



## POLICY COMMITTEE

Main Conference Room

State of Alaska DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road

Fairbanks, Alaska

Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2013

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

#### Attendee

\*Mayor John Eberhart  
 \*Mayor Luke Hopkins, Chair  
 \*Bill Butler for Mayor Bryce Ward, Vice Chair  
 \*Steve Titus  
 \*Janice Golub for Guy Sattley  
 \*Perry Walley  
 \*Cindy Heil for Alice Edwards  
 \*\*\*Donna Gardino  
 +Michael Schmetzer  
 +Judy Chapman  
 +Bernardo Hernandez  
 +Brian Lindamood  
 +Joan Hardesty  
 \*\*Deborah Todd  
 \*\*Kellen Spillman  
 \*\*Linda Mahlen  
 \*\*Margaret Carpenter  
 Ryan Anderson  
 Carl Heim  
 Tim Woster  
 Barbie Tanner  
 Barry Hooper  
 Kris Reisenberg

#### Representative Organization

Mayor, City of Fairbanks  
 Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
 Mayor, City of North Pole  
 Northern Region Director, DOT&PF  
 FNSB Assembly Member  
 City Council Member, City of Fairbanks  
 DEC, Division of Air Quality  
 FMATS MPO Coordinator  
 City of Fairbanks Public Works/Engineering Director  
 DOT&PF Planning  
 FNSB Planning  
 Alaska Railroad  
 DEC, Division of Air Quality  
 FMATS, Administrative Assistant  
 FNSB Community Planning  
 DOT&PF Planning  
 DOT&PF Planning  
 DOT&PF Preconstruction  
 DOT&PF Preconstruction  
 DOT&PF Preconstruction  
 DOT&PF  
 DOT&PF Preconstruction  
 FHWA

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

### 3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

### 4. Approval of December 18, 2013 Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the December 18, 2013 Agenda. (Heil/Titus).

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

**5. Approval of November 13, 2013 Minutes**

- **Motion:** To approve the November 13, 2013 meeting minutes. (Titus/Walley)
- **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 and highlights from all the workshops and meetings she had attended, as well as all other FMATS activities that had occurred since the last meeting.

**7. Old Business**

None.

**8. New Business**

**a. TIP Administrative Modification #6**

- **FMATS Improvement Program List**

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino explained that the reason this was not listed as an action item was because new modifications had been made to it. Ms. Gardino explained that the draft before the Policy Committee contained new offsets that were not included in the previous version presented to the Technical Committee.

Ms. Gardino gave a summary of the changes that had occurred. Ms. Gardino stated that the Technical Committee would look at the new version of the modification and she wanted to get verification from Headquarters to determine where unobligated CMAQ funding could be used and she would have the finalized TIP Modification #6 on the agenda as an action item next month.

**b. Dennis Road Extension Close-Out (Action Item)**

Mr. Titus commented that the Dennis Road Extension was not an action item since it had not been brought forward by the Technical Committee as an action item and should have been listed as a status report of the project.

Mayor Hopkins stated that it was listed as an action item on the agenda, but since there was no motion on the table, it could be presented as a staff report by Ms. Gardino.

Ms. Golub stated that if it was an action item she would have to recuse herself from the discussion since she owned property in that area.

Mayor Hopkins stated that since there was no action brought forward by the Policy Committee, the item could proceed as a staff report presented by Ms. Gardino.

Ms. Gardino explained that the Technical Committee had been approached by the DOT with a request that FMATS take over the funding responsibility if the Dennis Road project were it to be moved forward rather than closed out by the DOT.

Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS wanted the project to move forward, but DOT believed that now was a good time to close out the project. Ms. Gardino stated that the military spokesperson at the Technical Committee meeting believed that

further development in that area was a bigger con than access to properties by the 30-50 residents that lived in the area. Ms. Gardino stated that DOT believed that the project did not warrant further effort on their part and time was of the essence for them to close the project. Ms. Gardino stated that the project was a good project and was in the FMATS area, but had not been scored by FMATS. Ms. Gardino stated that the Technical Committee could not recommend keeping or closing the project, so that was the reason it had not been brought forward to the Policy Committee even though DOT would close the project without FMATS approval, since it was not an FMATS project.

Mayor Hopkins stated that the Borough Assembly had put this project, or the bridge specifically, as a project for legislative action. Mayor Hopkins inquired if that meant if no further action were taken by the Policy Committee, the DOT would close out the project and it would be removed from the TIP.

Ms. Gardino stated that closing out the project and removing the project from the TIP were two different things and the project would not be removed from the TIP without a TIP Amendment and there was no TIP Amendment underway for this action at this time.

