



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday November 26, 2008, 10:00 AM – 12:00 P.M.
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Rd, Main Conference Room

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Members and Attendees
3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)
4. Approval of the November 26, 2008 Agenda
5. Approval of the October 15, 2008 Minutes
6. Committee Reports
 - a. FMATS Coordinator's Report (Donna Gardino)
7. Old Business
 - a. Land Use Decisions and Transportation Impacts
 - b. AGIA Meeting Update
 - c. \$2 million Grandfathered funding for Southern Bypass Rail Route
8. New Business
 - a. Notice of Position Vacancy (Action Item)
 - b. Scope Change for Barnette Street – 10th to Gaffney (Action Item)
 - c. 2010 General Fund Request (Action Item)
 - d. Authority Limit for Phase Changes (Action Item)
 - e. Homestead Road Design Increase (Action Item)
 - f. 2009 – 2012 TIP Development
 - g. 2009 CMAQ Projects
 - h. Preventive Maintenance Program
9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)
10. Other Issues
11. Informational Items
 - a. Planning Fund Rescission in 2010
12. Adjourn

Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 17, 2008
at DOT&PF Main Conference Room

**FAIRBANKS METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
POLICY COMMITTEE**

**State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701**

Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2008

1. Call to Order

Chair Steve Titus called the meeting to order at 10:09 am. The committee welcomed Donna Gardino, FMATS Coordinator, back to work after her recent illness. Margaret Carpenter was complimented on her FMATS work during the Coordinator's absence.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
* Steve Titus, P.E.	DOT&PF Regional Director, Northern Region
* Mayor Terry Strle	City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Jim Whitaker	Fairbanks North Star Borough (10:13)
* Mayor Doug Isaacson	City of North Pole (10:14)
* Luke Hopkins	FNSB Assembly Representative (10:12)
* Chad Roberts	Fairbanks City Council Rep.
* Alice Edwards	ADEC Acting Director, Air Quality Division
*** Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
*** Joan Hardesty	DEC, Air Quality
*** Glenn Miller	FNSB Transit
*** Bruce Carr	Alaska Railroad
*** Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
*** Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
*** Ethan Birkholz	DOT&PF, Planning Manager
** Todd Boyce	FNSB, Planning
** Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF, Transportation Planner
Jennifer Yuhas	City of Fairbanks
Jerry Colp	City of Fairbanks
David van den Berg	Downtown Fairbanks Association
Guy Sattley	FNSB Assembly
James Conner	FNSB Air Quality
Dave Bloom	DOT&PF Pre-con Chief
Gerald Rafson	DOT&PF Planning Chief
Alexa Greene	DOT&PF, Assistant Transportation Planner
Meadow Bailey	DOT&PF Public Information Officer
Jo Schlotfeldt	DOT&PF
Chris Eshleman	Fairbanks Daily News Miner
Bob Tilly	URS Alaska
Joan Kluwe	URS Alaska

3. Public Comments

4. Approval of the October 15, 2008 Agenda

- **MOTION** to approve the October 15, 2008 agenda. (Strle/Edwards). No opposition. Approved.

5. Approval of September 17, 2008 Policy Committee minutes

- **MOTION** to approve the September 17, 2008 minutes as written. (Strle/Edwards) No opposition. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

- a. FMATS Coordinator / Technical Committee Report.** Todd Boyce reported the Technical Committee established a subcommittee that met last week to refine the Fairbanks Area AGIA Projects list. The Technical Committee also looked at the CMAQ Funding Project list submitted by FNSB which examines different possibilities for utilizing forthcoming CMAQ funding. The Committee also reviewed and made some changes to a draft letter on development impacts on transportation infrastructure. The Committee recommended approval to the Policy Committee. That letter will be presented at the Policy Committee meeting in November. The Technical Committee recommended approval of the FNSB Coordinated Transportation Plan 2008-2010. The Committee also distributed a letter signed by the three area mayors to the governor requesting the requirement for local match be rescinded. The time and place for Technical Committee meetings was discussed and agreed they would be held at City Hall at noon.

7. Old Business.

Steve Titus spoke to Luke Hopkins' question from last meeting regarding the General Obligation bonds and should DOT&PF or FMATS show support through public information. DOT&PF provides the scope of the projects as information, but does not advertise or do outreach for these issues.

8. New Business

a. Fairbanks Area AGIA Project List Update

Todd Boyce established a subcommittee to review the list. During their discussion, the Mitchell and Steese interchanges were a high priority, including the Johansen/Steese interchange near the Bentley area, the Steese/Airport Way interchange, the Peger/Mitchell interchange and the Richardson Highway Weigh Station. The committee wanted additional information on accident data and input from local trucking agencies. Some of the trucking routes used during the last pipeline may have changed.

Luke Hopkins asked if the Technical Committee could look at the routes the trucks take. It appears many trucks now come up the Parks Highway and turn onto Geist Road. Improvements to the off-ramp should be looked at regarding tandem trailer trucks making those turns. It may be that Geist Road came off the list through some action, but he asked if the Policy Committee could send this request back to the Technical Committee. The Danby/Johansen interchange was also a concern regarding how truck traffic would flow from the rail yard out to the industrial areas.

Todd Boyce said the subcommittee will meet again with trucking information on the routes likely taken. There was some disagreement on the subcommittee whether or not Geist was an appropriate truck route.

