

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**  
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2012

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Steve Titus called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

**2. Introduction of Members and Attendees**

The following were present:

- \* FMATS Policy Committee members
- \*\* FMATS Staff members
- \*\*\* FMATS Technical Committee members

| Name   | Representing                               |
|--|--|
| * Steve Titus, P.E.                                      | DOT&PF                                     |
| * Mayor Jerry Cleworth                                   | City of Fairbanks                          |
| * Mayor Luke Hopkins                                     | Fairbanks North Star Borough               |
| * Mayor Doug Isaacson                                    | City of North Pole                         |
| * Chad Roberts   | City of Fairbanks                          |
| * Alice Edwards  | ADEC, Air Quality Division                 |
| * Mike Musick  | FNSB Assembly                              |
| ** Kellen Spillman                                       | FMATS                                      |
| ** Margaret Carpenter                                    | DOT&PF, Planning                           |
| *** Donna Gardino  | FMATS Coordinator                          |
| *** Mike Schmetzer                                       | City of Fairbanks                          |
| *** Ethan Birkholz                                       | DOT&PF, Planning                           |
| *** Joan Hardesty  | ADEC, Air Quality Division                 |
| Janet Brown  | DOT&PF, Preconstruction                    |
| Barry Hooper   | DOT&PF                                     |
| Anna Plager  | Chena River Front Commission               |
| Sue Sprinkle   | 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Design and Graphics |
| Dave Hayden  | Public                                     |
| Meadow Bailey  | DOT&PF                                     |
| June Rogers  | Fairbanks Arts Association                 |
| Mark Fejes   | Public                                     |
| Jim Lounsbury  | Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #4               |
| George Lounsbury   | Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #4               |
| Dermot Cole  | Fairbanks Daily News Miner                 |
| John Jackovich   | Public                                     |
| Sue Strunka  | Public                                     |
| Joe Strunka  | Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #4               |
| Anne Kristaff  | Public                                     |
| Rodger Hopp  | Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #4               |
| Jim Moody  | Public                                     |
| Ronald Brooks  | Public                                     |
| Vivian Stiver (teleconference)                           | Representative Tammie Wilson's Office      |
| Other unidentified members of the public did not sign-in |  |

### **3. Public Comments:**

Mr. George Lounsbury said that he is concerned that the history of Fairbanks needs to be included in projects along the river. Mr. Lounsbury said that he thinks that Pedro, the Barnettes and Captain Adams should be included in the design of the project by Illinois Street.

Mr. Ron Brooks said that, from his understanding, the DOT is going to put an arch downtown in-between the two bridges. Mr. Brooks continued on to say that he is opposed to the arch and feels that this historical site should reflect the history of Fairbanks. Mr. Brooks said that this area is heavily used by the Yukon Quest, the Yukon 800, and has been used for ice skating, curling, crowning the ice king and queen, and ice sculptures in the past. Mr. Brooks said that he is opposed to the use of riprap on the site and encouraged that the area should be kept green and usable by the community of Fairbanks. Mr. Brooks said that the arch does not have any meaning to Fairbanks and encouraged that something with meaning be put on the site.

Mr. Frank McGilvery said that he thinks that something historic should be done on the site; similar to what DOT did out at the Pedro Monument on the Steese Highway.

Mr. Jim Lounsbury said that access to the Chena River from downtown is very important and he would like to see some type of concrete slab or steps to the river. Mr. Lounsbury said that he had many relatives in the past that ice skated on the river and would like to see some way to get machinery onto the river. Mr. Lounsbury said that he would like to see steps on both sides of the river as well as a ramp for the fire department to use.

Mr. Jim Moody said that he was an office engineer on the Wendell Avenue Bridge project and he would like to know more information about what the Illinois Street Reconstruction project involves. Mr. Moody said that he does not like the sculpture and would like DOT to take the sculpture out of the Illinois Street project. Mr. Moody said that he would like the project to include access to the water through some type of grading. Mr. Moody encouraged DOT to go ahead with the dirt work in the project, but decide on landscaping later. Mr. Moody said that this area is more than a unique place to have lunch and would like the arch deleted from the project.

Ms. Sue Sprinkle distributed two handouts to the FMATS Policy Committee, one of the original proposed design of the gateway feature and a proposed landscaping of the apex area. Ms. Sprinkle said that the original landscape architect that designed the gateway feature is Dwayne Adams from Anchorage. Ms. Sprinkle said that she does not feel that there was input from the public on this project and she does not feel that the piece of art is well thought.