Mr. Titus stated that the FHWA was looking at projects that had not been moving or worked on for some time and the project would be closed out by DOT and the money that had already been spent would be paid for by the Feds and the project would be taken off DOT books. Mr. Titus stated that the work that had been done by DOT on the project would not go away if funds were to become available at a future date. Mr. Titus stated that FMATS permission was not necessary to close the project but since the project was in the FMATS TIP, DOT felt that FMATS should be advised of the project closure.

Mayor Hopkins stated that there were joint land use efforts between the Borough and the military bases to ensure restriction of incompatible uses and property development near military installations. Mayor Hopkins stated that the Federal government had acquired a number of privately-held properties to ensure that no further development in and around military installations occurred. Mayor Hopkins asked that the Policy Committee bring a motion forward to keep the project moving forward. No motion was brought forward.

**9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)**

Mr. Hernandez commented that the Bentley Road area roundabout project constructed by the City of Fairbanks this past summer had improved traffic flow and congestion in that area had been diminished tremendously.

**10. Other Issues**

None.

**11. Informational Items**

**a. Process for Scope Changes on CMAQ PM 2.5-Funded Projects**

Ms. Gardino stated that there would be a meeting of the CMAQ Project Evaluation Board at 1:30 p.m. on December 18th to discuss creation of a transparent public

process that applied to scope changes for CMAQ PM<sub>2.5</sub>-funded projects as well as draft CMAQ Interim Program Guidance which may have a significant impact on the MPO.

Mayor Hopkins inquired when the Draft CMAQ Guidelines comments were due. Ms. Gardino explained that the CMAQ comments were due January 13, 2014.

Mayor Hopkins requested that the CMAQ guidance be sent to everyone on the Policy Committee since that information was an important part of the budget process.

Mr. Reisenberg from FHWA explained that the changes in the CMAQ Guidance were not substantial between MAP21 and SAFETEA-LU and he would highlight the changes for Ms. Gardino so she could send them out to everyone on the Policy Committee. Mr. Reisenberg explained that CMAQ funding was difficult to allocate and administer, so he understood the confusion.

**b. Yankovich-Miller Hill Multi-Use Path Update**

Mr. Heim, DOT&PF Traffic and Safety Engineering Manager, gave the Policy Committee an update for the Yankovich-Miller Hill Multi-Use Path project.

Mr. Heim stated that the purpose of the project was to improve access and safety for pedestrians. Mr. Heim described the project as going from the UAF roundabout, up Miller Hill Road, then all the way down to Yankovich Road.

Mr. Heim presented a project typical section that depicted a driving lane, ditch section, and a separated 8-ft paved path with 2-ft unpaved shoulders on the north side of Yankovich Road from Ballaine Road to the Musk Ox Farm.

Mr. Heim stated that the project was on the north side all the way from the UAF roundabout on UAF property all the way up Miller Hill Road, then on the south side from Yankovich Road all the way up to the Musk Ox Farm.

Mr. Titus inquired if there was a separation between the shoulder of the road and the path.

Mr. Heim stated that there was a five-foot separation between the shoulder of the road and the path. Mr. Heim stated that the project was being considered in two separate sections for construction, but would be designed in entirety with the section on UAF property scheduled for construction in Summer 2014.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about the overall right-of-way acquisition required and whether it would be acquired on both sides of the existing road from Ballaine Road to the Musk Ox Farm.

Mr. Heim explained that DOT would only acquire right-of-way on the north side of the road.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about shoulder widening and road pavement on the south side of the road.

Mr. Heim stated that the DOT would not be touching the existing road as it was a totally separated facility all to the north side of the existing Yankovich Road.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about what the dotted lines on the far right side of the typical section represented.

Mr. Heim clarified that what was shown on the typical section depicted the placement of the path on Yankovich Road as if Yankovich Road had been upgraded and brought up to current design standards in the future.

Mayor Hopkins inquired whether there had been any right-of-way action or acquisition in the Magoffin Subdivision area before development occurred there and knew that there had been discussion by the Policy Committee in that regard but did not know if DOT had any updated information about that area.

Mr. Heim stated that the right-of-way plans were completed for 95 percent of the section from Ballaine Road up to the Musk Ox Farm property parcels in that area. They did not get Magoffin Subdivision, as a whole, but the DOT Right of Way did not believe that there would be future problems with right-of-way acquisition in that area based on discussions with the Right-of-Way Chief.

Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Titus if that action had not occurred because it was not fully funded or just not a big deal to keep moving on right of way acquisition or whether there had been any discussions about right-of-way acquisition in the Magoffin Subdivision by DOT.