Mayor Strle asked about the Mitchell Expressway interchange at Peger Road. The project (an overpass) is for traffic to continue on the Mitchell without stops. Local traffic could exit on Peger.

Mayor Isaacson asked about any study regarding current refinery traffic and any increase into the North Pole industrial area. The old bridge still needs to be widened, intersection

developments need to be looked at, which goes along with the railroad crossings. Multiple intersections, including 12 Mile and near Homestead/New Peridot have perennial problems with increased traffic, as does the 8th Avenue/North Pole High School Boulevard. Truck traffic is not yet routing to Buzby/Laurence, perhaps the solution would be to mandate that route. The 12 Mile congestion is going to be a worse problem if there is going to be increased truck traffic.

There is not currently a project on the list for the Old Richardson intersection. The Buzby intersection just opened was designed to handle the big trucks coming from the Refinery to get onto the Richardson in either direction. If the trucks start taking that intersection around, it would alleviate some problems.

Discussion on how much authority there is to require trucks to take certain routes or force drivers not to use a certain road. Use of truck routes can be recommended. DOT is asking those same questions - where routes would be based on where materials are coming through or to Fairbanks either by rail or by truck – and how it moves around in town, what the current trends look like. Currently the truckers are encouraged, if they come up the to go down Peger Road.

Luke Hopkins was told about some upgraded traffic measuring instrumentation in the road that could differentiate between single and tandem trailer trucks and where they go. Those counts could be made available and might be an indicator, but not necessarily what would happen five years from now.

Todd Boyce said the Technical Committee will review it at the November 4 meeting and forward it to the Policy Committee for their November meeting.

Luke Hopkins asked about the DOT Northern Region's action with this list regarding a timeline, if it has been submitted, if FMATS will be sending a list on which the Technical Committee will be working, and if this group would have a list to send in November.

Steve Titus responded that Northern Region has been providing information to the legislature and talking with the legislature about funding infrastructure that is basically beyond the MPO, like the Dalton and Alaskan Highways.

b. FNSB Coordinated Transportation Plan 2008-2010 and the short term Coordinated Transportation Prioritized Proposals

Jim Conner from FNSB Air Quality explained that the Coordinated Transportation Plan is part of the Borough's transit plan, which is part of the long range transportation plan. Applications have been submitted for the short term projects listed on page 11 by the Borough and other agencies, coordinated by the Borough. These projects are required by FTA for recipients of 5303 and 5311 monies, with a public process and included in an approved transportation plan incorporated in a long term transportation plan.

\$50,000 was received for the first project and they have applied for another \$100,000 to identify the gaps in service. FRA has applied for the second project. The third one does not yet have an application. The fourth one used some UPWP funds for support.

Mayor Whitaker – Some of the data included in the report is very telling. Fully 16% of the people, who live within the borough boundary including the city, fall within two categories, either elderly or below the poverty level. Those are folks that use public transit a lot. In addition to that, we know with the increased cost of fuel, the system has been utilized even

more by people outside those groups and the linkage with the University transit system and the borough transit system is being implemented and working very well. Ridership is going up; the consideration for integrating the systems that are available is in full swing. For the borough to continue to reach out for federal and state funds, this body has to approve it.

- **MOTION** to approve the Fairbanks North Star Borough Coordinated Transportation Plan 2008-2010. (Strle/Whitaker) None opposed. Approved.

Steve Titus asked Jerry Rafson, who has been instrumental in putting together the AGIA projects for gas line transportation infrastructure, if any of those projects on the list are included in the requests for funding DOT has been forwarding to the legislature.

Jerry Rafson said the Moose Creek Overcrossing, the Richardson 353-357 Access Improvements and the Richardson Weigh Station projects are included.

Luke Hopkins - There is a list already moving forward which was sent out electronically to the FMATS members from DOT Northern Region to Headquarters. FMATS is working on a list that may include some of those projects in terms of what we are asking to be considered. The timeline for Northern Region has already gone forward. FMATS is slower coming forward with their list and hopefully, the FMATS list will get there in time to be included in DOT's list or at least considered by them to be forwarded along.

Jerry Rafson - On November 19, there is going to be a meeting in Anchorage to which FMATS, the borough and the cities are invited to work on this list with communities that have infrastructure which will be used for gas line haul roads. It will be put together on a master list for the legislature.

Donna Gardino envisioned the projects shown on a map, showing where the truck routes were going to be and what projects need to be done. FMATS doesn't need to go through the state to show people what it is we think we need. This is a tool to use at the November meeting in Anchorage and for the legislative session, to be refined as necessary.

Members discussed the date of next Policy meeting to avoid conflict with gas line meeting in Anchorage on November 19. Donna Gardino asked if she should attend a meeting on November 18 in Anchorage on global logistics with the trucking companies. Steve Titus suggested that is more of a trade show.

c. Election of Policy Committee Chair for 2009

Mayor Whitaker spoke to Steve Titus being maintained as the chairman. His recommendation is based on last year's performance, even though there have been a couple of differences over a few issues. Those were dealt with honestly and in a very straight forward manner. He is still concerned that there should be a clear demarcation of Mr. Titus' responsibilities with DOT and Headquarters and some potential conflict with the community and FMATS. As Ms. Gardino continues with her role, that demarcation will become clearer. Overall, Mr. Titus has done an admirable job, coming into a tough situation, dealing with a couple of tough issues and is appreciative of the work Mr. Titus has done.

