



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Main Conference Room, State of AK DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fbks., AK

Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2014

1. Call to Order

Mayor Luke Hopkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee

*Luke Hopkins, Chair
 *Bill Butler for Bryce Ward, Vice Chair
 *Mike Schmetzer for John Eberhart
 *Rob Campbell
 *Guy Sattley (via telephone)
 *Perry Walley
 *Cindy Heil for Alice Edwards
 **+Donna Gardino
 **Deborah Todd
 **Aaron Buckley (absent)
 **Kellen Spillman
 **Linda Mahlen
 **Margaret Carpenter
 +Judy Chapman
 +Brian Lindamood
 +Joan Hardesty
 +Christine Nelson
 Bill Ha'o
 Andrew Ooms
 Meadow Bailey
 Janice Golub (via telephone)
 Tom Carlson (via telephone)

Representative Organization

Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
 Mayor, City of North Pole
 Mayor, City of Fairbanks
 Acting Northern Region Director, DOT&PF
 FNSB Assembly Member
 City Council Member, City of Fairbanks
 DEC, Division of Air Quality
 FMATS MPO Coordinator
 FMATS Administrative Assistant
 FMATS Transportation Planner
 FNSB Community Planning
 DOT&PF Planning
 DOT&PF Planning
 DOT Planning
 Alaska Railroad
 DEC, Division of Air Quality
 FNSB Planning Director
 Bettisworth North
 Kittelson & Associates
 DOT&PF Public Information Office
 FNSB Assembly Member
 Sierra Research

***FMATS Policy Committee Members, **FMATS Staff Members, +FMATS Technical Committee Members**

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

4. Approval of the November 19, 2014 Agenda

Motion: To approve the November 19, 2014 Agenda. (Heil/Schmetzer).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of the October 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the October 15, 2014 meeting minutes. (Heil/Walley).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

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

Ms. Gardino presented highlights from meetings and other activities FMATS participated in from the monthly report included in the meeting packet.

b. FMATS' Enhancement Policy Subcommittee Report

Ms. Gardino stated that the subcommittee was still drafting policy that would go through the Technical Committee for review. Mayor Hopkins inquired about who the members were on the subcommittee. Ms. Gardino read a list of the subcommittee member names.

7. Old Business

a. TIP Amendment #8 Draft for Public Comment (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino provided a brief overview of the amendment and stated that the recommendation from the Technical Committee had been to release TIP Amendment #8 for public comment. Ms. Gardino stated that there had been modifications made to the TIP Amendment since the previous meeting and the new changes consisted of the addition of the Freight Mobility Plan and Badger Road Corridor Study. Ms. Gardino explained that she would also like to add \$600,000 before the TIP Amendment went out for public review to replace two signalized intersections on South Cushman to complete the project

Mr. Schmetzer inquired about the Barnette Street project, whether the funding was included in the TIP Amendment, and if the money could be transferred from Barnette Street to Cushman Complete Streets project if necessary.

Ms. Gardino explained that a motion from the Policy Committee could be made to transfer funding if that became necessary.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that as they got close to completion of the final plan set for the Cushman Complete Streets project, they might be needing more money.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about the last time a presentation had been provided to the Policy Committee for the status of the Cushman Complete Streets project.

Ms. Gardino stated that it had been a while and the City had been working on South Cushman and Wickersham, but Mr. Schmetzer would be better able to discuss the status of the project.

Mr. Schmetzer explained that the Cushman Complete Streets project had been delayed an entire season so they would not lose the funding encumbered for the South Cushman and Wickersham projects, but had been working on the project throughout that time period and work would pick up through the winter, so the project would be ready for construction next year.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if there were obligations on that project already and what amount had been put towards the project.

Ms. Gardino stated that the total appropriations to the Cushman/Gaffney project were \$5,622,370, expended to date on design was \$574,802, there was a balance remaining of \$157,502 and a balance of \$5,416,065 available for construction.

Mr. Schmetzer inquired if an update to the Policy Committee in the next couple months would be timely.

