

**Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
POLICY COMMITTEE**

**800 Cushman Street, City Council Chambers  
City Hall, Fairbanks, Alaska**

Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2012

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Introduction of Members and Attendees**

**Attendee**

**Representative Organization**

*Mayor Bryce Ward	City of North Pole
*Mayor Jerry Cleworth	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*Cindy Heil (for Alice Edwards)	Director, Division of Air Quality
*Mayor Luke Hopkins	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Guy Sattley	Member, FNSB Assembly
*Perry Walley	City of Fairbanks
*Steve Titus, Chair	DOT & PF
** <sup>+</sup> Donna Gardino	MPO Coordinator, FMATS
**Jessica Smith	Transportation Planner/Assistant, FMATS
<sup>+</sup> Joan Hardesty	Division of Air Quality
**Margaret Carpenter	DOT & PF Planning
Linda Mahlen	DOT & PF Planning
<sup>++</sup> Sue Sprinkle	Graphic Designer
<sup>++</sup> Ron Inouye	Historical Society
<sup>++</sup> George Lounsbury	Pioneers of Alaska
<sup>++</sup> Kelley Hegarty-Lammers	Chena Riverfront Commission
Robert Worley	Volunteer, Food Bank
<sup>+</sup> Bernardo Hernandez	FNSB, Community Planning
**Kellen Spillman	FNSB, Community Planning
Russ Johnson	DOT&PF
Mary Ann Nickles	Public
Barry Hooper	DOT&PF
Hannah Blankenship	DOT&PF
<sup>+</sup> Michael Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
Dermot Cole	Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Thor Bergstrom	DOT&PF
<sup>++</sup> June Rogers	Fairbanks Art Association
Michael Vandermeer & Cheryl Hamilton (by phone)	ie Creative
Kris Riesenber (by phone)	FHWA

*\*FMATS Policy Committee Members, \*\*FMATS Staff Members*

*<sup>+</sup>FMATS Technical Committee Members, <sup>++</sup>FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee*

### 3. Public Comment

**Sue Sprinkle:** Ms. Sprinkle thanked the Policy Committee to allow for the process to select the artwork. She said there was a lot of time and effort involved, and everyone brought to the table their different backgrounds to contribute. Ms. Sprinkle thanked Donna Gardino, Jessica Smith, and Kellen Spillman. She noted that Ms. Gardino's team fostered the committee and appreciated their work on this project. Ms. Sprinkle alluded to the long and hard work of the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee in the presented recommendation. Ms. Sprinkle hopes the Policy Committee finds the recommendation enjoyable; she is excited and honored to be a part of this process.

**Mary Ann Nickles:** As a long-time follower of the art project, Ms. Nickles was excited to see Dermot Cole's piece in the newspaper.

**George Lounsbury:** Mr. Lounsbury noted the long process of the Art Selection Advisory committee, and echoed Ms. Sprinkle's comments. He thanked Ms. Smith and Ms. Gardino for facilitating the committee. He presented the committee with a quartz crystal from Nolan Creek, which is what inspires his support of the selected artwork. He thanked the committee for their time.

**Ron Inouye:** Mr. Inouye noted the valuable process of the Art Selection Advisory Committee, and its value to the community. He said that he learned a lot, and believes the process developed has really educated the committee by connecting with others around the state. There is now a good infrastructure [in this process] to have a better understanding of what public art is in this community. Mr. Inouye asked the Policy Committee to endorse the recommendation from the Art Selection Advisory Committee.

**Kelley Hegarty-Lammers:** Ms. Hegarty-Lammers reminded the committee of her background in city planning, with a specialty in public involvement, and noted the Art Selection Advisory Committee's diligence in extensive, community-wide involvement through a survey which asked what the community what it would like to see represented in this space. She noted the committee's diligence to stay in tune to the community's desires when making the presented recommendation. Ms. Hegarty-Lammers thanked the Policy Committee for the project opportunity, and thanked Donna Gardino for keeping the committee on track with schedule and process. Mr. Hegarty-Lammers asked the Policy Committee to please consider approving the recommended choice, as the committee all compromised their own opinions to make the provided recommendation.

