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Policy Committee Meeting

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Agency: Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study

Date: Dec. 11, 2025

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Summary

- The Dec. 12 Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study Policy Committee meeting only lasted approximately 20 minutes, quickly moving through three committee reports, four resolutions and officer elections. At no point did any committee member ask a question, and each agenda item passed without objection. While decisions were made quickly, this seemed to stem from deference to AMATS staff and subcommittees rather than pre-made decisions.
- One notable item was Resolution 2025-18, which approved \$14,204,544 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program funding. Another \$325,465 was directed to Barney's Busy Corners Signal, New Signalization, Cuyahoga Falls \$2,087,395 for METRO RTA for three CNG buses, \$2,310,931 for PARTA for four Clean Diesel buses, \$3,600,000 for Fishcreek/Stow Roundabout construction in Stow, and \$5,880,753 for updated Citywide Signals and Signalization Coordination in Twinsburg.
- The committee also elected new officers, with Mayor William Judge of Barberton replacing outgoing chair Portage County Engineer Larry Jenkins. Jenkins was

recognized by AMATS Director Curtis Baker with a plaque for his two years of service.

Follow-Up Questions

- Is approval by the Policy Committee the final step in a longer process? The meeting had a “rubber stamp” feel, but that might be because most of the discussion happens at a different stage in the process.
- Is AMATS worried about [House Bill 445](#) and what it would mean for the region?

Notes:

The [AMATS Policy Committee](#) is responsible for directing the region's transportation planning process. The Policy Committee comprises elected representatives of municipalities, counties, two regional transit authorities and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m.
- The chair determined that a quorum was present. No voice roll call was taken, but it was clear that one was present. I was unable to see the nameplates of the AMATS members to check who was present and who was not.
- Because of the holiday season, the chair said they would move through the meeting quickly.
- [Link to AMATS Meeting Recording](#)

2. Audience Participation

- No one had signed up to speak.

3. Minutes

- **Sept. 25 Meeting – Motion Required (Attachment 2A)**
 - No member had any comments or revisions for the Sept. 25 minutes.
 - A motion to approve the minutes was made, and it passed without objection.

4. Staff Reports

- **Financial Progress Report – (Attachment 3A)**
 - [AMATS Director Curtis Baker](#) presented the report. As of Oct. 31,

AMATS has spent about 26% of its budget, with all projects on schedule and the financial outlook good.

- There was no question about the Financial Progress Report.
- A motion to approve the report was made, and it passed without objection.

○ **Technical Progress Report – Oral**

- The report was presented by [AMATS Planning Administrator Matt Stewart](#). He explained AMATS is in the process of fulfilling the organization's pavement management contract. AMATS has selected the payment collection index and is now seeking a new two-year contract to operate the 915 centerline miles of AMAT's federally fundable roads. Currently working on the process with a committee, and should have progress to report by January on how AMATS should move forward.
- Stewart also reported that the 2026 membership forms are being sent out, and members should return them as soon as possible so AMATS knows who represents each community and who are the alternate members from each community.
- Stewart also gave what he called a “non-update” on [Ohio House Bill 445](#), which would amend a section of the Ohio Revised Code to alter how regional councils, metropolitan planning commissions and metropolitan functions operate. The bill is still in committee and has not moved forward.
- There was no question about the Technical Progress Report.
- A motion to approve the report was made, and it passed without objection.

○ **AMATS Federal Funds Report (Attachment 3C).**

- The report was presented by [Transportation Engineer Amy Prater](#). There has been little movement with the project “sells” since the last Policy Committee meeting. AMATS is almost done with the second quarter of its fiscal year. They do have quite a few projects in the pipeline for their current fiscal year, most of which will take place in the third quarter.
- AMTAS will require a loan for upcoming projects, but with other projects coming in under budget, those savings should offset the required amounts.
- There was no question about the Federal Funds Report.
- A motion to approve the report was made, and it passed without objection.

5. Old Business

- There was no old business on the agenda. The chair moved the committee into new business.

6. New Business

- **Draft Project Application Scores for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program, Resurfacing Program and Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) Program (Attachment 5A)**
 - Also presented by Prater, AMATS received 71 applications from 25 sponsors for the STBG, Resurfacing and TASA Programs. Each project was assigned a score by AMATS staff in accordance with organizational guidelines.
 - Members were given an updated version of tables 1 and 2 to correct mistakes. The updated tables are attached as a scanned PDF. All updates since the mailout are highlighted in orange.
 - Prater also reminded attendees that some communities still needed to present legislation for their project, and without that legislation, they would not receive funding.
 - The exact number of projects to be funded and the cutoff score will be determined in January.
 - Currently, AMATS is estimating \$11 million for STBG projects and \$11 million for resurfacing projects. Those numbers are unlikely to decline, but an increase is possible.
 - Comments or questions about the scores by representatives will be forwarded to the TAC-TIP (Technical Advisory Committee and Transportation Improvement Program) Subcommittee for review, with approval and recommendations occurring in January and February.
 - No policy committee members had any questions.

7. Resolutions

- **Resolution 2025-16 – Approving Amendment #5 to the FY 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to delete one project – Motion Required (Attachment 6A)**
 - Prater explained that this was to delete one project that the Policy Committee added at their September meeting.
 - This was a technical amendment to move allocated funds to the correct Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
 - There was no question about the resolution.
 - A motion to approve the report was made, and it passed without objection.
- **Resolution 2025-17 – To Add Additional Transit Funds for METRO RTA**

(FY 2026–2029 TIP Amendment #6) – Motion Required (Attachment 6B)

- Presented by [Planner Matt Mullen](#), the resolution adds funds to several existing TIP METRO RTA projects for 2026.
 - Specifically, \$7,025,000 for preventative maintenance, \$1 million for planning software, and \$1,312,500 for new maintenance and operations facilities.
 - There was no question about the resolution.
 - A motion to approve the report was made, and it passed without objection.
- **Resolution 2025-18 – Approving New Projects to be funded under the CMAQ Program – Motion Required (Attachment 6C)**
- Presented by Stewart, the resolution awards funding to five projects under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program.
 - Barney's Busy Corners Signal, New Signalization, Cuyahoga Falls \$325,465
 - METRO three CNG Buses, Bus Replacement, METRO RTA \$2,087,395
 - PARTA four Clean Diesel Buses, Bus Replacement, PARTA \$2,310,931
 - Fishcreek/Stow Roundabout, Construct a Roundabout, Stow \$3,600,000
 - Twinsburg Citywide Signals, Signalization Coordination, Twinsburg \$5,880,753
 - There was no question about the resolution.
 - A motion to approve the report was made, and it passed without objection.

8. Other Business

- **2026 Officer Nominations – Motion Requested – Oral**
- The Officer Nomination Subcommittee recommended that Mayor [William Judge](#) serve as chair and that [City Manager David Ruller](#) of Kent serve as committee vice chair.
 - A motion was made to approve the nominations for chair and vice chair.
 - The motion passed with no objections.

9. Chair Recognition – Oral

- The outgoing mayor of New Franklin, [Paul Adamson](#), recognized incoming Mayor Steve Rector, who will now represent New Franklin on the committee.

- Baker recognized [Portage County Engineer Larry Jenkins](#), with a commemorative plaque for his two years of service as Policy Committee Chair.
- Baker asked informally whether members would appreciate an Outlook calendar invite from AMATs for the committee meetings or if that would be too many emails. Members gave general feedback that an Outlook invitation would be helpful.

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, and there were no objections.
 - Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Next regular meeting:

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.

ODOT District 4, 2088 S. Arlington Road, Akron, OH 44306