- Nomination of Steve Titus as FMATS Chairman. (Whitaker/Strle)

Mayor Isaacson noted his surprise at Mayor Whitaker's nomination of Mr. Titus because of the tension at times with FMATS and DOT. Mayor Strle asked Mr. Titus if he was willing to accept the chair again. Mr. Titus accepted the nomination and said he felt the issues

generate a healthy dialog when there is a disagreement or different perspective. It is not ever personal.

Chad Roberts said with the DOT representative here and some of the issues that we have with Headquarters, Steve Titus being chair and a member of this committee is really indifferent. Whether or not he is chairman, he still is going to have those issues.

Mayor Isaacson asked how Mr. Titus would feel about being able to escalate some of the FMATS concerns over DOT concerns; one example is whether or not the earmark is appropriate.

Mr. Titus said he does not have a problem escalating issues and advocating for FMATS but, where there is a clear position of the DOT, it can create some interesting dynamics; those can be handled by letting someone else do that work, as necessary. That is why FMATS will elect a vice-chair today.

- **MOTION:** To close nominations for FMATS Chairperson. (Hopkins/Isaacson) None opposed. Approved.

Mayor Whitaker asked to not be considered for continuing on as vice-chair. It is the last year of his mayoral term.

- Nomination of Luke Hopkins for FMATS Vice-Chair. (Roberts/Whitaker)
- Nomination of Doug Isaacson for FMATS Vice-Chair. (Edwards/Strle)
- **MOTION:** To close nominations for FMATS Vice-Chair. (Whitaker/Strle) None opposed. Approved.

Luke Hopkins said the Assembly Presiding Officer position vote will take place on November 20; therefore he may or may not be the FMATS representative. He has taken a recurring bite of transportation issues both from the railroad point of view, or not the railroad point of view, has been involved with the Assembly and has taken to heart the transportation concerns in our community. In the role of FMATS Vice-Chair, he would speak on behalf of FMATS at every opportunity.

Mayor Isaacson said he appreciates Luke Hopkins' experience and expertise, which he himself has also been developing during the last couple of years serving on the FMATS Policy committee. The network he has established and being able to have the ear of the congressional delegation and the commissioners has been significant. Being able to speak as mayor gives the position here some leverage, which is what he would bring to the table. He wants to represent Interior issues on transportation and would do a more than adequate job. He would also continue to learn from the Chairman.

A paper ballot was distributed and collected. Votes for FMATS Vice-Chair: Luke Hopkins received 4 votes; Mayor Doug Isaacson received 3 votes. Luke Hopkins will serve as FMATS Vice-Chair.

d. FMATS Policy Committee and Technical Committee Meetings for 2009.

The meeting schedule was included in the meeting packet.

- **MOTION:** To approve the FMATS Committee meetings list for 2009. (Isaacson /Hopkins) None opposed. Approved.

9. Public Comments

Bruce Carr from the Alaska Railroad said he listened to the sub-committee where there were many DOT people and some trucking people on it. One of the big variables changed since the mid-seventies, when the railroad was moving pipe, is the lay-down yards. He suggested bringing in steel fabricators and others. The yards will be very different this time from last time, the pipe lay-down issue is important. For example, at Mile 12, how the pipe gets out of there is going to be a big issue. A significant amount comes up by rail, but it is not an either/or, it will be both. The railroad moves significant amounts of pipe out of Seward into the Fairbanks area. The lay-down yards from the previous pipeline no longer exist. As part of out-reach, the sub-committee should bring in more people to look at what the actual trucking routes may be. The truckers have a desire, but they are going to react to where their customers, the pipe people, are positioned. For the heavy equipment coming from the railroad, Danby and Johansen will be an important interchange.

10. Other Issues

a. Mayor Jim Whitaker asked advice of the group on how to proceed with the rail corridor; if a rail study project can be added to the TIP and have a \$20 million request from the legislature as a funding source. That can be an FMATS priority as it goes through the legislative session. It will also be a priority in his request to the state administration. He asked Steve Titus if it was appropriate to make a request that it be added to the TIP as an action item today.

Steve Titus said that he understands all projects have to be in the TIP whether they are from the general fund or federally funded, whether they are funded through the TIP or not.

Donna Gardino said regardless whether it is in the TIP or STIP, it has to be fiscally constrained. It has to be demonstrated that there is funding for that project. Before it can be added to the TIP, it must be shown that there is the \$20 million or have a reasonable expectation to have it.

Mayor Whitaker said there is a reasonable expectation that the money will be forthcoming.

Luke Hopkins said the TIP has had other projects with funding to be determined.

Steve Titus said he understands Mayor Whitaker wants to get it listed in the TIP, with general funding and agrees it should be listed. He asked Donna Gardino to process that appropriately.

Mayor Isaacson said since the \$2 million is already in the TIP as other projects under the railroad, the balance of funding requests could be put under other railroad projects. This is a concern to him as US Rep Don Young toured North Pole and was requested specifically if our earmark cannot be sustained, then would Congress be able to do it through transportation. So North Pole also has a request to have funding.

Donna Gardino said the other major projects within the FMATS boundary are listed and the Eielson Branch realignment and the Joint Tanana Access route are the two projects currently in the TIP. In the new 2009-2012 TIP, if the \$20 million is there, the project will be added.

