



## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2016

City of Fairbanks, Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street  
Fairbanks, Alaska

### 1. Call to Order

Donna Gardino called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

### 2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

\* FMATS Policy Committee members

\*\* FMATS Staff members

\*\*\*FMATS Technical Committee members

Name	Representing
*** Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
*** Andrew Ackerman for Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
*** Bill Rogers for Jackson Fox	City of Fairbanks
*** Bill Butler	City of North Pole
*** Lee Borden	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Mark Peterburs	AK Railroad Corporation
*** Linda Mahlen for Judy Chapman	DOT&PF Planning Chief
*** Patricia Thayer	FNSB Planning Commission
*** Christine Nelson	FNSB Community Planning Director
*** Michelle Felix for Glenn Miller	FNSB Transportation
*** Dave Sanches	Fort Wainwright Planning
*** Melanie Herbert (absent)	Tanana Chiefs Conference
*** Mary Pagel	UAF Design & Construction
*** Alan Hoza (via telephone)	Lynden Logistics
** Alicia Giamichael	FMATS Transportation Planner
** Deborah Todd	FMATS Administrative Assistant
* Mayor Bryce Ward	City of North Pole
* Janice Westlind	FNSB Assembly
Barry Hooper	DOT&PF Design

### 3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

### 4. Approval of the October 5, 2016 Agenda

**Motion:** To approve the October 5, 2016 Technical Committee Agenda.  
(Thayer/Sanches).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

### 5. Approval of the September 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the September 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes. (Borden/Rogers).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

## 6. Subcommittee Reports

No subcommittee reports.

## 7. Old Business

### a. Coordinator's Office Reorganization Update

Ms. Gardino stated that she was working with the Union Steward to try and get the bylaws of the union agreement changed so that the money they put towards health insurance would be exempted from union dues. Ms. Gardino stated that the election of a new Mayor would hopefully help them move forward with finding new health insurance options.

### b. Draft FMATS Freight Mobility Plan Existing Conditions Report

Ms. Gardino stated that she had received their comments and thanked everyone for providing them. Ms. Gardino stated that she had submitted them to the Consultant and had just received the Technical Appendix for the Freight Model documentation and would send that out to everyone and it would be helpful to receive their comments on that.

### c. Air Quality Planning Subcommittee Update

Ms. Gardino asked Ms. Mahlen if she knew the status of that agreement that was sent to DOT three months ago. Ms. Gardino stated that she had asked Mr. Miller to address the air quality planning process in the Draft Bylaws so they could address how air quality transportation planning took place within the MPO. Ms. Gardino stated that they thought the CMAQ Agreement did that but found out that the State interpreted that differently and it only applied to the area outside the MPO, within the "donut area".

### d. 2017–2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Gardino stated that it was not included in their packet as EPA had informed DEC that they did not plan on moving forward with the disapproval of the Moderate SIP until January or February 2017. Ms. Gardino stated that this gave FMATS more time to prepare the new TIP.

## 8. New Business

### a. FMATS 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification #5 (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that she was not going to ask the Technical Committee to approve the modification since events had occurred that required changes to it. Ms. Gardino explained the summary of changes, the costs, and the status of the different projects.

### b. Alaska Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan Comments (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that the online Open House for the Alaska Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan was available for review at: [ak2036lrtpolch.com](http://ak2036lrtpolch.com) or by googling **Alaska Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan**.

**Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to forward the comments on the Alaska Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan with the inclusion, under number 4, a discussion about the military construction impacts.

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

**c. Letter to EPA via DEC regarding the Non-Attainment Area and Highway Sanctions (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino explained that a letter was drafted and went to the Policy Committee for approval, but was postponed for one month. Ms. Gardino stated that Mr. Pruhs had requested that a letter be sent to EPA reaffirming their desire to have the non-attainment area divided into two parts and also to request that they receive no highway sanctions as a result of any disapproval of the SIP or not reaching attainment. Ms. Gardino stated that Mr. Pruhs had also asked her to include efforts the community had made to address the air quality issues in the area. Ms. Gardino stated that she had received input from the Borough, DEC, the City of Fairbanks, and others to request that there be no impact to their transportation funding in the event they did not reach attainment. Ms. Gardino asked Mr. Borden if he could provide further insight.

