

Policy Committee

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Agency: Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study

Date: May 16, 2024

[See more about this meeting at Documenters.org](#)

Summary

- The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study is completing several plans, including a long-range transportation plan and an active transportation plan.
- They have released a thorough study of area roundabouts. This study includes a “best practices” guide and a list of funding resources for communities that are considering building roundabouts.
- The policy committee also passed five resolutions.

Follow-Up Questions

- Who were all those people? Someone from Portage County was there, what is the AMATS coverage area? (Editor’s note: According to the [AMATS](#) website they cover “The Akron metropolitan area includes Summit and Portage counties and a portion of Wayne County. Currently, the region has over 700,000 people residing in the area.”)
- What’s the difference between “new business” and “other business”?
- What is the name all about? It seems like they do more than just “study”. How did AMATS come into existence?

Notes :

Committee Members in Attendance: Unclear, no roll call was taken.

Total Number of People in Attendance: 29

[Here](#) is an audio recording of the meeting.

- The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was established.
- The floor was opened for audience participation, but no one wished to speak. If anyone is interested in participating at a policy committee meeting, they’ll need to fill out one of [these forms](#).

- Additionally, there are other ways to participate in/engage with AMATS.
 - Information on the Citizens Involvement Committee can be found [here](#).
 - AMATS also put together a “Public Participation Plan” which can be found [here](#).
- A motion to accept the minutes from the March 28 meeting was approved.

STAFF REPORTS

- First was the Financial Progress Report. A copy of the report is Attachment 3A in the agenda packet (which can be found [here](#)).

FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT
AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
March 31, 2024

Description	Annual Budget	Year-to-Date Expenses	% Budget Expended	March Expenses
I. Short Range Planning	\$685,000	\$365,310	53%	\$55,534
FY2023 Carryover	185,000	184,961		0
FY2024	500,000	180,349		55,534
II. Transportation Improvement Program	\$250,000	\$142,000	57%	\$14,043
FY2024	250,000	142,000		14,043
III. Continuing Planning & Data Collection Transportation System Update	\$432,000	\$252,317	58%	\$46,480
FY2023 Carryover	132,000	130,903		0
FY2024	300,000	121,414		46,480
IV. Long Range Plan Activity	\$560,000	\$220,815	39%	\$18,635
FY2023 Carryover	110,000	104,293		0
FY2024	450,000	116,522		18,635
V. Service	\$665,000	\$260,269	39%	\$33,820
FY2023 Carryover	165,000	147,150		0
FY2024	500,000	113,119		33,820
VI. OhioRideshare and AQ Advocacy	\$180,000	\$63,201	35%	\$0
FY2024 OhioRideshare	80,000	25,764		0
FY2024 Air Quality	100,000	37,437		0
VII. Local	\$25,000	\$22,747	91%	\$0
AMATS local Costs	25,000	22,747		0
VIII. AMATS Transportation Quarterly	\$80,466	\$16,866	21%	\$4,801
FY2023 Carryover	4,000	3,972		0
FY2024	76,466	12,895		4,801
IX. GRAND TOTAL AMATS BUDGET	\$2,877,466	\$1,343,526	47%	\$173,312

- According to the presenter: “Through March, we’ve expended about 47% of the budget and are in good financial shape.”

