



## POLICY BOARD

**Meeting Minutes - March 15, 2017**

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

### 1. Call to Order

Mayor Ward called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

### 2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

#### **Attendee**

\*Bryce Ward, Chair  
 \*Karl Kassel, Vice Chair  
 \*Jackson Fox for Jim Matherly  
 \*Ryan Anderson  
 \*Van Lawrence  
 \*Jerry Cleworth  
 \*Denise Koch (via telephone)  
 \*\*Donna Gardino  
 \*\*Deborah Todd  
 \*\*Margaret Carpenter  
 +Judy Chapman  
 +Lee Borden  
 +Sarah Schacher  
 Mike Vigue  
 Kellen Spillman  
 Jeremy Davis  
 Tom Schneider  
 Juanita Webb  
 Rhea Johnson

#### **Representative Organization**

Mayor, City of North Pole  
 Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
 Mayor, City of Fairbanks  
 Director, DOT&PF, Northern Region  
 FNSB Assembly  
 City Council, City of Fairbanks  
 DEC, Division of Air Quality  
 FMATS MPO Coordinator  
 FMATS Administrative Assistant  
 DOT&PF Planning  
 DOT&PF Planning  
 DEC Air Quality  
 DOT&PF Design  
 DOT&PF Headquarters  
 FNSB  
 Fbks. Transportation Partnership Group  
 FTPG/Fbks Resource Agency  
 FTPG  
 VISTA Leader

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

### 3. Approval of the March 15, 2017 Agenda

**Motion:** To approve the February 15, 2017 Agenda. (Lawrence/Kassel).

**Discussion:** Mr. Fox requested the removal of Agenda Item 8d, the Slater Drive Phase 2 increase.

**Amendment to the Motion:** To remove Item 8d under New Business in the Agenda. (Fox/Kassel).

**Discussion:** Mr. Fox stated that after discussions with Ms. Gardino it was decided that an existing pool of design funds in the FMATS Improvement Program could absorb any extra costs associated with the project design.

**Vote on Amendment to the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**Vote on Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

### 4. Approval of the February 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the February 15, 2017 meeting minutes. (Cleworth/Fox).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

5. **Committee/Working Group Reports (including the Chair's Report)**
  - a. **Executive Director's Staff Report and Technical Committee Action Items**

Ms. Gardino provided information and highlights for all meetings, briefings, conferences, seminars, open houses, workshops, presentations, forums, and field trips she or FMATS staff had attended or participated in since the last meeting.
6. **Public Comment Period (Items not on the Agenda)**

No public comment.
7. **Old Business**
  - a. **FMATS Draft Title VI Implementation Plan Public Comments to Date**

Ms. Gardino explained that FMATS had not received comments until yesterday when comments were received from the Civil Rights office. Ms. Gardino stated that she work on those and would bring the comments and responses to the meeting next month.
8. **New Business**
  - a. **Minnie Street Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages Scope of Services**

Ms. Gardino explained that the City had prepared the draft scope for the PEL Study on the Minnie Street Corridor. Ms. Gardino stated that through the study, they hoped to better design alternatives and provide estimated project cost.
  - b. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Budget Increase (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino explained that Page 16 of the meeting packet contained the MTP Draft Update cost by task. Ms. Gardino stated that they were \$13,678 short and were trying to move the project along, so Ms. Carpenter was assembling the contract documents using Task #6 as a contingency to expedite the process until adequate funding was received.

**Motion:** To approve an additional \$13,678 to Task #6 for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan using offset funding. (Kassel/Lawrence).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

**Vote on Motion:** None opposed. Approved.
  - c. **Letter Regarding the MPO Coordination Final Rule (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino explained that there was an effort in Congress to repeal the MPO Coordination and Reform. Ms. Gardino stated that in August 2016 FMATS had written a letter against it but the rule had passed. Ms. Gardino stated that they contacted AMATS, who was also against the rule, and were drafting a joint letter requesting that Congress repeal it.

**Motion:** To forward the letter regarding the MPO Coordination Final Rule to Congressman Don Young. (Cleworth/Lawrence).

**Discussion:** Mayor Kassel stated that he totally agreed and liked that we were actually working with Anchorage.

Mayor Ward stated that he thought it would be appropriate to include the Senators

**Amendment to the Motion:** And send copies to the two State of Alaska Senators. (Lawrence/Kassel).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

**Vote on Amendment to the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**Amended Motion:** To forward the letter regarding the MPO Coordination Final Rule to Congressman Don Young and send copies to the two State of Alaska Senators.

