

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
**800 Cushman Street, Council Chambers,**  
**City Hall, Fairbanks, Alaska**  
Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2011

**1. Call to Order**

Acting Chair Kellen Spillman called the meeting to order at 12:01 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 (teleconference)	FMATS Coordinator
*** Michael Wenstrup	FNSB Planning Commission
*** Dave Sanches (absent)	Fort Wainwright
*** Jonathan Shembare for Scott Bell (absent)	UAF
*** (vacant)	Tanana Chiefs Conference
*** Margaret Carpenter for Ethan Birkholz (absent)	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Bill Butler (absent)	City of North Pole
*** Bruce Carr (absent)	ARRC
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Bill Gryder for Bernardo Hernandez (absent)	FNSB, Planning
*** Jerry Colp for Mike Schmetzer (absent)	City of Fairbanks
*** Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
*** Adam Barth for Glenn Miller (absent)	FNSB Transportation
** Kellen Spillman	FMATS Planner
Janet Brown	DOT&PF, Preconstruction
Linda Mahlen	DOT&PF, Planning
Jeff Whipple	City of Fairbanks

**3. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**4. Approval of the November 2, 2011 Agenda**

- **Motion:** To approve the November 2, 2011 agenda. (Carpenter, Colp)
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**5. Approval of October 5, 2011 Minutes**

- **Motion:** To approve the October 5, 2011 minutes. (Carpenter, Colp)
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**6. Committee Reports**

**a) Preventive Maintenance Subcommittee Report (Action Item)**

Mr. Spillman said that there was a meeting of the Preventive Maintenance Subcommittee to discuss how to spend the SB46 funding that was allocated towards the state funded Preventive Maintenance Program. Mr. Spillman said that there are minutes included in the meeting packet from the meeting of the Preventive Maintenance Subcommittee.

Ms. Gardino said that all of the different agencies brought their wish lists, which were presented to DOT&PF to come up with estimates. Ms. Gardino said that the Committee did not decide on how much to allocate to each agency, but did decide that an additional \$300,000 of SB230 funding should be allocated towards the state funded Preventive Maintenance Program.

- **Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to move \$300,000 of SB230 funding to the state-funded Preventive Maintenance Program. (Pristash, Carpenter)

Ms. Gardino said that they are currently deciding on how to allocate the funding amongst the different agencies. Ms. Gardino said that there were different opinions on how to divide the funding including: splitting the funding equally, splitting the funding by road miles, and splitting the funding by population. Ms. Gardino suggested that each agency come to the next meeting with that information so it can be further discussed on how to allocate the funding.

Mr. Colp said that the minutes it states that the funding will come from SB230 funding and HB381 funding. Ms. Gardino said that when the meeting occurred there was only \$1,000 in HB381 funding remaining, but in a future TIP Amendment some HB381 funding will be substituted for some federal funding. Ms. Gardino said that the money is all state funding,

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

## 7. Old Business

### a) 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1 Comments and Conformity Finding

Mr. Spillman said that there were two comments on the 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1, one on the College Road Rehabilitation project, and one on the Plack Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility project. Mr. Spillman continued on to say that the comment on the College Road Rehabilitation project suggested lane reduction from four lanes to three lanes from the Johansen Expressway to University Avenue. Mr. Spillman continued on to say that the comment cited traffic calming, increasing number of businesses, and bicycle and pedestrian conflicts as justification.

Mr. Spillman said that other comments were received about the perceived lack of progress on the Plack Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility project. Mr. Spillman said that Ms. Gardino replied to the e-mail stating that final design on the project will obligate this FFY and right-of-way will obligate in FFY13.

Mr. Spillman said that also included in the meeting packet is an e-mail from FHWA concurring that another conformity analysis is not required for 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1. Mr. Spillman said that an e-mail was also received from FTA concurring with the conformity findings. Ms. Gardino said that FTA had a comment about the illustrative projects being included in the original modeling. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that all of the illustrative projects are either included in the original modeling or are exempt from conformity. Ms. Gardino said that both FHWA and FTA concurred with FMATS' finding that no conformity is needed for 2012 - 2015 TIP Amendment #1. Ms. Gardino said that comments were due today and that she did not receive any other comments.