Mr. Titus stated that there were several discussions regarding the project and there was a public meeting where there was discussion about the availability of project funding. Mr. Titus stated that FMATS had not added funding and the project had not been a funding priority for the Legislature, so DOT resources were put towards other projects that could be awarded and built. Mr. Titus stated that this project had not been a priority due to the fact that it was underfunded.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if right-of-way acquisition would occur on UAF property.

Mr. Titus stated that there would be no property acquisition or easements on UAF property and it would be handled much the same way as Thompson Drive was when it was built on UAF property and no property would change hands.

Mr. Titus stated that there were some acquisitions made on the north portion of Yankovich Road.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if there would be any more public meetings held for the project.

Mr. Heim stated that the Environmental Document would be completed by the end of the week and there would be another opportunity for public comment when DOT requested Local Planning Approval for the project at the Planning Commission Meeting.

Mr. Titus stated that he noted a million dollar difference between what was budgeted and what DOT had and asked Mr. Heim if that amount was sufficient to build the section of the project on UAF property.

Mr. Heim stated that they had enough money to build that section.

Mr. Heim stated that they would design the entire project and if there was enough money left, they would build the section on the UAF property from the roundabout up to the Musk Ox Farm.

**c. FMATS Historical Plaque Update**

Ms. Gardino provided an update stating that there were nine plaques and a purchase order had been issued for manufacturing the plaques.

**d. Obligations/Offset List**

Ms. Gardino explained the obligations/offset list included in the meeting packet.

**e. Letter from State Office of Management and Budget**

Ms. Gardino explained the letter from the State Office of Management and Budget regarding the FMATS request for funding for the TIP.

**12. Policy Committee Comments**

- Mr. Titus stated that he would like to expand on comments made by Mr. Hernandez about the Helmericks area project stating that it was the result of a State GO Bond appropriation and was one of the recommended solutions for congestion problems in the box store area. It had turned out to be a nice development all the way through the Illinois Street corridor and looked nice.
- Ms. Heil stated that on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, the DEC had released its third supplemental notice on the PM<sub>2.5</sub> regulations announcing the release of the peer review requirements required to be put forth on the DEC justification document for the stricter standards on wood-fired heating devices. The current public comment period ended on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.
- Mayor Eberhart stated that the roundabout had received a few comments at the City Council meeting regarding confusion when using it. Mayor Eberhart stated that he had used the roundabout and did not find it confusing but it was sort of dark and there was no street lighting close to the area. Mayor Eberhart stated that he had asked Mr. Schmetzer to check on the area and see if the roundabout needed more signage.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that they had missed some signs when they were wrapping up construction on the project and a series of delineators had been left out along the island in their haste to complete the project on schedule. Mr. Schmetzer stated that the City would be installing plastic fluorescent candles as a temporary measure until summer installation of delineators was possible. Mr. Schmetzer stated that several people had entered into head-on traffic thinking that the other lane was a bypass lane. Project traffic had not justified a bypass lane on one lane which made it confusing to people.

- Mayor Eberhart stated that he wanted to wish everyone Happy Holidays.
- Mr. Walley stated that the first time he drove the roundabout he got a little lost but had gotten used to it and drove it every day now. Mr. Walley wished everyone Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year.
- Ms. Golub had no comment.
- Mayor Hopkins thanked Ms. Golub for sitting in for Mr. Sattley.
- Ms. Golub thanked Mayor Hopkins and stated that it had been her pleasure.
- Mayor Hopkins stated that there had been some discussion of actions between the last meeting and this meeting on a reconsideration request that was an action item voted on at the last meeting. Mayor Hopkins stated that the action item was withdrawn. It was removed from the final agenda at the member's request. Mayor Hopkins stated that this was the process currently used for setting the agenda. Mayor Hopkins stated that he would also speak with Ms. Gardino about making modifications to the current policy for setting agenda items and having the ability to have consent items on the agenda. Mayor Hopkins stated that since the agenda items were called out in policy, there were some modifications that could be made that might make things move along more smoothly and rapidly. Mayor Hopkins stated that he thought the meeting went well and he hoped to see everyone next year at the January meeting.

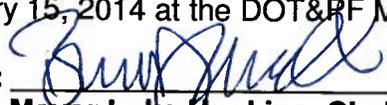
**13. Adjourn**

**Motion to Adjourn:** (Heil/Golub).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room on Peger Road.

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

  
Mayor Luke Hopkins, Chair  
FMATS Policy Committee

BRUCE WARD FOR →

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

1/15/14