



POLICY COMMITTEE

Main Conference Room

State of Alaska DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road

Fairbanks, Alaska

Meeting Minutes –February 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

*Michael Schmetzer for Mayor John Eberhart
 *Mayor Luke Hopkins, Chair
 *Mayor Bryce Ward, Vice Chair
 *Steve Titus
 *Janice Golub for Guy Sattley (via telephone)
 *Perry Walley
 *Cindy Heil for Alice Edwards
 ***Donna Gardino
 **Margaret Carpenter
 +Joan Hardesty
 +Brian Lindamood
 **Aaron Buckley
 **Deborah Todd
 **Kellen Spillman
 **Linda Mahlen
 Ryan Anderson
 Barbara Tanner
 Phill Worth
 Rodney Rutherford
 Susan Warner
 Lance Roberts

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
 DOT&PF-Planning
 DEC, Division of Air Quality
 Alaska Railroad
 FMATS Transportation Planner
 FMATS, Administrative Assistant
 FNSB Community Planning
 DOT&PF Planning
 DOT&PF-Preconstruction
 DOT&PF
 Kittelson & Associates
 Citizen
 Citizen
 Citizen

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

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

Mr. Rutherford introduced himself and stated that he was interested in what had been happening on the Plack Road, Dawson Road, Dennis Road and Peridot projects.

Mr. Rutherford stated that he really liked the Cushman Street project and wanted to see

that project go two ways. Mr. Rutherford stated that there were several projects that he wanted to find out about.

Ms. Gardino read a letter into the record received from Roxanne Creamer regarding the Chena Small Tracts project and copies of the letter and photos were passed out to Policy Committee members.

Ms. Creamer wrote that she was unable to attend the meeting but wanted to comment on the Chena Small Tracts project. Ms. Creamer expressed her disappointment with the planning process for the project. Ms. Creamer stated that she had lived in the Chena Small Tracts area for 23 years and had watched the neighborhood grow and expand beyond capacity. Ms. Creamer stated that the history of the project showed a questionable public process and the residents along the project were against a bike path on Chena Small Tracts. Ms. Creamer stated that the residents felt the project would directly affect all residents living along the road. Ms. Creamer felt that DOT did not have answers to their questions or the proper project documentation at the meetings she had attended. Ms. Creamer cited meetings and testimony that had been presented against the project. Ms. Creamer stated that she had no idea that FMATS had been approached to fund the project. Ms. Creamer wrote that the real issue was the lack of sidewalks on roads that actually did lead to public schools. Ms. Creamer stated that the bike path along the Chena Small Tracts Road did not address any of the perceived safety issues. Ms. Creamer stated that it would be more sensible to wait for the paving and widening of the road before bike paths were installed on it. Ms. Creamer wrote that the residents wanted to request that DOT go back to the drawing board and find a solution that met everyone's needs.

Mr. Lance Roberts of PO Box 83449 testified regarding the College Road Study and the shrinkage and road diet they were proposing. Mr. Roberts stated that to fold it into the existing phase would delay the project. Mr. Roberts stated that the project had already been delayed by approximately one year and did not need to be delayed for restriping and DOT should expedite the project. Mr. Roberts stated that if College Road were to be shrunk, it should be shrunk on all segments of the road. Mr. Roberts stated that he did not think there needed to be an inroad bike path on both sides of College Road and they should delay for a comprehensive plan of the entire College Road, rather than design it in segments.

4. Approval of February 19, 2014 Agenda

Motion: To approve the February 19, 2014 Agenda. (Ward/Heil).

Discussion: None

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of January 15, 2014 Minutes

Motion: To approve the January 15, 2014 meeting minutes. (Titus/Ward).

Vote on the motion: None opposed. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

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

Ms. Gardino explained that she had attended a meeting for the TIP Tool, the Long Range Plan Update, gave an FMATS 101 presentation to the City Council, attended the MTP Open House, a project development meeting with DOT, as well as reviewed the Household Travel Survey Report and the Bike Path Map.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

a. Dennis Road Extension Score

Ms. Gardino explained the scoring process for the Dennis Road Extension project that was included in the meeting packets. Ms. Gardino stated that the project had scored a 16.4 which was quite low and the project was still included in the TIP but was unfunded and had been closed by the DOT. Ms. Gardino stated that they were coming up with new scoring criteria and would be rescoring all projects within the next year.

b. Project Request Recommendations (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino presented an overview of the funding requests that were recommended for appropriations by the Technical Committee. Ms. Gardino stated that the projects that were recommended were: Peger Road Railyard Relocation, the North Pole Rail Relocation, and the Cushman Street Bridge.

Mayor Ward inquired what the difference was between the rail yard relocation and the North Pole rail relocation projects.

