

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System
POLICY COMMITTEE
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2012

1. Call to Order

Chair Steve Titus called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

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
* Mayor Jerry Cleworth	City of Fairbanks
* Bill Gryder for Mayor Luke Hopkins (absent)	Fairbanks North Star Borough
* Mayor Doug Isaacson	City of North Pole
* Chad Roberts	City of Fairbanks
* Alice Edwards	ADEC, Air Quality Division
* Mike Musick	FNSB Assembly
** Kellen Spillman	FMATS
** Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
*** Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
*** Ethan Birkholz	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Bruce Carr	ARRC
Janet Brown	DOT&PF, Preconstruction
Sue Sprinkle	5 th Avenue Design / FMATS Art Advisory Committee
Guy Sattley	FNSB Assembly
June Rogers	Fairbanks Arts Association
Kris Riesenbergh (teleconference)	FHWA
Brian Lindamood	ARRC
Mark Peterburs	ARRC
Jo Schlotfeldt	DOT&PF
Sarah Schacher	DOT&PF
Carl Heim	DOT&PF
Don Adamczak	DOT&PF

3. Public Comments:

Ms. Sue Sprinkle, 5th Avenue Design and Graphics and member of the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee, said that she would like the FMATS Policy Committee to rethink the concrete pedestal that is included in the triangle area of the Illinois Street Reconstruction project. Ms. Sprinkle said that the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee heard from a Fairbanks City Engineer that it would be difficult to build this feature and continue the flow of traffic before a signal has been built in that area. Ms. Sprinkle said that the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee would like to see this feature removed because the arch has been removed and it will save funding on the project. Ms. Sprinkle said that one of the main reasons to keep the area was for the display of flowers and she feels that there are other ways to display flowers in the location.

Ms. June Rogers, Fairbanks Arts Association and member of the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee, said that the FMATS Policy Committee heard from the firm that designed the feature last meeting and they were in favor of deleting it because they felt it did not serve a purpose without the arch way. Ms. Rogers said that she felt that the funding could be better used on another aspect of the project.

4. Approval of the March 21, 2012 Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the March 21, 2012 Policy Committee agenda. (Cleworth, Isaacson)

Mayor Isaacson asked if the concrete pedestal needs to be added to the agenda. Ms. Gardino said that it will be covered under the Committee Reports.

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

5. Approval of February 15, 2012 Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the February 15, 2012 minutes. (Isaacson, Roberts)

Mayor Cleworth said that he would like to go on the record of say that the minutes to the meetings are very comprehensive, but might be overkill. Mayor Cleworth said that the minutes are very time consuming and he feels that they do not need to be as comprehensive as they are. Mr. Musick said that he feels that the comprehensive minutes are a good record, but are beyond what needs to be done legally.

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

6. Committee Reports

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

Ms. Gardino discussed several of the highlights of the Coordinator's Office Staff Report including the following:

- Attended three complete Streets Steering Committee meetings
- Attended two College Service Area meetings
- Facilitated two FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee meetings
- Developed a draft public participation plan, newsletter and website for the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee
- Attended the Chena River Front Commission meeting
- Attended a Bike to Work Week Organizational meeting
- Attended an open house for the Noble Street Upgrades project
- Work on a draft FMATS newsletter
- Posted an advertisement for the FMATS Planner Position on the APA website, AMPO website, and the City of Fairbanks Website
- Developed an RFQ for administrative support regarding minute taking
- Presented at the 5th annual tourism Conference regarding summer construction
- Attended a Wallbuster advocacy group meeting regarding sidewalk maintenance and was invited to attend a sidewalk maintenance webinar, which is overlapping with the Policy Committee meeting
- Closed out the Safe Routes to School grant
- Finalized the FMATS MTP Performance Measures report
- Reviewed amendments of the Transportation bill

Mr. Gryder said that the College Service Area meeting, regarding University Park, was very well attended and the FNSB is now looking at Kittleson and PDC to digest the comments.

Mr. Musick asked where the Art Committee website could be accessed. Ms. Gardino said that the website is in a draft form and it has not gone live yet.