Mr. Borden explained that there had been meetings and new information came to light during those meetings and DEC recommended putting a hold on the letter. Mr. Borden stated that as for the non-attainment area split, there was some disagreements between EPA and DEC as far as the data regarding the three year clean air claim made by DEC. Mr. Borden stated that DEC had expected a finding on the Moderate SIP to have already happened and that would be the initial finding. Mr. Borden stated that the initial finding would have to go through a public comment period, EPA would issue their response to those comments, and then it would have to go through another public comment period, so we had some time as far as the TIP went. Mr. Borden stated that the new information that came to light about what EPA intended to do with the SIP and how it could be corrected. Mr. Borden stated that EPA had indicated that they were planning partial disapproval on some sections of the SIP. Mr. Borden stated that one of the things was that they might not have to fix the Moderate SIP if it was partially disapproved and might be able to address some of the deficiencies in the Moderate SIP with the Serious SIP which would change the timeframes. Mr. Borden stated that it also meant that if there were a conformity freeze that came out of the partial disapproval of the Moderate SIP, the submittal of the Serious SIP could pause the Conformity Freeze. Mr. Borden stated that DEC had asked EPA how long they could potentially pause it. Mr. Borden stated that DEC thought that they could pause it until there was a finding on the Serious SIP.

Ms. Gardino asked if they had 18 months to submit the Serious SIP. Mr. Borden stated that DEC was trying to get clarification about the timeline for the pause of the SIP. Ms. Gardino explained that the timing of that freeze was the reason she had not been in a hurry to amend the TIP. Ms. Gardino stated that it could be that in January 2019 they were still in that conformity freeze, so there still might be a potential issue on the Long-Range Plan resulting in a conformity freeze and a lapse, as well as a potential pause.

Mr. Borden stated that the different agencies were trying to work things out and DEC wanted to foster a good working relationship and communication with them, so it might not be a good time to submit this letter. Mr. Rogers inquired if that meant that it was not a good time to submit this letter because it would "rock the boat".

Mr. Borden stated that it could potentially do that.

**Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to pause the letter to EPA until we have further information. (Nelson/Borden).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

**d. FMATS Bylaws Update**

Ms. Gardino stated that Mayor Ward was present and would explain the changes made to the Bylaws. Mayor Ward stated that when he first got involved with FMATS he looked into the documents that guided the MPO and found them difficult to understand. Mayor Ward stated that there were a lot of changes to the document that brought it into alignment with other organizations and how they were structured. Mayor Ward stated that a lot of the content was the same and was just presented differently.

Mayor Ward noted that the Policy Committee really functioned as a Board and acted in a decision-making capacity. Mayor Ward stated that he thought that in the initial days of FMATS it was considered an arm of the State but had become its own entity, so it should really be referred to as a Policy Board rather than Committee to define its level of decision-making. Ms. Gardino added that the definition of an MPO in Title 23 was the "Policy Board".

Mayor Ward stated that another change would be to elect an individual on the Technical Committee to act as Chair rather than the MPO Coordinator, so members of the committee would take more of a leadership role rather than the support staff. Mayor Ward stated that it also listed out the members of the standing Technical Committee and guidelines for representation when a member was unable to attend. Mayor Ward stated that they would also have additional representation from DOT, such as a Preconstruction Engineer to provide technical expertise on scope, schedule, budget estimates, and guidance to the committee. Mayor Ward stated that it should not be a political appointment, but rather based on the expertise of those in the individual agencies. Mayor Ward stated that the Technical Committee would have a working group that was appointed to make determinations and report back to the Technical Committee. Mayor Ward stated that the document would better define the goals and objectives of the Committee.

Ms. Nelson asked about designations of Technical Committee members in the event of their absence. Ms. Gardino stated that it was included for the Policy Committee, but was not for the Technical Committee. Ms. Gardino stated that they would add a section that stated that members must submit their designated representative, in writing, to FMATS in their absence.

Mayor Ward stated that another change was the designation of the MPO Coordinator which would be changed to Executive Director to provide better understanding. Ms. Gardino stated that the duties and responsibilities of each of the agencies in the Operating Agreement would be incorporated into the bylaws document.

Ms. Nelson noted that she wanted to make two changes for the Borough. Ms. Nelson stated that the first change was under GIS Services, she wanted to remove the parenthesis that talked about non-UPWP funding, because the UPWP allowed that activity to be funded and she did not think the Bylaws should be more

restrictive than the UPWP. Ms. Nelson stated that the other item was listed under local review of MPO projects which had been deleted and she thought that should be added in there because they did that, but could be put in as non-UPWP funded because the UPWP did not allow that.

Ms. Gardino stated that her only concern was that it was not a function of the MPO. Ms. Gardino stated that the authority was a requirement of the State and not the MPO. Ms. Nelson stated that she wanted to leave the land use and local review of MPO projects in because of the header because the projects could not move forward without that local land use approval even though it was a support activity of the State. Mr. Ackerman inquired if that would be shared by all the municipalities that had land use responsibilities. Ms. Nelson stated that the Borough was the sole authority for land use planning.

