



## AAA AKRON AUTO CLUB CHANGES DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPE/ RETAINS JOBS

<b>Address:</b>	100 Rosa Parks Boulevard, Ohio
<b>Property Size:</b>	2.5 acres
<b>Former Uses:</b>	Railroad spur, Akron Lumber Company, Hardware and Supply Company
<b>Pre-development Use:</b>	Vacant, blighted property along a visible corridor to Akron's downtown
<b>EPA Funding Source:</b>	<b>Project Partners:</b>
The Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning & Development Organization (NEFCO) used funds from a U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant for Summit County, Ohio.	NEFCO, City of Akron, AAA Auto Club



### Project Background

The property was a highly-visible reminder of deindustrialization to travelers entering downtown Akron from the south. Once the location of a rail spur, multiple industrial uses, a lumber company, and a hardware/supply company, the property was a prime location after METRO RTA built its modern transfer station across the street. Serving Greater Akron's transportation needs, AAA Auto Club had faced the need to relocate its office to accommodate the City of Akron's sewer tunnel project. Instead of leaving downtown Akron, AAA's location since 1948, the company was determined to find a new location nearby.

The environmental assessment of the property found lead-impacted soil, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) (benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene, and indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene) in concentrations exceeding Commercial/Industrial or Construction/Excavation direct contact standards. Concentrations of lead and mercury exceeded their respective Voluntary Action Program comparison standards in one or more locations. Naphthalene in excess of drinking water standards was detected in the groundwater. The property is served by city water; however, the concern of naphthalene in groundwater included vapor intrusion in the structure to be constructed on the property. Contaminated soil was screened for constituents and to determine whether it could be reused for grading the property. Soil that could not be used (due to elevated lead concentrations and its urban fill properties) was removed. A sub-slab depressurization system was installed in the AAA building to address elevated naphthalene concentrations in the groundwater.

### Key Outcomes

- The building of the 13,000 square-foot facility is the first new construction in downtown Akron in many years.
- The new AAA office opened in November 2016, across the street from METRO RTA's transfer station. This new structure revitalizes an unsightly corridor leading into downtown Akron and serves as an excellent example of a public-private partnership involving local, state, and federal levels of government.
- This redevelopment allowing AAA Auto Club to retain jobs in the inner city represented a significant reinvestment in Akron.

**Public/Private sector investment:** \$3,177,690      **Jobs retained:** 45

For more information, visit [www.nefcoplanning.org/brownfields](http://www.nefcoplanning.org/brownfields) or call NEFCO at 330.643.8514

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