Mayor Isaacson asked if the City of Fairbanks and the City of North Pole were invited to attend the sidewalk webinar also. Ms. Gardino said that she did not know if the cities were invited, but she would forward a copy of the presentation to each city.

b) FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee Update and Action Items (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino said that the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee will be meeting tomorrow to finalize the website and public participation plan, to ultimately determine what concepts need to be included in the RFP. Ms. Gardino said that Karen Stomberg, FNSB School District, came and spoke to the Committee about the 1% art program that the FNSB School District utilizes and how to implement a student outreach program.

- **Motion:** To delete the foundation of the gateway feature (concrete plaza) at the end of the triangle from the Illinois Street Reconstruction Project (Musick, Roberts).

Ms. Gardino said that the Committee believed that the architect who designed the plaza area felt that it did not function properly without the arch and felt that the plaza did not need to be built. Ms. Gardino said that the Committee did not know how the plaza was going to fit in with the feature that is ultimately selected for the area. Ms. Gardino said that the feature is very complicated to build because there is a great deal of finish work, but it is part of a bid item. Ms. Gardino said that there has also been a concern about building the plaza area early on because traffic could not function properly until that area is signalized.

Mr. Titus said that anything that is built must be agreed to be maintained by the Fairbanks North Star Borough and it has already been negotiated and signed. Mr. Titus said that the plaza area created a gathering area and a great deal of time was spent designing the area. Mr. Titus said that even though the arch has been removed, there is still a gathering area that has been created. Mr. Titus said that he does not believe that it is a waste of funding and it is part of the current contract. Mr. Titus said that the contractor has said that they will be working on that area this year and he would like to leave the coordination of the construction up to the DOT Construction Staff. Mr. Titus said that it is a small area, which is an awkward shape and the design seems to be a good fit. Mr. Titus said that there is a platform in the center of the plaza for possibly a traveling piece of artwork. Mr. Titus said that he believes that the area will be used a great deal by people traversing around because of its proximity to the church, Newsminer, and Big-I. Mr. Titus said that he feels this would be a very convenient area for pedestrians to go to sit and admire flowers and an art feature.

Mr. Gryder said that Mayor Hopkins expressed concern about deleting an aesthetically pleasing area. Mr. Gryder said that he personally has concerns about the concrete possibly constraining what could be done in the future. Mr. Gryder asked if the foundation for the art feature was still going to be included. Ms. Brown said that the foundation for the art feature was deleted. Mr. Gryder said that the lack of foundation might prevent a future art feature from being included in the area. Mr. Gryder said that there is an Art Selection Advisory Committee and they are recommending the removal of the feature and he feels that it is important to be flexible for any future art feature. Mr. Gryder said that he is also unaware of what would happen to the funding if the feature is deleted.

Mr. Titus said that the Art Committee already has a budget and the funding would be available for another use in the project. Mr. Titus emphasized that the Art Committee also has the entire triangle for the location of the future art feature.

Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Titus how the plaza would be deleted. Mr. Titus said that the DOT would issue an RFP to change the scope of work and the contractor would come back with an amount, which would be returned to the project and grass or landscaping could replace the plaza.

Mr. Musick said that he is in favor of leaving the plaza feature out of the project because it would be "giving an artist an easel with 1/3 of the picture already painted." Mr. Musick said that he feels that the Art Committee should have the freedom to decide what goes in the area. Mayor Isaacson said that the plaza takes up much less than 1/3 of the area. Mayor Isaacson said that in North Pole it is very difficult to reengineer common spaces after they have been built. Mayor Isaacson said that an area to sit and take pictures would be nice, regardless of what happens in the rest of the triangle area.

Mayor Isaacson said that he views this as an opportunity to keep a pedestrian friendly feature in the project for a low cost and he feels that the art committee could work around or use the plaza. Ms. Gardino said that the plan of the Art Committee is to go out for an RFP with a group of concepts, decided on by the public. Ms. Gardino said that they do not know what type of art is going into the area and whether or not it could be compatible. Mayor Isaacson asked if it could be possible for the Art Committee to work around the plaza area. Mayor Isaacson continued on to say that it is a very nice plaza and the art and picnicking could be located in the center of the triangle.