**b) 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1 Approval (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1. (Carpenter, Gryder).

Mr. Spillman said that the 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1 is available in the meeting packet and there are two pages immediately preceding the TIP that summarize the changes. Mr. Spillman said that the first change, that required an amendment, is adding a phase 7 to the Preventive Maintenance Program. Mr. Spillman continued on to discuss the other changes incorporated in the 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1 including: a Ph4 increase to the Preventive Maintenance Program, addition of Ph2 of the LED Street Light Conversion Stage 3 project, Ph2 increase of South Cushman (Mitchell to Sanduri), Ph2 increase of the University Avenue Widening project, Ph2 of the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project was changed from state funding to Offset funding, the FMATS Pedestrian Improvements Stage 1 project was funded entirely by federal funding, the FMATS Pedestrian Improvements Stage 2 project was funded entirely by state funding, the SB46 funded projects were added to the TIP, PH4 of the Plack Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility project was reduced, the Cushman Street Bridge project was separated from the Illinois Street project, the LED Street Light Conversion Stage 3 project was added to the TIP as illustrative.

Ms. Gardino noted that the funding from the South Cushman (Mitchell to Sanduri) project will be offset funding and the \$45,000 in FCTP funding needs to be reallocated. Ms. Gardino said that she suggests reallocating the funding towards PH4 of the Preventive Maintenance Program in FFY12. Ms. Gardino said that now there is \$383,000 in offset funding available.

- **Amended motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1, with the additional \$45,000 in FCTP funding moving into PH4 of the Preventive Maintenance Program in FFY12. (Carpenter, Gryder)
- **Vote on the amended motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**c) Safe Routes to School Plan Comments and Grant Application (Action Item)**

Mr. Spillman said that a number of comments were received on the Safe Routes to School program and the comments are available in the meeting packet. Mr. Spillman said that six comments were received regarding Woodriver Elementary School, four comments on University Park Elementary, one comment on Pearl Creek Elementary, one comment on Ladd Elementary, and three general comments.

Ms. Gardino said that the University Park comments focused on lighting studies, new sidewalks, a pedestrian beacon at York and Loftus, and a four-way stop at Loftus and Birch Lane. Ms. Gardino said that she ran the idea of a four-way stop at Loftus and Birch Lane by DOT and was told that it does not fit the profile for a four-way stop.

Ms. Gardino said that the comments received from Woodriver Elementary focused on sidewalks on Palo Verde, Trinidad, and Birch Lane, street lights, and flashing school signs. Ms. Gardino said that the comment received by Pearl Creek elementary focused on traffic circulation. Ms. Gardino said that general comments were also received from the DOT and the president of the Fairbanks PTA. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that a general comment was received about lighting and how it could possibly interfere with viewing of the night sky. Ms. Gardino said that a comment was also received from Ladd Elementary about lighting issues.

Ms. Gardino said that a school is to be selected for the completion of a draft grant application. Ms. Gardino said that the intent was to select a school that demonstrated the most need and the greatest interest in the Safe Routes to School program. Ms. Gardino said that a need ranking matrix was also developed and each school was ranked in the matrix. Mr. Spillman passed around a copy of the FMATS Safe Routes to School Need Ranking Summary noting that Badger Elementary scored the lowest and Woodriver Elementary scored the second lowest. Ms. Gardino said that Badger Elementary and Woodriver Elementary were seen as the two schools that needed the most improvements in the FMATS area. Ms. Gardino said that the FMATS Policy Committee made a motion to consider doing a draft grant application for Woodriver Elementary and University Park Elementary. Ms. Gardino said that there is difficulty in implementing a number of the recommendations, made in the Safe Routes to School document, because the owner of the road must concur with the recommendation and commit to maintain the improvements.

