

**Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System
POLICY COMMITTEE
800 Cushman Street, City Council Chambers
City Hall, Fairbanks, Alaska
Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2012**

1. Call to Order

Chair Steve Titus called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee	Representative Organization
*Mayor Bryce Ward	City of North Pole
*Mayor Jerry Cleworth	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*Alice Edwards	Director, Division of Air Quality
*Mayor Luke Hopkins	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Mike Musick	Member, FNSB Assembly
*Chad Roberts, Vice Chair	City of Fairbanks
*Steve Titus, Chair	DOT & PF
** ⁺ Donna Gardino	MPO Coordinator, FMATS
**Jessica Smith	Transportation Planner/Assistant, FMATS
⁺ Joan Hardesty	Division of Air Quality
**Margaret Carpenter	DOT & PF Planning
Linda Mahlen	DOT & PF Planning
Barry Hooper	DOT & PF Design & Environmental
Meadow Bailey	DOT & PF Public Information
Hannah Blankenship	DOT & PF Public Information
⁺ Ethan Birkholz	DOT & PF Planning
Mike Vigue	DOT & PF Headquarters
Ryan Snyder	Ryan Snyder Associates
**Kellen Spillman	FNSB Planning
Dan Bross	KUAC Radio
Bruce Carr	Alaska Railroad
Kris Riesenber	FHWA
Melissa Sikes	Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District
Jewelz Nutter	Tanana Valley Watershed Association

**FMATS Policy Committee Members*

***FMATS Staff Members*

⁺FMATS Technical Committee Members

3. Public Comment

Jewelz Nutter (TVWA): Ms. Nutter shared that the TVWA will be working with the Downtown Association and Meadow Bailey (AKDOT&PF) on the Barnette Bridge opening. They are providing food

and beverages for the reception. Ms. Nutter encouraged the committee to consider New Business, the discussion of the shoreline. She encouraged the committee to consider this project as a connection to downtown from the North Side, noting it was a win-win situation, providing the ability to work on the bike/ped connection and address the direct drainage to the Chena which currently has no filtration in place. TVWA strongly encourages that change.

Melissa Sikes (FSWCD). Ms. Sikes expressed support of the Shoreway Drive project from FSWCD, which would encourage a better habitat for local flora and fauna as well as employing a Best Management Practice.

4. Approval of October 17, 2012 Agenda.

- **Motion:** To approve the October 17, 2012 agenda. (Edwards/Roberts).
- **Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins asked to add an update on the Borough's Air Quality efforts.
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of September 19, 2012 Minutes.

- **Motion:** To approve the September 19, 2012 Minutes. (Roberts/Edwards).
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

a. Coordinator's Office Report and Technical Committee Action Items

Ms. Gardino provided an update on all FMATS activities, details of which are included in the Coordinator's Report in the meeting packet.

b. FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee Report

The downtown greenspace art project received 100 responses to the RFP/Q . The committee narrowed it down to five finalists, which were presented in today's meeting.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the respondents to the RFP are committed to submit something. Ms. Gardino responded that the responses to the RFP will include a model of the proposed artwork, and various other proposal criteria.

Mayor Hopkins asked what will take place on the November 19th meeting. Ms. Gardino said the state and borough maintenance staff representatives will meet and discuss the finalist's proposal and any potential issues they may have with the selected piece.

Mayor Hopkins asked when the interviews will take place. Ms. Gardino said on November 16, at 11AM in City Hall. The public is welcome to attend. Mayor Hopkins noted that the committee should consider holding the selection approval meeting (November 21) at a different location. Mr. Titus asked if the meeting will be advertised. Ms. Gardino said she advertises all meetings. Mr. Titus said there might be need for a larger location. The committee agreed to hold the November 21 Policy Committee meeting in the Fairbanks City Hall Council Chambers.

c. Boundary Subcommittee Report

Ms. Gardino noted the recent meeting of the Boundary Subcommittee in which the committee worked to smooth the boundaries. They will reconvene on October 30th to finalize the maps and will bring the new boundary alternatives to the Policy Committee for approval to submit for public comment. Ms. Gardino said the subcommittee took a minimalist approach to the smoothing of the boundaries.

d. UPWP Subcommittee Report

The subcommittee has not met yet, as Bernardo Hernandez requested the subcommittee not meet until he returned from travel.

7. Old Business

a. Illinois Reconstruction Update

Ms. Gardino provided an update of the project, which included the completion of 4 girders on the Noyes Slough bridge. 1st Avenue and Cushman Street are the only signals that have not been replaced. The contractors are completing final punch list items. Meadow Bailey will be posting a public notice for a short closure (five hours) that will be needed to complete the signals. As soon as the signals are up, the bridge can be opened. Mayor Hopkins asked when the completion date will be. Mr. Titus said the DOT does not know; all wiring should be done by the 3rd week of November, but the obstacle is the lack of power to the site right now. It is a work in progress (pulling wires) but it is not weather dependent. All the concrete/asphalt work is complete, and the contractor is farther along than they anticipated. Mr. Titus noted that it is impressive work, as well as the Noyes Slough bridge work. They will be able to build out the deck so that traffic control can be maintained while the old bridge is demolished. The DOT is very pleased with the progress. Mayor Hopkins asked if it's DOT that is conducting the celebration activities. Mr. Titus said Hannah Blankenship and Meadow Bailey are working with the DTA and others for these activities. Contact Meadow for any updates. Ms. Bailey said they do not currently have a date for the opening of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge and celebration activities, but they are putting things together now by working with the Morris Thompson Center to have the reception at the their location. Ms. Bailey said if there is any funding from the Mayors, please see her.