### 4. Approval of November 21, 2012 Agenda.

- **Motion:** To approve the November 21, 2012 agenda. (Walley/Hopkins).
- **Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins asked to add "railroad crossings" under item 10.
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

### 5. Approval of October 17, 2012 Minutes.

- **Motion:** To approve the October 17, 2012 Minutes. (Hopkins/Sattley).
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

## 6. Committee Reports

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

Ms. Gardino provided an update on FMATS' activities and a copy of the Technical Committee Action Items from November 7, 2012, details of which are included in the Coordinator's Report in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino noted that the FMATS advertising budget may increase significantly due to the fact the state Civil Rights office requires new, additional language in each advertisement. Ms. Gardino noted that she is working to save advertisement space by re-wording the required statements for compliance. Mayor Cleworth suggested directing readers to the website with full language or using the legal ads. Ms. Gardino noted the suggestions.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the federal funding allocation has been defined. Ms. Gardino said she has not received the final funding amounts. Mr. Titus and Ms. Gardino noted that the TIP and STIP have some amendments that will need to be completed before final funding allocations can be stated. Mayor Hopkins also asked if the discussion about consultation between FMATS and the State, and if there is any further information regarding consultation definition. Ms. Gardino said she had not. Mr. Riesenbergsaid that the information needed from FHWA has been slow in coming, and in the last few days more information has been received by Headquarters. He noted that this could have been the reason for Headquarters not yet knowing the allocation amounts. Mayor Hopkins asked if MPOs are also included in that distribution. Mr. Riesenbergsaid that FHWA works through the DOT with the allocations, after which the DOT will work with the sub-recipients, such as FMATS. Mr. Titus believes by the next Policy Committee meeting, the DOT should know the allocations.

### b. FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee Recommendations (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino provided a presentation on the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee's process and the five finalists and their concepts from the Art Selection Advisory Committee's Request for Proposals (RFPs). Ms. Gardino walked the committee through each of the finalists and their response to the RFP. The finalist recommended by the Art Selection Advisory Committee for the Illinois Street Reconstruction Project's new downtown greenspace was the artist team ie Creative out of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The team consists of Cheryl Hamilton and Michael Vandermeer, who were present by phone at this meeting for any questions or concerns of the committee. The finalist's concept was named "Polaris" by the artists.

Ms. Gardino and the artist team described the concept, as well as provided the Policy Committee with the model of the concept supplied by the artist.

- **Motion:** To accept the FMATS Art Selection Committee's recommendation of Polaris. (Sattley/Hopkins).
- **Discussion:** Mr. Sattley asked the artist team for further clarification of the placement of the lighting in the sculpture, as well as the robustness of the lights. Mr. Vandermeer explained that the spires with lighting were approximately 6 feet off the ground, which provides adequate height so as the lights are not covered by snow in the winter. He also explained that the lights are covered with thick, wired glass which is very resistant. The lights themselves are Phillips

models which can be easily replaced. Mr. Sattley asked if access to the lights would be hidden from the public. Ms. Hamilton said the access would be discrete, so as to discourage vandalism to the lighting fixtures. Mr. Sattley asked for a clarification of the LED lighting costs. Mr. Vandermeer said that each of the three spires which hold the LED lights has an entire module, which consists of approximately 20 LED lights, which are individually replaceable. The entire module replacement would cost approximately \$2,000. There is also a control unit. The total cost of the lighting assembly is approximately \$2,500. Mr. Sattley noted that he liked the stainless steel look. Mr. Vandermeer said the artist team was using a surgical-grade steel that will certainly outlast the lifetime of the team members!

