

**FAIRBANKS METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
POLICY COMMITTEE**

**State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2007**

1. Call to Order

Steve Titus called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

- * FMATS Policy Committee members
- ** FMATS Staff members
- *** FMATS Technical Committee members

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
* Steve Titus (Chair)	DOT&PF, Regional Director, Northern Region
* Mayor Terry Strle	City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Jim Whitaker	Fairbanks North Star Borough
* Luke Hopkins	Borough Assembly Representative, FNSB
* Mike Schmetzer	Representing Chad Roberts, City Council Representative, City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Doug Isaacson	City of North Pole
* Tom Chapple	DEC, Director, Air Quality Division
*** Ethan Birkholz	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Joan Hardesty	DEC
*** Glenn Miller	FNSB
*** Bill Butler	City of North Pole
** Jeff Roach	DOT&PF, Fairbanks Area Transportation Planner
** Alexa Greene	DOT&PF, Fairbanks Area Assistant Transportation Planner
** Todd Boyce	FNSB, Planning
Dave Bloom	DOT&PF D&ES Chief
Chris Eschelman	Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Jennifer Yuhas	FNSB
Bob Tilley	

3. Public Comments

None

4. Approval of the December 19, 2007 Agenda

Luke Hopkins requested to add two items under number 10 other issues. 10a. Change of January Policy Committee Meeting Date, and 10b. Resolution for the Downtown Association Air Quality review report support.

- **MOTION** to approve the December 19, 2007 agenda as amended (Isaacson/Hopkins). No opposition. Approved.

5. Approval of November 21, 2007 Policy Committee minutes

The November 21, 2007 minutes were presented. Tom Chapple and Luke Hopkins abstained as they were absent from the meeting.

- **MOTION** to approve the November 21, 2007 minutes as presented. (Isaacson/Strle). No opposition. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

a. FMATS Coordinator Hiring Committee

Mike Schmetzer reported that the MPO Coordinator position closed on December 14 with 6 applicants. The next step will be a subcommittee meeting to be held at City Hall after the New Year with Tony Shumate to review the applications. Steve Titus asked if there was a way to speed up the process by having the meeting December 27th or the first week in January. Mike Schmetzer said he would see when the other committee members would be able to meet. Luke Hopkins suggested that 2 dates be set to help the process move along quicker. A target date of March 1, 2008 for the applicant accepting the position or start date was established.

b. FMATS Technical Committee

Ethan Birkholz stated that at the December FMATS Technical Committee meeting three main items were discussed, PM 2.5 Reductions, Kathryn Dodge from the FNSB spoke about the population increase for the FMATS area (approximately 94,000) and a discussion of the Statewide Transportation Plan (comments due January 10, 2008). Mayor Whitaker stated that the FNSB population is currently over 100,000.

7. Old Business

a. Election of Policy Committee Chair

Steve Titus stated that the bylaws do not specify how the election is to take place. Jeff Roach stated that in previous elections a motion was made for chair and vice chair then the motion was approved by the policy committee members. For this election ballots were handed out as an option to use. Mayor Whitaker suggested accepting the ballots presented and went on to state that the cohesiveness of the group was working with DOT as the Chair and recommendation in keeping the Chair the Director of Northern Region. Luke Hopkins expressed that he would be willing to be the vice chair of the committee and concurs with Mayor Whitaker as to how the MPO is working with DOT staying chair of committee. Mayor Isaacson commented that he understands that DOT is an integral part of making FMATS work but suggested that another entity should be the chair as the committee. Steve Titus added that he would accept the position if chosen again. Tom Chapple asked Luke Hopkins if he would consider being the Chair and Mr. Hopkins replied that he would rather be able to have a more active in the role in the committee by making motions and prefers to have that effect as apposed to serving as the Chair.

- Motion: To utilize the election ballots presented to the Policy Committee during the December 19, 2007 meeting (see attached document). Mayor Whitaker/ Mayor Strle seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.