Mr. David Hayden said that he was representing the Downtown Association Board and the Board supports not building the gateway feature. Mr. Hayden continued on to say that this project is too important to build until the roads are in place and the public has had an opportunity to decide on an appropriate feature.

Mr. Musick asked Mr. Hayden what he was referring to when he said gateway feature and Mr. Hayden said that he was referring to the sculpture and not the entire landscaping.

Mr. Joe Strunka said that he was perplexed to why people did not know anything about the proposed design of the gateway feature until now. Mr. Strunka said that Fairbanks is called the "Golden Heart City" and he feels that something like a golden heart shaped feature in the apex could be appropriate. Mr. Strunka said that he also feels that possibly small pedestal monuments of the early founders of Fairbanks. Mr. Strunka expressed his displeasure in the current design of the gateway feature and urged it to be deleted from the project.

Ms. June Rogers said that she agrees with a number of the comments that have been made about the arch, but she really appreciates the process and the willingness to hear the opinions of the community.

Mr. Rodger Hopp said that he is with the Pioneers of Alaska and that organization is very interested in what takes place in the City of Fairbanks. Mr. Hopp said that the Pioneers of Alaska would appreciate to be kept informed and up to date on the entire process.

Ms. Anna Plager, Chena River Front Commission, said that the Chena River Front Commission has tried unsuccessfully many times over the past six years with written resolutions through both the City and Borough Mayor's to get the triangle area designed for ease of public use. Ms. Plager said that the Chena River Front Commission is committed to finding a better design for the triangle area and has continued to meet to discuss possible designs for the area. Ms. Plager said that she has met with the new director of Borough Parks and Recreation and he seems completely supportive of the Chena River Front Commission's concerns, particularly regarding public access to and from the river and the sidewalk. Ms. Plager asked the FMATS Policy Committee to pull one free standing feature, the gateway arch, out of the huge Illinois Street Reconstruction project, which was not vetted in a public process. Ms. Plager said that this small park is in the center of downtown and it is the only green space on the downtown roadways. Ms. Plager said that there are plenty of nearby parking lots and this green space is south facing, which is also very important. Ms. Plager said that the open space that will be created in the triangle is larger than the open space of Golden Heart Plaza. Ms. Plager said that there is room in this area for a lot of activities and this area is close to the river. Ms. Plager said that all of the other downtown parks have steep banks with no feasible way to get close to the river in the summer or the winter. Ms. Plager said that if the gateway feature is deleted the public will continue to discuss options for the triangle area and the Fairbanks Arts Association is willing to help. Ms. Plager said that it will be two years before construction is complete and the area is usable, which is ample time to have a design in place. Ms. Plager said that in 2008 the DOT told the Chena River Front Commission that construction on the Illinois Street Reconstruction project would begin during the summer of 2011 and now it is the summer of 2012. Ms. Plager said that the Chena River Front Commission could help guide responsible development for this small slice of green space on the riverfront in downtown Fairbanks.

Mr. Musick asked Ms. Plager how many resolutions were submitted by the Chena River Front Commission. Ms. Plager said that there were three resolutions submitted over six years. Ms. Plager said that she has the resolutions and could distribute copies to the FMATS Policy Committee. Ms. Plager said that the first resolution was passed in 2005 and it was very broad. Ms. Plager said that the second resolution was passed in 2006 and it went into more detail. Ms. Plager said that the third resolution was passed in 2010 and it had to do with the access issue. Ms. Plager said that the gateway feature was not addressed in the resolutions, but discussions were had with DOT regarding the feature.

Mr. John Jackovich said that he is excited to see so many people in attendance and concerned about the triangle space. Mr. Jackovich said that he is very concerned about access to downtown and would like to see more energy and excitement downtown. Mr. Jackovich said that this area will be the gateway to Fairbanks and he thinks that the gateway feature should be closer to the river than is currently designed. Mr. Jackovich said that he also feels that boat access to downtown Fairbanks is also very important.

