

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System
POLICY COMMITTEE
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2010

1. Call to Order

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

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, Regional Director
* Mayor Jerry Cleworth	City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Luke Hopkins	Fairbanks North Star Borough
* Mayor Doug Isaacson	City of North Pole
* Mike Musick	Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly
* Chad Roberts	Fairbanks City Council
* Alice Edwards	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Jeff Roach	DOT&PF, Planner
** Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF, Transportation Planner
** Todd Boyce	FNSB, Planning
** Kellen Spillman	FMATS Planner
John Bennett	DOT&PF, ROW
Tami Seekins	Public
Barry Hooper P.E.	DOT&PF, Project Manager
*** Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
David van den Berg	DTA
Jerry Colp	City of Fairbanks
Melissa Sikes	Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District

3. Public Comments:

Tami Seekins, a resident from the Chena Small Tracts Road area, informed the Policy Committee that she was at the meeting in support of the Chena Small Tracts Phase 2 funding. Ms. Seekins stated that currently Chena Small Tracts Road is very dangerous for bikes and pedestrians due to all year traffic, no shoulder, and no lighting. Ms. Seekins said that this is particularly troublesome because of the amount of children that must walk to the nearby school and because there is a group home in the area. Ms. Seekins stated that there have been a high number of letters received in support of this facility from such entities as the Woodriver Elementary School and the Woodriver PTA. Ms. Seekins also referred to the finding by the Safe Routes to School program, stating they found this area to be very dangerous. Ms. Seekins went on to say that it would be very beneficial, in her opinion, to the community in general if the Policy Committee would accept the recommendation to approve phase 2 funding forwarded by the Technical Committee.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about the location of the group home and Ms. Seekins informed him that it was located on the North side of Chena Small Tracts Road, on Steelhead. Mayor Hopkins asked Ms.

Seekins if there were any day care centers located in the area and Ms. Seekins informed him that there were.

Mr. Musick inquired about the location of The Pump House property in regards to Chena Small Tracts Road due to the fact that it is a historic property. Todd Boyce, FNSB Planner, stated that he looked into the issue and The Pump House property line fronted on the Chena Small Tracts Road.

Melissa Sikes, Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, stated that she works with many different schools including Woodriver Elementary and she feels this project would be very beneficial to continuing education about natural resources due to improved access.

David van den Berg, Downtown Association of Fairbanks, stated that in agenda item g under New Business, Administrative Modification #3 of the TIP, he would like the Policy Committee to consider adding two words "Vision Fairbanks" to the Cushman, Barnette, and Gaffney upgrades project description. Mr. van den Berg stated he would like the motion to read "considering Vision Fairbanks Signature Street" to give mention to the comprehensive plan.

4. Approval of the January 19, 2011 Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the January 19, 2011 Policy Committee agenda. (Roberts, Musick)
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of December 15, 2010 Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the December 15, 2010 minutes. (Hopkins, Musick).
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved

6. Committee Reports

a) FMATS' Coordinator's Report with Action Items

Ms. Gardino reported working on several projects listed in the January 2011 FMATS Staff Report provided in the meeting packet and discussed several of the highlights.

- Finalized the project level process for conformity analysis for PM_{2.5} and are in the process of doing the first interagency consultation for the Illinois Street project.
- Attended two open houses, one for the North Pole Bike Trail and Rehab and one for the Pedestrian Interchange project.
- Attended three CMAQ criteria meetings, finalizing the criteria and policies.
- Continued work on developing a new FMATS needs list.
- Continued work on the NHS designation for University Avenue.
- Reviewed proposals for the Community Transportation Association of America grant that was received by the Tanana Chiefs Conference to improve transit services along the five corridors that come into Fairbanks.
- Revised the offset and obligations reports.
- Reviewed the draft legislation on the transportation infrastructure fund.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about the availability of the policies and criteria of the CMAQ Project Evaluation Board and Ms. Gardino stated that they will be sent out when they are finalized. Ms. Gardino went on to

outline the four policies of the CMAQ Project Evaluation Board, differentiating the difference between nominations that will be scored and nominations that will not be scored.

Mr. Titus pointed out that New Business item g, TIP Administrative Modification #3 should be under the category of old business, but there are a number of new items that require action, items b-f, before the TIP Administrative Modification #3 may be actioned.

There were no objections to this modification.

