



Planning for Greater Akron **AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
806 CitiCenter / 146 South High Street / Akron, OH 44308-1423 / (330) 375-2436 / FAX (330) 375-2275 / amats@akronohio.gov

April 10, 2014

Mr. Jerry Wray, Director  
Ohio Department of Transportation  
1980 W. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43223

RE: State Route 8 Redesignation as Interstate 380

Dear Director Wray,

Several months ago, the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), along with the mayors of Akron, Boston Heights, Cuyahoga Falls, Hudson, Macedonia, and Stow; the Summit County Executive, and the Summit County Engineer, requested that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) work with us to seek an interstate designation from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the portion of State Route 8 between I-76/77 and I-271.

We received your response several weeks ago, stating that ODOT did not see the immediate need to make this change, and stating that such a change would be costly, given the demand on ODOT's finite resources.

We appreciate your response, and we appreciate the candor with which you expressed ODOT's concerns.

However, we collectively continue to believe that State Route 8 is deserving of an interstate designation, due to its high volume of traffic, the connectivity it provides, and its functional importance as one of Ohio's most important freeway facilities.

The 120,000 motorists that utilize this roadway each day to travel to destinations throughout Greater Akron, Greater Cleveland, and beyond, know what we know – that this important freeway is an Interstate highway in all but name only – and that it is just as important to our region as I-76, I-77, or I-271.

As you know, State Route 8 carries higher volumes of traffic and provides more comprehensive inter-regional access than many of the other existing three-digit interstates in Northeast Ohio, including I-277, I-490, and I-680.

We continue to believe that when viewed from a long-term, strategic perspective, the redesignation of State Route 8 as an Interstate highway makes good sense, and will provide tangible benefits to our region, including improved wayfinding to major attractions, economic benefits in terms of job and business attraction, and potential future funding opportunities.

As such, it is our hope that you will reconsider your position on this matter. As entities that are collectively responsible for allocating and managing hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars of our own, we sincerely appreciate ODOT's concerns regarding potential demands on its finite resources.

To that end, we would like to offer a counter-proposal for your consideration.

We, the undersigned, propose that AMATS, Akron, Boston Heights, Cuyahoga Falls, Hudson, Macedonia, Stow, and Summit County collaboratively partner with ODOT to request that FHWA redesignate State Route 8 as Interstate 380 between I-76/77 and I-271, recognizing ODOT's aforementioned concerns, and with the understanding that:



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- We make this request with a willingness to explore options for local governments in the corridor to continue to bear the cost of routine maintenance responsibilities along State Route 8 in the short-term, and with a commitment to working with ODOT toward an equitable sharing of costs, commensurate with the freeway's statewide significance, in the longer-term.
- We are committed to partnering with one another at the local level, and with AMATS, to explore creative and innovative methods for securing local and/or federal funding to cover the cost of replacing the existing State Route 8 highway signage, to reflect the Interstate 380 designation.
- We would like to request a meeting with ODOT leadership in Columbus, in the near future, to discuss these issues in detail and explore the aforementioned ideas, along with other potential shared services and intergovernmental collaborations within the State Route 8 corridor.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and look forward to meeting with you and your staff in the near future.

Very Warmest Regards,

Mayor William Goncy  
Village of Boston Heights

Mayor William Currin  
City of Hudson

Mayor Sara Drew  
City of Stow

Russell M. Pry, Executive  
County of Summit

Mayor Donald Plusquellic  
City of Akron

Mayor Don Walters  
City of Cuyahoga Falls

Mayor Don Kuchta  
City of Macedonia

Alan Brubaker, PE, PS  
Summit County Engineer

Jason Segedy  
Director, AMATS

cc: Jim Barna, ODOT