#### **4. Approval of the January 18, 2012 Agenda**

- **Motion:** To approve the January 18, 2012 Policy Committee agenda. (Hopkins, Musick)
- **Vote on the Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

#### **5. Approval of December 21, 2011 Minutes**

- **Motion:** To approve the December 21, 2011 minutes. (Roberts, Hopkins)

Mayor Hopkins said that the name Mark Fejes is spelled incorrectly in the minutes. Mr. Spillman said that it has already been corrected.

- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a) Coordinator's Office Report and Technical Committee Action Items

Ms. Gardino discussed several of the highlights of the Coordinator's Office Staff Report including the following:

- Attended a Plack Road meeting with DOT regarding comments from Representative Wilson on avoiding seven parcels. Ms. Gardino said that DOT is looking at the issue and may be able to avoid the parcels, but may have to expand the scope of the project to include the intersection on Plack Road and Nelson Road, as well as rehabilitate the entire roadway
- Attended a Complete Streets Steering Committee
- Attended an Interagency Consultation on the MOVES model for the FMATS Air Quality Conformity
- Attended portions of the Air Quality Symposium
- Forwarded a draft UPWP to DOT for review and continued work on the associated analysis of the performance measures in the LRTP, to quantify the performance of FMATS
- Presented FMATS 101 and recent projects to the Sunrises's Rotary
- Developed a draft scope of services for an RFP on the College Road Corridor study
- Worked with PDC on developing a Safe Routes to School grant application for Woodriver Elementary. Ms. Gardino said that she will be meeting with the College Road Service Area to discuss the grant application on February 21<sup>st</sup>
- Planned a meeting with DOT regarding 2012 – 2015 TIP Administrative Modification #2 to ensure that there is adequate funding for the Noble Street project in 2014
- Attended a US Transportation policy briefing teleconference.

## 7. Old Business

There was no old business.

## 8. New Business

### a) North Pole Bike Trail Connections (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To add \$150,000 of offset funding to PH4 of the North Pole Bike Trail Rehabilitation and Connection Project. (Isaacson, Cleworth).

Ms. Gardino said that a project description and associated map are available in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino said that this project includes sidewalks, shoulders, and pathways to connect certain facilities in the North Pole area. Ms. Gardino said that she recently realized that the shoulders on Park Way are being completed as part of this project and Park Way is going to be rehabilitated as part of the FMATS Preventive Maintenance Program. Ms. Gardino said that she recommends moving the mill and pave to the North Pole Bike Trail Connections project and remove it from the Preventive Maintenance Program. Ms. Gardino said the cost would be \$100,000 to add the mill and pave of Park Way to the project.

Ms. Gardino said that the \$150,000 cost increase is because the design study report is close to being finalized and a better cost estimate was developed.

- **Amendment to motion:** To add \$100,000 from the Preventive Maintenance Project to this project for construction on Park Way. (Isaacson, Cleworth).

Mr. Titus asked if adding this change would affect the schedule of the project. Ms. Gardino said that she talked to the Project Manager this morning and it will not change the schedule. Mr. Titus asked if the two projects have the same project manager. Ms. Gardino said that the projects have different project managers, but they are currently coordinating with each other.

Mr. Musick said that certain sidewalks are only planned to be four feet wide in the project and he does not feel that is wide enough. Ms. Gardino said that four feet is the minimum and she suspects that there are right-of-way issues in those areas and this project does not have a right-of-way phase.

Mayor Isaacson said that it is optimal to have extra space, but some of these areas have a great deal of traffic and getting pedestrians off the road will be a great benefit to public safety, even if the sidewalks are only four feet wide.

Mr. Titus asked if there are going to be any phase 2 issues with adding the mill and pave of Park Way to this project and Ms. Gardino said that she has not been informed of any issues.

- **Amended motion:** To add \$150,000 of offset funding to PH4 of the North Pole Bike Trail Rehabilitation and Connection Project and \$100,000 from the Preventive Maintenance Project for construction of Park Way. (Isaacson, Cleworth).
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

#### **b) Illinois Street Reconstruction – Gateway Feature (Action Item)**

Mr. Titus said that there were a number of interested members of the public at the last FMATS Policy Committee meeting and he thought that it was important for everyone to understand how DOT came to the design of the gateway feature. Mr. Titus introduced Mr. Barry Hooper, DOT & PF, for a presentation on the gateway feature. Copies of the resolutions passed by the Chena River Front Commission, in regards to the gateway feature, were distributed to the FMATS Policy Committee.

