicycles - Akron
- Blimp City - Akron
- Canyon Cycles - Peninsula
- Cycles - Deer
- Cycles - Massillon
- Kelly Wheel & Mower - Cuyahoga Falls
- Kopy Cycles - Kent
- Moberg's - Deer
- Performance Bicycles - Akron
- Portage Cycles - Massillon
- R D Bike Shop - Streetsboro
- Summit Cycling Center - Akron

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

Difficulty Levels: SAFT, INTERMEDIATE, DIFFICULT, EXPERT

Print

Clockwise from top left: interactive discussion forum; comprehensive calendar of events from all area clubs and groups; interactive and searchable Bike User Map.

SOCIAL MEDIA



TWITTER

@amatsplanning

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

facebook.com/
amatsplanning

Facebook is a popular social media tool that is increasingly being used by agencies to reach new audiences. The AMATS Facebook page 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

youtube.com/user/
amatsplanning

YouTube is a social media site that allows users to post videos and share them with friends. AMATS uses this tool by developing special video features that highlight transportation topics. Videos range from meeting summaries to informative pieces about what is going on in our region.



THE CIVIC COMMONS
theciviccommons.com

The Civic Commons is a unique public engagement utility that fosters dialogue among participants on many issues facing Northeast Ohio. Agency personnel frequently participate in online discussions.



PATCH
patch.com

Patch is a community-specific news and information platform. The agency maintains a blog on sites dedicated to Cuyahoga Falls, Fairlawn-Bath, Kent, Stow and Twinsburg.

CONCLUSION

Over the past two years, AMATS has utilized a number of new tools to better engage the public. Our agency aims to be as transparent as possible when it comes to sharing information and explaining why and how transportation decisions are made.

Our Public Participation Plan is intended to capture as many different interested people as possible through a number of tools both digital and face-to-face.

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

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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)

A primary responsibility of AMATS is to prepare and maintain a Regional Transportation Plan that meets the travel needs of the region. The Plan 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 involvement is an integral part of preparing the Regional Transportation Plan. This is your chance for your voice to be heard! Comments received during the review of the draft Plan will be presented to the Policy Committee for consideration before adopting the final Plan. AMATS will also consult with other agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities affecting the area.

Once a draft Plan has been created, AMATS will:

- Make copies of the draft available to the public at:
 AMATS website – amatsplanning.org
 AMATS office
 PARTA office
 ODOT office
- Tweet on @amatsplanning
- Post on [facebook.com/amatsplanning](https://www.facebook.com/amatsplanning)
- Hold at least two public meetings
- Place advertisements in newspapers
- Send news releases

AMENDING THE PLAN

Periodically, state or local officials request that the approved Plan 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.

If the amendment involves a project recommendation that includes a new interchange; a new roadway or lane addition greater than one mile in length; commuter rail; busways; 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 Plan.

However, if the amendment does not include a project such as one previously mentioned, it will be considered a minor amendment, and will be discussed at a regularly scheduled CIC meeting for public consideration and comment prior to Policy Committee action. Once adopted, the amendments will be included in the Plan and will be posted on the website.

Regional Transportation Plan

[ree-juh-nl] [trans-per-tey-shuhn] [plan]

- noun

1. long-term plan for the regional transportation system.
2. identifies and analyzes regional transportation needs.
3. prioritizes and recommends future projects and policies.
4. guide to local officials in implementing transportation improvements with Federal funds.
5. projects must be included in order to qualify for funding from the Federal Highway Administration or the Federal Transit Administration.
6. at least twenty year time frame.
7. updated every four years.

Origin:

1962; American; required product of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to ensure federal transportation money spent within a region is in conformity with regional goals and priorities.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

The TIP is the other major document for which AMATS is responsible. It must be consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan. Through the TIP process, projects are scored and selected, providing funding for area transportation projects.

Public involvement in creating the TIP is very important. It allows the public to give input and raise awareness about upcoming transportation projects. Comments generated during the review of the draft TIP will be presented to the Policy Committee for consideration before adoption of the final TIP document. AMATS will also consult with other agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities affecting the area.

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
 - PARTA office
 - ODOT office
- Tweet on @amatsplanning
- Post on [facebook.com/amatsplanning](https://www.facebook.com/amatsplanning)
- Hold at least two public meetings
- Place advertisements in newspapers
- Send news releases

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.

If the amendment involves a project that includes a new interchange; a new roadway or lane addition greater than one mile in length; commuter rail; busways, 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.

However, if the amendment does not include a project such as one previously mentioned, it would be considered a minor amendment and will be discussed at a regularly scheduled CIC meeting for public consideration and comment prior to Policy Committee action. Once adopted, the amendments will be included in the TIP and will be posted on the website.

Transportation Improvement Program

[trans-per-tey-shuhn] [im-proov-muhnt] [proh-gram]

- noun

1. draws from the Regional Transportation Plan.
2. list of roadway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects scheduled to receive funding over a four-year period.
3. updated every two years with new projects.
4. projects must be programmed and scheduled in the TIP to receive federal funding.

Origin:

1962; American; required product of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to prioritize and fund regional transportation projects.

INVOLVEMENT OF INTERESTED PARTIES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The 2012 Public Participation Plan documents how AMATS is engaging and involving the public in the metropolitan transportation planning process. It is an update to the 2007 Public Participation Plan and is an input into the upcoming Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Outlook 2035.