Mayor Hopkins asked if there was any discussion of tempered glass instead of the wired glass for the LED windows. Ms. Hamilton said the team would be happy to use a tempered glass instead of a wired glass if that is more suitable for the fixtures. Wired glass was selected because it is so robust. Mayor Hopkins asked if there should be a recommendation for this glass selection. Ms. Gardino said this was a design detail, which she would look to the engineers to make that recommendation.

Mr. Vandermeer noted the artist team was open to the advice of the local experts.

Mayor Hopkins asked how the maintenance of the walk way around the sculpture to avoid trampled grass. Ms. Gardino said this was discussed with John Haas during the interviews. Mayor Hopkins noted his discussion with Mr. Schmetzer for a reasonable area for benches or other additives to the area. Mr. Titus asked if a washed gravel base would be of some effect to the artists' sculpture. Mr. Vandermeer noted that the team wanted the sculpture to look good, so they would work to make that happen and use washed aggregate or other material as needed. Ms. Hamilton noted the team's observation of the arctic webcam, from which there are natural pathways through the greenspace already, which could help determine appropriate areas for pathways through the greenspace.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the stainless will have coating, or just the polished finish. Ms. Hamilton noted that the finish is hand-polished steel, which is done for two reasons: 1) to blend in to the environment and 2) for longevity of the sculpture. The polishing takes many months to complete. Mayor Cleworth asked if the artist team has experience with removal of graffiti and re-polishing the surface. Ms. Hamilton said yes, the material is easy to maintain and clean, of which the team will provide a demonstration of this maintenance. Mr. Titus asked if oils from touching with hands will detract from the finish. Mr. Vandermeer and Ms. Hamilton said the mirror finish is like silverware in our homes or Skygate ("the Bean") in Chicago. Of all materials they have experienced, the work put into the smoothness of the material makes for longevity. Ms. Gardino also added that the finish makes the sculpture harder to climb.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the artists had any experience with outdoor installations with the stainless steel. Mr. Vandermeer noted that their sculpture "Shine" in Ottawa is outdoors and includes this finish.

Mayor Hopkins asked if there should be a motion regarding the ground surface treatment for the sculpture, as he would like to weigh in on what the community will be receiving in this area. Mr. Titus reminded Mayor Hopkins that Ms. Gardino will need to receive submittals on what an appropriate ground cover will be, and he has full confidence that Ms. Gardino is well aware of the maintenance concerns, and will report back to the committee. Mr. Titus does not believe there needs to be a motion on that topic, as Ms. Gardino will be able to handle the final approach. The committee agreed this is the best way to resolve this issue.

Ms. Gardino added that one of the spires will be pointing true North.

- **Vote on the motion:** Roll call vote. None opposed. Approved.

**c. Boundary Subcommittee Report (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To approve the draft boundary maps for public review, as presented. (Cleworth/Ward).
- **Discussion:** Ms. Gardino noted the reason for the revision of the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary: The 2010 Census dictates updating the MPA boundary every 10 years if urbanized areas are changed. Ms. Gardino described the map alternatives (included in the meeting packet).
  - Option A: This option is the minimum MPA Boundary as required by federal guidelines in addition to the boundaries of the Cities of Fairbanks and North Pole.
  - Option B: A smoothed MPA Boundary as developed by the FMATS MPA Boundary Subcommittee.

Ms. Gardino pointed out that although some areas that were urban in 2000 are no longer urban, and vice-versa, both options include less road mileage than the previous MPA. Mr. Sattley asked for clarification of the North Pole area; Mr. Spillman noted the subcommittee's inclusion of these areas as a part of the smoothing process with respect to decreased funding expectations.

Mayor Ward and Mayor Hopkins asked that a small area in the FNSB in the greater North Pole area be included in the MPA, as indicated during the meeting, due to his observation of growth in this area. Ms. Heil recommended additional map options, which resulted in the following amendment to the above motion:

- **Amendment to the Above Motion:** To create a map with an overlay of the existing boundaries and the proposed deletions and to develop a third map that includes the area that Mayor Ward and Mayor Hopkins indicated (south area with the two triangles). (Heil/Walley). None opposed. Approved.
- **Amended Motion:** To approve the draft boundary maps for public review, as presented, and to create a map with an overlay of the existing boundaries and the proposed deletions and to develop a third map that includes the area that Mayor Ward and Mayor Hopkins indicated (south area with the two triangles). None opposed. Approved.

**d. UPWP Subcommittee Report**

The subcommittee met and concluded the best way to discuss and assess the PL Funding allocation is to ask each agency (FNSB, FMATS, and DOT&PF) to provide a detailed breakdown of actual costs incurred for FMATS-related tasks. The subcommittee will reconvene on December 10, 2012 in the FMATS Conference Room. Mr. Titus asked when a report will be brought back to the Policy Committee. Ms. Gardino said it should be during January's meeting, after the Technical Committee has had a chance to discuss the recommendations of the subcommittee.

**7. Old Business**

**a. Illinois Reconstruction Update**

Ms. Gardino provided an update of the project, noting the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. Ms. Gardino was unable to attend, but Mr. Titus provided a description of the ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony, followed by a reception at the Morris Thompson Center. DOT&PF is excited the facility is open to traffic. Next summer the Noyes Slough Bridge and the intersection at College Road & Illinois Street will be completed. This year a significant part of the project has been completed!

Mr. Sattley asked how far ahead the project schedule is towards completion. Mr. Titus said the bridge is 2-3 months ahead of schedule. Mr. Sattley asked if there was incentive for acceleration; Mr. Titus said yes, there was an acceleration contract with the contractors, which was negotiated as well as a design-build proposal for the bridge.

Mayor Hopkins noted his appreciate for the facility being open, and the view of the greenspace will be important for the sculpture.

**8. New Business**

**a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (Action Item)**

Mr. Titus opened the floor for nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair on the committee. Motions were made as follows:

- **Motion:** To nominate Steve Titus as the FMATS Policy Committee Chair. (Hopkins/Sattley).
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

- **Motion:** To nominate Guy Sattley as the FMATS Vice-Chair. (Walley/Cleworth).
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**b. Limited Maintenance Plan for Carbon Monoxide (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To approve the draft Limited Maintenance Plan (LMP) for Carbon Monoxide (CO) for public comment, as presented. (Hopkins/Heil).
- **Discussion:** Ms. Gardino pointed the committee to the latest draft of the LMP revision. After interagency consultation, the EPA recommended a Limited Maintenance Plan, which allows

FMATS to not have to consider a MOVES-based budget for CO conformity. Ms. Heil explained that in 2004, Fairbanks became a Maintenance Area for CO. This enters the area into two, ten-year periods of maintenance. At the end of 20 years, the area is no longer a maintenance area. After 8 years, the Clean Air Act requires that the area submits the second 10-year plan. This LMP is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-year plan for Fairbanks, and because the CO measures so low and consistent, there is no need for an additional conformity measure on all of the FMATS plans (LRTP, etc.). This helps to stream-line the reports. The issue is that the LMP must be approved by the EPA, and until it is approved, the area is still under a previous model. It is required to use an updated model, MOVES, and if the report is not approved by the time the grace period has ended in March 2013, FMATS is unable to do any amendments to the TIP or LRTP until the EPA has done an adequacy determination on the submitted plan. The public comment period will begin as soon as the Policy Committee approves this plan for comment. The DEC will then be able to do their own public process, and is hoping to have this completed and submitted to the EPA by March or shortly thereafter. Ms. Heil noted that the LMP changes are small; the new chapter for the LMP is an 8-page chapter.

Ms. Gardino added that the reason the conformity analysis cannot be done based on the MOVES model is because there is no accounting for the specific conditions in Fairbanks. The EPA is aware of this anomaly, but cannot fix this problem as fast as the plan needs to be submitted. As seen on the monitor, the emissions are not increasing, but the MOVES model would show otherwise. After approval from this body, the plan will be carried to the Assembly for approval.

Mayor Cleworth asked how many monitors Fairbanks has for CO. Ms. Heil said she did not know.

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

#### **c. Household Travel Survey**

Ms. Gardino briefly described the use of the Household Travel Study within the FMATS travel model, which needs updating for the new Long-Range Plan, due in August 2014. The DOT&PF is funding the survey out of the STIP. The survey will allow FMATS to utilize local data instead of national data for the model.

Mayor Hopkins asked what area will be included for the survey. Ms. Gardino said the survey will include the PM<sub>2.5</sub> non-attainment area at a minimum.

#### **d. Dennis Road Extension**

Ms. Gardino said the design team came to the DOT and FMATS to ask if this project should be a priority. Part of this project is in the FMATS area. The DOT prefers to continue with the project and proceed with the purchase of ROW. This project already has ROW funding allocated. Russ Johnson from the DOT provided a presentation to the committee, which is included in the meeting packet.

Mayor Hopkins asked if there was an opportunity for cost savings on an extended shoulder along the extension, versus the proposed separated path. Mr. Johnson explained that the cost savings would be minimal. Mr. Titus asked how the decision of a separated path was reached. Mr. Johnsons said he did not know; it was a decision reached in the environmental process.

Mr. Sattley asked if the earmarked funding is still available. Mr. Johnson clarified that the \$518,000 for design and approximately \$250,000 for ROW was allocated and is able to be used. The other funding was lost. Mr. Johnson also noted that if the project was stopped and there was no reasonable explanation, there is a situation where the design costs may have to be repaid. Mr. Titus clarified that if the FHWA agreed with the reasoning for not completing a project, they will allow for the funding to remain. However, the expiration of an earmark fund is likely not a qualifying reason.

## **9. Public Comment**

**June Rogers:** Ms. Rogers applauded the committee for all of their efforts in allowing the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee to make their recommendation today and to move forward with the project. She believes the Art Selection Advisory Committee has broken a lot of ground to help communicate with the arts community, the historians, and other entities. Ms. Rogers urged the committee to remember the Art Selection Advisory Committee; the committee is there as a resource and would love to work with the FMATS committees on future projects.

## **10. Other Issues**

### **a. Railroad Crossings**

Mayor Hopkins requested that FMATS Technical Committee address the orphan railroad crossings, particularly on South Lathrop. The crossing and the railroad serves a number of businesses and needs to be addressed in the issues of maintenance. Mayor Hopkins reminded the committee that the Borough cannot sign any sort of agreement for maintenance, as the crossing is not in a Borough Road Service Area. Mayor Hopkins asked that this issue be discussed in a future meeting and hopes that the Policy Committee concurs with weighing in on this issue. Mr. Titus noted the DOT's involvement with these crossings as well. He directed the issue to Ms. Carpenter, in addition to the crossings in North Pole that need to be addressed. Mr. Titus noted that the DOT will get the request of Mayor Hopkins' started. The issue will be brought forth at the next Technical Committee meeting. Ms. Gardino suggested a map of the railroad crossings be supplied for the next Technical Committee meeting.

## **11. Informational Items.**

### **a. Obligations/Offset List**

Ms. Gardino directed the committee to the Offset List in the meeting packet. She noted the \$1.5 million currently available in offset funding.

Mayor Hopkins asked why the current offset listing is larger than last month. Ms. Gardino said the additional funds seen are funds that were not known to be available until recently. Currently the

region is reviewing FMATS' comments and conducting a reconciliation of available funds. Mr. Titus added that the closing out of projects also adds to the offset list.

**b. Response from Governor Parnell's Office regarding FMATS Request**

Mr. Titus noted the letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget at Governor Parnell's office. The letter states that the office is in the process of reviewing requests and establishing a budget. The budget is due to be completed by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**c. North Pole Road/Rail Crossing Reduction Project Quarterly Report**

Mr. Titus directed the committee to the Quarterly Report supplied by the railroad in the meeting materials. The Environmental Assessment (EA) is a current project. Mayor Hopkins asked if there will be a need for more funding to keep this process going. Mr. Titus said there was \$1 million allocated for this project, and there is no additional funding to his knowledge.

**d. UAF Complete Trails Committee**

Ms. Gardino informed the committee that UAF has formed a "Complete Trails" Committee and has asked her to participate. The committee will look for opportunities for improvements to connectivity in the trail system. There has been one meeting to date.

**12. Policy Committee Comments**

**Guy Sattley:** Mr. Sattley commented that Ms. Gardino may be working too hard, as she is dreaming about funding. He shared an account about his days with firefighting with the BLM, after long days he would lay in bed, thinking he had heard the helicopter's radio calling! The message is Ms. Gardino may be working too hard. Ms. Gardino responded that she leaves late tonight for vacation in Southern California.

**Luke Hopkins:** Mayor Hopkins was wondering how the selection committee would deal with five submittals, but now we know. He is interested to see how the apex and historical plaques will be addressed. He also asked that a reminder be sent out for the Interior Delegation meeting in December.

**Bryce Ward:** Mayor Ward said he is looking forward to participating in the public comment session for the MPA, and possibly re-include some areas of North Pole that he believes will be beneficial to the community, particularly when thinking in terms of long-term growth. He is also looking forward to cleaning up some areas of North Pole, the railroad's alignment along the levee being one of the areas. He is also looking forward to the bike path projects that are slated to be completed this next year. Mayor Ward mentioned the bike path along St. Nicholas; he saw some documents come through the office this past week that noted 2014, but he is hoping for sooner as it has been a multi-year project. Mayor Ward noted the 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets were slotted for offset funds from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and he is hoping those funds can move forward and seeing progress on that project.

**Cindy Heil (for Alice Edwards):** No comment.

**Jerry Cleworth:** Mayor Cleworth welcomed Mr. Sattley back, and thanked Mr. Walley for agreeing to serve on the committee. He also thanked the Art Selection Advisory Committee for all of their time and effort for a good project that he believes the community will enjoy. Mayor Cleworth noted that the chain link fence that has been removed along Airport Way looks good. He encourages additional improvements and replacement of this chain link fence, as there is now a process in place for the removal/replacement.

Mayor Cleworth noted the City's conversations with the Governor to consider funding the South Cushman Street project. The City leveraged the \$5 million set aside by FMATS for the project. He noted the two options, the first of which includes burying all utilities resulting in a project cost of approximately \$20 million. The other option, without utilities and ROW, costs approximately \$9 million. It is a much more doable project at \$9 million, even though the utilities underground would be ideal. He noted that the City does not wish to hold up the project if the utilities cannot be buried, and wishes to finish the project as quickly as possible. Mayor Cleworth wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Perry Walley:** Mr. Walley thanked Mayor Cleworth for the opportunity to serve on this committee. He also thanked Ms. Gardino for spending time to bring him up-to-date with FMATS. He noted his thanks to the Art Selection Advisory Committee, and was excited to see the finalist was the artwork that he was initially drawn to when viewing the five finalists.

**Steve Titus:** Mr. Titus thanked the Art Selection Committee, noting that he had to be somewhat cajoled into the idea in the beginning. Seeing George Lounsbury join the committee helped convince him the committee would be beneficial, as well as others that began to work on the process. The committee has done a fabulous job; the process was very good, interesting, and Ms. Gardino deserves more kudos for her efforts than he could ever could – he did not know what all this would entail. He believes the “proof is in the pudding,” and believes it is amazing how the quartz crystal is represented, and believes the committee has done the right thing. He thinks it will look great downtown. Mr. Titus asked everyone to drive carefully and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

### 13. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn.** (Hopkins/Walley).
- **Vote on the motion.** None opposed. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm. Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at the DOT & PF Main Conference Room.

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

Date: 11/21/12