

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**  
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2011

**1. Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Chad Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

**2. Introduction of Members and Attendees**

The following were present:

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

Name	Representing
* Ethan Birkholz for Steve Titus, P.E. (Absent)	DOT&PF, Regional Director
* Bob Pristash for Mayor Jerry Cleworth (Absent)	City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Luke Hopkins	Fairbanks North Star Borough
* Bill Butler for Mayor Doug Isaacson (Absent)	City of North Pole
* Mike Musick	Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly
* Chad Roberts	City of Fairbanks
* Alice Edwards	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Bruce Carr	ARRC
*** Jeff Roach	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Bernardo Hernandez	FNSB, Planning
** Todd Boyce	FNSB, Planning
** Kellen Spillman	FMATS
** Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF, Planning
Janet Brown	DOT&PF, Pre-construction
Jerry Colp	City of Fairbanks
Nick Foster	Kittelson & Associates
Phill Worth	Kittelson & Associates

**3. Public Comments:**

There were no Public Comments.

The FMATS Policy Committee recognized Mr. Todd Boyce for his service to FMATS over the course of his career. Mayor Hopkins presented Mr. Boyce with a Certificate of Appreciation from FMATS.

**4. Approval of the April 20, 2011 Agenda**

- **Motion:** To approve the April 20, 2011 Policy Committee agenda. (Edwards, Hopkins)
- **Vote on the Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**5. Approval of March 16, 2011 Minutes**

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

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **a) FMATS' Coordinator's Report with Action Items**

Ms. Gardino reported working on several projects listed in the April 2011 FMATS Staff Report, provided in the meeting packet, and discussed several of the highlights:

- Attended an Open House for the Birch Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities project
- Took part in the scoring process for the Fairbanks Area CMAQ Project Evaluation Board
- Held an Interagency Consultation for 2012 - 2015 TIP Conformity Analysis
- Began monitoring the performance measures listed in Metropolitan Transportation Plan
  - In response towards many agencies moving towards a performance based planning approach
- Continued work on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and the Safe Routes to School project
- Completed 2010 – 2013 TIP Amendment #5
- Continued work on the 2012 – 2015 TIP
- Monitoring transportation-related legislation
- Corresponded with Senator Paskvan's office regarding funding sources
- Attended a Census 2010 training workshop
- Attended the American Planning Association Conference

### **b) CMAQ Project Evaluation Board Recommendations**

Mayor Hopkins noted that the Fairbanks Area CMAQ Project Evaluation Board reviewed all of the CMAQ projects that were submitted for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> non-attainment area call for project nominations. Mayor Hopkins went on to explain the process of the Fairbanks Area CMAQ Project Evaluation Board and noted that he accepted all of the recommendations made by the Board. Mayor Hopkins then submitted a letter of approval through the Chair of the FMATS Policy Committee to the Department of Transportation officially accepting all of the approved projects.

The projects that Mayor Hopkins accepted are as follows:

- FNSB SIP (Study)
- Don't be Fuelish Campaign
- Air Quality Educational outreach Program
- Eielson Air Force Base/Salcha Transit Route
- Van Horn Bus Service
- FNSB Plug-ins
- UAF Free Transit Rides
- North Pole Equipment

Mr. Musick asked for more information on a project called Ash Reduction project and an explanation of why it was removed. Ms. Gardino noted that the Ash Reduction project was removed due to incomplete/inadequate information.

## **7. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## 8. New Business

### a) Noble Street Upgrades PH2 Increase (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To increase PH2 funding for the Noble Street Upgrade project by \$564,000, using FCTP funding. (Hopkins, Birkholz).

Ms. Gardino noted that this project has completed the environmental document and would like to move to final design. Ms. Gardino continued to say that the reason for this increase is because the DOT and a consultant still needed to negotiate the design amount, which ended up at \$564,000 more than planned.

Ms. Janet Brown stated that many of the increases have to do with normal design activities such as right-of-way, utilities, drilling, design study report preparation, waterline design, power line relocations, and other work.

Mayor Hopkins asked what the percentage of design increase this requested amount is and Ms. Brown noted that it was roughly a 25% increase.

Mr. Roberts asked if the contractor on this project was PDC and Ms. Brown stated that was correct.

