

# Akron Documenters

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## Technical Advisory Committee

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Agency: Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study

Date: Aug. 1, 2024

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### Summary

- One of the purposes of the meeting was to introduce and review several important reports (drafts). Those reports are included in the [August Meeting Packet](#). (All the reports referred to below are included in full in the meeting packet. (The packet comprises 255 pages.)
- The Planning Data Forecast Report is especially interesting in that it contains two very different demographic forecasts for the region. The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) forecast predicts a 15% decrease in population between now and 2050. The Current Trends forecast, developed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, predicts a 0.3% increase in population.
- Two resolutions were passed, each of which added funds to existing projects.

### Follow-Up Questions

- What underlies the very significant differences in the population forecasts by ODOD and AMATS?
- What underlies the very substantial increase in highway preservation costs?

### Notes

- [Agenda is here.](#)

- **Agenda Item 1A:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Finney at 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 1. A quorum was announced.
- **Agenda Item 2A:** The minutes of the previous meeting (May 9) were accepted via a unanimous voice vote.
- **Agenda Item 3A:** AMATS Director Curtis Baker provided a very short overview of the financial report. It was accepted via a unanimous voice vote.
- **Agenda Item 3B:** Planning Administrator Matt Stewart provided an overview of the Technical Progress Report.
  - The [AMATS Annual Meeting](#) will be held on Oct. 11.
  - [Bike User maps](#) are available on the AMATS website.
- **Agenda Item 3C:** Transportation Engineer Amy Prater provided an overview of the AMATS Federal Funds Report.
  - The region is “over programmed” in 2025, but ODOT has assured officials that loans will be available.
- **Agenda Item 4:** There was no old business.
- **Agenda Item 5A:** Prater and Stewart provided an overview of the Highway Preservation Needs Report.
  - Estimated preservation costs for the region have increased by 71% (over the 2019 estimate) because of substantial increases in the costs of material and labor.
  - The report was accepted by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Agenda Item 5B:** Baker provided an overview of the draft of the Congestion Management Process Strategies.
  - The final report will be available in September.
  - AMATS prefers congestion mitigation strategies that don’t involve substantial new road design and construction because such congestion issues that exist in the region aren’t significant and can be addressed by other means.
- **Agenda Item 5C:** Baker provided an overview of the draft Planning Data Forecast.
  - As mentioned above, there is a substantial difference in the forecasts developed by the Ohio Department of Development and AMATS.
  - AMATS will use its own forecast in its planning.
- **Agenda Item 5D:** Transportation Planner Jeff Gardner provided an overview of the

draft 2024 Freight Plan.

- **Agenda Item 5E:** Planner Matt Mullen provided an overview of the 2024 Transit Plan.
- **Agenda Item 6A:** A resolution “Approving Amendment #8 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to revise funding for two projects, add one project and delete one project phase” was passed via unanimous voice vote.
- **Agenda Item 6B:** A resolution “To Add Capital Funds for METRO RTA (FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment #9) was passed via unanimous voice vote.
- **Agenda Item 7:** Stewart said that Mobility Planner Heather Reidl would be available after the meeting to show and review the new AMATS website.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 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.