Bruce Carr said the Joint Tanana Access has the \$12 million that was transferred, or expected to be transferred, for a Ft. Wainwright project. There is \$44 million in the previous DOD budget to begin the bridge across the river. There is \$250,000 for the Eielson Branch Realignment in FY05, a 20 mile project, for which additional funding is being sought. Mayor Isaacson has approached the congressional delegation on the North Pole Realignment Phase I. The issue has been that a lot of the funding was from FTA and they are extremely cautious about where the money is

coming from. FHWA has been more understanding about planning documents, like the TIP. He agreed with Mayor Isaacson that the Eielson Branch Realignment, which goes from Ft. Wainwright to Eielson AFB, could be dropped in here.

Mayor Jim Whitaker asked if the language currently in the TIP is appropriate. Regarding funding, he understood that if it was not in the TIP, it was not appropriate to take it to the legislature to request funding; he wanted clarification before the end of the October.

Steve Titus suggested that Donna Gardino get the answer and email it to committee members so that request can be put through the proper channels to OMB for the governor's budget, if committee members agree by vote at this meeting.

Luke Hopkins asked about having a special meeting to vote on this action. Another question, the page in the TIP is to be included as it is moved forward to FHWA. It is not actually something in our TIP as a project. Would we want to put this nomination into our transportation program – like pages 1-13 – it is not 14,15,16 – they're just attached the same way NHS projects in the FMATS area are attached, a kind of reference document. This is a transportation project where there are road crossings and road crossing eliminations. It would be more encompassing to have it in the list of projects in the TIP. We don't really vote on the railroad projects. There are pieces that are attached as an appendix.

Donna Gardino said all regionally significant transportation projects are included in the TIP, regardless of who funds it. It is also included in the Long Range Transportation Plan. If the railroad is doing a project that FMATS doesn't have control over, it is included in the TIP because it is regionally significant. This language says the railroad is going to realign 20 miles of track, if that is what this railroad corridor study is about with the same definition then it is already in the TIP.

Steve Titus understands Mayor Whitaker wants it to be able to move forward to the legislature under a general fund appropriation. Last year a list of capital projects to fund was put together and prioritized. This would be a project for that list when it is put together. It would also be listed as a significant project in our TIP document.

Mayor Whitaker is looking for FMATS support for that scope of work to be included in the TIP, thereby giving it the credibility to the request, not only by FMATS and supported by FMATS but also by the community at large. Members of the legislature have indicated if it is not in the TIP, it is not credible. Therefore it should be in the TIP. He is not looking for FHWA funding at this time.

Chad Roberts asked about the scope of the work.

Mayor Whitaker said the scope of the work is to complete either the EA or EIS as required to provide for a bypass corridor from some point north to some point south. Those points, Phase I, II and III have been considered in the past. The general location is from the north to the south, a complete bypass of the core area of Fairbanks, which was studied under the Fairbanks/North Pole Rail Realignment. Donna Gardino said it is already in the TIP. Mayor Whitaker said if she is satisfied that it is in the TIP with the language that provides us to make that statement, have it be credible to members of the legislature, then he is comfortable requesting from this body a statement of support for that effort.

Bruce Carr made a point of clarification. The project has gone through several different name changes. The Eielson Branch Realignment is a railroad specific term that starts at point A and

ends at point B. He recommended going back to the name Fairbanks to North Pole Rail Realignment so the money can be used wherever it starts in Fairbanks.

Steve Titus said to add on to that name Phase I, II, III as those are clearly identified in resolutions by all the cities and covers the broad area.

- **MOTION:** A Resolution: The FMATS group supports pursuit of funding from the legislature for the Fairbanks to North Pole Rail Realignment Phase I, II, and III as listed in the TIP. (Whitaker/Hopkins) None opposed. Approved.

Steve Titus said this would be a separate resolution, a separate document providing FMATS support. We are going to get a list of capital projects for FMATS support. We do not want this resolution to get lost. It should definitely be on the list, if we develop a list, for general fund projects that may or may not even be in the TIP.

Mayor Whitaker asked that this be a separate action at this time, for a separate line item in the budget. It would be designated for FMATS to continue on with this project. It would be helpful to have this resolution at this time.

Mayor Isaacson asked if they should all include supporting letters for their requests to the legislature or the governor.

Mayor Whitaker said that may be appropriate as each entity gets to act separately and they understand all of the ramifications of bringing that issue forward.

Mayor Isaacson: "If we are referencing \$20 million and we are not specifically stating that we are doing \$20 million and the borough then goes off and does \$15 or \$10 million or something or changes the figure somehow, I don't want to be left suspended."

Mayor Whitaker referenced a newspaper article about Eielson being included in the short list for consideration of F-35 basing. That is a result of a tremendous amount of work by a significant number of people for a long time. One of the disqualifiers for Eielson remaining on that list of six bases is with the EIS associated with the process and our air quality situation in meeting PM 2.5 requirements. That could be a disqualifier for us and it brings back to us the importance of dealing with our PM 2.5 issues, the plan that we're on currently, the continued very good relationship with DEC and the effort to bring us into compliance. If we have a plan that will bring us into compliance, in all probability, we will not be disqualified and in all probability, Eielson will be strengthened and will remain here for generations. If we do not have a successful PM 2.5 program and plan to bring us into compliance, it is fair to say we will lose this opportunity and Eielson AFB may become expendable. It is of that significance and that importance to the community that we deal with the PM 2.5 issue. This group, in conjunction with DEC, should continue its efforts to be among the very highest priorities we have.