Mr. Hooper said the triangle area is located just north of the Chena River and is formed by Cushman Street and the soon to be extension of Barnette Street. Mr. Hooper said that the triangle area itself is DOT right-of-way and it has a drainage and water quality treatment function. Mr. Hooper said that there is a catch basin in the middle of the triangle feature and an outfall half way between the two bridges that will discharge to the Chena River. Mr. Hooper said that the green space is considered an aesthetic open space and there will be an apex feature at the north end of the triangle. Mr. Hooper said that the project is federally funded and all of the features that are being discussed are Transportation Enhancements. Mr. Hooper said that as DOT right-of-way, this area is not considered a park and the primary use is for aesthetics to complement the road project. Mr. Hooper said that other amenities that are included in the project are flag poles, planters, an underpass pathway, and low profile LED lighting.

Mr. Hooper said that the gateway feature is a metal arch approximately 14 feet high that is to be located in the southern portion of the concrete apex feature. Mr. Hooper said that in the middle of the gateway feature is an eight foot platform intended for ice sculptures and electrical facilities are available. Mr. Hooper said that around the area, there are several large planter areas for flower arrangements. Mr. Hooper said that the top of the arch is one foot nine inches wide and will have the word "Fairbanks" written on it in one foot high lettering.

Mr. Hooper said that the triangle area will be surrounded by the current guardrail on the Cushman Street side, which could potentially be removed as part of the Cushman Street Bridge Replacement project. Mr. Hooper said that the existing stairs, off of Cushman Street, will be removed and the area will be re-graded. Mr. Hooper said that from the back of the apex feature you will drop down, at approximately a twelve to one grade, until just north of the pathway where the grade increased to four to one.

Mr. Hooper said that there are two different types of grasses in the triangle feature, which were determined by FNSB Parks and Recreation. Mr. Hooper said that one of the grass types will be mowed and one of the grass types will be left natural.

Mr. Hooper said that in 2005 the Chena River Front Commission passed a resolution containing some recommendations including pedestrian underpasses, access to the river, active park design, inclusion of a landscape architect and a haunch design of the bridge to accommodate bicyclists. Mr. Hooper continued on to say that the environmental document for the project was completed in July 2005 and the preferred option was not to use a haunch design. Mr. Hooper said that in 2006, DOT met with various groups to determine what the goals of the triangle would be, as recommended by the Chena River Front Commission. Mr. Hooper said that these groups included Festival Fairbanks, the City of Fairbanks Police Department, the FNSB Parks and Recreation, the Golden Heart Rotary, the Beatification Commission, and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hooper said that the main theme that came out of the meetings was that a focal point at the north end of the triangle would be established to display ice sculptures.

Mr. Hooper said that in 2006, the Chena River Front Commission passed a resolution that a feature would be designed above the bridge railing, to display ice sculptures in the winter and flower arrangements in the summer. Mr. Hooper said that DOT hired a landscape architect that took the comments from the 2006 meetings as well as the Chena River Front Commission's recommendations and developed a concept plan. Mr. Hooper said that the concept plan was then shown to the Chena River Front Commission and FNSB Parks and Recreation. Mr. Hooper said that the FNSB Parks and Recreation commented on the design that they were concerned that the backdrop was going to be a challenge for skateboarders and asked that it be redesigned. Mr. Hooper said that in 2008, updated streetscape plans were developed by the landscape architect and meetings were conducted with the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Hooper said that in the meetings the Army Corps of Engineers wanted a buffer along the river, which was negotiated down to six feet. Mr. Hooper said that also in 2006, another meeting with the Chena River Front Commission took place as well as the finalizing of a maintenance agreement with FNSB Parks and Recreation. Mr. Hooper said that in 2009, another meeting was held with the Chena River Front Commission to discuss how the resolutions were met, and not all of the issues were met. Mr. Hooper said that in 2010, another meeting took place with the Chena River Front commission and FNSB Parks and Recreation resulting in the Chena River Front Commission passing another resolution. Mr. Hooper said that the backdrop of the gateway feature was questioned and agreed that a temporary backdrop, that could be removed, would be added. Mr. Hooper said that in 2011, the plans were finalized and a temporary screen was deemed unpractical because of the size. Mr. Hooper said that the bids were opened in December of 2011 and an Intent to Award has been issued to HC Contractors to construct the project. Mr. Hooper said that the gateway feature itself is a \$50,000 bid item.

