

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
**800 Cushman Street, Council Chambers,**  
**City Hall, Fairbanks, Alaska**  
Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2011

## 1. Call to Order

Chair Donna Gardino called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm

## 2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
*** Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
*** Michael Wenstrup (absent)	FNSB Planning Commission
*** Dave Sanches	Fort Wainwright
*** Scott Bell	UAF
*** (vacant)	Tanana Chiefs Conference
*** Ethan Birkholz for Jeff Roach	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Bill Butler	City of North Pole
*** Bruce Carr (absent)	ARRC
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Bernardo Hernandez	FNSB, Planning
*** Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
*** Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
*** Adam Barth for Glenn Miller	FNSB Transportation
** Kellen Spillman	FMATS Planner
Janet Brown	DOT&PF, Preconstruction
Kris Riesenberg (Teleconference)	FHWA
Linda Mahlen	DOT&PF, Planning
Jerry Colp	City of Fairbanks
Michael Bredlie	FNSB Rural Services
Bob Shefchik	UAF

## 3. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

## 4. Approval of the October 5, 2011 Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the October 5, 2011 agenda. (Hernandez, Birkholz)

Ms. Gardino said that she would like to add the 9.22.11 FMATS Policy Committee Action Items to the Informational section of the agenda. There were no objections.

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

## 5. Approval of September 7, 2011 Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the September 7, 2011 minutes. (Birkholz, Hardesty)

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

## 6. Committee Reports

### a) Coordinator's Authority Subcommittee (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino said that a report of the findings from the Coordinator's Authority Subcommittee is included in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino said that the Subcommittee recommended removing the percent of contract approval and to base all phase 4 cost increases on the total dollar amount. Ms. Gardino said that the subcommittee also recommended increasing the FMATS Coordinator's authority to \$250,000 and the Technical Committee's authority to \$500,000 for Phase 4 change orders/amendments. Ms. Gardino said that the term cumulative needs to be further defined, when there are multiple change orders/amendments.

Ms. Gardino said the two definitions of cumulative for multiple change orders/amendments are:

- 1) When there are multiple change orders/amendments on a single project, each change order/amendment is treated separately and the FMATS Coordinator has the authority to approve up to \$250,000 for each separate change order/amendment.
- 2) When there are multiple change orders/amendments on a single project, the multiple change orders/amendments are treated as a total amount and the FMATS Coordinator has a combined authority to approve up to \$250,000 of total change orders/amendments.

Mr. Hernandez said that he would like the definitions of cumulative to also include the FMATS Technical Committee. Ms. Gardino said that she would make the change.

- **Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations for the FMATS Project Development Change Order/Amendment Authority Matrix, using the first definition of "cumulative" with inclusion of the Technical Committee definition. (Hernandez, Birkholz)

Mr. Bell said that he would prefer the second definition of cumulative because that is how cost increases have been handled in the past and he would like the definition to remain the same. Ms. Hardesty and Mr. Sanches said that they also prefer the second definition of cumulative over the first definition.

Mr. Pristash asked how the authority limits were treated before and Ms. Gardino said that she assumed the second definition of cumulative for both the FMATS Coordinator's authority and the FMATS Technical Committee's authority.

Mr. Hernandez said that he would like to amend his motion to change the first definition to the second definition. Mr. Birkholz agreed to amend the motion.

- **Amended Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations for the FMATS Project Development Change Order/Amendment Authority Matrix, using the second definition of "cumulative" with inclusion of the Technical Committee definition. (Hernandez, Birkholz)

Mr. Schmetzer asked if there would be any different impacts if definition two is assumed. Ms. Gardino said that she had been assuming definition two in the past and does not feel that there would be any changes.

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

#### **b) Preventive Maintenance Subcommittee – Upcoming Meeting**

Ms. Gardino said that the Preventive Maintenance Subcommittee for the \$1.5 million state funded program has not been formed yet. Mr. Hernandez, Mr. Butler, Mr. Schmetzer, and Mr. Birkholz said that they would like to be on the subcommittee.

Ms. Gardino said that the subcommittee meeting for the state funded preventive maintenance subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 10:00am and she will send out a reminder via e-mail.

### **7. Old Business**

#### **a) FFY12 UPWP Amendment #1**

Ms. Gardino said that FFY12 UPWP Amendment #1 is included in the meeting packet and it is very similar to the Amendment viewed by the FMATS Technical Committee last month. Ms. Gardino said that the only change is that the estimated hours of FMATS related work from the Fairbanks North Star Borough is included. Ms. Gardino said that the total annual estimated in-kind contribution of the Fairbanks North Star Borough is \$62,563

- **Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to approve UPWP Amendment #1 (with Kellen checking the math). (Hernandez, Bell).