Mayor Cleworth asked if there is any seating and Mr. Titus said that there are steps and concrete, but he does not think that there is specific seating. Ms. Brown said that according to the plan set there are groomed finished concrete steps. Mr. Titus said that the plaza area is an option for gathering and he thinks that the plaza area is very inexpensive, currently, because it is not a critical bid item.

Ms. Edwards said that as a visitor to Fairbanks she thinks that the area would be a very lovely area to take pictures.

Mayor Cleworth said that if the plaza is removed the funding would be consumed immediately in a change order. Mayor Cleworth continued on to say that the plaza is an attractive area and he feels it should remain in the contract.

Mr. Roberts said that he feels that there is no need for the plaza area because the foundation has been removed. Mr. Roberts said that he feels that there would be a problem with skateboarders using the area, if it were kept. Mr. Roberts said that he does not think that the plaza serves a purpose, because the art has been removed. Mr. Robert said that he feels the area could be regarded as an attractive nuisance.

Mr. Musick said that he does not feel that the area was well considered in the first place, which was evident in the shadow in the rendering.

- **Vote on the motion:** Two in favor. Five opposed (Titus, Edwards, Isaacson, Cleworth, Gryder). Motion fails.

7. Old Business

a) Safe Routes to School Final Evaluation Report

Ms. Gardino said that FMATS has completed a Safe Routes to School grant and there is a final grant evaluation report in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino said that everything was completed with the

exception of a grant application for Woodriver Elementary. Ms. Gardino said that the City of Fairbanks was awarded two SRTS grants in this last grant cycle. Ms. Gardino said that a draft grant was formulated, but never submitted for Woodriver Elementary.

Mr. Gryder said that the FNSB met with the College Service Area and presented all of the grant options. Mr. Gryder said that the College Service Area Commission indicated that they would only support a very limited section of sidewalk because they were very concerned about maintenance costs. Mr. Gryder said that the FNSB will be working with the service area to possibly address the maintenance costs. Ms. Gardino said that all of the background data has been entered into the grant application and the service area just needs to decide on the project they would like.

Ms. Gardino said that there must be a commitment to maintain a facility before the facility can be built. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that there are options that FMATS could pursue for facility maintenance, such as setting a portion of the state funding aside for maintenance responsibilities. Ms. Gardino said that federal funds cannot be used for maintenance activities, unless it is preventive maintenance.

8. New Business

a) Illinois Street Reconstruction update

Ms. Gardino said that Illinois Street Reconstruction will be an ongoing agenda item and there is a change order summary in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino said that there was recently a \$7,000 change order for some piping and \$7,000 on some signal pole modifications. Ms. Gardino said that the field office comes out of the engineering funds of the DOT. Ms. Gardino said that the contractor has also introduced the idea of doing a value engineering study to replace the bridge over the Noyes Slough with a large culvert. Ms. Gardino said that it would save roughly five months of construction time and it sounds like an interesting idea.

Ms. Gardino said that construction on the project will begin on Monday, March 26, 2012. Mayor Isaacson asked who will ultimately decide on the value engineering proposal if implementing a culvert. Mayor Isaacson continued on to say that the culvert must be able to allow for transit through and there are often issues with corrosion to culverts. Mr. Titus said that many items are considered in a value engineering proposal and that the DOT would ultimately decide, with input from the City of Fairbanks, because they have a maintenance contract.

b) MTP Performance Measures Analysis

Ms. Gardino said that a copy of the MTP Performance Analysis Report is available in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino said that contained in the FMATS MTP were a set of suggested performance measures and this is the first attempt at tracking the suggested performance measures. Ms. Gardino said that there are many performance measures that were not available to FMATS, due to lack of data, and others that FMATS would like to track in the future, like the number of deficient bridges. Ms. Gardino said that the new transportation bill is moving toward an objective driven, performance based approach to planning. Ms. Gardino said that this is the first attempt at tracking performance measures for FMATS.