Mayor Isaacson asked why the triangle feature would be considered an aesthetic feature and not a park. Mr. Hooper said that DOT owns the right-of-way and the primary purpose of DOT right-of-way is not to be a park. Mayor Isaacson said that it might not be a formal park, but it might function as a park. Mayor Isaacson asked if it is possible to access the river across the riprap. Mr. Hooper said that the slopes are very gentle and it would be possible to access the river across the riprap.

Mr. Hooper said DOT met with the City of Fairbanks Police Department and they indicated that they needed a good view of the area to be able to police it. Mr. Hooper said that there will also be low level LED lighting along the pathway. Mr. Hooper said that the original engineer's estimate on the gateway feature was higher than the bid. Mayor Isaacson asked what the options would be if the current design of the gateway feature is deleted from the Illinois Street Reconstruction project. Mr. Hooper said that the FMATS Policy Committee could delete the feature and then form some type of committee to look at a new feature.

Mayor Hopkins said that the area in question is not a borough park. Mayor Hopkins asked what the original estimate of the gateway feature was and Mr. Titus said that the original engineer's estimate was \$325,000. Mr. Titus noted that the entire engineer's estimate on the project was very close to the bid of the contractor and he feels that the discrepancy, for the gateway feature, is in the rest of the job, somewhere. Mayor Hopkins asked if new guardrail would be added to the project and Mr. Hooper said that the guardrail on the Cushman street side would remain, but there would be new guardrail added to the Barnette Street side. Mr. Hooper noted that there will be a break in the Cushman Street guardrail where the existing stairs are located. Mayor Hopkins asked if the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers requires the vegetation to be natural and Mr. Hooper said that the vegetation must be natural within six feet of the river. Mayor Hopkins said that the Borough requested that the riprap be filled in with smaller rock so that people could walk down to the river if they wanted. Mayor Hopkins asked if the hardscape features around the apex area are included in the maintenance agreement with the borough and Mr. Hooper said that everything in back of the sidewalk is included in the agreement. Mr. Hooper said that the City of Fairbanks will maintain the sidewalk area.

Mayor Hopkins said that he would like to make a motion and Mr. Titus asked Mayor Hopkins not to make a motion, for the moment, to see if there was any other discussion. Mr. Musick asked if there was any consideration for ADA access to the triangle area. Mr. Hooper said that ADA access was considered when designing the pathways and the apex feature, but was not considered in designing greenspace. Mr. Hooper said that there is not ADA compliant access into the triangle.

Mr. Hooper, using the assistance of slides, explained the future location of the pathway, pointing out that it will go under the Barnette Street Bridge and the Cushman Street Bridge. Mr. Roberts asked if there is any access from the Cushman Street Bridge to the pathway and Mr. Hooper said that there is not access from Cushman Street.

Mayor Hopkins said that he still does not understand why the triangle area is not to be called a park, because the area is intended for park type usage. Mr. Hooper said that DOT does not maintain parks, but people could use the area as a park. Mr. Hooper continued to say that there could be some legal consequences for DOT if it were called a park, using the example of the environmental document on the Cushman Street Bridge project.

Mayor Isaacson asked if it would be possible to place interpretive signs along the pathway that commemorate important events along the Chena River. Mr. Hooper said that there would be an opportunity to place signs.

Mayor Cleworth asked if there is any danger of inundation of the bike path and Mr. Hooper said that there is a high probability of inundation, but the frequency is unknown. Mr. Titus noted that there is also a possibility of the LED lights going under water. Mayor Cleworth said that the lights could be placed on the underside of the bridge. Mr. Hooper said that the City of Fairbanks provided the design for the lighting and that is something that could be looked at.

Mayor Hopkins said that the bike path lighting is under the Borough maintenance agreement and he would be glad to transfer it.

Mr. Titus said that the presented timeline shows that there has been a great deal of interaction between people and various entities around Fairbanks. Mr. Titus said that a number of the comments were addressed and asked Mr. Hooper to better describe a haunch bridge design. Mr. Hooper said that a haunch bridge design would be basically an arch under the bridge for additional clearance where the bike path goes under the bridge. Mr. Hooper said that the costs and additional impacts were considered and this feature was not included.