7. Old Business

a) University/Peger – Possible National Highway System Designation

Ms. Gardino stated that she has been working on the application that ultimately the DOT will have to submit to the FHWA regarding the National Highway designation of University Avenue. Ms. Gardino stated that the Technical Committee also asked Ms. Gardino to look at Peger Road for possible designation, but after review it is ineligible because it is currently designated as an urban minor arterial, rather than a principal arterial, so it does not fit the criteria for a National Highway System route.

Ms. Gardino noted that an application for University Avenue will be completed by the next Technical Committee meeting and the Policy Committee will review it at the next Policy Committee meeting. After approval, it may be submitted by the DOT to FHWA where it will take 6-8 weeks for consideration, according to Ms. Gardino.

Mr. Titus inquired about when funding would be received for this route, assuming it does receive NHS designation and Ms. Gardino said she believes it would be eligible as soon as a project is put in the STIP.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the funding that is currently assigned for that route would be carried over during the NHS designation and Ms. Gardino stated that currently the majority of the funding for that route is state funding and it will not be a problem carrying it over.

8. New Business

a) 2012 – 2015 TIP Project Nominations and Scores

Ms. Gardino stated that the scores available in the meeting packet are the scores that the Technical Committee gave to each project. The projects that were recently scored are the North Pole City Wide Asphalt Overlay, the Aurora Drive Noyes Slough Bridge Replacement, the Chena Small Tracts Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway, the Chena River Walk Phase III and the Graehl Park Access. The remaining projects on the list are projects that have been scored since 2008 and have not received funding, with the exception of the Sign Replacement project, which is an ongoing project. Ms. Gardino stated that the majority of these projects are in the TIP, but have not received funding as of yet. Ms. Gardino stated that currently FMATS is in the process of opening up the 2012-2015 TIP, which will allow for some of these projects to be funded.

Mr. Titus asked Ms. Gardino if this would be the last time that the Policy Committee could comment on these projects and Ms. Gardino stated that the Policy Committee would have other opportunities to comment on these projects in the future. Ms. Gardino reminded the Policy Committee that all of the new projects will have to go through conformity analysis for PM_{2.5}.

Mayor Hopkins recommended moving the four new projects into the 2012-2015 TIP. Mayor Hopkins asked for further information on the Cowles Street project and Ms. Gardino stated that it is currently in the TIP, but it is not funded as of yet.

Mayor Cleworth stated that he was pleased with the new projects that have been scored and the only project that he originally raised issue with was the Graehl Park Access project and he feels that there are other projects that are of higher importance than this project. Mayor Cleworth stated that he feels that Lacey, Noble and some of the big projects need to be funded before projects such as the Graehl Park Access project.

Mr. Roberts stated that he agrees with the comments made by Mayor Cleworth and asked for clarification on the Graehl Park access project. Ms. Gardino stated that the Graehl Park project will not deal with the underpass, but rather the transition from the pathway on the Steese down into the park, possibly using just the DOT right-of-way.

Mayor Isaacson arrived at the meeting. (10:29 a.m.)

Mayor Hopkins stated that, due to comments received by residents in the area, he believed this project to address important pedestrian issues as well as the previously discussed bicycle issues.

Mr. Musick pointed out that the Chena Small Tracts pathway scored the highest of the five new projects and should be of a high priority.

b) LED Streetlight Conversion PH2 Increase (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that there is a memo from the design manager in the meeting packet explaining the reasoning for a Phase 2 increase in this project, but in summary it was because there were many unexpected problems with the previous project that will be addressed in the design phase of the Stage II project.

Bob Pristash, City of Fairbanks, stated that the design estimate for Stage II was put together before some of the problems from Stage I were experienced. Mr. Pristash stated that in Stage I there were unexpected grounding issues that were not built into the original estimate and had to be addressed with change orders. Mr. Pristash stated that this funding increase will cover many of the issues such as grounding, which are known to exist due to the experiences of Stage I. Mr. Pristash went on to say that the environmental document must also be revised because in this new stage there will be ground disturbance, which was not assumed in Stage I.

- **Motion:** To increase the PH 2 funding for the LED Streetlight Conversion Stage II Project by \$90,000, using FCTP funding. (Cleworth/Hopkins).

