

**AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Policy Committee
Technical Advisory Committee
Citizens Involvement Committee

FROM: AMATS Staff

RE: Resolution 2022-16 – Adopting a Goal of Zero Fatalities and Serious Injuries
by 2050 for the AMATS Area

DATE: August 4, 2022

Over the past several years AMATS has moved toward creating a safer transportation network by adopting complete streets policies, analyzing sidewalk gaps, and focusing on the more vulnerable users of the network. In addition to these efforts, AMATS has increased the off-street trail network and improved the visibility of bicycle infrastructure. Even with these efforts there is still a need to have a collaborative and cohesive planning in order to reduce crashes and fatalities within the AMATS area.

AMATS is requesting that the AMATS Policy Committee approve a resolution supporting a Vision Zero goal for the greater Akron area. Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. The Vision Zero concept establishes timelines and a commitment to ensure safety for all people as they move about their communities. AMATS goal for Vision Zero is to consistently reduce the number of crashes resulting in severe injury and fatality until reaching the ultimate goal of no deaths on greater Akron roadways by 2050.

As discussed at the June AMATS Committee meetings, the Vision Zero resolution is the first step required for AMATS to develop a Safety Action Plan outlined in the federal grant program, Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A). AMATS must also establish a taskforce of membership and stakeholders as the Safety Action Plan is developed. All AMATS membership will be invited to join the SS4A Taskforce as it works on a Safety Action Plan to implement AMATS vision zero goal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Attached to this memo is Resolution Number 2022-16. The Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-16

**OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

Approving Resolution 2022-16 to develop, implement, and monitor a Vision Zero Plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all.

WHEREAS, the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governor, acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation and in cooperation with locally elected officials in Summit and Portage Counties and the Chippewa Township and Milton Township areas of Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, AMATS endorses development, implementation, and monitoring of a Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all road users with an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable users; and

WHEREAS, one death or severe injury on AMATS streets is one too many; and

WHEREAS, collisions resulting in death or severe injury are not inevitable but can be prevented through changes in human behavior, technology, and designs that accommodate multimodal uses; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to Vision Zero is a commitment to life and equitable opportunity for all people in the AMATS area; and

WHEREAS, AMATS promotes a focus on reducing single occupancy vehicle rides and encouraging walking, bicycling, transit, and carpooling, and also promotes safety for all roadway users; and

WHEREAS, choosing active transportation options like walking and biking decreases mortality and morbidity from obesity-related diseases such as heart disease and diabetes, and creating safer streets is likely to encourage more active transportation, thereby increasing population health; and

WHEREAS, AMATS has a strong history of prioritizing safety and completing crash studies for all modes of transportation and has made demonstrable progress to improve safety for walking and biking by making systemic changes in the way the transportation network is planned, programmed, designed, constructed, and operated; and

WHEREAS, between 2016 to 2020, the average number of collisions per year in the AMATS area was 17,650 and the average number of collisions resulting in injury was 4,152. Out of the injury crashes 363 per year (or nearly one per day) were considered serious injury; and

WHEREAS, between 2016 to 2020, 37 people walking or in wheelchairs, 10 people riding a bicycle, and 215 people driving or riding in a vehicle have been killed; and

WHEREAS, the number of people dying and suffering serious injuries on our streets is a serious public health problem which necessitates public action; and

WHEREAS, preventing collisions in the AMATS area necessitates an analytical and systemic approach to street planning, design, policy, enforcement, legal processes, education and communication; and

WHEREAS, implementing a Vision Zero commitment requires the continued support of residents, business owners, and visitors—acting as individuals and collectively through neighborhood or advocacy organizations to improve the safety, comfort, and usability of AMATS streets for all users; and

WHEREAS, AMATS will join other MPO’s and government entities around the nation in a commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries and promote work which has demonstrated success when coupled with adequate funding, staff resources, and top-down support for its implementation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That this Committee endorses development, implementation, and monitoring of a Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all road users by 2050.
2. That this Committee acknowledges that achieving this goal requires significant effort and resources.
3. That this Committee affirms that the development of a Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero goal will put equity at its forefront, striving to impact the most vulnerable and dependent users of the most dangerous parts of the transportation network to improve the health and well-being of those traveling on AMATS roads and streets.
4. That this Committee affirms that the Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero goal will use data and best practices to outline steps in planning, engineering, policy, enforcement and education to reach interim steps toward zero deaths.
5. That this Committee affirms that AMATS is dedicated to measuring the progress, challenges, and successes of the Vision Zero commitment and will do so with tangible, reportable metrics that will be reported on a regular basis with progress reports.
6. That this Committee authorizes the Staff to provide copies of this Resolution to the appropriate agencies as evidence of action by the Metropolitan Planning Organization.


Michael A. Marozzi, 2022 Vice Chairman

Metropolitan Transportation Policy Committee

8/11/22
Date