Alice Edwards said DEC is continuing efforts to get information to EPA on the boundary discussed at the last FMATS Policy meeting. The next couple months will be important to continue dialogs with EPA to try to get the best boundaries possible. Hopefully Eielson can be excluded from the boundary, which would be helpful in this regard and appropriate. DEC is continuing that struggle and will keep members informed as things progress. The borough mayor has been very helpful in communicating with EPA as well about the importance now and for subsequent planning that will follow.

Chad Roberts asked about the EPA deadline and boundaries and if there has been any feedback.

Alice Edwards said DEC will supply the supplemental information to EPA by October 20. They are working very hard this week to finalize those packages so DEC and the state can get the additional information to EPA. EPA won't release their final decision until possibly the middle of December. Once the information is with EPA, DEC will continue to work with them on the boundaries to see if the DEC approach makes more sense for the area. DEC is working hard to get EPA the best technical information to support a different boundary than what EPA proposes. A number of policy related issues and options have been put forth to EPA related to timing and getting more time. There has not been much feedback at the policy level; EPA is waiting to see how the technical piece comes together.

Mayor Isaacson asked about the FMATS letter to the governor regarding the local match rescission and if there has been any response or any indication they are considering the letter. Answer – no response at this time.

FMATS Policy meeting in November will coincide with the Gas Line Needs meeting in Anchorage on November 19.

- **MOTION:** To move the November 19 FMATS Policy Meeting to the following Wednesday, November 26. (Isaacson/Whitaker) None opposed. Approved.

11. Informational Items

a. Approved 2009-2010 UPWP

A letter sent to FHWA was received and approved.

b. Approved 2009-2012 TIP Development Timeline

A letter sent to FHWA was received and amended timeline approved

12. Adjourn

- **Motion to Adjourn.** (Roberts/Hopkins) No opposition. Approved. Adjourned at 11:57 am.

Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting is November 26, 2008, 10:00 am at DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road.

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

Date: _____

November 2008 MPO Coordinator's Staff Report

Technical and Policy Committee Meetings

- ✚ Attended the Technical Committee Meeting and Policy Committee Meeting in October and November; reviewed and corrected meeting minutes
- ✚ Prepared all meeting backup documentation for the November meetings; developed the Action Items for the Technical Committee
- ✚ Posted ads on the State's online public notice system, the Fairbanks North Star Borough's online Public notice system, created and requested paper advertisements, and placed Public Service Announcements on the radio
- ✚ Prepared all Title VI reports from August to the present

Correspondence

- ✚ Developed a Staff Report on the American Metropolitan Planning Organization Conference attended 10-28 through 10-31
- ✚ Forwarded comments on the Draft LRTP Scope of Services to the State for their consideration

Filing

- ✚ Filed all meeting items and correspondence

Organization

- ✚ Developed a Draft Notice of Position Vacancy - Assistant Planner for Policy Committee approval

Identify New Project Needs and Develop Project Scopes

- ✚ Prepared project nomination scoring for a new project nomination
- ✚ Developed, with a subcommittee, a list of AGIA Project Needs and then developed a brochure for use at the Nov. 19th meeting; researched accident data and vehicle class prior to the meeting for the committee's use
- ✚ Reviewed and provided comments on the Steese/Johansen Expressway Traffic Count memo, Task 2 of the Traffic Study for the area
- ✚ Reviewed the Draft Technical Memorandum for the Airport Way Improvements and Fairbanks Traffic Signal Timing Reconnaissance Project (roundabout evaluation)

Public Outreach

- ✚ Created ad orders and online public notices for all meetings
- ✚ Updated the FMATS website to include meeting notices, agendas, minutes
- ✚ Responded to requests for interviews from the Fairbanks Daily News Miner and KUAC on AGIA projects and from the FDNM on the bond proposal
- ✚ Attended the Gasline Needs Meeting and distributed the FMATS Gasline Needs Brochure to TransCanada, DOT Deputy Commissioner and his staff, TransCanada, Senator Therriault, Mayor Isaacson, Luke Hopkins

Agency Relationships

- ✚ Attended Chamber of Commerce Transportation Sub-Committee meetings: assisted in the development of the Chambers' Transportation Legislative Priorities; requested the FNSB speak to the sub-committee on PM 2.5
- ✚ Coordinated distribution of the Airport Way Traffic Study for Technical Committee comments to the State
- ✚ Attended the Gas Line Needs Meeting held by DOT & PF in Anchorage
- ✚ Attended the FNSB FMATS Group meeting; met with the State for a Pre-Policy Committee meeting

Strategic Planning

- ✚ Researched the truck route and hazardous material administrative code and city ordinances
- ✚ Contacted Flowline to determine their expected infrastructure improvement needs in the event of gas line construction
- ✚ Talked with the Transit Director regarding solar-powered plug-ins at Park and Rides and net gridding the energy to make these sustainable

Communication

- ✚ Interviewed by Cambridge Systematics, Inc. for the AML Transportation Finance Study