8. New Business

a. Complete Streets Presentation

Mr. Ryan Snyder, one of the Complete Streets Workshop instructors, provided an overview of complete (or "living") streets to the committee for informational purposes. Ms. Gardino noted that the complete streets workshop was well-attended.

b. FFY13 Meeting Dates (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To approve the Fiscal Year 2013 Technical and Policy Committee meeting dates. (Hopkins/Ward)
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

c. College Road PH2 Increase (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To approve an additional \$131,500 for PH2 to complete the design for College Road, using offset funding. (Cleworth/Roberts).
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved

d. Curb Corner PH4 Increase (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To approve an additional \$179,930 for PH4 of the FMATS ADA Curb Corner Project to enable the bid award recommendation to be funded, using offset funding. (Edwards/Cleworth)
- **Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said the “low bid” was the engineer’s estimate. Mayor Hopkins asked if this was the second curb cut project. Ms. Gardino confirmed that it was; the project will take place all over town. Mr. Titus noted that the engineer’s estimate is not always the low bid.
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

e. Noble Street General Fund Availability

This item included the sad tale of woe from Mr. Birkholz regarding the funding that had expired. Ms. Gardino outlined the situation, including how the State might proceed with this issue. Ms. Carpenter said the agreement is being reviewed in project control now.

Mayor Hopkins asked if there are several phases that needed matches. Ms. Gardino said part of it is State Match; the other part is the City’s match. The GO Bond funds expired (\$390K). The State is trying to come up with an equitable solution. Mayor Hopkins asked if it is out of the realm of the Policy Committee’s discussion. Ms. Gardino said it is simply an information item now. There is only \$511K in other GF remaining; the project will probably need another solution.

f. Shoreway Park Pedestrian Improvements (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To have DOT construction look at the gap in Shoreway Park between the new path and the Centennial Bridge, design a bike/ped connection, and use storm water best management practices to properly drain and filter the parking lot sediment. (Hopkins/Musick)
- **Discussion:** Ms. Gardino presented the photographs of the project site. She noted the city owns the parking lot, and there is a gap between the path and the centennial bridge. Additionally, the drainage is unfiltered and being dumped into the river. She does not know what part of this would be FMATS responsibility, but these two things could be done at once. Mayor Hopkins asked where the catch basin, path, and concrete patch is currently located and where the path would be located. Ms. Gardino further explained where the path might be located, and how it would be situated along the parking lot; the vision is to look to the vision of the north side of Chena river path which will eventually connect to the

south side. Mayor asked where the maintenance of the Borough's bike path will be located. Is this a huge design issue? Mr. Titus clarified that there are environmental document, ROW issues, etc. He suggests that the Policy Committee give the DOT a couple of months to review this idea and see what it would take in the form of design and other intangibles, return to the Policy Committee with a report of design, environmental, and construction costs of the project. Mr. Hooper agreed with Mr. Titus' suggestion. The project is a good one. Mr. Titus suggested withdrawing the motion. Mayor Hopkins said he suggested shortening the motion. Mayor Hopkins withdrew his motion, second agreed. Mr. Musick asked if the parking lot was the City's. It is and the path is borough-maintained. Mr. Titus said a motion is not necessary; the DOT will look at this project. Mr. Gardino suggested the DOT present to the Technical Committee first. Mr. Titus said that is fine.

- **Motion is withdrawn.**

g. Cushman Street Bridge PH2 (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino noted there is a new estimate for this project. There was only \$600K in the TIP for Phase 2. FMATS anticipates University Ave will not be under FMATS in FFY14, as it will be funded under the NHS program. She suggested a motion to obligate those funds accordingly. The city of Fairbanks earmark is \$640K was going to be used for University Ave. in 2014. She said it is really better to use that funding for a project in FMATS. Mayor Hopkins asked where the earmark information is. Ms. Gardino referred to the project information sheet. Mayor Hopkins asked if the City wants to weigh in on where their earmark is spent. Mayor Cleworth noted that there is a 2009 maintenance agreement that is not legal at this time and needs to be approved by the council for Illinois Street. Ms. Gardino said that can be addressed before project star. She believes the bridge should be DOT maintained and the plowing will be the City's responsibility. Mayor Cleworth said there is not a problem from the City on this project and dollars being spent there.

