

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System
POLICY COMMITTEE
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2011

1. Call to Order

Chair Steve Titus called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

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

Name	Representing
* Steve Titus, P.E.	DOT&PF, Regional Director
* Mayor Jerry Cleworth	City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Luke Hopkins	Fairbanks North Star Borough
* Mayor Doug Isaacson	City of North Pole
* Mike Musick	Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly
* Mike Schmetzer for Chad Roberts (absent)	City of Fairbanks
* Alice Edwards	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Jeff Roach	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
*** Scott Bell	UAF
** Todd Boyce	FNSB, Planning
** Kellen Spillman	FMATS Planner
Janet Brown	DOT&PF, Pre-construction
Ethan Birkholz	DOT&PF Planning
Rodney B. Rutherford	Public

3. Public Comments:

There were no Public Comments.

4. Approval of the March 16, 2011 Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the March 16, 2011 Policy Committee agenda. (Hopkins/Cleworth)

Mayor Hopkins asked if under agenda item #10, Other Issues, there could be a discussion regarding the Governor's Capital Budget and what affect it will have on FMATS. The Policy Committee agreed to add this agenda item under Other Issues.

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

5. Approval of February 16, 2011 Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the February 16, 2011 minutes. (Cleworth/Hopkins).
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved

6. Committee Reports

a) FMATS' Coordinator's Report with Action Items

Ms. Gardino reported discussed several of the highlights of the Staff Report:

- Gave a presentation to the Transportation Committee of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, covering future FMATS construction projects.
- Attended the Chena Riverfront Commission meeting
- Attended the Strategic Highway Safety Plan update meeting
 - Included a review of the current plan took place
 - The next meeting is in April, 2011
- Attended the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Corridor Transit kick-off meeting
- Took part in the FHWA quarterly review
- Released the FMATS quarterly newsletter
- Printed and distributed bicycle maps around the FMATS area
- FMATS TIP Administrative Modification #3 has been executed and is included in the STIP
- Formed the Advisory Group for the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan with a meeting scheduled for mid-April
- Followed a number of transportation bills in the Alaska State Senate and House of Representatives

Mayor Isaacson arrived at the meeting. (10:07 a.m.)

Mayor Cleworth asked Ms. Gardino where the funding for the Village Express came from and Ms. Gardino stated the funding is currently Tribal Transportation funding with possible future 5311 funding.

7. Old Business

a) University Avenue – National Highway System Designation (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that the recommendation from the Technical Committee is “to submit the proposal to the DOT & PF adding University Avenue to the National Highway System.”

- **Motion:** To submit the proposal to the DOT & PF and FHWA adding University Avenue to the National Highway System. (Isaacson/Musick)

Mr. Titus stated that this action item was postponed from last FMATS Policy Committee meeting in order to further research the requirements of an NHS route.

Ms. Gardino stated that a presentation was given to the FMATS Technical Committee by Ms. Janet Brown regarding the differences between a NHS route and a non-NHS route. Ms. Gardino noted that the two differences between NHS routes and non-NHS routes are a value engineering study must take place on all NHS projects and on any project over \$20,000,000.00 and guard rail end treatments must be current and state of the industry on NHS routes.

Mayor Hopkins noted that all of his original questions regarding differences between NHS routes and non-NHS routes had been answered.

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

8. New Business

a) 2010 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification #4 (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino noted that in the meeting packet there is a summary of the changes that will take place in TIP Administrative Modification #4. Ms. Gardino went on to say that the FMATS Technical Committee's recommendation was to approve TIP Administrative Modification #4.

- **Motion:** To approve TIP Administrative Modification #4. (Hopkins/Edwards)

Mayor Isaacson asked Ms. Gardino to explain the North Pole Bike Trail and Connection Project, because the bids came in \$50,000.00 under the expected amount. Ms. Gardino noted that in an action item at the previous FMATS Policy Committee meeting, an additional \$120,000.00 was needed to complete the design, which DOT will provide from CMAQ funding. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that there was additional CMAQ funding acquired for the construction phase of the project as well, which was included in the most recent STIP revision.

Ms. Gardino continued to detail the other changes involved in TIP Administrative Modification #4 describing some of the highlights:

- Approved changes to the funding of the LED Street Light project, Stages I and II
- Gold Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Phase 7 increase
- Preventative Maintenance program funding decrease
- Scope change on the Chena Small Tracts project
- Increase in funding on the Wendell Avenue Bridge project
- Addition of the Chena River Walk Phase III to the TIP as an Illustrative project
- Timeline change on the University Avenue Widening project
- Addition to roads in the North Pole Pavement Overlay project, using earmark funding

Ms. Gardino noted that one of the driving factors for TIP Administrative Modification #4 was that the Alaska Railroad Corporation needed to purchase pedestrian benches for a cost of \$7,500.00 from their 5307 funding, which required an Administrative Modification to the TIP.

Mr. Musick asked for clarification on the phase numbering used in the TIP, specifically referring to the Gold Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian project. Ms. Gardino noted that the phases do not follow the numerical order, and a key is available at the footer of each page in the TIP. In regards to progress of the Gold Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility project, Ms. Brown noted that the design is in process and another open house is expected this spring.

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

9. Public Comments

No public comments

10. Other Issues

a) Governors Capital Budget

Mayor Hopkins noted that in the State Senate Finance Committee meetings this week, a review of the Governor's Capital Budget took place, which contained some FMATS projects. Mayor Hopkins said that he believed there to be a federal pass through allocation for South Cushman (Mitchell to Sanduri). Mayor Hopkins noted that he viewed edits, from a source that he could not recall, possibly putting a

delete on some of the project items. Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Titus if he was aware of any of these changes. Mr. Titus and Mr. Birkholz noted that they were both unaware of any of these issues.

Mayor Hopkins informed the FMATS Policy Committee that there will be an opportunity to comment on the Governor's Capital Budget from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday March 17, 2011. Mayor Hopkins continued on to say that this will be the opportunity to express opinion on funding allocation amounts in the budget.

Mayor Cleworth asked Mayor Hopkins if he would be calling to express his opinions on the Governor's Capital Budget. Mayor Hopkins noted that he had a previous commitment and would be asking a representative to do so.

Mr. Titus asked Mayor Hopkins to please inform the FMATS Policy Committee when he discerns the exact location of the edits he previously referred to. Mayor Hopkins noted that the Senate Finance Committee closes out the public hearing tomorrow night.

Mayor Hopkins said he remember where he saw the previously referred to document and that it was on BASIS, under the schedule for the committee, under is a link for documents. Mayor Hopkins continued to say that a document available on this website has a list of items that have been deleted.

Ms. Gardino said that she would look into the issue and let the FMATS Policy Committee know when she had an answer on the issue.

11. Informational Items

a) FFY 11 Obligations and Offset List Update

Ms. Gardino informed the Policy Committee that the FMATS obligation amount was now at 4% for FFY11. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that the design for Illinois Street is moving closer to completion and the Van Horn Road West (Cartwright Road) project was in contracts with fund obligation expected soon.

Mayor Cleworth asked, in regards to the Illinois Street project, if there will be any work on the south side of the Chena River this summer. Mr. Bob Pristash, City of Fairbanks, stated that utilities work will be done, but much will depend on the start date. Mr. Pristash continued to say that it would be an option to specify in the Illinois Street Reconstruction contract that construction cannot be south side of the Chena River.

Mayor Cleworth stated that he is concerned about the business access with the Wickersham Street Upgrade project and the Illinois Street Reconstruction project happening at the same time. Mr. Pristash stated that the Illinois Street project does not require much work south of the Chena River and the work required is relatively shallow. Mr. Titus and Mayor Cleworth noted that the two projects in question need to be coordinated so they do not occur simultaneously.

Ms. Gardino noted that the offset list is also in the meeting packet and FMATS now has obligated 4%. Mayor Isaacson asked when the offset funding must be obligated by and Ms. Gardino said by September 30, 2011, but the request to obligate must be in by August 15, 2011 to ensure that the obligation occurs this fiscal year. Mayor Isaacson asked Ms. Gardino what possible projects could use this offset funding. Ms. Gardino noted that possible use of the funding could be Leasure Street change orders, the FMATS Sign Replacement project, the Wendell ADA project, the Preventative Maintenance Project, or the University Avenue project.

b) H.R. 662: FFY11 Highway Bill Extension

Ms. Gardino stated that there has been an extension of the current highway bill that will continue through FFY11 and it included 2009 funding levels, which are higher than expected future funding levels.

c) Birch Hill Road/CHSR – Farmer’s Loop Connection Open House

Ms. Gardino informed the FMATS Policy Committee that an Open House will be held at the Birch Hill Recreation Center from 4 - 6 p.m. for both the Birch Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian project and the Chena Hot Springs Road – Farmer’s Loop Connection project, due to potential overlap.

12. Committee Comments

Mayor Isaacson noted that there was a break in the sewer system in North Pole, near the North Pole High School Boulevard, but it is now under containment.

Mr. Musick asked for an update on the Alder Creek Culvert project and Mr. Titus said the project is proceeding with an overflow pipe installation complete and the big pipe proceeding. Mr. Titus continued to say that this project may not be complete by spring breakup.

Mayor Hopkins noted that the call for CMAQ project nominations is now closed and eleven projects have been nominated and looks forward to the committee evaluating the projects. Mayor Hopkins stated that the FNSB Mayors office has received some comments (a handful) on the Gold Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities project strongly supporting the no build option.

Mr. Titus noted that next month he will be unable to attend the FMATS Policy Committee Meeting and Mr. Roberts will chair the FMATS Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Titus noted that FMATS may be receiving additional funding and has asked Ms. Gardino to begin considering additional projects for FFY11.

Mr. Schmetzer noted that the Cushman and Barnette project is moving along with the Complete Street concept and expects a public meeting to be held this summer. Mr. Schmetzer stated that the term “Complete Street” is the term that is now being used for what was previously referred to as a “Signature Street.” Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Schmetzer if there were documents available from his presentation to the Fairbanks City Council and Mr. Schmetzer noted that his presentation was on the concept of Complete Streets, but a typical section was not displayed.

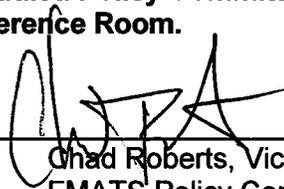
Mayor Hopkins noted that when he was in Washington D.C. recently there was a presentation on the President’s proposed budget with significant funding dedicated towards Livability and Complete Street concepts.

13. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn:** (Isaacson/Hopkins). Approved. Adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.

Approved: _____


Chad Roberts, Vice-Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: _____