The Plan was developed in consultation with interested parties and documents how the public and other private and public organizations have opportunities to be involved in the planning process. These include, but are not limited to, citizens, affected public agencies and representatives of public transportation, freight shipping and pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

The Public Participation Plan describes how public notice of public participation activities and opportunities for review and comment are provided. This includes posting committee meeting packets and podcasts on the AMATS website and using social media tools and non-traditional meetings to reach out to new audiences.

Special consideration is given to making public meetings convenient and accessible. AMATS Citizens Involvement Committee meetings are held in the evenings and in central locations. Typically at least one meeting a year is held at a RTA transit center. Also, all materials, plans and

information can be accessed 24 hours a day on the AMATS website. Additional review and involvement opportunities are provided for the development of the regional transportation plan and the TIP.

In July 2012, the Draft Public Participation Plan was presented to the AMATS Committees. The Draft Plan was available for public comment for 45 days beginning on July 11th.

One comment was received through the TwinsburgPatch, a community news and information website, concerning the need for additional education and outreach on the laws on driving around cyclists. This comment was incorporated into the Plan.

AMATS is continually seeking 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 Public Participation Plan will be updated accordingly.



CITIZENS INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Section 1-NAME

The name of this Committee shall be the Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC) of the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS).

Section 2-ORIGIN

This Committee was created as a result of recommendations of the AMATS Program Design Report of 1968, which called for the establishment of an advisory committee to provide citizen input into all phases of transportation planning in the AMATS region that encompasses Summit and Portage Counties and Chippewa Township in Wayne County.

Section 3-PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS

The overall task of the Citizens Involvement Committee is to involve the public in the transportation planning and decision-making process in the AMATS region. This process will take into consideration all modes of transportation including both motorized and un-motorized and the needs of all citizens, regardless of their socioeconomic background, in an effort to create true comprehensive transportation planning. This task includes the following:

- A. The consideration of all groups and citizens concerned with, interested in, and/or affected by specific

transportation plans or projects.

- B. The dissemination of information about plans or decisions regarding transportation to all interested, affected, and/or concerned groups and citizens.
- C. Involvement of the public in all aspects of transportation planning and decision-making.
- D. Advising and providing input for the AMATS Staff in preparation of all transportation plans, programs, etc.
- E. The review and reporting of decisions of the Metropolitan Transportation Policy Committee of AMATS to the general public and in turn, the making of recommendations to the AMATS Policy Committee.
- F. Working with the Technical Advisory Committee of AMATS.
- G. Developing associations with other groups.

Section 4-MEMBERSHIP

The Citizens Involvement Committee shall consist of interested citizens in the AMATS region: 1) one member appointed by each Policy Committee member; and 2) voluntary members representing themselves, areas, and/or groups in the AMATS region.

Members appointed by Policy Committee members shall have voting status at the time of their appointment. To be eligible to vote, a voluntary member shall have attended

two (2) regular meetings in the preceding twelve (12) months. Such member may exercise such vote at the third meeting attended within a twelve (12) month period. Registered alternates may participate in meetings for an appointed member at the discretion of the Citizens Involvement Committee.

A voluntary member's continued absence from four (4) consecutive meetings shall be considered as a de facto resignation unless the absent member notifies the Citizens Involvement Committee Chairperson, or AMATS Staff of his or her intention to become active. Before a voluntary member is dropped for reasons of absence, he or she shall be notified in writing.

Section 5-OFFICERS

The officers shall consist of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.

- A. Chairperson - Presides at all meetings; appoints committees; calls special meetings as required; and represents the CIC before all other bodies.
- B. Vice-Chairperson - Performs all duties of the Chairperson when the chairperson is absent.

Section 6-ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The officers of the CIC shall be elected annually at the last regular meeting held during the year. The term of office shall begin at the first meeting following election. Nominations shall be made by a committee appointed by the outgoing Chairperson.

Section 7-COMMITTEES

Committees shall be formed and appointed when necessary to carry out various phases of the work of the CIC. Although appointed by the CIC Chairperson, members of the committees need not be members of the CIC.

Section 8-MEETINGS

Scheduled meetings of the CIC shall be held at least four (4) times per year. An annual schedule of meetings shall be adopted for the next year no later than the last regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year. Notice and agenda of meetings shall be mailed to all members one week prior to all meetings. Special meetings shall be held at the call of the Chairperson, the Policy Committee, or three CIC members. All meetings shall be open to the public, and interested persons or groups are invited to present points of view and information. The proceedings of all meetings shall be transcribed. A quorum shall consist of three (3) voting members. Meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise decided by the CIC membership.

Section 9-AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these bylaws shall be by majority vote of a quorum of any scheduled CIC meeting. The proposal for amendments to the bylaws shall appear on the published agenda. The text of the proposed amendments in bylaws must be sent to all members with the meeting notice.

(Amended May 16, 2001)



Audience Participation Form

The Policy Committee welcomes your comments.

Please keep these guidelines in mind:

- Please register by completing the application below.
- Public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person at the beginning of the meeting.
- Groups wishing to address the Policy Committee should select a representative to present the group's position.

Please submit this form to a staff member prior to the meeting.

Forms may also be completed online, faxed, or mailed.

Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study

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

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Web: amatsplanning.org/get-involved/

Name: _____ Date: _____

Representing (optional): _____

Topic: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Would you like to receive meeting material by email? Y N

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