Mr. Pristash asked if the goal is to select a particular school to file a grant application for and Ms. Gardino said that was correct. Mr. Pristash asked how the FMATS Safe Routes to School Need Ranking was developed. Ms. Gardino said that the Need Ranking was developed in partnership between the FMATS Staff and the consultant on the project to consider factors that would make a school safer to bike and walk to. Mr. Shembare said that there is a motion from the FMATS Policy Committee to consider University Park Elementary and Woodriver Elementary and Woodriver Elementary scored much lower than University Park Elementary in the Needs Ranking.

Ms. Gardino said that in the original Safe Routes to School RFP it was stated that a draft grant application would be completed for a couplet of an elementary school and a middle school, but the middle schools showed a lack of interest in the Safe Routes to School program. Ms. Gardino said that she recommends that the grant be completed for a single school and not a couplet, because University Park Elementary and Woodriver Elementary are not close enough to do a single infrastructure project. Ms. Gardino said that the immediate improvements around Woodriver Elementary focus on improvements on Palo Verde and Trinidad, which are not in close proximity to University Park Elementary.

Mr. Pristash asked if the scores of the consultant and the scores of FMATS staff differed in the Safe Routes to School Needs Ranking. Mr. Spillman said that the scores were very similar and where they differed an agreement was reached between the FMATS staff and the consultant on which score to input.

- **Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to complete a grant application for Woodriver Elementary School. (Colp, Barth)

Ms. Hardesty asked if this grant would just be a sample grant that other schools could follow. Ms. Gardino said that it would be a sample grant that other schools could follow, but it would also be submitted to the Alaska Safe Routes to School program as an actual grant. Mr. Spillman said that the current grant application ends on November 30, 2011. Ms. Gardino said that she has been assisting University Park Elementary in potentially developing a grant of their own.

Mr. Gryder asked if individual schools can apply for grants. Ms. Gardino said that with the planning document any school could apply for a grant if they wished. Ms. Gardino said that there is still some information that needs to be included in the Safe Routes to School document and a final document is going to be provided to each school.

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

## 8. New Business

There was no new business.

### 9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### 10. Other Issues

Mr. Spillman said that there is an offset list available in the meeting packet and the \$45,000 from the South Cushman project has not yet been incorporated into the list. Mr. Spillman continued on to say that there is currently \$270,718 of offset funding available, not taking into account the South Cushman project.

### 11. Informational Items

#### a) Policy Committee Action Items

Mr. Spillman said that the action items from the October 19, 2011 FMATS Policy Committee meeting are available in the meeting packet.

#### b) NMTP Advisory Group Meeting 11.15.11

Mr. Spillman said that a meeting of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Advisory Group will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 in the Fairbanks City Hall Council Chambers.

### 12. Technical Committee Comments

Ms. Gardino said that she would like to have a discussion about the Preventive Maintenance Program and the associated utility conflicts on the next Technical Committee agenda. Ms. Gardino said that there is interest in developing a new College Road project to address the high number of rear-end accidents and poor pavement quality on the section of College Road that the current project does not address.

Ms. Gardino said that she will be working on another TIP amendment and there are a number of projects that she has been informed will be delayed beyond this FFY. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that she will need information from the DOT and the City of Fairbanks as to what projects will be unable to obligate as shown in TIP Amendment #1. Ms. Gardino said that there is \$1 million programmed on South Cushman (15<sup>th</sup> to Mitchell) that she is worried will not obligate in FFY13.

### 13. Adjournment:

- **Motion to Adjourn** (Pristash, Carpenter) Approved. Adjourned at 12:35 pm.

**Next Technical Committee meeting Wednesday, December 7, 2011, Noon at Fairbanks City Hall, City Council Chambers.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Donna Gardino, Chair  
FMATS Technical Committee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

12.7.11