Mr. Titus said that there was been a great deal of interest in this feature and there are now three options: 1) do nothing and keep the gateway feature in the project, 2) take the gateway feature out, but leave the platform and planters as shown, or 3) take the feature out and establish a process to do something different. Mr. Titus said that the gateway feature is art and it has created a wonderful dialogue about art. Mr. Titus continued on to say that if the feature is deleted a process, similar to the AIPP (Art in Public Places) process, could be established to select a new feature. Mr. Titus said that DOT considers features, like the gateway feature, to be enhancements. Mr. Titus said that FHWA would pay for any of the enhancements, but the process is not under the One-Percent Art process. Mr. Titus said that the FMATS Policy Committee needs to listen to the community and come up with a palatable solution.

- **Motion:** To delete the Gateway Feature bid item from the Illinois Street Reconstruction Project and pursue replacing the deleted feature with a different public feature. (Hopkins, Musick).

Mayor Isaacson said that he agrees with the motion, but feels that it is important to define how a suitable replacement feature would be selected. Mayor Hopkins said that he feels that a replacement process should be taken care of in a separate motion. Mayor Hopkins said that the AIPP process is quite cumbersome and long and FMATS does not have a policy on the issue. Mr. Titus said that he does not see any harm in just removing the gateway feature. Mayor Hopkins said that he feels that it is important to leave in the planters at this point.

Mr. Roberts asked if the raised platform would be removed and Mayor Hopkins said that the intent of the motion was to just delete the gateway feature and the foundation structure. Mayor Isaacson said that if the concrete were to remain then it would serve the feature of ice art, until another replacement feature was constructed. Mr. Titus said that the metal hoop would be removed and the foundation that was designed to support the metal hoop would also be removed. Mr. Titus said that his interpretation of the motion is to have the concrete pedestal stay and Mayor Hopkins agreed.

Mayor Isaacson asked if there should be a deadline on a replacement feature. Mr. Titus said that a deadline could be addressed in a separate motion.

- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

Mr. Titus said that the construction department would be able to convey this change to the contractor.

Mayor Hopkins said that he feels that the community would be able to more rapidly to address a replacement feature, through some process, rather than opting to go through the AIPP process. Mayor Hopkins continued on to say that in the future, FMATS should look into implementing an AIPP process, but not for this particular project. Mr. Titus said that he has given this issue a great deal of thought and has been involved with the AIPP process for many years. Mr. Titus continued on to say that he feels that a better and timelier process could be put together through the FMATS Coordinator's Office. Mr. Titus said that he envisions a committee forming and members from the public deciding on a feature. Mr. Titus said that the committee would have to have a budget and RFP's would have to go out. Mr. Titus said that the committee would evaluate proposals and select an option. Mr. Titus said that he feels the best way to add a selected feature to the project is through a change order. Mr. Titus said that the construction manager, Maureen Carey, would be responsible for making sure that the work gets completed through the contract.

Mayor Isaacson asked Mr. Titus who should be responsible for the committee and Mr. Titus said that he feels the FMATS Coordinator should be the Chair of the Design Committee.

- **Motion:** To have the FMATS Coordinator establish a committee to pursue a selection process, including input from the Fairbanks community, for a public feature not to exceed the amount of \$100,000 and be included within the Illinois Street construction project timeline. (Hopkins, Cleworth).

Mayor Isaacson asked when the Illinois Street Reconstruction project will be completed and Mr. Hooper said that the project will be completed prior to October 2013. Mayor Isaacson asked who would be selected for the Design Committee and Ms. Gardino said that she would ask for volunteers to be on the committee from the entities that have expressed interest. Mr. Titus said that the appropriate technical support will be provided for the Design Committee.

Mayor Isaacson asked if \$100,000 would be sufficient for the feature. Ms. Gardino said that the project is de-obligating \$821,000, because of the low bid, and there is roughly \$535,000 of de-obligated funding available to date. Ms. Gardino said that there is also federal funding available that cannot be obligated this year. Mr. Titus said that there is \$50,000 that is already in the project and another \$50,000 needs to come out of de-obligated funding for the new feature.

Mayor Cleworth said that he is unaware of what the sculpture in Golden Heart Plaza cost, but he think that it is way more costly than \$100,000. Mayor Cleworth asked if it would be better to take out the dollar amount and let the committee decide on a project, without the \$100,000 limit. Mayor Cleworth asked Mayor Hopkins if it was his intent to let the Design Committee explore options and come back to the FMATS Policy Committee or to put a \$100,000 limit on the project. Mayor Hopkins said that it was his intention to put funding towards the process and it gives the committee a budget to start with. Mayor Cleworth asked if it would be prudent to put a timeline on the project so there is a feature in place before construction is completed.