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

### b) University Avenue Upgrades PH2 Increase (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To increase PH4 funding in FFY11 from \$861,000 to \$963,700, using GO Bond funding, for the Chena River Recreation Site Entrance Relocation. (Hopkins, Musick).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino stated that this project will relocate the entrance to the Chena Recreation Area off of University Avenue to Geraghty Avenue. Ms. Gardino emphasized that the suggested route to access this new entrance would be from Washington Drive and not from Geraghty Avenue from the west. Ms. Gardino said that this is the first part of the University Avenue Widening project that is going to construction with the State of Alaska DNR compiling the latest estimate. Ms. Gardino added that this project is about to go out to bid.

Mr. Roberts asked how the GO Bond funding could be used for this project since it is specifically for the University Avenue Widening project and Ms. Gardino noted that the relocation of the entrance in question is included in the University Avenue Widening project.

Mayor Hopkins asked if there would be any campsites being lost in this relocation and Ms. Brown noted that there is no right-of-way acquisition and no campsites will be lost. Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Brown where specifically the new entrance will be located off of Geraghty Avenue. Ms. Brown stated that the new entrance will be located to the east of the "furniture store" and some parcels were acquired to relocate this entrance. Mayor Hopkins asked if future signage will be posted and Ms. Brown noted that signage will be posted off of Washington Drive as opposed to Geraghty Avenue.

Ms. Brown noted that this relocation of the entrance off of Geraghty Avenue will also include a fence between the recreation area and University Avenue, but it will not be a noise fence. Mayor Hopkins inquired about the height of the fence and Ms. Brown stated that she did not know the height of the fence off hand, but could make those details available to Mayor Hopkins. Ms. Brown continued on to say that there is very little noise fencing in or around Fairbanks because it is hard to meet the warrants. Mr. Boyce noted that the fence in question is eight (8) feet high, which was the height that DNR requested. Mayor Hopkins asked if there was any discussion about having a sound deadening fence in this location.

Ms. Brown noted that in the environmental process it was a goal not to acquire any right-of-way from the park, if possible, and a noise fence was not warranted. Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Brown to define what would warrant a noise fence. Ms. Brown stated that a noise fence would be warranted if it met three criteria:

1. Noise measured at certain receptor locations- such as schools, hospitals, etc. approaches or exceeds the noise abatement criteria.
2. The requirements of the state noise policy are met.
3. The property owner wants the barrier.

Ms. Brown stated that these criteria were not met so a noise fence was not warranted.

In this particular location there is so much ambient noise from airplanes, boats and traffic, a barrier would not be effective.

Mayor Hopkins asked when this fence was scheduled for construction and Ms. Brown stated it was scheduled for construction this summer. Mayor Hopkins stated that he was disappointed that there is not greater concern over the one recreational area within City of Fairbanks city limits. Mr. Birkholz noted that a noise fence is roughly \$600 a linear foot. Ms. Brown noted that there are many other noise factors other than vehicular traffic. Mr. Pristash asked if adding a noise fence would affect right-of-way and Ms. Brown stated that no right-of-way is being acquired in this part of the project, but the improvements are to the recreation area amenities.

Mr. Birkholz noted that a rough estimate of the cost would be \$ 1.5 million for a noise fence in the area. Mr. Roberts noted that while this project is in the City of Fairbanks it would be difficult to spend the amount of funding required to build a noise fence in this area and it might also be too late. Mayor Hopkins stated that he does not want to stop construction, but in the future he would like more detail on projects when in the design phase to comment on observations.

- **Vote on the Motion:** All in favor. Approved.

**c) Wickersham Street Upgrades – Utilities (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To increase the funding on Wickersham Avenue Upgrades by \$1,810,000 to include moving the utilities underground, using SB230 funding. This will cover additional design, right-of-way and utility costs. (Hopkins, Musick)

**Discussion:** Mr. Pristash noted that 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from Barnette Street to Cowles Street is a project that the City of Fairbanks has been working on under the Wickersham Street Upgrades project. Mr. Pristash noted that this motion is specifically referring to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, where currently the utilities are overhead and with this approved funding they will be relocated underground. Mr. Pristash went on to explain two photographs of the overhead utilities in the area to the Policy Committee noting that they were not up to code. Mr. Pristash noted that the estimated cost of just bringing the aerial utilities up to code would be \$400,000. Mr. Pristash noted that there are a number of businesses in the area and this could be a good way to improve the area.

Mr. Birkholz asked Mr. Pristash how much of the utilities would be put underground and Mr. Pristash noted that the utilities from Barnette Street to Cowles Street are included in the proposed relocation. Mr. Roberts asked if the utilities east of Barnette were relocated underground and Mr. Pristash noted that those utilities were relocated underground in the downtown project about seven (7) years ago.