- There were no questions about the financial report.
- A motion to accept the financial report was approved.
- Second was the Technical Progress Report. (The chair referenced Attachment 3B in the agenda packet, but there was no such an attachment in the packet I received and the agenda said “oral.”)
 - They are in the process of updating their regional bike map. The presenter said: “Despite that map being kind of long in the tooth, it's remained incredibly popular. It's also kind of a marketing tool for us.”
 - There should be a new map by the end of June.
 - The presenter mentioned an [LTAP course](#) notification he received for an in-person event on June 11 in Columbus.
 - [The Connecting Communities](#) initiative has had kick-off meetings in the last two weeks for both the Summit Lake neighborhood in Akron and New Franklin.
 - From the presenter: “Other than that, we’re just plugging away at all our input documents with the [long-range transportation plan](#).”
 - There were no questions about the technical progress report.
- Third was the AMATS Federal Funds Report. A copy of the report is Attachment 3C in the agenda packet.
 - The woman presenting: “So we’re officially in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and almost everything has been encumbered. The handful of projects that have not been encumbered, I’ve been assured, have already been bid and they’re either awarded and just not encumbered yet or they’re in the process of being awarded.” ([This is what “encumbered” means.](#))
 - There were two projects that slipped into 2025 because of right-of-way or railroad issues. But they have already been moved to 2025 “so that we don’t have to worry about cleaning house at the end of the fiscal year.”
 - There were no questions about the federal funds report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Item 1: The AMATS Active Transportation Plan, which is associated with Attachment 4A in the agenda packet.
 - The ATP is an input document for the next long-range transportation plan.
 - In March, a draft of the recommendations was made available for public comment.
 - Along with strategies and goals, the recommendations were approved by the Policy Committee in March for inclusion in the ATP.

- A draft of the 2024 ATP has been placed on the [AMATS website](#).
- Staff asked for approval of the ATP, and a motion to approve passed..



Areawide Roundabout Study



May 2024

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- Item 2: The AMATS [Areawide Roundabout Study](#), which is associated with

attachment 4B in the agenda packet.

- This study is a deeper dive into everything about roundabouts and how they're performing. It's an objective analysis of what they've learned, how the roundabouts are performing, and best practices for communities thinking about building one in the future.
- The study starts with a general overview of roundabout characteristics and considerations, such as advantages and disadvantages.
- The next chapter digs into the "inventory" of what exists within the AMATS region. There are 28 existing roundabouts on the types of roadways that AMATS has/would fund.
 - There is a data sheet in Chapter 3 of the study for each of these. It contains their basic characteristics and existing crash data.
 - They were able to do an analysis on 17 of the 28 roundabouts. The ones they couldn't include were newer roundabouts.
 - According to the presenter: "The big takeaways from [the analysis] are as we would expect: our injury crashes were reduced on nearly all of the roundabouts. Fifteen out of 17 of them had reductions in injuries." Property damage-only crashes went down on nine out of the 17, which is about or a little better than was expected. He went on to say: "roundabouts are really, when used as a safety tool, about reducing the severity of crashes."
- Chapter 4 is a "best practices guide" for the communities served by AMATS. It is the result of many conversations they've had with the communities that have built roundabouts.
 - The last part of Chapter 4 is an overview of all the funding that exists to build roundabouts.
- There were no questions about the report.
- A motion to accept the roundabout study was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business.

RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution 2024-10 - Approving the FY 2025 Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget (**Attachment 6A**)
 - A motion to accept resolution 2024-10 was approved.
- Resolution 2024-11 - Reaffirming the Approval of the Regional Transportation Plan

and the Transportation Improvement Program, and Affirming the Consistency between the Regional Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the State Implementation Plan **(Attachment 6B)**

- A motion to accept resolution 2024-11 was approved.
- Resolution 2024-12 - Certification of the Urban Transportation Planning Process **(Attachment 6C)**
 - A motion to accept resolution 2024-12 was approved.
- Resolution 2024-13 - To Add Newly Awarded Funds for METRO RTA and PARTA (FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment #6) **(Attachment 6D)**
 - A motion to accept resolution 2024-13 was approved.
- Resolution 2024-14 - Approving Amendment #7 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to add three projects, revise funding/move from group to individual project for one project and delete one project **(Attachment 6E)**
 - A motion to accept resolution 2024-14 was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

- AMATS is updating its website. It's getting a whole new redesign, including a new logo. The presenter showed off the homepage of the site and some of its features and said that it should go live this summer before their next meeting in August.
 - The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 8 at the Venue in Tallmadge.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

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 with "Correction Request" in the subject line.