- **Motion:** To approve moving earmark AK092 currently in the TIP under University Avenue, totaling \$642,104.43, to the Cushman Street Bridge PH2, to cover the almost double PH2 amount based on the scope, schedule and estimate dated 8.22.12. (Roberts/Cleworth)
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

h. MAP-21 Briefing by DOT & PF Headquarters

The MAP-21 Briefing was given by Mike Vigue from DOT & PF Headquarters. The presentation is included in the meeting packet.

i. Match Policy Discussion

Mike Vigue noted there was no new information on an updated match policy.

j. FFY14 Request to the Governor (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino walked the committee through the details of the request, which includes an enclosure of the possible projects. Mr. Titus said the only difference is knowing whether the GO Bond will be approved. Ms. Gardino said we may be able to ask for other project funding. Mr. Titus said he likes the flexibility of the request as is. Mr. Roberts voiced a similar note, as FMATS should be able to decide how the funds are spent. Mayor Hopkins said he thinks if the GO bond passes, an additional letter should be sent that updates the request to the Governor. Mr. Titus suggested waiting to send the letter until November, which will give the committee time to know where the GO bond will be. Mayor Cleworth noted that in conference with Ms. Gardino, the earlier might be better. He noted that it is a generic request and there would be flexibility with the request.

- **Motion:** To approve the letter to the Governor as presented. (Hopkins/Ward)
- **Discussion:** Ms. Edwards suggested putting a footnote to describe the GO bonds that may cover certain projects on the list. Ms. Gardino suggested adding more projects. Mr. Titus noted that there is lots of flexibility, as this is a general request. He asked the committee if everyone is okay with the letter. Committee was in favor.
- **Vote on the Motion: None opposed. Approved.**

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Other Issues

None.

11. Informational Items.

a. Surface Transportation Authorization Update

This topic was addressed in an earlier item, 8h.

b. Obligations/Offset List

Ms. Gardino directed the committee to the new FFY2013 offset list and the monies available, found in the meeting packet.

c. Borough Air Quality Update

Mayor Hopkins provided an update to the committee. The Borough will be submitting a state implementation plan to EPA. A discussion will take place with the Commissioner and ADEC, EPA and the Borough in the next few weeks. He does not know if there is an adequate implementation plan, and if not, that will have some demonstrative implications. There might be a sanction clock set and this might affect their transit funds and construction projects. The issue is what will EPA will accept as a sufficient plan. Waivers are not exemptions – specific actions are required instead. The Mayor anticipates this having an impact on construction projects and transit funds without an implementation plan for attainment by 2014.

12. Policy Committee Comments

Mr. Titus congratulated Mayor Hopkins and Mayor Ward for their successes. He thanked Mr. Roberts and Mr. Musick for their efforts and commitment to FMATS. He thanked Mike Vigue for his presentation.

Ms. Edwards thanked the Mayor for bringing up the air quality plan, discussed the Clean Air Act, and how to get Fairbanks to the attainment and solutions for this public health concern. She thanked Mr. Roberts and Mr. Musick for their service to the committee.

Mayor Hopkins thanked Mr. Roberts and Mr. Musick for their hard work and decisions for the community. He noted how it is decisions about transportation that affect how the community functions. He asked that Mayor Ward pass that along to former Mayor Isaacson and he thanked the voters. The air quality plan is going to be a lot of problematic work, but he's working towards it.

Mayor Cleworth thanked Mr. Musick and Mr. Roberts for their six years of service. He also congratulated the Mayors. He also noted the completion of the Graehl subdivision, Riverside, and the Illinois St. project. He complemented the DOT staff on their partnership with the City engineers. It's been a great partnership. He noted the Bentley Project's headache, and its work and effort, but they are very close to tying up all the loose ends. It has been a great summer and an extremely busy two years coming up! The City was fortunate to get projects for residential areas that have not seen improvements for 20-30 years. They are now seeing new asphalt.

Mayor Ward said he is looking forward to working with the committee for the next couple of years and thanked the committee for their time.

Mr. Musick expressed his appreciation to everyone on the committee. In comparison to other committees, this is a much better group to work with; logical reasoning and action to move forward for the community. He encouraged the committee to be careful of unintentional consequences. He noted the good templates of the process and how it can go well, for example the Gold Hill bike path, community involvement process and the positive outcome from that community involvement with the DOT. He also gave some suggestions for Cripple Creek Rd and Isberg needing something similar. The UAF ski team is in the roadway and a little more room would be better/safer. He was happy to see projects move forward and complete (Illinois St). He congratulated DOT for that success.

Mr. Roberts said he's learned how important this committee is in the last five years, and the different entities that make important decisions about the community. As Mayor Hopkins mentioned, tough votes, but this is an excellent process of how we do things here, The report of the pie getting smaller is the underpinnings of what's going on. It's paramount to our community to keep the MPO and determine how projects are funded. He thanked Donna Gardino and Jessica Smith for their help. Mr. Roberts noted that one of the best things this committee did was hire Donna Gardino.

13. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn.** (Musick/Roberts)

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm. Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Wednesday, November 21, 2012 at City Hall Council Chambers.

Approved: _____


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

Date: _____

10/17/12