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## Citizens' Involvement Committee

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Agency: Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study

Date: March 21, 2024

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### Summary

- A draft map for shared-use paths is currently available online for public comment. This draft was previously discussed in January and contains a map of bike and hiking trails.
- This month, committee members will approve projects for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) [Program](#). STBG projects are dispersed between two categories: resurfacing projects and larger “more transformative” projects.
- The committee discussed their recommendation for the recipients of the [Connecting Communities Planning Grant](#). The grant has a budget of \$80,000 and will be distributed into two \$40,000 grants. Akron's Summit Lake Pedestrian Safety master plan was one of the two grant recipients.

### Follow-Up Questions

- How does the Technical Advisory Committee differ from the Citizens' Involvement Committee?
- What is the goal of the Active Transportation Plan?
- Is [TASCforce](#) in association with AMATS?

### Notes

Committee members [present](#):

- Curtis Baker
- Matt Mullen
- Jeff Gardner

- Matt Stewart
- Heather Davis Reidl
- Seth Bush

Committee members absent:

- Martha Chandler
- Amy Prater
- Eugene Paczelt
- Wali Rahim
- Phyllis Jividen
- Kerry Prater

The meeting started at 6:30 p.m. with an introduction of all present committee members. A link to the [AMATS](#) agenda can be found [here](#).

#### **Item 1 Attachment 4A**

- As part of their Active Transportation Plan, the staff created a draft of a shared-use path map. This map was suggested and implemented in a meeting in early January. The map is supposed to be digital, interactive and open to public suggestions. The public is able to include bike paths or trails that staff members missed or that were recently built. Members have reported no issues navigating the site.

#### **Item 2 Attachment 6A**

- Initially, AMATS held off on providing funding for the surface transportation grants projects, but this month, they are asking committees to approve the projects that scored the highest. Three projects received high scores. First is Route 59, which is east of Kent State University. They are looking to conduct pedestrian improvements. This is a \$3.2 million project. Next, in Cuyahoga Falls on State Road at the intersection with Quick Road, will be a \$6.1 million project. The third project is in the Portage Lakes area, which will be South Main Street improvements. This will be a \$5.9 million project. In total, this is \$15.2 million worth of projects.

#### **Item 3 Attachment 6C**

- After making the application for the Connecting Communities Planning Grant available on their website, AMATS received eight applications, quadruple the number of applications they've received from their sixth round of funding. The budget of the program is \$80,000, and the grant is to be divided into two \$40,000 grants. The two applications that best met their standards were New Franklin's State Route 619 corridor development study and Akron's Summit Lake Pedestrian Safety master plan. New Franklin's State Route 619 corridor development study wants to provide new housing developments and construction of new bike paths. Similarly, Summit Lake wants to make

transit improvements and wants to develop some biking and pedestrian paths. There were no questions about this item.

### **Open discussion**

- A discussion started about the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment [Program](#) and TASCforce's goal of creating a revised plan for [Veterans Trail](#). They've received a proposal from an outside consultant for a rebirth study. The last time this study was conducted, it was funded by the five communities connected by Veterans Trail (Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, Silver Lake, Stow, and Hudson). A discussion followed on how TASCforce could encourage one of the five communities to apply for a grant. Officials said grant writing is a fairly complicated procedure for a community. AMATS does not include grant writing as one of its specialties because of how time-consuming it is, though it will help communities with small questions regarding a grant application.
- There was also a discussion about Cuyahoga Falls applying for the Bicycle Friendly Community Program through the [League of American Bicyclists](#). Instead of an award, the city received an honorable mention and a report card with a list of suggestions for getting an award next year. One of the most notable suggestions was to encourage the City of Akron to apply next year.

The meeting ended at 7:17 p.m.

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**Notes to reader:** Unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at [documenters@signalakron.org](mailto:documenters@signalakron.org) with "Correction Request" in the subject line.