- **Amendment to the motion:** and to have FMATS Staff report back one year from today with a project. (Cleworth, Isaacson).

Mr. Titus said that he thinks that it would be possible to get monthly updates from the FMATS Coordinator, but he would not want to put a time limit on the contractor to complete something out of his normal construction sequence. Mr. Titus said that he thinks it would be reasonable to expect a feature in place by October of 2013, when the road opens. Mr. Musick said that he is reluctant to constrain the cost of the new feature. Mr. Musick continued on to say that it would be possible to look to the community for funds, if more funds are needed.

- **Vote on the amendment:** None opposed. Approved.

Mr. Roberts said that he feels the intent of the \$100,000 was to get the process going and a year from now it would be possible to add additional funding to the project, if needed. Mr. Roberts asked if the FMATS Policy Committee would like to define the size and selection process of the Design Committee. Mayor Hopkins said that he believes that Ms. Gardino will put something together and come back to the FMATS Policy Committee in a month. Ms. Gardino said that she feels comfortable selecting the committee. Ms. Rogers said that typically seven people are on a selection committee. Ms. Gardino said that the Borough needs to be involved also because they must maintain the new feature. Mr. Titus said that he suggests the FMATS Coordinator come back in a month with an update on the process.

- **Amended motion:** To have the FMATS Coordinator establish a committee to pursue a selection process, including input from the Fairbanks community, for a public feature not to exceed the

amount of \$100,000 and be included within the Illinois Street construction project timeline and have FMATS Staff report back one year from today, with a project. (Hopkins, Cleworth).

- **Vote on the amended motion:** None opposed. Approved.

## 9. Public Comments:

Mr. Ronald Brooks said that he was curious about the grade raise off of Terminal Street and where the culverts were located. Mr. Brooks said that he is also concerned about the five-legged intersection and ease of pedestrian use through the intersection. Mr. Titus said that Mr. Brooks should visit with Mr. Hooper after the meeting to properly address his questions.

Mr. Joe Strunka thanked the FMATS Policy Committee for deleting the "hoopway arch." Mr. Strunka said that he would like to direct attention to Mr. Harrie Hughes, who acquired the property for the Pioneer Home and Pioneer Park. Mr. Strunka said that those two projects are still in development and he feels that the triangle area will also grow.

Mr. George Lounsbury thanked the FMATS Policy Committee for the deletion of the gateway feature. Mr. Lounsbury continued on to say that the statue at the Pioneer Home cost approximately \$80,000.

Ms. June Rogers thanked the FMATS Policy Committee for the deletion of the gateway feature. Ms. Rogers said that people work together very well in Fairbanks and she thinks that was evident in this whole process.

Mr. Jim Lounsbury said that he thinks that it is very important that when riprap is put in that it is actually keyed in and if it is not keyed in it will wash out. Mr. Lounsbury said that he does not think that it would be very good to build a sun shade, but he thinks that trees should be used to shade ice sculptures from the sun. Mr. Lounsbury said that he thinks that the feature should be in the middle of the triangle area so it is not a hazard to traffic.

Mr. John Jackovich thanked the FMATS Policy Committee for deleting the gateway feature. Mr. Jackovich said that so much of enthusiasm of Fairbanks has come from the river and he would like to see the river involved in the design of the triangle area. Mr. Jackovich continued on to say that multiple activities have occur on the river in the past, such as curling, dog mushing, and ice pageant contests and he would like to see more of these activities. Mr. Jackovich said that it is one of his priorities to get people down to the river and back up to the community.

Mr. Dermot Cole said that he thinks that the deletion of the gateway feature was a good decision, but he was still concerned about not mowing grass in half of the park and no access to the river. Mr. Cole said that he didn't think that there was any public conversation with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding river access in the area.