- d. **Slater Drive Phase 2 Increase (Action Item)**  
This item was removed from the Agenda by a previous motion.
- e. **Fairbanks Road/Rail Crossing Reduction Plan Letter and Scope Update**  
Ms. Gardino stated that at the previous meeting, the Policy Committee had requested that she write a letter to the Commissioner of DOT regarding the decision that FMATS would take the lead in developing the Fairbanks Area Road/Rail Crossing Reduction Plan and to request funding. Ms. Gardino stated that March 22, 2017 FMATS had a working group, which was formed at the Technical Committee level in accordance with the Bylaws, to look at this plan and try to come up with a scope for it.
- f. **Cushman Street Bridge Field Visit**  
Ms. Gardino explained that FMATS would conduct a field trip to the Cushman Street Bridge following the Policy Board Meeting and they would be assembling in the FMATS Conference Room at 2 p.m. Ms. Gardino stated that the meeting packet included the Project Development Checklist which was FMATS' effort to ensure that the Green Streets and Complete Streets Policies were incorporated. Ms. Gardino stated that the checklist had been filled in to some extent and they would be adding information to it when they visited the site. Ms. Gardino stated that they were all invited. Ms. Gardino stated that she was excited to go on this field trip since the previous field trip had gone so well.
- g. **Safety Performance Measures and Target Setting**  
Ms. Gardino stated that Page 38 of the meeting packet contained the safety targets that were proposed by their FMATS working group and presented to the Executive Committee at the DOT. Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS had six months after the DOT submitted their targets to the HSIP Program to come up with their targets. Ms. Gardino stated that the question was whether they were going to support the DOT targets or come up with their own. Ms. Gardino stated that they were still awaiting guidance from FHWA of what supporting the DOT targets meant. Ms. Gardino stated that there was no penalty for the MPO if FMATS did not meet their targets. Ms. Gardino stated that had another working group meeting to try and formalize the process by which the consultation occurred for establishing those safety targets. Ms. Gardino stated that the working group thought that an MOU would be a better way to go than a charter with bylaws. Ms. Gardino stated that they were trying to formalize the process for setting those targets however there were other targets that they had to work in consultation with the State on so she would rather see just one agreement rather than several. Ms. Gardino stated that comments were submitted to Juneau and expected there would be another meeting to go over the draft. Ms. Gardino asked Mr. Anderson if he could elaborate.

Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Vigue, DOT Headquarters, was in the audience and asked if he could address their questions.

Mr. Vigue addressed the group and explained that the numbers for the targets had increased. Mr. Vigue stated that there was no penalty for the MPO if they did not meet their targets but there were penalties for DOT

Mr. Cleworth asked Mr. Vigue whether the penalties incurred for exceeding their targets were financial.

Mr. Vigue stated that there was a financial penalty if DOT did not meet a target they set in a two-year period, there would be a decrease in the Federal share meaning that they had to have more State match funding to meet the needs on a Federal-aid project.

#### **9. Other Issues.**

No other issues.

#### **10. Informational Items**

##### **a. University Avenue Widening Project Update and Open House**

Ms. Gardino introduced Sarah Schacher of DOT who provided an update on the University Avenue Widening project. Ms. Gardino stated that there would be an Open House that evening from 5-7:30 p.m. at Pikes in the Binkley Room.

##### **b. FMATS Conformity Determination**

Ms. Gardino explained that FMATS had received a conformity determination from FHWA/FTA.

##### **c. FMATS Transition Plan Update**

Ms. Gardino stated that she had covered the schedule for the Transition Plan earlier in the meeting.

##### **d. Fairbanks Transportation Partnership Group Presentation**

Ms. Gardino introduced Tom Schneider and Juanita Webb of the Fairbanks Transportation Partnership Group who provided an informational presentation about how the group was formed and provided handouts. Mr. Schneider and Ms. Webb also provided an update on the progress of their work to provide accessible transportation in the community.

##### **e. Obligations and Offsets**

Ms. Gardino explained the obligations and offsets included in the meeting packet.

#### **11. Policy Board Comments**

- Ms. Koch stated that DEC was excited that EPA had announced their intention to award \$2.5M in Targeted Airshed Grants for the Borough Change Out Program which was great news. Ms. Koch stated that they were also having a meeting with a number of EPA Region 10 officials in Fairbanks at the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Ms. Koch stated that EPA proposed to fully approve the Moderate SIP on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by a public comment period in which EPA had received adverse comments on their proposed approval of the Moderate SIP and would have to address those public comments before they could make their final decision on the Moderate SIP.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that on March 9th, the Borough Assembly had approved funding for the LIDAR Project and aerial photography which would greatly

enhance their ability to make maps and would save the community money especially in the area of whether property owners were in a floodplain area.

- Mayor Kassel stated that he too was excited about the grant from EPA for the change-out program. Mayor Kassel stated that he was also looking forward to meeting with EPA next week. Mayor Kassel stated that it was a challenging topic with a lot of diversity in opinions on how they should improve the air quality.
- Mr. Cleworth stated that regarding the previous discussion about the targets and fatalities, it always seemed like their highway monies were held hostage by a variety of political things that were totally outside the realm of this organization and others which got frustrating. Mr. Cleworth commented that next month, Ms. Gardino would be trekking around the Himalayas, inquired if FMATS had insurance on her, and hoped she had a great time.

### 13. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn.** (Lawrence/Kassel). The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 12 p.m. in the Fairbanks City Hall, Council Chambers

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



Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair  
FMATS Policy Committee

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

4-19-17