Mr. Lindamood explained the difference between relocation of the downtown railroad yard and the North Pole Rail Relocation projects.

Motion: To complete a funding request for a study on the relocation of the railyard, the North Pole Rail Relocation, and the Cushman Street Bridge projects.
(Ward/Golub).

Discussion: Mayor Ward stated that he wanted to have clear differentiation between the railyard relocation and the North Pole Rail Relocation projects when the funding request was made.

Mr. Lindamood stated that he had been working with Ms. Gardino to come up with the language for the funding request. Mr. Lindamood stated that the Technical Committee was concerned about the amount of available land, alignments in and out, and the title did not adequately describe all facets of the project.

Mayor Ward inquired if Phase 1 of the project had been designed but not constructed.

Mr. Lindamood stated that the project design was 30-50 percent complete.

Mayor Ward stated that he wanted to make sure he was clear about the relocation study for the railyard and whether it took Phases 2 and 3 into consideration.

Mr. Titus stated that he would like the record to show that he abstained from the vote on this issue.

Mayor Hopkins asked if Mr. Titus had a reason for his abstention.

Mr. Titus stated that he would abstain from the vote because voting on this issue created a conflict of interest for him.

Mayor Hopkins stated that if Mr. Titus had a conflict of interest, then he probably should abstain from voting.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he was not sure whether abstention was acceptable under Roberts Rules of Order, but would accept Mr. Titus' abstention.

Ms. Heil stated that DEC needed to abstain from the vote as well.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if DEC abstained from the vote due to the same conflict of interest as DOT.

Ms. Heil stated that Mayor Hopkins was correct.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if it was because DEC was a state entity.

Ms. Heil stated that Mayor Hopkins was correct.

Mayor Hopkins stated that they would have to delve into this and have a discussion before the next meeting as to whether parties in a state agency that had signed an agreement to be part of FMATS had the ability to abstain from votes that conflicted with State policies.

Vote on Motion: Five in favor (Ward/Hopkins/Schmetzer/Walley/Golub). Two abstentions (Heil/Titus). None opposed. Approved.

c. March Policy Committee Meeting Date (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that the meeting date change was suggested due to the fact that the March meeting occurred the same week as the Arctic Winter Games and moving it to March 26th would enable everyone to attend and assist with the games.

Motion: To move the Policy Committee meeting date from March 19 to March 26. (Walley/Ward).

Discussion: None.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

Susan Warner stated that she was a property owner on Lark Pond located near the Chena Small Tracts project and had been to at least six meetings regarding the

project and would write a letter detailing all the comments from those meetings. Ms. Warner stated that she was deeply concerned about child safety and traffic issues on Chena Small Tracts. Ms. Warner stated that she and other residents would like to be part of the design that would resolve the issues but the current design did not solve the issues and created an excessive financial and legal burden on property owners that resided along the pond. Ms. Warner stated that there was an existing alternative that was less expensive, more practical, and would save approximately one million dollars in costs. Ms. Warner cited the town hall meeting discussion with the Mayor and State Senator and Representatives. Ms. Warner stated that she believed the existing solution not only would solve the problem but under “attractive nuisance tort law” would lead to child endangerment up to drowning and death. Ms. Warner stated that the residents would very much like to have a say in the design of the project.

Mr. Rutherford stated that he wanted to inquire about Dawson Road, Plack Road, Dennis Road, and the Cushman Street project and had always wanted to see it going both ways, but that was not happening yet.

10. Other Issues

None.

11. Informational Items

a. MTP Open House Briefing

Ms. Gardino stated that the February 18, 2014 MTP meeting was held from 4-7PM at the JP Jones Community Center and the turnout had been lower than the previous meeting even though the weather had been sunny and mild. Ms. Gardino introduced Phill Worth from Kittelson & Associates who presented a summary of the information presented at the meeting the previous evening regarding the MTP Goals and Objectives.

Mr. Worth presented the five goals and objectives that had been agreed upon after various discussions and revisions by the Technical Committee. Mr. Worth stated that further editing was expected during the process.

Ms. Gardino explained that it was a new requirement under MAP-21 to have a performance based plan and the TIP required them to tie every project into the goals.

b. Chena Small Tracts Project Update

Ms. Gardino explained that a request had been made to have DOT provide an update of the project status. Ryan Anderson from DOT presented the update for the Chena Small Tracts project. Mr. Anderson stated that the final design would be completed by the middle of March 2014 and the funding request stood at \$1.1 million to fully fund the project.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he had asked that the project be put on the agenda as an informational item and inquired if there was another open house planned to present the final project design in March.

Mr. Anderson stated that there would not be another public open house and DOT was waiting for Legislative funding authority to complete the final project design.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about the funding status of the project.