Ms. Anna Plager said that she feels good to be a part of the community after the decision of the FMATS Policy Committee and the showing of public support. Ms. Plager thanked Mr. Dermot Cole for his attention to the triangle area. Ms. Plager asked if the Borough Parks and Recreation Department would have any latitude to make design changes to the triangle area and Mr. Titus said that it might be an option after the project is completed. Mayor Hopkins said that the maintenance agreement could be modified by an agreement by both parties. Ms. Plager said that the Chena River Front Commission could offer the newly formed design committee any support that they need. Ms. Plager said that she feels that a great deal of this confusion, regarding the gateway feature, could have been avoided if DOT had a landscape architect on staff.

## 10. Other Issues

There were no other issues.

## **11. Informational Items**

### **a) CMAQ Call for Project Nominations Open until February 13, 2012**

Ms. Gardino said that a call for CMAQ project nominations is open until February 13 for the Fairbanks Area PM<sub>2.5</sub> Non-Attainment Area. Ms. Gardino said that there will be between \$1.5 million and \$3 million in available funding and that there is more information on the Fairbanks North Star Borough website.

### **b) Surface Transportation Authorization**

Ms. Gardino said that she attended a transportation policy briefing but the House bill has not yet been released. Ms. Gardino said that the House bill is expected to be released by the end of February or the beginning of March. Ms. Gardino said that the Senate bill has passed the EPW, and the Commerce committee has moved forward on their portion, but the Transit section has not been worked on. Ms. Gardino said that the Senate version is 2 years, the House version is 5 years, and she believes that they have found the appropriate funding for both.

Ms. Gardino said that AMPO is putting together a letter, with Congressman Young as a co-signer, to ask the House not to dissolve small MPO's.

### **c) Obligations/Offset List**

Ms. Gardino said that obligations are at 1%, but phase 2 of University should be obligated soon. Ms. Gardino said that South Cushman Mitchell to Sanduri is currently out to bid.

## **12. Committee Comments.**

Mayor Isaacson said that he appreciates the work that the Policy Committee has done. Mayor Hopkins said that North Pole, Alaska was mentioned in Parade Magazine.

Mr. Musick said that it was great to see the process work and he appreciates the public attending the Policy Committee meetings.

Mayor Hopkins said that he feels that the FMATS Policy Committee worked well through the gateway feature issue. Mayor Hopkins continued on to say that the funding available for CMAQ projects will relate to PM<sub>2.5</sub> reduction. Mayor Hopkins said that an air quality symposium was just held in Fairbanks and the SIP is due in December of 2012.

Mr. Titus thanked the FMATS Policy Committee for the work on the gateway feature. Mr. Titus said that he feels that a policy might be needed for the MPO to address "enhancements" in projects. Mr. Titus said that this might be an issue that could be delegated to the FMATS Technical Committee to start coming up with some ideas. Mr. Titus said that the DOT and the City of Fairbanks, who do most of the designing, need some direction on enhancements. Mr. Titus said that the legislative session has started.

Mayor Cleworth said that he really appreciates the presentations on specific projects and they are very helpful to him. Mayor Cleworth asked if it would be possible to get presentations on the Danby Roundabout and the mill and pave on Airport Way. Mr. Birkholz said that the mill and pave will be on University Avenue this year and Airport Way in a year or two. Mr. Birkholz said that the Danby project will not be constructed this year. Mayor Cleworth said that if the FMATS Policy Committee ever wants a presentation from the City of Fairbanks they would be happy to do that. Mayor Cleworth said that the

Cushman - Barnette Complete Streets project is slated to go to construction in 2013 and maybe a brief presentation should be put on the agenda for next month. Mr. Titus said that the DOT would be happy to make a presentation on any project either inside or outside the MPO.

Mr. Musick asked Mayor Cleworth if the Complete Streets project extends to the north side of the Chena River. Mayor Cleworth said that there is a section of Cushman Street, just north of the Chena River, that is not being done and it may be part of the Complete Streets project.

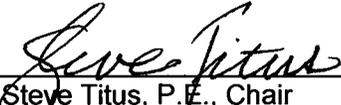
Mayor Hopkins asked for an update on the section of Cushman Street that is not being done. Mayor Cleworth said that the section of Cushman and the sidewalks, north of the Chena River, could easily be put into the Complete Streets project.

Mr. Roberts said that he was pleased to see the flexibility of the FMATS Policy Committee.

### 13. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn:** (Isaacson, Hopkins). Approved. Adjourned at 12:16am.

**Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.**

Approved:   
Steve Titus, P.E., Chair  
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: 2/16/12