Mayor Hopkins asked how many poles will be removed from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in this proposed project and Mr. Pristash noted that 8-10 poles will be removed and the utilities relocated underground. Mr. Roberts

asked when the construction for the Barnette, Cushman, and Gaffney project is planned and Mr. Pristash noted that the City of Fairbanks does not want it to conflict with the Illinois Street project, which potentially pushes construction back to 2013. Mr. Pristash went on to say that they could possibly lay sleeves in the Barnette Street/2<sup>st</sup> Avenue Intersection so it would not have to be torn up again.

Mr. Birkholz asked how much SB230 funding would be remaining if this project were to get funded. Ms. Gardino stated that roughly \$2,415,000 of SB230 funding would be remaining. Mr. Birkholz asked how much of the 381 funding is remaining and Ms. Gardino noted that there is about \$1,000,000 remaining.

Ms. Gardino noted that she had a discussion with Senator Paskvan's office about the SB230 funding and how the funding was currently being used.

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

**d) 2010 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #5 (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To release the 2010—2013 TIP Amendment #5 for Public Comment on April 21, 2011, to review comments received at the May 18, 2011 Policy Committee meeting, and if no other comments of concern are received by the end of the comment period on May 20, 2011, to approve and forward to DOT & PF for inclusion in the STIP. (Pristash, Hopkins)

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino stated that the purpose of the amendment was to incorporate the changes that have already been discussed with the Policy Committee, but the amendment also adds illustrative projects to the TIP. Ms. Gardino noted that these illustrative projects were added in case additional funding becomes available in the near future.

- **Motion to Amend:** To add a Preventative Maintenance project to the illustrative section of the TIP. (Pristash, Hopkins)

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins asked for further explanation on the Preventative Maintenance project in terms of area covered and Mr. Pristash noted that this project would be available to the entire FMATS area. Ms. Gardino noted that as part of this amendment the Gold Hill Road project final design phase slipped to FFY2012, which basically zeroed out the Preventative Maintenance for FFY2012. Ms. Gardino continued to say that if an illustrative project is created and funding becomes available this illustrative project could be elevated into the active section of the TIP.

Mayor Hopkins asked why an illustrative project is needed when there is already a project in the TIP that funding could simply be applied to. Mr. Birkholz stated that he believed the better option is to add some State funding to the Preventative Maintenance program in 2012 and if Federal funding becomes available, it could be substituted for the State funding. Ms. Gardino asked if an amendment would be required and Mr. Birkholz stated that an amendment is not required if there is currently funding in the project.

Ms. Gardino wanted to confirm that the Policy Committee was in agreement about using SB230 funding to fund a Preventative Maintenance project and if she should proceed with organizing the Preventative Maintenance subcommittee to pick out projects for next year. Mr. Birkholz noted that if Federal funding does not become available then the project could either be de-funded or funded using the SB230 funding.

Mayor Hopkins suggested that the Amendment on the table be voted against and the Preventative Maintenance program be funded with SB230 funding for FFY2012. Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Birkholz what the downfall of having a Preventative Maintenance program in the illustrative section of the TIP would be. Mr. Birkholz stated that a letter to the FHWA is required to elevate a project to the active section of the TIP, which takes time, but it could be done. Mr. Birkholz went on to say that this project will continue to

be designed using the federal process, even if state funds are used, to allow for potential federal funds to be substituted if available.

- **Vote on the Amendment:** All opposed. Amendment failed.
- **Motion to Amend:** To amend page 5 of the 2010 – 2013 TIP Amendment #5 to add \$250,000 of SB 230 funding in FFY2012 to PH4 of the Preventative Maintenance Program. (Hopkins, Musick)

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins noted that the amount of SB230 funding that was included in the motion was intended to be a placeholder and wanted to keep the amount low to allow for other uses of the funding with the construction season approaching.

Ms. Gardino noted that there already is \$100,000 allocated for the design on the Preventative Maintenance Program in 2012, but no current funding for construction. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that there is \$1,300,000 for construction this year on the Preventative Maintenance Program.