Short-Range and Tactical Planning

- ✚ Began work on the 2009 – 2012 TIP and conducted a subcommittee meeting
- ✚ Formed a sub-committee to update the Preventive Maintenance Project List and held two meetings
- ✚ Reviewed the bid tabs for recently let FMATS projects to keep abreast of possible de-obligations and needs in excess of estimates and worked with the State to balance those needs
- ✚ Requested formula information on how CMAQ funding is allocated statewide

Funding

- ✚ Drafted the resolution in support of pursuing funding for the Fairbanks – North Pole Rail Realignment projects
- ✚ Emailed the State to find out the expected rescission on Planning funds in FFY 09 and FFY10 and in CTP funding for the upcoming TIP

Legislation

- ✚ Reviewed the recently published CMAQ Guidance
- ✚ Composed a draft Letter to the Administration regarding the need for state funding for FMATS projects

Finance

- ✚ Developing the FFY08 year-end budget summary for the Policy Committee

Submitted by:

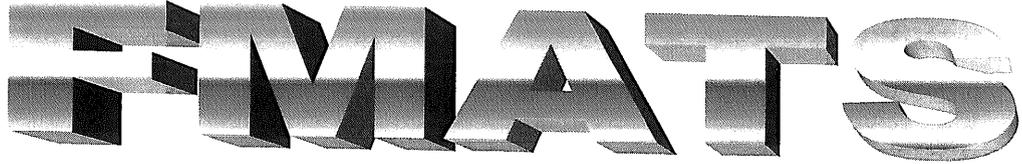
Donna J. Gardino

Donna J. Gardino

11/10/08

Date

**FAIRBANKS
METROPOLITAN
AREA
TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM**



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**FMATS Technical Committee
Action Items
11-05-08 Meeting**

Motion: To recommend to the FMATS Policy Committee to modify the title and scope of the Barnette Street 10th to Gaffney to 7th to Gaffney and move any additional necessary 381 funds from the Cushman Street Reconstruction Project. (Pristash/Schmetzer). None opposed. Approved.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Committee to extend the Change Order/Amendment Authority Matrix to all project development phases (Birkholz/Carr). None opposed. Approved.

Motion: To recommend to the FMATS Policy Committee to allocate an additional \$40,000 of de-obligation funding to North Pole Homestead Road/NPHS Boulevard Extension Phase 2. (Birkholz/Carr). None opposed. Approved.



Donna J. Gardino
Chair, FMATS Technical Committee

11/5/08
Date

**FAIRBANKS
METROPOLITAN
AREA
TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM**



November 26, 2008

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steve Titus, P.E.
Chair
Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
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Mayor Terry Strle
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Mayor Doug Isaacson
City of North Pole
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Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Acting Director, Air Quality Division
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Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800
(907) 465-5109

FMATS Policy Committee
Mr. Steve Titus, Chair
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Re: Development Impacts on Transportation Infrastructure

Dear Steve:

In scoring projects for the development of the new TIP, one issue that struck the Technical Committee was some projects that were brought forth for FMATS consideration were a result of large scale developments that should have been addressed when the developments were constructed. Examples of these issues are apparent in the Bentley Trust area where no pedestrian facilities exist, such as the intersection of the Old Steese Highway and Johansen Expressway Intersection.

A more global approach is requested when approving such developments. Consideration should be required to improve access to the existing infrastructure and, if necessary, to reduce congestion, increase safety and capacity and provide for future maintenance. The Technical Committee believes the approach taken should be based on smart growth principles with consideration of all modes of transportation. Certainly, the Technical Committee does not want to discourage the development; but the developers must begin to share in the responsibility of the impacts their actions create.

With the limited funding that FMATS receives, the Technical Committee believes that FMATS cannot and should not undertake such projects. The decision-making bodies should direct their staffs to require more stringent policies when approving or permitting new developments.

Your support in this approach would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

FMATS Technical Committee

Fairbanks is the Transportation Hub to the North!

Although the origination point for all goods may vary, large modules, thousands of loads of pipe and significant background traffic will converge in one place:

FAIRBANKS!

Whether by truck, rail or plane, Fairbanks is the Transportation Hub for the construction of the natural gas pipe line. This list of projects, identified by the FMATS Policy Committee, illustrates the most important needs of the area to facilitate safe freight movement.