Mayor Hopkins stated that it would be and thanked Mr. Schmetzer.

Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Campbell if he could speak about DUUP planning money and the Badger Road Corridor Study and any planning money that the State had and whether there would be other funding available outside the funded money now that it was an FMATS Illustrative project. Mayor Hopkins stated that he wondered if the State could assist with funding such as DU Planning money.

Mr. Campbell stated that he thought there was money available somewhere but was not knowledgeable about the DUUP funding.

Ms. Gardino explained that the DUUP funding was PL money that could be applied for and was PL money so it could be used for a planning study.

Mr. Campbell stated that he had no problem with applying for that funding if and when it became available.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if Ms. Gardino could obtain some information about how to apply for that funding.

Ms. Gardino stated that FHWA had not yet decided how the funding would be appropriated.

Motion: To approve the TIP Amendment #8 for public comment.
(Walley/Schmetzer)

Amendment to the Motion: To add \$600,000 of SB46 funding to the Cushman Street Reconstruction project. (Walley/Schmetzer).

Discussion: Mayor Hopkins inquired which two intersections were slated for upgrades on the South Cushman project.

Mr. Schmetzer stated it was new information that Mr. Pristash had just brought to light so he was not sure which two intersections but every intersection on South Cushman had a controller that was over 34 years old and they had to search for parts on EBay or rob parts from other signals which left those signals not working properly.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amended Motion: To approve the 2015-2018 TIP Amendment #8 for public comment and to add \$600,000 of SB46 funding to the Cushman Street Reconstruction project.

Vote on Amended Motion: None opposed. Approved

8. New Business

a. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair (Action Item)

Mayor Hopkins explained that it was time for the annual election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Policy Committee. Mayor Hopkins stated that it was his recommendation to have a voice vote as opposed to secret ballot since Mr. Sattley was voting via telephone. Mayor Hopkins stated that before they opened up nominations he wanted to present a statement letter from Mayor Ward requesting consideration for one or both of the offices.

Mr. Sattley inquired if everyone had received the statement from Mayor Ward. Mr. Sattley stated that he nominated Mayor Hopkins as Chair and that nomination was seconded by Mr. Schmetzer.

Mr. Butler nominated Mayor Ward for Chair and that nomination was seconded by Mr. Walley.

Mr. Campbell inquired if they were nominating a person or a position for the Committee. Mr. Campbell inquired if, for example, Mayor Hopkins was elected to the position and was no longer Mayor, if the person that was elected to his office replace him or if another vote would have to be taken.

Mr. Sattley commented that he felt it would not be appropriate for an Assembly or City Council representative to be the Chair and was ambivalent about the Vice Chair position on the Policy Committee. Mr. Sattley stated that both positions were subject to appointment and it did not work well since they were part time and not full time positions.

Mr. Walley stated that he had agreed with Mr. Sattley previously on that issue and still agreed.

Mayor Hopkins stated that the nominations were closed but wanted to point out that he had about ten months left as Mayor and then he would be termed out. Mayor Hopkins stated that there would be a short period where he would not be present at meetings because of when elections were certified in October but the Policy Committee would be voting again in November so that would not make that much of a difference but he wanted to make that known prior to the vote.

Mr. Sattley was voting via telephone so he was going to give his vote verbally since there were ballots that could be passed out.

Ms. Heil stated that they had a letter of interest from Mayor Ward but had not heard whether or not Mayor Hopkins accepted his nomination and wanted to be fair and know before a vote took place.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he accepted the nomination for Chair but just wanted to point out to people before they voted what was happening with him.