Comments: Mr. Roberts asked for a more in-depth explanation on Stage II. Jerry Colp, City of Fairbanks, stated that Stage I of this project upgraded approximately 60% of the local street lights in the City of Fairbanks from high pressure sodium to LED lights and Stage II will address the remaining lights on local streets. Mr. Colp stated that the lights to be addressed in Stage II of this project will have additional complications such as higher wattage and more complex street design.

Mayor Isaacson noted that North Pole experienced the grounding issues that Mr. Colp was referring to. Mayor Isaacson pointed out that the North Pole saved a great deal of money from the converted street lights and asked if these street lights could now be used on streets with higher volume traffic. Mayor Cleworth stated that the Illinois Street project will be using high pressure sodium lights because the street light design calls for these lights. Mr. Pristash stated that Stage II of this project is going to come

up with a design standard for LED lights not just on local streets, but one to be used on collector streets as well.

Mr. Titus asked if the LED standard was just for roads owned by the City of Fairbanks and not owned by the DOT and Mr. Pristash confirmed that this was correct. Mr. Titus stated that the DOT was still developing a standard of its own because DOT roads typically have a higher maximum speed.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the speed limit of the street is the determining factor on whether LED lights will be used or not and Mr. Pristash stated that the classification of the street also had a great deal to do with LED implementation, not just the speed.

Mr. Titus stated that the DOT is preparing standards for LED lights at DOT headquarters and if they create a standard it will then be available for the Northern Region. Mr. Titus noted that LED technology is a developing technology and it is unclear what effect it will have on high speed arterials and he is unaware of a time table.

Mayor Isaacson noted that he felt the LED lights were brighter and the savings to the City of North Pole were greatly appreciated.

Mr. Musick inquired about how the speed limit of a DOT road was decided and Mr. Titus stated that there were a number of factors and it is more involved than simply changing a sign.

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

c) Van Horn West Road PH4 Funding (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To provide up to \$400,000 of SB230 funding for the construction phase of the Van Horn Road West Project. (Hopkins/Roberts).

Comments: Mayor Isaacson inquired about the amount of funding that is currently budgeted for the Van Horn Road West project and what phases it is allocated to. Ms. Gardino noted that this is a state appropriated project with \$1,800,000.00 budgeted for construction, but the DOT believes that this budget is \$400,000.00 short. Ms. Gardino stated that this project will advertise in February and if the project comes in under bid FMATS will receive the difference back, but the funding must be available for this project to go out to bid.

Ms. Gardino stated that, to date, the SB230 funding has not been used and if this motion is approved there would be \$4,600,000.00 remaining in the fund.

Mayor Hopkins asked if this project was listed in the possible uses of SB230 funding and Ms. Gardino stated that it was.

Mr. Roberts asked for a basic description of this project and Mr. Hooper, DOT, stated that this project would add shoulders to this road and improve the first mile west of Peger Road. Mr. Hooper also noted that there is right of way involved.

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

d) Non-motorized Transportation Plan Increase (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino noted that in the meeting packet there is a list of the work items that would be added if additional funding is approved. Ms. Gardino went on to say that FMATS thought it would be beneficial to have an extensive public involvement process due to the apparent interest of the public, as displayed

through a number of well attended open houses. Ms. Gardino stated that there are a number of tools that will be used to develop this public process, such as an interactive website, online survey, additional advisory group meeting, two open houses, pedestrian and bicycle counts, and interactive mapping. Ms. Gardino stated that design guidelines will also be provided if this additional funding is approved, which would require additional meetings with technical personnel. Ms. Gardino stated that she does not expect to use the funding in its entirety.

- **Motion:** To provide an amount not to exceed \$50,000 of de-obligated funding, using 381 funds as the non-federal share, for additional work items, as presented, for the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. (Cleworth/Hopkins).

Comments: Mayor Isaacson inquired about the area covered by the plan and Ms. Gardino stated that it will cover the entire FMATS area.

Mayor Hopkins asked if there was any discussion in the RFP process showing how this would connect to routes outside the FMATS area. Ms. Gardino noted that connectivity was very important to the plan, giving the example of the Chena Hot Springs connector.

Ms. Edwards noted that there has been a great deal of public comments in regards to bicycle and pedestrian projects and funding this plan adequately is very important.

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

e) Chena Small Tracts Request for PH2 Funding (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino noted that the project details for the Chena Small Tracts project are available in the meeting packet and this project was scored by the Technical Committee earlier in the month.

- **Motion:** To approve an additional \$350,000 of SB230 funding for the Chena Small Tracts project. (Hopkins/Cleworth).

Comments: Mayor Cleworth asked for clarification on the \$150,000.00 that already went into this project. Ms. Gardino stated that \$150,000.00 was received by the DOT from a state appropriation in SB230. Ms. Gardino stated that the project, to date, has not begun because there was not enough funding to do so.

Mayor Cleworth asked if the funding being requested is to be used to buy Right-of-Way and Ms. Gardino stated that it was unknown what type of pathway was going to be built and the funding would go toward the NEPA process. Ms. Gardino stated that the funding that is being proposed is from the General Fund.

Mr. Titus noted that it could be developed under the state process to avoid the NEPA process, but that would significantly limit the funding, by disallowing federal funds to be used.

Mr. Titus asked if \$500,000.00 would be enough funding to complete a NEPA document and Ms. Gardino stated that it is enough to cover the estimate, which was developed using the federal process.

Mayor Cleworth asked when the public hearings would begin and Barry Hooper stated an in-depth schedule had not been developed, but public meetings would probably begin in fall of 2011.

Mr. Roberts asked about the cost difference of the state environmental process as opposed to the federal environmental process and Mr. Hooper said the exact costs are unknown, but the state process would be less expensive, possibly half as much

Mr. Titus pointed out that the total project cost in the nomination packet is \$3,500,000.00 and it would be difficult to find funding for that project if the federal funds were eliminated. Mayor Hopkins pointed out that the estimate from the nomination packet is from September, 2010 and it was based on a separated pathway which would be the most costly option. Mayor Hopkins pointed out that the Technical Committee would dictate the design, but it could possibly be much less than \$3,500,000.00. Mr. Hooper stated that during the NEPA process all options will be looked at.

Mayor Isaacson asked if funding could be acquired from school funding, such as Safe Routes to School and Ms. Gardino noted that grants could be pursued, but to her knowledge there is not sufficient funding through Safe Routes to School.

Mr. Titus stated that it would be very difficult to acquire over \$3,000,000.00 from the state, pointing out that \$400,000.00 was asked for PH2 of this project and only \$150,000.00 was acquired. Mr. Titus reiterated that this project is a high priority based upon the scoring.

Mr. Musick asked what exactly would be completed for the \$500,000 and Mr. Hooper said that funding will complete the environmental document including the consideration of multiple options, but it would not include the completed design.

Mayor Cleworth asked if the pathway was connected to the road, or just an expanded shoulder, if there would still be right-of-way acquisition and Mr. Hooper stated that there would possibly be ROW in both options. Mayor Cleworth noted that with the Farmers Loop pathway, most serious bikers do not use the separated pathway for safety related reasons. Mayor Cleworth noted that, in his opinion, it makes more sense to simply put in an expanded shoulder because it is safer and less costly.

Mr. Titus noted that several different options will be looked at in the environmental process.

Mr. Musick noted that the maintenance in terms of snow removal needs to be considered on a separated pathway and if the main goal of the project is to get children safely to school an expanded shoulder may not be the best option.

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

f) Advanced Project Definition Funding (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that this funding would allow for the state to develop a preliminary scope, schedule, and estimate on projects such as the five that were scored by the Technical Committee earlier in the month.

- **Motion:** To provide \$25,000 of SB230 funding for Advance Project Definition efforts by the State, on behalf of FMATS. (Isaacson/Hopkins).

Comments: Mayor Hopkins asked if it would be possible to use de-obligated funding for Advanced Project Definition, because there is no set pot of funding to go towards Advanced Project Definition. Ms. Gardino stated that it would be possible to de-obligation funding and FMATS could use 381 funding for the non-federal share. Ms. Gardino stated that when federal funds are used there is always a non-federal share.

Mr. Hopkins asked if there is a lengthier process to use federal funds for Advanced Project Definition and Ms. Gardino stated that it takes up to six weeks to get the federal funding approved while it only takes the state a day or two to program state funding.

Mr. Titus stated that he thinks this is a good use of the SB230 and 381 funding.

- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed, approved.

g) 2010 – 2013 TIP Administrative Modification #3 – Revised (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino noted that in the provided meeting packet there are three pages showing the changes that are involved in TIP Administrative Modification #3, with the last page summarizing the major phase changes. Ms. Gardino went on to explain how Plack Road and Noble were funded using funding that was originally set aside for University Avenue in FFY12. Ms. Gardino also noted that Illinois Street had \$1,300,000.00 of grandfathered funding in phase 3, which is no longer needed, but is needed in phase 7. Ms. Gardino noted that last month STIP revision 15 came out increasing FMATS funding by approximately \$3,000,000.00. To use available the funding Ms. Gardino stated that a project that was originally an illustrative project, South Cushman Mitchell to Sanduri, was funded. Ms. Gardino noted that she supplemented the preventative maintenance program so all of the proposed re-surfacing and approach upgrades that the sub-committee for preventative maintenance proposed will be completed. Ms. Gardino noted that there was a change to Cushman, Barnette, and Gaffney upgrades scope, as mentioned by David van den Berg.

- **Motion:** To approve the 2010—2013 TIP Administrative Modification #3, as revised. (Hopkins/Cleworth).

Comments: Mayor Isaacson asked why the Plack Road project is being pushed back so far and Ms. Gardino said it was still in the environmental process, with an open house held last June. Mayor Isaacson asked how the process could be held to a greater accountability and eliminate the “foot-dragging” to speed the process up. Mr. Titus noted that what may be understood as “foot-dragging” in the Plack Road project was actually scope change. Mayor Isaacson noted that when the Plack Road project was discussed in the FMATS Policy Committee meeting it was decided that all options would be considered, but design originally looked at just a separated pathway. Mayor Isaacson asked why the Plack Road project is going to be pushed back another year when the last public meeting was in June of 2010. Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS will check into the issue.

Mr. Hopkins inquired about what needed to be done to move a project back into a fiscal year of the TIP and Ms. Gardino stated that an amendment could be done or it could be put into the new TIP that is being programmed next month. Ms. Gardino noted that there is over \$500,000.00 in de-obligated funding that could be used.

Mayor Hopkins asked for clarification on the two Dennis Road projects that are in the TIP and Ms. Gardino stated that one is in the TIP and one is on the Illustrative list, but they are the same project.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the Policy Committee members from the City had a problem with the words “Vision Fairbanks” being added to the Cushman, Barnette, and Gaffney Street upgrades. Mayor Cleworth said that the term signature street can mean different things to different people, but was recently introduced to the term complete street. Mayor Cleworth noted that regardless of terms the City would like to make these streets inviting, and aesthetically pleasing, but specifics have not been formulated. Mayor Cleworth pointed out that residents are excited about upgrades, but specifics such as tabled intersections have not been completed. Mayor Cleworth pointed out that Mr. Schmetzer will be giving a presentation to the City Council meeting on Monday.

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

h) Request for Funding – Legislative Priorities

Ms. Gardino noted that in the meeting packet are two pages, one displaying the projects that FMATS requested funding for last year and one displaying the projects in a priority order, suggested by the Technical Committee. Ms. Gardino noted that projects must be prioritized when entered into the CAPSIS database. Ms. Gardino asked the Policy Committee what projects they would like entered into the CAPSIS database, if any, and in what priority order. Ms. Gardino noted that these projects must be entered into the database by February 11, 2011, as well as any earmark requests to Senators Murkowski and Senator Begich are due February 11, 2011 and February 25, 2011 respectively.

- **Motion:** To approve the FMATS FY12 CAPSIS request list as submitted (Hopkins/Isaacson).

Comments: Mayor Cleworth expressed concern over the prioritization on the FMATS' FY12 CAPSIS Request Draft Recommendations stating the FMATS LED Streetlight Conversion should be the number one priority rather than number eleven because it is an immediate way to save money. Ms. Gardino noted that there is currently funding in the TIP to complete FMATS LED Streetlight Conversion Phase 2 design, but not construction.

Mayor Hopkins suggested moving the FMATS LED Streetlight Conversion project to the number two priority.

Mr. Titus asked if the projects were originally prioritized by funding and Ms. Gardino stated that they were in the letter request.

Mayor Isaacson stated that the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project was originally meant to complement the overpass project, but this project is uncompleted and there is a great need for the facilities. Mayor Isaacson asked the Policy Committee to move the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities up the priority list to either number 1, 2, or 3.

Mayor Hopkins noted that the Legislator went down to number 8 in the priority list to fund a project last year. Mayor Hopkins stated that he is okay moving the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities up the list, and he feels that Plack Road Bike/Pedestrian Facilities should be above Gold Hill Road Bike/Pedestrian Facilities.

Mayor Cleworth noted that in a meeting with Governor Parnell it was said that he rarely looks past the first or second item on the priority list. Mayor Cleworth said he feels it would be a mistake to fund a facility such as Yankovich-Miller Hill Road Multiuse Path, as opposed to FMATS LED Streetlight Conversion because it will immediately save money.

- **Motion to Amend:** To modify the FMATS FY12 CAPSIS request list moving the LED Streetlight project to the second priority and the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian project to the third priority. (Cleworth/Isaacson).
- **Vote on the Amendment:** None opposed. Approved.

Mr. Musick asked if funding a project such as the Birch Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility, due to the Arctic Winter Games coming to Fairbanks in the near future, would be beneficial. Mr. Musick stated that during a national ski even there was a bus from the bottom of the hill to the facility. Mayor Hopkins noted that a discussion took place regarding whether or not this project could be completed by the 2014 Arctic Winter Games and Ms. Gardino said she would check on the timeline.

- **Motion to Amend:** To modify the FMATS FY12 CAPSIS request list moving the Plack Road project above the Gold Hill Road project. (Hopkins/Isaacson).
- **Vote on the Amendment:** None opposed. Approved.

- **Amended Motion:** To approve the FMATS FY12 CAPSIS request list as submitted (and amended above) (Hopkins/Isaacson).
- **Vote on the Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

9. Public Comments

No public comments

10. Other Issues

Mayor Isaacson stated that he would like a copy of the revised list from the last action item and Ms. Gardino said she would e-mail a copy out when completed.

11. Informational Items

a) North Pole Road/Rail Crossing Reduction Project – Public Scoping Meeting 1.26.11

Ms. Gardino noted that there is public scoping meeting at the City of North Pole, Hotel North Pole from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on January 26, 2011. Ms. Gardino also noted that there will be another open house at the Salcha Elementary School from 6-8 on January 24, 2011 and the annual railroad open house on January 25, 2011.

b) Illinois Street Reconstruction Project Update

Mr. Hooper informed the Policy Committee that the plans were 80-90% complete when they went through a review of the plans last year. Mr. Hooper stated that work which is left to be complete is the underground design, telecommunication design, an RFP to be put out for a landscape architect for the completion of the landscape design, and utilities agreements are in the process with six utility companies. Mr. Hooper noted that most of the right-of-way has been acquired, but there are ten parcels left that need to be acquired, which he hopes to complete this winter. Mr. Hooper said there is a requirement to re-evaluate the environmental documents, which is being done by Sierra Research and he hopes the design work will be completed by April of 2011.

Mr. Hooper stated that he expects construction to start late this year and be complete in 3-4 seasons.

Mayor Hopkins asked if LED lights are being considered on the Illinois Street project and Mr. Hooper said that currently the project is being designed for high pressure sodium lights, which would require less light poles. Mr. Colp stated that there is not enough light put out through a LED light to put them on the street based on the number of light poles that are designed for the street. Mayor Hopkins asked if in the future LED lights were available with similar output as high pressure sodium, if they would be able to fit the designed light poles with LED lights. Mr. Colp said it would be possible to upgrade these lights in the future.

c) Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects

Ms. Gardino noted that included in the meeting packet is a list of federally obligated projects and FMATS obligated over \$29,000,000.00 last year.

d) Obligation and Offset List FFY11

Ms. Gardino noted that included is the obligation and offset list for FFY11.

12. Committee Comments

Mayor Isaacson stated that he appreciates the work that the DOT staff did in the two open houses held last month in the City of North Pole.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he is pleased with the work that Mr. Titus has done and is also pleased with the work that is being done by the CMAQ Project Evaluation Board even though they are on a fast time table. Mayor Hopkins stated that he hopes the CMAQ funding to help differentiate between mobile and stationary sources of PM_{2.5}. Mayor Hopkins also mentioned complaints about needing plug-ins at some of the high schools in town.

Mr. Hopkins stated that he would like a Dennis Road update at the next Policy Committee meeting, in terms of funding and construction schedule.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: (Isaacson/Hopkins). Approved. Adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.

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

Date: 2/16/11