FAIRBANKS METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

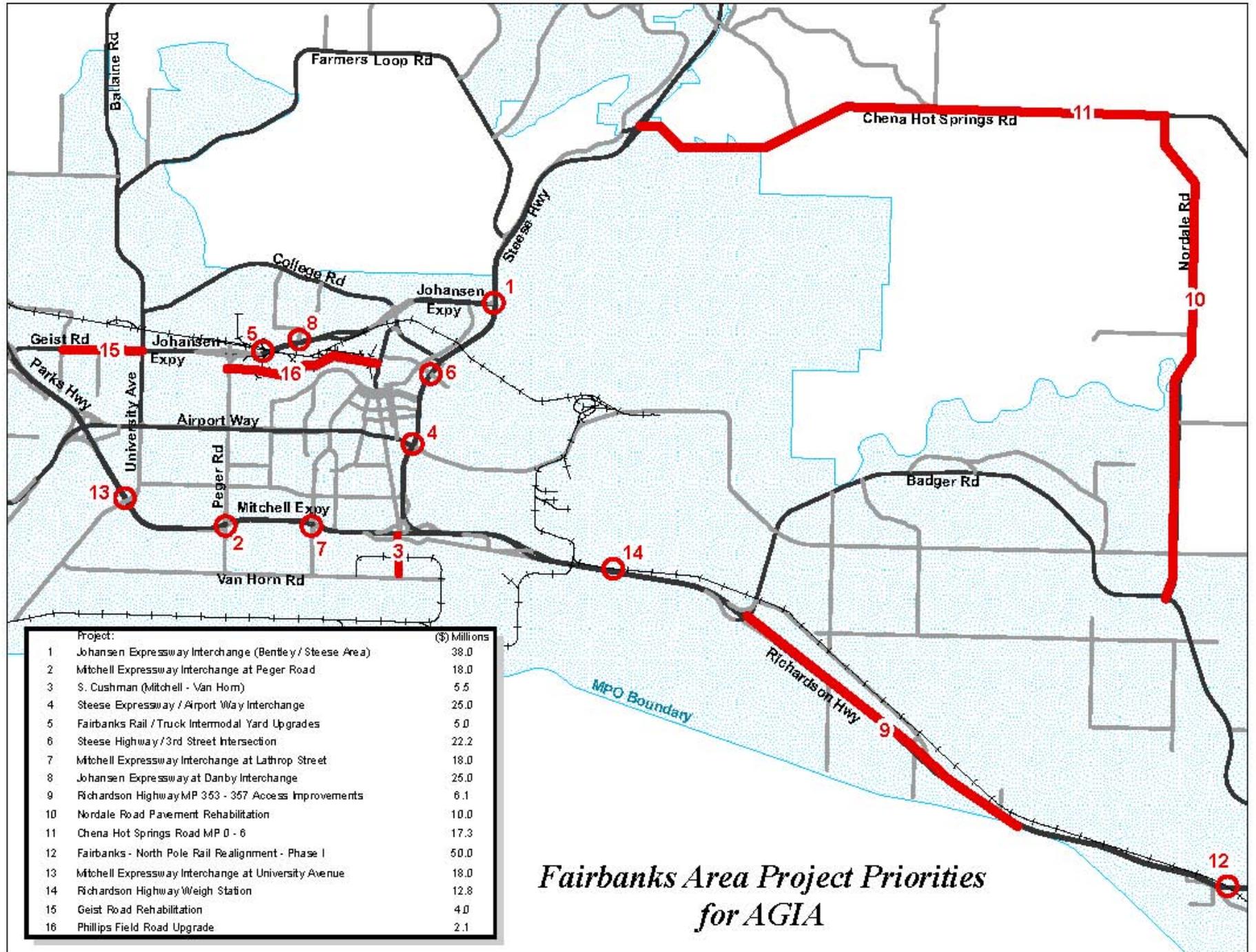
FMATS
Donna J. Gardino, MPO Coordinator
800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: 907-459-6786
Fax: 907-459-6783
E-mail: djgardino@ci.fairbanks.ak.us

FAIRBANKS AREA PROJECT NEEDS



To Support Construction of a Natural Gas Pipeline

PREPARED BY
FAIRBANKS
METROPOLITAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM
(FMATS)
NOVEMBER 2008



*Fairbanks Area Project Priorities
for AGIA*

FMATS Action Items
June 18, 2008
Page 2 of 2

Motion: For approval of Amendment No. 2 of the 2007 – 2008 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mayor Terry Strle moved. Luke Hopkins seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.

Motion: For approval of moving \$1 million of Grandfathered University Avenue funding to complete the EA for Phase 1 and moving \$1 million of Grandfathered University Avenue funding toward the EIS of Phase 2 and 3 of the Southern Bypass Rail Route, with FHWA approval.

Mayor Jim Whitaker moved. Mayor Doug Isaacson seconded. Five in favor, two opposed (Titus, Edwards). Motion passed.



Steve Titus, P.E.
Chair, Policy Committee



Date

NOTICE OF POSITION VACANCY AND CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTION

Internal/External

Position: Planner

Reports to: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordinator

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

Under direct supervision of the MPO Coordinator in a training environment, analyze short and long term transportation needs within the MPO and assist in the development of short, medium and long range studies to guide the development of capital projects. Research and develop draft documentation required to initiate and prioritize specific capital projects. Establish draft project scopes, schedules and budgets. Assist in the preparation of public and agency presentations using software such as PowerPoint, databases, digital video, and production of hard copy materials. Prepare draft responses to public and agency correspondence for review by the MPO Coordinator. Secure factual information and analyze, compile and interpret data in the field of planning. Review plans, designs and draft documents and prepare recommendations and conclusions. Perform field assignments in connection with transportation planning and development.

Provide administrative support: Record Technical and Policy Committee meetings and develop minutes, prepare agendas and supporting meeting materials for all attendees, arrange, setup and attend meetings and open houses. Develop and implement an organizational file structure for the MPO and perform the day-to-day maintenance of the system. Perform the procurement function for the department and assist in the monitoring of the budget. Receive telephone calls and visitors and answer questions on status of current projects. Use tact and discretion when disseminating information to various parties. Make appointments. Arrange for transportation and accommodation of traveling staff members; check and processes expense claims.