Mr. Sattley stated that he wanted make a statement and it was difficult because he was on the telephone and Mayor Ward was not at the meeting. Mr. Sattley stated that he just wanted to remind the group that Mayor Ward was instrumental in drafting a bill to be presented to the House by Representative Isaacson that would have removed some elements of the public comment procedure from various projects but it was voted down by the Policy Committee six to one or something like that. Mr. Sattley stated that it was water under the bridge and forgotten. Mr. Sattley stated that it was difficult for him since he wanted young, smart, aggressive people to get involved in the political process which described Mayor Ward. Mr. Sattley stated that he thought Mayor Ward ran his little town admirably, but to have him be Chair of this committee would skew things in a way he did not want them to be skewed. Mr. Sattley stated that there had been a statement on paper from Mayor Ward that was the “pro”, and his statement was a little statement for the “con” of the vote.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if there was any more comments before the vote.

Motion: To nominate Mayor Ward as Chair of the FMATS Policy Committee (Walley).

Vote on Motion: Four in Favor. Three opposed. (Sattley, Hopkins, Schmetzer). Approved.

Motion: To nominate Mayor Hopkins as Vice-Chair of the FMATS Policy Committee. (Walley).

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. 2015-2018 TIP Project Evaluation Criteria (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained the TIP criteria included in the meeting packet.

Motion: To approve the 2015-2018 Project Evaluation Criteria. (Campbell/Heil).

Discussion: Mayor Hopkins inquired if there would be missing criteria since they did not know what the new targets would be.

Ms. Gardino stated that they might have to adjust criteria for safety but they still had safety criteria and added that maintenance projects had a criteria, but the new criteria might be more performance driven. Ms. Gardino stated that they looked at the data but would be looking at it harder when they had a data-driven analysis for selecting projects.

Mr. Campbell stated that it was not clear yet what the relationship would be between the State and the MPO and what the responsibilities of each would be, and that should be kept in mind when scoring projects.

Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Gardino to provide clarity to the information about the scoring criteria for different types of projects.

Ms. Gardino explained the different types of scoring criteria used and how they applied to various types of projects.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if the TRAAK projects would become Enhancement projects.

Ms. Gardino stated that right now there was no longer funding for enhancement projects and all the funding would go to the State since only large MPOs had a formula in MAP21 for large transportation projects.

Ms. Gardino stated that they would be scoring the projects and then the Policy Committee would be deciding where the allocation of the funding would be. Ms. Gardino stated that they would be calling for nominations for the new TIP and those would be scored by the Technical Committee using the same criteria as existing projects and those scores would be brought to the Policy Committee in draft form for review.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. Request for State Funding (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that the request for State funding was contained in the meeting packet and she had drafted two versions since there was a new Governor and she had not been certain about who the funding request should be addressed to.

Motion: To forward the request for funding to the Governor. (Walley/Butler).

Discussion: Mayor Hopkins inquired about the inclusion of operational transit funding. Mayor Hopkins explained that there was special legislation for any entity that had public transportation and it was a three year fund and the funding did not make it through the current fiscal year.

Mr. Campbell stated that he wanted to clarify that AMATS had not received State funding yet and the funding that was received was put into the budget by Legislative appropriation and not put in for AMATS use at all, so he did not think it was a fair comparison to use in the FMATS request.

Amendment to the Motion: And to send two letters, one after December 1, 2014 to Governor Walker. (Campbell/Heil).

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To modify the letter to specifically address the Interior Delegation. (Campbell/Heil).

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: Six in favor. One opposed (Hopkins). Approved.

Amended Motion: To forward the request for funding to the Governor, and to send two letters, one after December 1, 2014 to Governor Walker, and to modify the letter to specifically address the Interior Delegation.

Vote on Amended Motion: None opposed. Approved.

For the Record: Mr. Schmetzer left the meeting prior to the following votes.

d. 2040 MTP Draft Conformity Analysis for Public Comment (Action Item)

Tom Carlson of Sierra Research joined the meeting via telephone to provide highlights of the MTP Draft Conformity Analysis.

Ms. Heil stated that the MTP document was important because it was the only document approved by FHWA and it needed to be reviewed very carefully.

Motion: To release the draft MTP Air Quality Conformity Analysis for public comment. (Heil Campbell).

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

e. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Draft for Public Comment (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino provided a brief overview and stated that there was no Technical Committee action item as it had not been completed in time for a thorough review. Ms. Gardino introduced Andrew Ooms from Kittelson and Associates to provide a brief presentation of the MTP process.

