

# NEWSLETTER

Working together to achieve safe and efficient multi-modal transportation solutions



## Transportation Improvement Program

Projects that are expected to be constructed in 2017 are:

**Birch Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility:** Construct a bike/pedestrian facility along Birch Hill Road to allow safe access to the Birch Hill Recreational Trail System. Construction expected in 2017.

**Noble Street Upgrade:** Reconstruct Noble St. from 1st Avenue to Gaffney Road. To be obligated in 2016. Construction expected in 2017. GVEA may be doing advance utility relocation in 2016.

**Steese Expressway to Front Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Path:** Construct a bicycle/pedestrian path from the Steese Expressway separated path to Front Street. To be obligated in 2016. Construction expected in 2017.

**FMATS Improvement Program FFY17:** Cowles Street (Y to 29th), 10th Ave (Cushman to Steese), McKinley View Drive, Valley View Drive, Old Chena Ridge Road, Birch Hill Roundabout, H&H Road, Doughchee Ave, San Augustin Drive, Perimeter Drive and Tanana Loop.

Projects that are expected to start the Design phase are:

College Road Bus Pullouts, Airport Way Beautification, FMATS Sign Replacement, Lathrop Street Extension, Minnie Street Planning and Environmental Linkages Study, North Pole Street Light Standardization, Old Richardson Highway Intersection Improvements, FMATS Sidewalk Improvements, FMATS Intersection Improvements, Chena River Walk Stage III.

*A new TIP!*



The 2017–2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was released for public comment on November 9, 2016. The comment period closed on December 10, 2016. The Responsiveness Summary and the new TIP is expected to be sent to the Policy Board for approval on February 15th, 2017. The new TIP will be posted online at <http://fmats.us/programs/tip/>.



## Metropolitan Transportation Plan

*A new MTP!*



FMATS is working with the Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and a consultant to update the long range plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The MTP is a blueprint guiding transportation project priorities, short to long range which address transportation issues in the Fairbanks Metropolitan area. The MTP seeks to balance investment in various transportation modes against anticipated funding from federal, state and local sources.

The current MTP can be found at <http://fmats.us/programs/metropolitan-transportation-plan/>.

Projects/Programs must be contained in the MTP to move forward in the TIP. FMATS

expects work to begin by March.



## Public Participation Plan

*A new PPP!*



Along with a new MTP and TIP, comes a new PPP. The Public Participation Plan is updated to reflect current methods used to reach the public to ensure adequate and meaningful participation. The Plan was sent out for a 45-day public comment period which ended on December 26, 2016. The Responsiveness Summary and the updated document were approved by the Policy Board on January 18, 2017. The PPP is posted online at <http://fmats.us/programs/public-participation/>.

FMATS is also developing its first Title VI Implementation Plan. It will be released on February 15, 2017 for a 45-day public comment period and will be incorporated by reference into the PPP when approved.

FMATS is a recipient of Federal financial assistance. As a Federal-aid recipient, FMATS will ensure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related federal statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The Title VI Implementation Plan will explain how FMATS will carry this out.



## Freight Mobility Plan

FMATS is working with DOT&PF and consultant HDR Alaska, Inc. on creating a Freight Mobility Plan (FMP) for the Fairbanks and North Pole areas.

The purpose of this document is to create a coordinated plan for freight transportation to navigate through the metropolitan area. This plan will identify problem areas that inhibit freight movement and emerging freight issues and make recommendations, all with the insight of the freight community.



Updates on the FMP will be on the FMATS website on the [FMP Webpage](#).



## EPA Proposal for the FNSB PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area

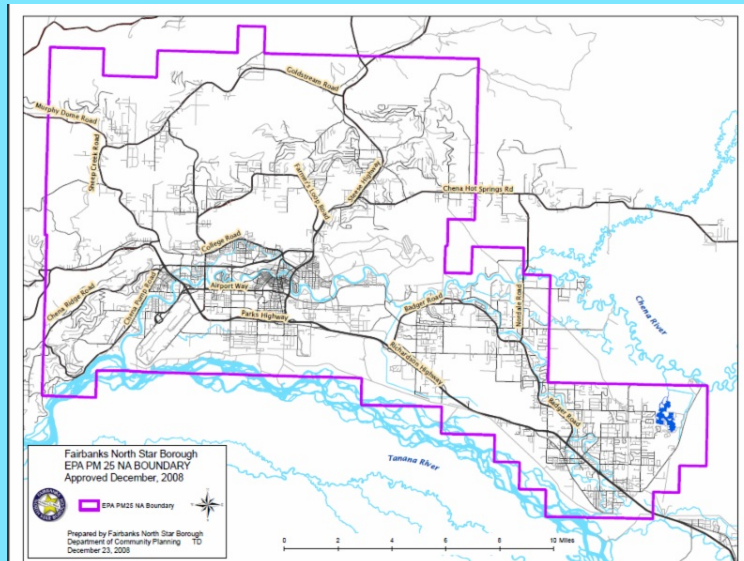
On Friday December 16, 2016 EPA proposed to find that the FNSB 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment area failed to attain the PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) by December 31, 2015. EPA is therefore proposing to reclassify the FNSB PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment area from Moderate to Serious.

To view the EPA Proposed action in the December 9, 2016 Federal Register visit:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-16/pdf/2016-30174.pdf>

Both a link to the proposed EPA rule and a fact sheet on the proposal can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/determinations-attainment-failure-attain-and-reclassifications-2006-24-hour-pm>



EPA accepted comments on their proposed finding until January 17, 2017. EPA will review any comments received by the deadline and then publish their final determination and effective date for the Serious reclassification in a subsequent federal register notice.



## Upcoming Events

### FMATS Sidewalk Improvement Program Open Houses:

*South Cowles Sidewalk/Allridge Park Path*

Monday, January 23, 2017

JP Jones Community Center

5:30 – 7:00 pm

*5th Avenue Sidewalk (and Cowles Street Reconstruction)*

Monday, February 13, 2017

Fairbanks City Council Chambers

5:30 – 7:00 pm

\*\*For more information, visit <http://fmats.us/2017/01/11/sidewalk-improvement-program-project-open-houses/>

**Wembley Avenue Improvements Open House:**

Randy Smith Middle School, Commons

Monday, January 30, 2017 5:30 – 6:30pm

\*\*For more information, visit <http://fmats.us/2017/01/11/wembley-ave-improvements-open-house/>

**Technical Committee Meeting:**

The next FMATS Technical Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2017 from 12–2pm in the Fairbanks City Hall Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street.

**Policy Board Meeting:**

The next FMATS Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2017 from 12–2pm in the Fairbanks City Hall Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street.

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800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK · 907.459.6786