Maintain courtesy and professional image of the agency through example and by informing the executive of areas in need of improvement. Be cognizant of factors which influence public relations, and exercise initiative in reviewing daily activities for public relations and program implications. This work is assistive in nature and focuses on extending the capabilities of the MPO. A positive work attitude and ethic are required for this position as well as strong organizational skills and a desire to learn.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Develop and maintain the day-to-day file system of the MPO and keep it current.
2. Develop meeting packets and minutes for the Policy Committee and Technical Committee.
3. Develop draft correspondence, reports, presentations, publications, newsletters, mailings and coordinate printing and distribution.
4. Gather, evaluate and assemble information into special reports that include tables, graphs, charts and explanations.
5. Prepare MPO Informational Binders as requested.
6. Research federal, state and local laws and evaluate the impacts on the MPO.
7. Purchase supplies, materials and equipment under the City's procurement system and make travel arrangements.
8. Monitor the MPO's budget by compiling and analyzing expenditure reports.
9. Arrange for and set-up meeting and open house facilities. Attend meetings and communicate with the public, as required.
10. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with governmental officials at all levels, employees, private groups, the press and the general public.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college and one year work experience in planning and/or performing planning functions. Experience in the practice of intermodal transportation planning is highly desirable.
2. Strong written and oral communication skills;
3. Strong organizational skills; ability to organize workloads, set priorities and coordinate timelines.
4. Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts and draw valid conclusions;
5. Ability to understand pertinent federal, state, and local laws, codes and regulations and to clearly communicate that understanding to the public.
6. Ability to learn state and federal legislative and administrative funding processes and work with legislative and administrative representatives and staff;
7. Advanced personal computer proficiency experience using Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint.
8. Ability to travel to locations within Alaska and as needed, locations outside Alaska to perform MPO duties and other training for professional development;
9. Possession of a valid driver's license;
10. Physical ability to perform representative duties.

JOB CONTACTS

1. Elected officials
2. Federal and State officials
3. Engineering firms
4. General Public

WORK ENVIRONMENT

General office environment where conditions are pleasant and hazards are negligible. Requires short periods of light lifting, pushing or pulling (1 – 26 lbs). Excellent benefits package (pension and health and welfare), four weeks vacation, ten holidays and great work environment.

Individuals interested in applying for this position should contact the City of Fairbanks Human Resources Office, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

**FAIRBANKS
METROPOLITAN
AREA
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SYSTEM**



November 26, 2008

Ref: 2009 – 1
FMATS Priority Project Funding Request

State of Alaska
Director Karen Rehfeld
Office of Management and Budget
P.O. Box 110020
Juneau, AK 99811-0200

Dear Director Rehfeld,

The Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System (FMATS) Policy Committee respectfully requests approximately \$15 million in General Funds to be allocated to the FMATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project priorities.

This funding will address local match requirements for local governments without road powers, assist their ability to meet estimate, scope, and scheduling changes, and help FMATS address priority projects within the Metropolitan Planning Area. The funding will fulfill critical FMATS improvements in Downtown Fairbanks in coordination with the Vision Fairbanks Downtown Plan. This plan focuses on economic development and is based on smart growth principles.

Federal funding is expected to decrease significantly in the next fiscal year. State funding is needed for projects that cannot be completed with the available federal funding. To meet this shortfall, the FMATS Policy Committee requires a general fund authorization for FMATS included in the capital budget. With construction inflation rates rising, it is important to have flexible State funding to keep our basic infrastructure projects moving forward.

The attached list of example projects demonstrates needs identified in the TIP for the FMATS area. The FMATS Policy Committee encourages you to request language that would allow us the flexibility to prioritize funding as we work within ongoing project development needs.

Thank you for considering this critical request.

Sincerely,

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

CC: Commissioner Leo von Scheben

attachment

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steve Titus, P.E.
Chair

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Regional Director, Northern Region
2301 Peger Road
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Mayor Jim Whitaker

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Alice Edwards

Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Acting Director, Air Quality Division
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**FAIRBANKS
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SYSTEM**



November 26, 2008

Ref: 2009 – 1
General Fund Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
Cushman Street Reconstruction	\$8,000,000
Barnette Street Traffic Revision	\$15,000,000
Noble Street Upgrade	\$11,000,000
Plack Rd Upgrade	\$6,000,000
Yankovich/Miller Hill Rd Upgrade	\$6,500,000
Dawson Road Connector	\$1,600,000
College Road Rehabilitation	\$6,500,000
Tanana Drive Extension	\$8,000,000
South Cushman (Gaffney to 17 th)	\$10,000,000
Phillips Field Rd Upgrade	\$2,000,000
Nordale Road Rehabilitation	\$2,800,000
South Cushman (Mitchell Expy to Van Horn Rd)	\$5,000,000
AKRR Southern Alignment (FBKS-NP) Road & Rail Improvements	\$1,000,000

**FMATS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
CHANGE ORDER/AMENDMENT AUTHORITY MATRIX**

AUTHORITY LIMIT FOR CHANGES/AMENDMENTS		
APPROVAL AUTHORITY	MAXIMUM DOLLAR AMOUNT	PERCENT OF PHASE DESIGN (2), RIGHT OF WAY(3), CONSTRUCTION (4), UTILITIES (7), PLANNING (8)
Staff	\$100,000	10%
Technical Committee	\$250,000	20%
Policy Committee	>\$250,000	>20%

NOTE: The change order and amendment authority is cumulative for each phase. When either the dollar limit or percentage level will be exceeded by an additional change, the decision will move to the next appropriate higher level of approval authority.

DRAFT