Motion: To release the draft MTP for public comment. (Heil/Campbell).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

Mr. Spillman stated that he wanted to make a friendly suggestion that they include a map in the funding request to the Interior Delegation that provided clarification of the FMATS area.

10. Other Issues

None.

11. Informational Items

a. ADOT&PF State Rail Plan Update

Ms. Gardino provided an update regarding the email included in the meeting packet from Murray Walsh that discussed the status of the State Rail Plan. Ms. Gardino stated that a full draft was delivered for in-house review and extensive changes were made, a second draft was received on October 21 and circulated to the steering committee, and the public comment review would commence in November. Ms. Gardino stated that the email stated that the rail situation in the greater Fairbanks area would be featured in the Plan but a detailed solution to address rail related issues in the area would not be proposed but a follow-up project would be proposed in the Plan to focus on those issues and address Alaska LNG project matters.

Ms. Chapman commented that she spoke with Mr. Walsh and he indicated that they were behind and the public review draft of the plan would not be released until January to bypass the holidays.

Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Chapman why they did not just extend the public comment period.

Mayor Hopkins stated that it seemed like there have some type of an update provided instead of just a vague email about the State Rail Plan and suggested that Mr. Walsh be asked to provide them with a more detailed update.

Ms. Gardino stated that she would make note of that.

b. Title VI Review Report Draft

Ms. Gardino explained that FMATS had gone through a Title VI Civil Rights audit and received a response memo from the Civil Rights Office stating that they had reviewed it and were impressed with the FMATS efforts and level of professionalism.

c. Obligations/Offsets

Ms. Gardino explained the Obligations/Offsets included in the meeting packet.

12. Policy Committee Comments

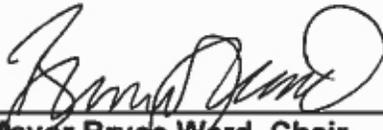
- Mr. Campbell had no comment.
- Ms. Heil commented that Monday, November 17th, the DEC had released the proposed and adopted air quality plan regulations for PM2.5 in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Ms. Heil stated that the comment period closed on December 19, there would be open houses on December 1st in Fairbanks and December 2nd in North Pole, the first hearing on December 3rd, and requesting to be put on the Technical Advisory Committee agenda for December 3rd and would like to focus FMATS attention on Chapter 13 of the SIP, the Conformity and Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget that had been developed for this community. Ms. Heil stated that it was important that they review it and understand it since they would be bound to it and this plan developed the budget. Ms. Heil stated that she would also request that DEC be put on the next Policy Committee agenda to explain transportation conformity and their budget. Ms. Heil stated that on the December 17th there would be an afternoon and evening hearing so there would be plenty of opportunity to comment. Ms. Heil stated that they should feel free to look online since there was a lot of information there and would be more than happy to provide additional information and answer questions, if needed. Mayor Hopkins inquired if Ms. Heil was aware that the Assembly was putting together a resolution in support of the SIP regulations. Ms. Heil stated that DEC was planning on being in Fairbanks for the work sessions and welcomed any focus areas that FMATS or the Borough might provide. Mayor Ward inquired if what they had received was the entire SIP or just an overview. Ms. Heil stated that the SIP was many pages long and what they were looking at was the actual plan which was 211 pages.
- Mr. Walley had no comment
- Mr. Butler had no comment.
- Mr. Sattley (via telephone) commented that he appreciated being allowed to call in and vote and asked Mayor Hopkins to call him at his convenience.
- Mayor Hopkins thanked the Committee for letting him be the Chair for the past year and thanked Mr. Campbell for his comments, candor, and willingness to discuss DOT&PF projects as Acting Northern Region Director. Mayor Hopkins stated that he certainly wondered what would happen on December 17th if Mr. Campbell were no longer in that position.

13. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn. (Butler/Hopkins). Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 in the Main Conference Room, DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks.

Approved: _____



Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: _____

12-17-14