Ms. Nelson stated that she had a change under the Technical Committee members Ms. Nelson stated that since it was a technical committee makeup and that was the intent, she would like to add the Transportation Planner as a member of the standing Technical Committee. Mr. Borden asked about the process to amend the bylaws and how difficult it would be to amend them in the event of a restructure to FMATS.

Ms. Gardino stated that all the signatures were from Policy Committee members so it was an internal document that did not require approval by the Governor and could be amended as necessary. Ms. Nelson pointed out that the document did have to be amended as needed and was supposed to be reviewed every two years.

Ms. Gardino stated that comments on the draft were due to FMATS by Wednesday, October 12, 2016.

**9. Public Comment Period**

No public comment.

**10. Other Issues**

No other issues.

**11. Informational Items**

**a. FTA 5339 Transit Facility Grant Update**

Ms. Gardino stated that the Borough had received a grant for \$12.8 million for their new transit facility from the FTA. Ms. Felix stated that the grant would be used for Phase 1 of the project.

Mr. Borden asked how this grant related to the Targeted Airshed Grant for busses. Ms. Felix stated that they were always looking at how they could get more money to upgrade their busses. Ms. Gardino stated that the Borough still needed the Targeted Airshed Grant.

**b. Update on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Widening Project**

Ms. Gardino stated that Mr. Pristash had requested that this be added to the agenda, but was unable to attend the meeting, so they would get to this item next time.

**c. Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**

Ms. Gardino stated that the State of Alaska had rolled out their new Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan which had not been worked on since 1995. Ms. Gardino stated that the first Steering Committee meeting was held in

September and she was on that committee which was made up primarily of Anchorage folks, so they should all review the Plan and provide their comments. Ms. Gardino stated that they wanted to hear about community needs and deficiencies. Ms. Gardino stated that the State laws and policies needed to be reviewed with regard to bicycle/vehicle right-of-way situations. Ms. Gardino stated that maintenance had been a topic of discussion and how the lack of funding affected maintenance to pedestrian facilities during the winter.

**d. Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan Online Open House**

Ms. Gardino stated that this item had been discussed previously in the agenda.

**e. 09.21.16 Policy Committee Action Items**

Ms. Gardino stated that the Policy Committee Action Items were included in the meeting packet.

**f. Obligations and Offsets**

Ms. Gardino stated that the obligations and offsets were included in the meeting packet.

**12. Technical Committee Comments**

- Mr. Rogers stated that for 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, the City of Fairbanks had been working on storm drain basins to pass to DEC to determine whether they needed to install a stormceptor. Mr. Rogers stated that the Third Avenue bump-outs had been removed for a little extra parking and snow plowing success. Mr. Rogers stated that surveying and preliminary profiling had started for the Wembley Avenue Sidewalk project.
- Mr. Borden commented that DEC was well underway with the heavy duty diesel idle reduction program and Alaska West Express has had a number of pieces of equipment outfitted with idle reduction equipment and Lynden had just signed on. Mr. Borden commented that the fleets were required to supply DEC with baseline data before they even started working on their vehicles. Mr. Borden stated that DEC would collect data for three years and report emissions reductions and hopefully have enough reduction be able to apply for more money to outfit more pieces of equipment. Mr. Borden stated that they were doing it vehicle by vehicle through a third party contractor to determine which devices were best installed on which type of equipment.
- Mr. Hoza commented that the Danby/Wembley roundabout trials made by R&M Consultants had been excellent. Mr. Hoza stated that he thought it was really good for people to see how the roundabouts functioned and had an encouraging outcome, so he appreciated all the effort.
- Ms. Gardino stated that on Friday, October 7, 2016, at 5 p.m. the Fairbanks Golden Heart Plaza had been designated as one of the "Great Places in America" and there would be a celebration that included firepits, smores, tents, and dignitaries. Ms. Gardino stated that she had worked with the Borough to obtain that designation. Ms. Gardino stated that they planned on nominating Cushman Street as a "Great Street" next year.
- Mr. Rogers stated that the company that the City of Fairbanks got the lighting from for the Cushman Street project featured Cushman Street in their catalog.

**13. Adjourn**

**Motion to Adjourn:** (Borden/Thayer). The meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.  
The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, November 2, 2016, Noon, City Hall, City Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK.

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Approved:   
Donna Gardino, Chair  
FMATS Technical Committee

Date: 11.2.16