Ballots counted by Alexa Greene, Fairbanks Area Assistant Planner
Results - Steve Titus, Chair and Mayor Whitaker, Vice Chair

a. Preventative Maintenance Plan (action item)

Jeff Roach talked about the preventative maintenance plan. He presented that the subcommittee was formed at the direction of the Policy Committee to do an annual review of the preventative maintenance plan. The only new item to the plan is a project definition change to the Alaska Railroad Crossing Project. The previous placeholder was for crossing maintenance, but did not include a budget or scope for the crossings. The Alaska Railroad has provided that information and has come up with a cost of approximately \$150,000 per crossing.

Mr. Roach went on to discuss how the plan will be funded. The subcommittee made no funding changes for the FFY 2008 and FFY 2009 budgets. There will be a TIP update late this summer. The committee used the funding history and the needs of local sponsors to set a 4% CTP and track allocation budget for preventative maintenance projects. The subcommittee will also be looking at suggesting a stand alone project for the Alaska Railroad crossings since it is such a large dollar amount and exceeds the scope of preventative maintenance projects.

The descriptions that are in the presented plan are generic and each project has a detailed description with road miles or specific project limits.

- Motion: To approve the FMATS Preventative Maintenance Plan as presented in the attached document. Mayor Whitaker/Luke Hopkins seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.

8. New Business

a. Statewide Transportation Plan Public Comments

Jeff Roach informed the Policy Committee that the public comment period for the Statewide Transportation Plan will be open soon. The plan will be out for public comment for 45 days, and that FMATS should comment on the plan as a whole, but members may also comment individually. Luke Hopkins asked why there is a final public meeting on January 9th, 2008 to in Anchorage, although nothing is scheduled for Fairbanks. Ethan Birkholz stated that he would look into it and get back to the committee.

b. Small Urban Areas Update

Ethan Birkholz said that the State is currently undergoing a functional class update. Functional classification is the process by which streets and

highways are grouped into classes, or systems, according to the character of service they are intended to provide. FHWA requires state transportation agencies to periodically review and update functional classification and they also approve any changes made to the classifications. The last update was in 1992-1993 and functional classification is a key factor in roadway design and can affect project funding.

Within the FMATS area DOT&PF is required to inform local entities and explain the technical aspect and information being reviewed and recommendations being prepared. There are currently eight Census Urban Clusters within Alaska and within the Northern Region there is only one. An urban cluster has a population density of 5,000 to 49,999. The boundary for this urban cluster is from Moose Creek to the Richardson Highway and around Eielson AFB.

At this point DOT&PF is presenting the information for review and feed back. If there are any comments they should be forwarded to Ethan Birkholz as soon as possible as the committee is getting ready to formalize the recommended urban clustered boundary. Also note that in the future the Moose Creek may expand and be incorporated in the FMATS area.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Other Issues

- a. Change of January Policy Committee Meeting Date scheduled for January 23
There are meetings in Juneau that week and some policy committee members will be attending them. Luke Hopkins asked if the meeting could change to the 25th. Mayor Whitaker and Mayor Isaacson will have the same problem.
 - Motion: To move the next meeting of the Policy Committee from Wednesday, January 23, 2008 to Friday, January 25, 2008 at 10:00 am. Hopkins/Strle seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.
- b. Resolution for the Downtown Association Air Quality review report support
Luke Hopkins stated that the Downtown Association of Fairbanks is addressing the Air Quality issues of all projects proposed by the Vision Fairbanks Master plan.

With all the projects that are going on in the downtown area it would be prudent to get the information before project design starts to insure that air quality and CO levels do not rise.

Dave Bloom suggested that the chosen consultant work with the City of Fairbanks to make sure to get all in information that is needed for the environmental check list. This will help speed the project development process and also reduce redundancy.

Since the air quality has to be done anyway, make sure that they get the correct information that DOT&PF and the City of Fairbanks needs from the report. The resolution would encourage the Downtown Association of Fairbanks to address issue of air quality.

Luke Hopkins proposed the resolution and will write it up for the next meeting in January.

11. Informational Items

Luke Hopkins wants a work session with DOT staff, Jeff Ottesen, on the 2030 Let's Get Moving plan. Steve Titus said that he would check with headquarters to see what could be done to have Jeff Ottesen come and speak to the FMATS Policy Committee about the plan.

Adjourn – 11:30 am

Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting is FRIDAY, January 25, 2008 at 10:00 am.

Approved:



Steve Titus, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: January 30, 2008