Ms. Gardino emphasized that this Amendment is for FFY12 of the UPWP and will not affect FFY11 of the UPWP.

Mr. Hernandez asked the City of Fairbanks and the City of North Pole employees on the FMATS Technical Committee, if they would send him their estimated hour of FMATS related work in FFY11 to be used as in-kind match.

Mr. Schmetzer said he would like the estimated in-kind contributions of the Fairbanks North Star Borough confirmed and Ms. Gardino said that she would have Mr. Spillman confirm the amount.

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

### **8. New Business**

#### **b) TIP Amendment #1 Comments**

Ms. Gardino said that the 2012 - 2015 TIP Amendment #1 has been released for public comment by the FMATS Policy Committee and no comments have yet been received. Ms. Gardino said that the public comment period extends beyond the October FMATS Policy Committee meeting and the Technical Committee will have the opportunity to review Amendment #1 at the next meeting. Ms. Gardino said that the only change that she made since the FMATS Technical Committee last saw the 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1 was that she added the state funded projects to the General Fund section of the TIP.

**a) Policy Committee Meeting Location Recommendation (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino said that she has received three comments about holding FMATS Policy Committee meetings at a more accessible location and on the transit system. Mr. Birkholz said that there is a transit route that goes right down Peger Road and Mr. Barth said the route will be operational in 2012, but it will only operate in the morning and evening.

Ms. Gardino said that holding accessible meetings is included in the FMATS Long Range Transportation Plan and in the FMATS Public Participation Plan.

Mr. Hernandez said that more people can access public meeting by walking, if the meetings are held downtown. Mr. Hernandez continued on to say that if people are driving to the meetings then it would not make much difference if they go to Peger Road or Cushman Street. Ms. Hardesty said that she is not sure if more public have attended the meetings when they have been downtown and over the lunch hour. Mr. Hernandez said that he feels more public have attended FMATS Technical Committee meetings since they have been moved downtown and over the lunch hour. Mr. Butler said that he supports moving the meeting location to downtown Fairbanks. Mr. Birkholz said that he feels there is not a need to change the meeting location. Ms. Hardesty expressed concern about fining parking at Fairbanks City Hall.

- **Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to hold their meetings at City Hall on Wednesdays from Noon—2:00pm. (Hernandez, Butler).

Mr. Birkholz said that he feels no one will take the transit system to the meetings. Ms. Gardino said that it also has to do with more people working downtown and more transportation options in the area.

Ms. Hardesty expressed concern over the flight schedule of Ms. Alice Edwards if the Policy Committee meetings are moved to 12:00pm. Ms. Hardesty continued on to say that she would look into the schedule of Ms. Edwards.

Mr. Birkholz said that he would like to discuss moving the meeting to City Hall with the Policy Committee, but would not like to make a recommendation.

- **Amended Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to consider holding its meetings at City Hall on Wednesdays from Noon—2:00pm. (Hernandez, Butler).

Mr. Hernandez said that this motion is based on comments received, public participation plan, and multi-modal accessibility.

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

**c) FY13 Request to the Governor**

Ms. Gardino said that the FY13 Request to the Governor is not intended to be an action item, at this time, and there will be another opportunity to amend this letter. Ms. Gardino said that she drafted the letter to request \$15 million as well as show how FMATS is currently spending the funding that they received in SB230 and SB46. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that there is also a list of outstanding FMATS projects, in order by funding amount. Ms. Gardino said that she would like some direction from the Technical Committee on the letter.

Mr. Birkholz said that on the last paragraph on the first page that it would be beneficial to work in the new mission statement, which is to “get Alaska moving through service and infrastructure.” Mr. Birkholz also noted that “Miller” is spelled “Mill” in the last table of the letter.

Mr. Hernandez asked if there will be disagreements over where the funding is allocated towards, like the last capital budget appropriation. Ms. Gardino said that the letter outlines how FMATS could spend the funding, if the funding is allocated towards the TIP. Ms. Gardino said in the past funding has been received for specific projects, such as College Road. Mr. Hernandez said he thinks that the letter is a good start.

Ms. Hardesty said that she thinks that the formatting of the letter would benefit if the numbers are taken out of paragraph format and put into list format.

- **Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the Request to the Governor, as amended. (Hardesty, Sanches)

Mr. Hernandez said that the projects specifically identified in the letter include South Cushman (15<sup>th</sup> to Mitchell), the Wendell Street Bridge project, and University Avenue Widening Segment 2.

Mr. Birkholz asked where the location of Segment 2 of the University Avenue Widening project is located and Ms. Brown said that Segment 2 begins at Geraghty Avenue and continues to Erikson Drive. Ms. Brown continued on to say that Segment 3 will go from Erikson Drive to the Mitchell Expressway.

Mr. Hernandez asked if University Avenue is an NHS Route and Mr. Birkholz said that it is not and the DOT Headquarters has put the request on hold pending the new 5-year authorization bill. Mr. Hernandez asked if Segment 1 of the University Avenue Widening project could be extended, if additional funding were acquired. Ms. Brown said that it would be nice to construct the project down to Erikson Drive, because Segment 1 is only constructing to Geraghty Avenue.

Mr. Hernandez said that the final two projects outlined in the letter are the Yankovich - Miller Hill Multi Use Pathway, and the Plack Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility. Mr. Butler said that it would be helpful if bullets were used and not numbers, so the projects do not appear ranked.

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

## 9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## 10. Other Issues

There were no other issues.

## 11. Informational Items

### a) College Road Rehabilitation

Ms. Janet Brown gave a presentation on the College Road Rehabilitation Project.

Ms. Gardino said that she had some concerns to why the environmental document for the College Road Rehabilitation project did not consider reducing the road from four lanes to three lanes. Ms.

Brown said that bicycles were considered in this project and if the road were converted to a three lane roadway there would not be an adequate four foot shoulder for bicycles. Ms. Brown said bicycles would be better served if they remained on the sidewalk of College Road, because four foot shoulders could not be achieved. Ms. Brown said that if there is a suggested project for bicycles facilities on College Road it should go the entire length of College Road, not just the length of the current project. Ms. Brown said that the project is relatively far along in the development process and it could be amended, but it does not appear that a three lane typical is desirable in this particular case.

Mr. Hernandez said that this project has requested local approval and will be before the Planning Commission on November 8, 2011 and a work session on October 25, 2011. Mr. Hernandez asked if the entire College Road corridor will be closed during construction. Ms. Brown said that design does not intend to close College Road, but if construction prefers to close the corridor then it could be a possibility.

Mr. Pristash asked if a three lane typical on College Road was analyzed for capacity in the traffic study. Mr. Johnson said that the capacity would work on the section of College Road, but the three lane typical was dismissed because it would not provide a desirable bicycle facility. Mr. Johnson said that a three lane typical on College Road would compromise vehicle safety and bicycle safety, because neither would meet the desirable conditions.

Ms. Gardino said that the level of service of a bicycle on College Road from Illinois to Aurora is E or F and all modes of transportation are not being accommodated. Ms. Gardino said that the level of service of pedestrians decreases if bicycles are allowed to ride on the sidewalks.

Mr. Birkholz said that an eight foot sidewalk is close to a shared use pathway and Ms. Gardino said that a bicycle route on a sidewalk is not a desirable condition. Ms. Brown noted that the bicycle level of service, outlined in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan does not go above C unless approaches and traffic are removed. Ms. Gardino said that FMATS has committed to constructing complete streets and all modes need to be considered in the planning process.

Mr. Schmetzer asked when this project is going to go to construction and Mr. Johnson said that project will be constructed in 2014 and obligated in 2013. Mr. Johnson said that in the future two feet could be taken off of the sidewalk and a bicycle facility could be added, to the north side of College Road. Mr. Johnson said that with the current College Road Rehabilitation Project the critical path is right-of-way. Mr. Schmetzer said that the end of the project is a strange location and asked if it makes sense to delay the project and re-pave all of College Road at the same time. Mr. Johnson said that continuity is very important and he feels that the project should at least go to the Johansen Expressway.

Mr. Hernandez said that moving the sidewalk over would be very costly and he feels that for College Road the sidewalk is adequate for bicycles. Ms. Gardino said that College Road is one of the top bicycle corridors in Fairbanks. Mr. Schmetzer said that the way College Road is configured he would not ride a motorcycle on the road, because he feels it is dangerous. Mr. Schmetzer said that he thinks a 12 foot sidewalk on the north side of the road is necessary and that the project should be delayed so it could be done right. Ms. Brown said that if the scope of the project is amended, the project would be significantly delayed. Ms. Brown continued on to say that a shared-use facility on the North side of college Road should be considered in a separate future project.

Mr. Schmetzer said that there are plenty of other needs for funding in the FMATS area if the College Road Rehabilitation project were to be delay. Mr. Hernandez said that he feels the current College Road Rehabilitation project should go forward and a separate project should be created to address a shared use pathway on the north side of the road. Ms. Gardino said that she fears that the current

**5. Public Comments**

None

**6. Other Issues**

**7. Adjourn 11:15 am**

- **Motion to Adjourn** (Hernandez, Butler) Approved. Adjourned at 1:34 pm.

**Next Technical Committee meeting Wednesday, November 2, 2011, Noon at Fairbanks City Hall, FMATS Conference Room.**

Approved: Kellen Spith for

Donna Gardino, Chair  
FMATS Technical Committee

Date: 11-2-2011