Mayor Isaacson asked if FMATS is scheduled to review this report again, because the area used was the 2000 census urbanized area. Ms. Gardino said that the FNSB is responsible for mapping the new urbanized area and see if the FMATS boundaries are going to change. Mayor Hopkins asked how long it would take for the new boundaries to come into effect. Ms. Gardino said that after it is mapped there is a process outlined in Title 23 that the boundaries must cover the area that is expected to be urbanized 20 years from now.

c) Goals and Objectives for the NMTP (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To approve the Goals and Objectives for the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, as amended. (Cleworth, Musick)

Ms. Gardino said that the draft goals, objectives, and measures of the Non-Motorized Transportation plan are included in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino said that the FMATS Policy Committee saw a draft last April, but specific numbers have been added to the goals and measures. Ms. Gardino said that in an attempt to finalize the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan she wanted to finalized these objectives.

Mayor Isaacson asked if there is anything that the Policy committee should be considering changing. Ms. Gardino said that the FMATS Policy Committee has seen the majority of the plan, but in pieces and she does not expect any major changes. Mayor Isaacson asked if this action item should be deferred until the entire plan is before the Policy Committee. Ms. Gardino said that she does not think that it matters because the Policy Committee could amend the goals and objectives after they see the entire plan.

Mr. Titus said that he feels that action at this time could clear up the goals and objectives for the consultant and he is inclined to vote on it.

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

d) Bike to Work Week/Month (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To execute the resolution of support for Bike to Work Month, Week and Day. (Isaacson, Roberts).

Mr. Spillman said that Bike to Work Day will be on Friday, May 18, 2012.

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

e) Administrative Support (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino said that she does not actually need an action item, because it is in her budget to go out for consulting services for up to \$20,000. Ms. Gardino said that she has an RFQ out for administrative support, for minute taking. Ms. Gardino said that she has received one response.

Mr. Titus asked Ms. Gardino if she has a heavy workload and Ms. Gardino said that she is currently pretty busy and it will only increase once Mr. Spillman leaves. Ms. Gardino said that especially with the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee the demand for minute taking and meeting services has increased.

Ms. Edwards commended Ms. Gardino for looking ahead.

f) University Avenue Widening Funding Code Change

Ms. Gardino said that after last Policy Committee meeting, FMATS sent a banking request to DOT Headquarters. Ms. Gardino said that the DOT Headquarters has asked her to revise the banking request to include the University Avenue Widening project. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that there is an e-mail included in the meeting packet breaking down how FMATS proposed to fund phase 2 of the University Avenue Widening project, including a mixture of FMATS' federal allocation, grandfather funding and earmarks. Ms. Gardino said that the DOT Headquarters said that GO Bond funding must be spent, because they are worried about potentially losing some of the funding. Ms. Gardino said that the

University Avenue Widening project has \$30 million in GO Bond funding programmed to the project. Ms. Gardino said that she was attempting to use up earmark funding and grandfather funding, but DOT Headquarters is more worried about the GO Bond funding. Ms. Gardino said that only \$60 million has been obligated of the \$270 million that was authorized by the voters in 2008.

Mr. Titus said that the DOT has not spent the funding at the rate that was originally anticipated. Mr. Titus said that the bonds have been sold and DOT Headquarters is feeling pressure to spend some of the funding. Mr. Titus said that the risk of losing GO Bond funding is much greater than losing the earmark funding. Mr. Titus said that replacing \$5 million of federal allocation with GO Bond funding will help show that the funding is being spent. Mr. Titus said that the DOT is looking at doing the same thing with other projects. Ms. Gardino said that the Steese Highway Improvements project is in the MPO, but it is not an FMATS project, and it is also a GO Bond funded project.

Mr. Musick asked if it is likely that FMATS will lose some of the funding that is banked. Mr. Titus said that it is unlikely that any of the banked funding will go away, but it is unknown if unspent earmarks will go away. Mr. Titus continued on to say that he thinks that earmarks will remain for a while.

Mr. Musick asked if the \$1.7 in earmark funding could just be spent. Ms. Gardino said that one of the earmarks is \$995,000 and can only be used on the University Avenue Bridge or the Wendell Avenue Bridge. Mr. Titus said that in the future FMATS is going to spend money and FMATS could try to spend the earmarks first.