Mr. Titus stated that approximately \$780,000 in Federal legislative authority was received and \$88,000 in General Fund money was added to the project. Mr. Titus stated that the project still came out of the Legislature as underfunded. Mr. Titus stated that the project had gone to the Technical and Policy Committees and the motion was made that if funding was received the project would move forward. Mr. Titus stated that the latest date for receipt of funding would be available the first of July, 2014 at the latest. Mr. Titus stated that he could not remember the exact amount of funding.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he knew it was capital money and not Legislative authority because they were trying the move the project along.

Mr. Titus stated that Representative Higgins had inquired about the final number and it had been provided to him as \$1.1 million. Mr. Titus stated that he believed the project was in Senator Bishop and Representative Higgins' districts.

c. College Road Rehabilitation Design Increase and Scope

Ms. Gardino explained the Technical Committee had postponed action on the Phase 2 funding increase on the College Road Rehabilitation project until a decision was made by DOT regarding the project scope and termini. Ms. Gardino stated that a request for \$45,000 had been made for additional funding by Design, but DOT will inform FMATS about final design costs for funding purposes. Ms. Gardino stated that she had received amended corridor recommendations to present to the Technical Committee next month.

Mr. Titus inquired whether postponement of the Phase 2 funding request would delay the project.

Mr. Anderson stated that DOT would continue to work on the project and it would not be delayed.

Mayor Hopkins stated that if Mr. Titus heard funding was running out, he should notify Ms. Gardino so the Technical Committee could address the funding issue.

d. State LRTP Update Stakeholder Group Meeting March 5, 2014

Ms. Gardino stated that the meeting packet contained a letter regarding the State kickoff of the LRTP and the first meeting of the LRTP Update Stakeholder Group was March 5, 2014. Ms. Gardino stated that she would provide a full report to the Technical Committee at the next meeting.

e. FMATS Historical Plaque Update

Ms. Gardino stated that the historic plaques were being manufactured and FMATS had just received drafts of all the plaques and was hopeful to receive final plaques this spring.

Mr. Schmetzer inquired about the status of the Polaris Artwork.

Ms. Gardino stated that the Artists were welding and getting ready to start polishing the art.

Mayor Ward inquired about the color choice chosen for the plaques.

Ms. Gardino stated that brown was the color that had been chosen but placement of the plaques had yet to be decided upon.

Mr. Titus inquired if the Polaris art project was on schedule.

Ms. Gardino stated that the piece was still on schedule to be completed by September 2014.

f. Obligations/Offsets

Ms. Gardino explained the obligations/offset list included in the meeting packet. Mayor Hopkins requested that reference to fiscal year banking requests be included on future obligation/offset lists.

12. Policy Committee Comments

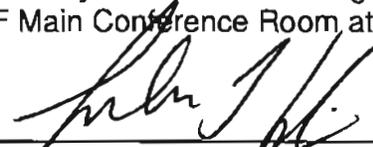
- Mr. Walley had no comment, but requested that Mr. Schmetzer provide him with a South Cushman project explanation.
- Mr. Schmetzer inquired about Margaret/Antoinette stating that he had received a call from a contractor that was upset the project was delayed for installation of a turn lane.
- Mayor Hopkins stated that there were issues that had public comment regarding progress and hoped that they were able to be kept on track and would not be asked to bank money again. Mayor Hopkins stated that they should keep an eye on capital projects and believed that Legislators were finished making adjustments to the capital projects. Mayor Hopkins stated that they should stay in touch with their Senators and Representatives because it was important for their projects.
- Mayor Ward stated that a presentation by Ms. Gardino to the North Pole City Council should be scheduled to keep them informed about the role of FMATS.
- Ms. Heil stated that the January 23rd public comment period ended and DEC had received several hundred comments and thought it had been a very successful public process. Ms. Heil stated that DEC was working on compiling the public comments and the information would be presented to the Policy Committee at the end of March.
- Mr. Titus stated that there would be a lot of construction work going on this summer that would impact travel time especially to Anchorage, as well as in-town work on Lathrop and Johansen, and people needed to be patient. Mr. Titus stated that even though they had traffic control on the Illinois project, people were very patient and that patience would be tested again this summer. Mr. Titus stated that the DOT Super Open House would be held in April at the Hutchison Career Center on Geist Road with literature and handouts available to the public regarding projects.

- Ms. Gardino commented that people could stop by the FMATS office to find out information about various projects and if she did not know the answers, she knew where to direct their questions so they would be able to get their questions answered.

13. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: (Ward/Titus). The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. March 26, 2014 in the DOT&PF Main Conference Room at 2301 Peger Road.

Approved:  _____ Date: 3/26/14
Mayor Luke Hopkins, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee