



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Main Conference Room, State of AK DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fbks., AK
Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2014**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee	Representative Organization
*Bryce Ward, Chair	Mayor, City of North Pole
*Luke Hopkins, Vice Chair	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*John Eberhart (absent)	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*Rob Campbell	Acting Northern Region Director, DOT&PF
*Janice Golub for Guy Sattley	FNSB Assembly Member
*Perry Walley	City Council Member, City of Fairbanks
*Alice Edwards	DEC, Division of Air Quality
**+Donna Gardino	FMATS MPO Coordinator
**Deborah Todd	FMATS Administrative Assistant
**Aaron Buckley (absent)	FMATS Transportation Planner
**Kellen Spillman	FNSB Community Planning
**Linda Mahlen	DOT&PF Planning
**Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF Planning
+Brian Lindamood	Alaska Railroad
+Christine Nelson	FNSB Community Planning
Tom Carlson (via telephone)	Sierra Research
Murray Walsh (via telephone)	DOT&PF-Juneau
<i>*FMATS Policy Committee Members, **FMATS Staff Members, +FMATS Technical Committee Members</i>	

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

4. Approval of the December 17, 2014 Agenda

Motion: To approve the December 17, 2014 Agenda. (Hopkins/Edwards).

Discussion: Mayor Ward stated that he would like to have a motion to move State Rail Plan Update, Item C under Informational items up to after #5 approval of the meeting minutes in the Agenda due to time constraints.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To modify the Agenda by moving Item 11.c.-State Rail Plan Update under Information Items up to appear before Item #6-Committee Reports. (Hopkins/Golub)

Vote on Amended Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amended Motion: To approve the December 17, 2014 Agenda as amended by moving Item 11.c.-State Rail Plan Update under Information Items up to appear before Item #6-Committee Reports.

5. Approval of the November 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the November 19, 2014 meeting minutes. (Hopkins/Walley).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

***(THIS ITEM WAS MOVED UP IN THE AGENDA BY PREVIOUS MOTION)**

***State Rail Plan Update**

Ms. Gardino explained that Page 67 of meeting packet contained an email from Murray Walsh who participated via telephone to provide an update on the status of the State Rail Plan. Ms. Gardino stated that there was an advisory group that would be asked to render their comments by January 5th and then they would launch a 45-day public review period using an online public open house format in February 2015.

Mr. Walsh presented an update and schedule for the State Rail Plan. Mr. Walsh stated that the State Rail Plan was seen as a pretty significant policy initiative and they wanted to make sure that the new administration was comfortable with what they were doing which meant that some communication and liaison had to occur and was currently underway. Mr. Walsh explained that he expected to be given the green light to release the State Rail Plan in January. Mr. Walsh stated that they were not planning on sponsoring any public meetings of their own, but would be happy to attend and accommodate any requests for a meeting during the course of the public reviews. Mr. Walsh explained that there were Federal guidelines for what was contained in the Rail Plan and there was a list of projects that were seen as priority improvements to the State's rail system, but in the case of the Tanana Valley there was the oncoming gas line that they thought needed to be worked into State Rail planning and was hoping to follow up with a special effort to come up with a more concrete plan for the Fairbanks area.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he hoped that, as a member of a municipal advisory group, Mr. Walsh would appear before the Municipal Advisory Board as they continued to meet regarding the Alaska LNG project progressed.

Mr. Walsh stated that he would be happy to do that.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about when the last public document was put out for review.

Mr. Walsh stated that they had assembled a technical advisory group of about 50 local government and industry people meet and help establish a plan and some policy ideas. Mr. Walsh stated that there was a series of public meetings in the spring of 2013 and the current document was what they were releasing for public review.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if there had been any opportunity for the public to review the document and comment on what they would like to see in the Plan.

Mr. Walsh stated that Mayor Hopkins was correct there had not been any public involvement.

Ms. Golub asked Mr. Walsh about the on line public open houses and how they planned to do them.

Mr. Walsh stated that since his memo was sent out it had been decided to conduct two parallel online public open houses. Mr. Walsh stated that the Plan would be put on line and it could be reviewed chapter by chapter and commented on, and the comments would all be responded to and tracked on a comment database.

Mayor Hopkins asked if Mr. Walsh was part of the discussion and decision as to how the open house would occur.

Mr. Walsh stated that he had been party to that discussion.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if there was any discussion regarding the people that did not have an online way to review the document would be able to participate.

Mr. Walsh stated that they had done several public meetings with limited attendance so in terms of efficiency they decided to try the online idea and if it turned out that people were dissatisfied with that, they would then conduct another round of public meetings.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if there was a final date for the Rail Plan to be put out.

Mr. Walsh stated that May 30, 2015 was the tentative date set to put the document out to the public.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about who the Steering Committee would make their recommendations to and who would approve the Rail Plan when it was completed.

Mr. Walsh stated that it was the Governor's prerogative to either be the approving authority or delegate that authority to someone else, probably the Railroad Commissioner. Mr. Walsh stated that the Steering Committee consisted of the three Commissioners and Presidents of the two railroads which would meet right after the end of the public comment process to address any public comments that had emerged and since it was the Governor's priority as to how the approval process would be, he thought the Steering committee would report their efforts to the Governor and decide how he wanted to proceed.

Mr. Campbell inquired if the document was currently sitting in the Governor's office or whether it was still in draft awaiting review.

Mr. Walsh stated that the document was currently in his office.

Mr. Campbell inquired if there was anything in the Plan that Mr. Walsh thought would be a problem for the new Governor.

Mr. Walsh stated that there was one feature of the Plan that might raise some eyebrows and that was the proposal that there be a regular stream of capital funding to address railroad issues when the railroad could not. Mr. Walsh stated that there were a lot of improvements that needed to be made that the Railroad itself could not afford.

Mr. Campbell stated that his point was that he believed in getting draft documents out for review earlier rather than later and it would seem like one of the purposes of

of a draft being sent out was for people to have a chance to review and comment on it. Mr. Campbell stated that it would seem that it would not be inappropriate at this stage. Mr. Campbell stated that he would suggest that Mr. Walsh propose to the Governor a release date of January rather than wait and was sure that having an extra two or three weeks of review time would probably not hurt anybody.

Mayor Hopkins asked that Mr. Walsh consider in his email to the Governor's office a request that the Governor consider scheduling actual physical meetings along with the online meetings, since it was very important to Fairbanks as well as other communities.

Mr. Walsh stated that he could certainly formalize the informal offer to go to wherever he was invited. Mr. Walsh stated that he appreciated the interest that the Tanana Valley had in the plan and thought they would definitely like it when they received it.

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 explained that the Enhancement Subcommittee had developed a first draft at the last meeting.

c. FMATS' Policy Subcommittee Report

This agenda item was discussed under Coordinator's Office Report and Technical Committee Action Items.

7. Old Business

a. Interagency Consultation on Conformity for the TIP and MTP Update Amendment #8 Update

Ms. Gardino stated that she had heard from EPA, DEC, FHWA, and they concurred with her finding that a conformity analysis was not required for TIP Amendment #8 but did receive some minor edits to the document and was compiling those edits and would submit it for Policy Committee consideration.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if comments were being compiled and put somewhere that could be viewed by the public.

Ms. Gardino stated that she was responding to each comment and would have a compiled list of those comments and responses that would be seen by the Policy Committee and posted for public review.

Ms. Gardino stated that she would have a list of comments and responses at the next meeting and then present a revised document.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if the document would be on the next PC meeting agenda.

Mayor Hopkins inquired when the public would be able to review comments before it actually went to the Policy Committee for approval.

Ms. Gardino stated that the comments would be compiled by the Technical Committee and have them posted online by the first week in January.

Mr. Campbell inquired if Ms. Gardino would personally make comments or the Technical Committee would review and instruct Ms. Gardino on how to address the comments.

Ms. Gardino stated that the document comments were being forwarded to Kittelson and those comments would not be amended at the Technical Committee, but whatever feedback was received from them would be forwarded to the Policy Committee to make their recommendations.

8. New Business

a. SIP Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget Presentation and Approval (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that the recommendation from the Technical Committee was to approve the implementation of the SIP Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget as presented.

Ms. Edwards stated that she and Tom Carlson of Sierra Research had given a presentation to the Technical Committee and wanted to provide a brief overview of how the plans fit together for the Policy Committee as well.

Mr. Carlson spoke via telephone and presented a slide show that explained the SIP process and conformity.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about the plug-ins to reduce fleetwide PM2.5 and understood that there were projects to provide more plug-ins in venues around the Borough and wondered what happened if the plug-ins did not get used.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if those values would still be put in as values in future tabulations for emissions in the SIP.

Mr. Carlson stated that data of coolant temperature and ambient temperature gave them a clear picture of when people plugged in. Mr. Carlson stated that people were much less likely to plug in when they were only going to be somewhere for a short time. Mr. Carlson stated that the average ambient temperature the budgets in the SIP were based on was 11 below zero. Mr. Carlson stated that vehicle emissions were only about ten to fifteen percent in the vehicle non-attainment and thought an attainment effect would be marginal for vehicles plugging in.

Mr. Carlson stated that any future increased plug in use would be factored into the analysis.

Motion: To approve the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget as presented in the draft Statewide Implementation Plan. (Campbell/Golub).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. STIP Amendment #12 Comments (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that STIP Amendment #12 had been released on the morning of the Technical Committee meeting so they had not had adequate

time to review it. Ms. Gardino stated that she had reviewed and drafted some comments that she presented.

Motion: To approve the letter regarding STIP Amendment #12 comments. (Hopkins/Golub).

Discussion: Mayor Hopkins inquired about suggested language for the bridge in segment one of the University Avenue project.

Amendment to the Motion: On Item #3, state that FMATS wants the bridge included in Stage 1 of the project. On Items #8 and #9, include a statement that indicates that the local match process has been initiated. On Item #11, modify the title to read grade separation. (Hopkins/Golub).

Discussion: No further discussion

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To request the insertion of the North Pole/Rail Reduction project into the STIP. (Hopkins/Walley).

Discussion: Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Lindamood for clarification of which two crossings were being referred to.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amended Motion: To approve the letter regarding STIP Amendment #12 comments with the following changes: On Item #3, state that FMATS wants the bridge included in Stage 1 of the project. On Items #8 and #9, include a statement that indicates that the local match process has been initiated. On Item #11, modify the title to read grade separation. Add an item to request the insertion of the North Pole Road/Rail Reduction project into the STIP. (Hopkins/Walley).

c. South Cushman Construction Increase (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that she had met with Construction and determined that they currently had enough money for the project so it was no longer an action item.

9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

10. Other Issues

No other issues.

11. Informational Items

a. Call for Project Nominations for the 2015-2018 TIP

Ms. Gardino explained the call for project nominations and all the elements that would be required for a project to be considered.

b. Letter to Fairbanks Art Association regarding Polaris

Ms. Gardino stated that Fairbanks Arts Association had requested that a letter be written about their participation in the development of Polaris and the letter was included in the meeting packet along with a photo. Ms. Gardino stated that she had been scraping the snow off the lights on Polaris since they did not work well in the cold and shoveling snow off the path to it.

Mayor Hopkins commented that the lights were more visible with the snow on the spires.

c. Online Open Houses for State Rail Plan and Statewide LRTP in February 2015

This item was moved up and discussed previously in the agenda.

Ms. Gardino commented that she found it concerning that the Tanana Valley project would be followed up by another study and felt that FMATS really needed to look at that plan when it became available.

d. DEC SIP Public Hearing evening of December 17, 2014

Ms. Gardino explained that there would be a public hearing for the SIP from 11:30AM-1:30PM and from 5-7PM tonight at Wedgewood Resort and these were the last public hearings until the December 19th deadline for comments.

e. Obligations/Offsets

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

12. Policy Committee Comments

- Mr. Walley commented that it had been a pleasure serving with each and every one on them in 2014 and wanted to say that Mr. Campbell had been an asset to the Committee and appreciated Mr. Campbell's insight and knowledge and looked forward to working with them again in 2015 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.
- Mayor Hopkins commented that he wanted to express best holiday wishes. Mayor Hopkins asked that Mayor Ward draft a letter to the Commissioner and copied to the Governor regarding consideration of FMATS position on the State Rail Plan. Mayor Hopkins stated that the message needed to be stronger and also requested a letter be sent to Mr. Campbell requesting a change in the CMAQ projects. Ms. Edwards stated that the letter should be given to her.
- Ms. Golub commented that she had attended an AMATS meeting with Mayor Ward and found it very interesting and informative and Mr. Campbell had done a good job lion taming down there as well and they did things a little differently than us. Ms. Golub thanked Mr. Campbell for having them down there.
- Mr. Campbell commented that he did not have a whole lot to say but would take some time anyway. Mr. Campbell stated that he did not really know what his political future held for him, but as always, he had enjoyed his stay up here and did not know if he would be here next month or not. Mr. Campbell stated that he was not going to have tearful goodbyes every month, but thought as Mr. Walley had said, since it was the end of the year, now was a good time to reflect back on the year and it had been a good experience for him to come up here and learn some things and meet some new people and had really enjoyed it. Mr. Campbell stated that there had been moments of terror and pain, but the overall experience had been good. Mr. Campbell commented that when he came up here he had some challenges to overcome, and thought that as a team, this group and his DOT team

as well, had risen to the challenges and thought it had been a great experience for everybody. Mr. Campbell stated that wanted to them all for their hospitality and indulgence in his differences, and he thought that together they had done things well and he thanked them for that. Mr. Campbell stated that he did not know if he would be there next month or not but if he was, he looked forward to seeing them all again next year.

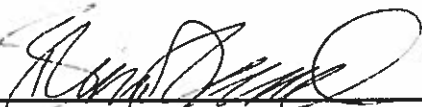
- Ms. Edwards commented that first off she wanted to thank them all for taking the time today on the conformity issues and motor vehicle emissions budget and knew it was a sort of dry topic, but really appreciated the consultation with this group and coordinating with them all between the air quality and transportation issues and that was one of the reasons she was on this committee so she was pleased that she got to walk them through it today. Ms. Edwards that she wanted to encourage people to comment on the plan and to keep working with them on the air quality issues in the community and thought that was really important. Ms. Edwards stated that, like Mr. Campbell, she did not yet know what her role would be with the next administration either but sincerely appreciated the work on this committee and hoped to be continuing on in that role. Ms. Edwards stated that she wished everyone happy holidays and if they had any questions on the plan, feel free to let her know.
- Mayor Ward stated that he thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Chair this next year and did appreciate everyone's input and participation, especially thanked Mr. Campbell for his willingness to be here away from his home. Mayor Ward commented that there were a couple things he thought would be interesting to look into. Mayor Ward commented that he was interested in hearing more about the anti-idling project that DEC was working on with DOT and looked forward to serving this next year.
- Mayor Hopkins commented that there were good words put in for the two members that had to submit other letters because they were both good public officials.
- Ms. Gardino stated that if they read the newspaper today, everyone who was anyone, had an app on their phone for "Route Shout" which was the new Borough app for the transit, so they too could be "in the know" with Route Shout.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. (Golub/Campbell). Meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the Main Conference Room, DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks.

Approved: _____


Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: _____

1-21-15