Ms. Gardino said that rather than being short \$2.2 million on the University Avenue project, which was expected after the original banking request, FMATS is going to be short \$2.7 million. Ms. Gardino said that right now that funding is going to have to appear illustrative in the TIP. Ms. Gardino said that FMATS is now banking \$6.1 million in total, as opposed to the \$5.1 million that was going to be banked. Ms. Gardino said that FMATS is currently short \$6.3 million, but there is going to be \$6.1 million banked. Ms. Gardino said that some state funding has been used and the Preventive Maintenance Program is unfunded, which is all detailed in the revised banking request. Ms. Gardino said that the Pedestrian Improvements Stage 1 project is now shown illustrative.

Ms. Gardino continued on to go through the remaining changes outlined in the banking request. Mr. Titus said that he finds it comforting that DOT Headquarters is willing to work with FMATS on the banking requests.

Mayor Cleworth said that the GO Bond was passed in 2008 with \$15 million allocated toward traffic improvements in the Bentley Trust area and \$30 million on the University Avenue Widening project. Mayor Cleworth said that both DOT and the City of Fairbanks are both working rapidly to spend the funding on the Bentley Trust area. Mayor Cleworth asked if the funding on University Avenue could be lost if it is not spend. Mr. Titus said that the project could not be deleted, but the funding could be shifted to other GO Bond projects.

Mayor Cleworth asked if the GO Bond funding could be shifted to the Old Steese area. Mr. Titus said that FMATS could not shift the funding, but the funding could theoretically be shifted. Mayor Cleworth asked if the repaving on University Avenue could have been funded with the GO Bond funding. Ms. Gardino said that could have been an option, but the funding had already been obligated.

Mayor Cleworth said that the University Avenue Widening project is expected to be obligated in 2014 and he gets nervous about losing \$30 million dollars for the Fairbanks area.

Mayor Isaacson asked if more opportunities will be opened up to spend funding, because contractors are looking for more work. Mr. Titus said that DOT is working as quickly as they can and there are very complex right-of-way issues and utility issues on the University Avenue Widening project.

- **Motion:** To approve the revised banking request. (Isaacson, Cleworth).
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

g) Letter of Support for the FNSB's FTA Grant Application (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino said that FMATS Staff would like to have the FMATS Policy Committee execute a letter of support for the FNSB's FTA Grant Application.

- **Motion:** To execute a letter of support for the Fairbanks North Star Borough's grant proposal for FTA's State of Good Repair Initiative. (Cleworth, Gryder).

Ms. Gardino said that there are a few pages in the meeting packet that explain the need for a new maintenance facility as well as space for the Air Quality Staff. Ms. Gardino said that this is currently an illustrative project in the FMATS TIP and the FNSB asked FMATS to support them in their grant application. Mayor Isaacson asked what match implications FMATS would have and Ms. Gardino said that FMATS would not have any match implications. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that if the FNSB is awarded a FTA grant it would go directly to the FNSB.

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

9. Public Comments:

Mr. Bruce Carr, Alaska Railroad, said that there will be an open house at the Fairbanks Depot on Saturday, May 12. Mr. Carr said that in less than two months passenger train service will be offered out of Fairbanks. Mr. Carr said that there will be a public meeting on March 21, 2012 at 6:00pm in Salcha on the Tanana River Bridge. Mr. Carr said that there will be a meeting on April 5, 2012 at the Hotel North Pole for the North Pole Rail Realignment project. Mr. Carr said that he is in favor of detailed minutes because transparency is very important to FHWA. Mr. Carr said that the meetings are held during the day and many people cannot attend FMATS meetings. Mr. Carr said that he feels that a record of the meeting is very important because in ten years FMATS has spent over \$100 million in public funding and the minutes give a good opportunity for the public to follow the decision making process.

Ms. Rogers thanked the FMATS Policy Committee for giving the FMATS art Selection Committee an opportunity to make recommendations.

Mr. Sattley said that he is also in favor of detailed minutes because there is a record of the meeting. Mr. Sattley encouraged FMATS not to shorten the length of the minutes.

10. Other Issues

There were no other issues.

11. Informational Items

a) Wendell Street Bridge Discussion

Mr. Titus said that he would like to postpone the Wendell Street Bridge discussion to a later date because there was more information that was required for a presentation.

b) Airport Way – Preventive Maintenance

Ms. Sarah Schacher, DOT, gave a presentation on the Airport Way Preventive Maintenance project. Ms. Schacher said that the project limits are from the Steese Highway to Peger Road, including all of the frontage roads. Ms. Schacher said that Airport Way is quite an undertaking and DOT decided to extend the scope to Peger Road at this point, and eventually do a second stage of the project from Peger Road to Pike's Landing. Ms. Schacher said that this project is not an FMATS project because the project is on the National Highway System (NHS). Ms. Schacher said that this project will plane and resurface the top two inches of asphalt from Airport Way. Ms. Schacher said that this will allow for traffic to remain in the corridor because a gravel surface will remain. Ms. Schacher said that any curb ramps that are not ADA compliant must be updated as part of this project. Ms. Schacher said that the traffic signals that are not using video detection will also be upgraded to a video detection system. Ms. Schacher said that the pavement on Airport Way has not been upgraded since 1986.

Ms. Schacher said that the project is pretty straight forward, but traffic control and striping will be a challenge in the project. Ms. Schacher said that there is no typical section on Airport Way and many segments have varying widths. Ms. Schacher said that she is going to approach the City of Fairbanks to ask for permission to do work at night. Ms. Schacher said that the environmental document is scheduled to be completed this fall, with final design during the winter of 2012 – 2013 and construction obligation during 2013. Ms. Schacher said that the construction cost is estimated to be approximately \$7 million.

Mayor Cleworth asked if there will be fence on top of the jersey barriers. Ms. Schacher said that the fence on top of the jersey barriers will not be replaced, but all of the fence that is currently in the corridor will be replaced. Mayor Cleworth asked what came from the Airport Way Reconnaissance Study. Ms. Brown said that a reconnaissance study does not identify a preferred alternative, but rather shows possible solutions. Ms. Gardino said that the same question arose at the Technical Committee meeting and Mr. Birkholz said that he would assist FMATS in bringing forward a project that would address the reconnaissance study. Ms. Gardino said that a project must be nominated to develop a preferred alternative from the Airport Way Reconnaissance Study. Ms. Schacher said that if a project were to be nominated for Airport Way it would take about ten years until the project went to construction and the pavement on Airport Way cannot wait ten years.

c) Wembley/Danby Roundabout

Mr. Carl Heim, DOT Project Manager, gave a presentation on the Wembley/Danby Roundabout. Mr. Heim said that the scope of the project is to construct a hybrid double/single lane roundabout at the Wembley Danby intersection. Mr. Heim said that the purpose and need of the project is to mitigate all crashes at the intersection, particularly angled crashes. Mr. Heim said that the selected alternative is a roundabout and there will be a small right-of-way take at the North West corner of the intersection. Mr. Heim said that currently there are no two lane roundabouts in Fairbanks, with the exception of one at the entrance of Fort Wainwright.

Mayor Cleworth asked how the roundabout will be signed. Mr. Heim said that the roundabout will have a through lane and a right turn lane when approaching from the south. Mr. Heim said that a median will also be extended down to the Johansen to prevent lane confusion. Mayor Isaacson said that flowers do not work when used to landscape a roundabout and Mr. Heim said that the current plan is to just put grass inside the roundabout. Mr. Heim said that an open house will be held at Randy Smith Middle School on April 3, 2012 from 7:00 – 9:00pm, with a formal presentation at 7:30pm.

Mr. Heim said that the design cost is currently estimated to be \$450,000, the right of way at \$150,000, and construction at \$1.4 million. Mr. Heim said that the project is paid for with HSIP funding. Ms. Gardino said that this project would normally be paid for with FMATS funds, but the intersection qualified for a Highway Safety Intersection Project.

Mr. Heim said that construction is currently planned for 2014 with the possibility of being constructed in 2013.

Mr. Roberts asked why the sidewalk ends on Wembley and Mr. Heim said that the roundabout will connect the facilities on Danby, but the pedestrian facilities will not be extended to Wembley. Ms. Gardino said that installing pedestrian facilities on Wembley is one of the recommendations of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

d) Tanana River Bridge – Northern Rail Extension

Mark Peterburs and Brian Lindamood gave a presentation on the Tanana River Bridge and the Northern Rail Extension. Mr. Lindamood said that the construction of the levee is about 25% complete and there has been a fair amount of work completed this winter including making riprap, clearing, and material procurement. Mr. Lindamood said that significant work is just beginning and the temporary levee should be in place relatively soon. Mr. Lindamood said that there will be an open house held in Salcha tonight to give the community a sense of the work that will go on this summer. Mr. Lindamood said that there has been a great deal of interest expressed over firewood and the ARRC is willing to donate a significant amount of firewood to the community, but the details have not been confirmed. Mr. Lindamood said that in the next week or two he believes that there will be a phone number for parties interested in firewood to call, with the possibly 250 cords available.

Mr. Lindamood said that the ARRC is currently still looking for funding for phase 2, which will connect the railroad to the bridge. Mr. Lindamood said that the funding is estimated to be about \$5 million to construct about 13 miles of line. Mr. Lindamood said that there is still a significant amount of work that needs to be done for the 13 miles to be completed.

Mayor Cleworth asked how many more bridges will be required to run the railroad to Delta Junction. Mr. Lindamood said that there will be three large bridges required and 80 smaller bridges.

e) Surface Transportation Authorization Update

Ms. Gardino said that MAP-21 has passed the Senate and the language that would allow smaller MPO's to become tier II MPO's, under an agreement with the state, was included in the bill. Ms. Gardino said that she received an e-mail saying that Chairman Mica expects a short term extension of SAFETEA-LU through June.

f) Obligations/Offset List

Ms. Gardino said that there were no changes in the Obligation Report, because of the GO Bond funding used on University Avenue, and there is \$206,000 of offset funding to be obligated.

12. Committee Comments.

Mayor Isaacson said that it would be nice if the sidewalks on St. Nicholas could be accelerated because the pedestrian facilities project that is expected to be constructed in North Pole this year. Mayor Isaacson said that he spoke with Congressman Young recently and he understands that the House bill is much better for Alaska and MPO's than the Senate bill. Ms. Gardino said that the last time that she compared the bills the House bill cut funding for Alaska by 40%. Mayor Isaacson said that he understands that the House bill has significantly improved and FMATS may want to consider a letter saying what they like about the bill.

Mr. Musick said that he is concerned about the potential loss of Safe Routes to School funding because certain entities will not commit to maintaining the recommended facilities. Mr. Musick continued on to

say that snow clearing is not often considered in the federal program. Mr. Musick asked if there is potential to find some funding for either the state, cities, or road service areas to maintain facilities. Ms. Gardino said that there are many MPO's that do set aside funding for maintenance and FMATS could ask for state funding for maintenance. Ms. Gardino said that federal funding cannot be used for routine maintenance. Mr. Musick asked if the Safe Routes to School project is at a stalemate over maintenance funding with the service area. Ms. Gardino said that they may be at a stalemate.

Mr. Gryder said that Mayor Hopkins is concerned about the Safe Routes to School recommendation, because there appears to be funding available, but there is not a commitment to maintain. Mr. Gryder said that there are three schools in road service areas and there are recommendations made for each of these schools regarding safety.

Mr. Titus thanked the presenters who presented at the Policy Committee meeting.

Mayor Cleworth said that there was a work session on the Bentley Road project before the FNSB Planning Commission last night and the project is scheduled to go out to bid in May of 2012.

Mr. Roberts said that he has a concern about the GO Bond funding being spent and would like to see all of the projects moving forward. Mr. Roberts said that he feels that the Noyes Slough is a real thoroughfare and that needs to be considered when thinking about installing a culvert in that area.

13. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn:** (Isaacson, Musick). Approved. Adjourned at 12:13pm.

Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.

Approved: _____


Steve Titus, P.E., Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: _____