- **Vote on the Amendment:** None opposed. Amendment approved

**Discussion:** Mr. Roberts asked Ms. Gardino to talk about the time period of the Amendment. Ms. Gardino noted that the 2010 – 2013 TIP Amendment #5 needs to go through a 30-day public comment period which would end two (2) days after the May Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that comments would be reviewed at the May Policy meeting and if comments are not received in the two (2) day period after the May Policy Committee meeting, then Amendment #5 would be adopted. Ms. Gardino noted that the other two (2) options are to hold a special meeting after the two (2) day period or wait until the June Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Roberts asked when the most public comments are received in regards to TIP Amendments. Ms. Gardino noted that FMATS does not typically receive public comments in regards to TIP Amendments, but could receive more when the new TIP is released.

Mayor Hopkins pointed out that the UAF Roundabout project was added as an illustrative project in Amendment #5 and asked about the status of the Tanana Drive Extension project. Ms. Gardino noted that it is in the active section of the TIP, but does not have any funding associated with it. Mayor Hopkins asked if there was any input from the Technical Committee to add the UAF Roundabout as an illustrative project because of size concerns of the roundabout. Ms. Gardino noted that UAF did not comment on this particular issue during the Technical Committee meeting. Mayor Hopkins asked if UAF could still comment on a project during the public comment period and Ms. Gardino said that they could. Mr. Birkholz noted that there have been match issues with UAF on this particular project.

Mayor Hopkins asked for more information on the added CMAQ Project under the informational section of the TIP. Ms. Gardino noted that this funding shown is in the STIP and shown in the TIP for informational purposes only.

- **Vote on the Motion (as amended):** None opposed. Approved.

#### **e) Additional Project Nominations for New TIP**

Ms. Gardino stated that an additional project nomination was received for the new TIP, from the City of Fairbanks, called Minnie Street Improvements. Ms. Gardino noted that the nomination packet for Minnie Street is in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino advised that the Technical Committee scored this project at the April 6 meeting and it scored highest among scored projects.

Ms. Gardino asked the Policy Committee to give some guidance on which projects they would like to see elevated into the active section of the 2012 – 2015 TIP. Ms. Gardino noted that in the meeting packet is a sheet displaying the scores that the Technical Committee has given to each project.

Ms. Edwards noted that it might be advantageous to re-score the entire list of projects because biases can come into effect over time.

Ms. Gardino noted that it is very advantageous to include any potential projects in the 2012 – 2015 TIP from the beginning to avoid having to re-do a conformity analysis later on if a project were added. Mr. Birkholz asked how project starts are going to be included in the 2012 - 2015 TIP and Ms. Gardino noted she will prioritize projects based upon the recommendations the Policy Committee makes. Mr. Birkholz noted that he believes the actual estimate of the Minnie Street project to be higher the estimate given in the scoring summary and DOT is currently compiling a score, schedule, and estimate on that project.

- **Motion:** To add a project for consideration in the 2012—2015 TIP called FMATS Sidewalk Improvements for funding of new sidewalks to improve connectivity within the FMATS boundary. (Hopkins/Musick).

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins noted that there are a number of sidewalks that need to be put in place to continue the connectivity within the FMATS area inside and outside of Fairbanks City limits. Mayor Hopkins stated that he believes this to be a very important project that needs to be moved forward as a project in the TIP. Ms. Gardino noted that this particular project is a project contained within the FMATS Metropolitan Transportation Plan and currently FMATS is working on a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan which will address non-motorized deficiencies. Ms. Gardino noted that FMATS is currently receiving CMAQ funding through 2013 and there is currently not a CMAQ eligible project in the TIP to spend the funding for 2013 and part of the 2012 funding. Mr. Roberts asked if sidewalks are an eligible CMAQ project and Ms. Gardino stated that sidewalks are an eligible CMAQ project.

Mr. Pristash stated the City of Fairbanks has a requirement with the Federal Government to have pedestrian corridors identified and if barriers in these corridors exist, they must be removed. Mayor Hopkins noted that from the FNSB's point of view there is a need for new sidewalks to be placed throughout the FMATS area from residential areas to South Davis Park and Peger Road.

Mr. Birkholz noted that currently we do not know the sidewalk priorities, because the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is not completed, so it would be better to wait until the completion of the plan and add this project via amendment. Ms. Gardino noted that a TIP is being drafted and does not see why it would hurt to put a sidewalk project in for the later years. Mr. Birkholz noted that it would be difficult to currently add this project to the active section of the new TIP because it is still unclear what will be designed.

Mayor Hopkins asked if adding a project now would be better because it could be covered under the same conformity analysis. Ms. Gardino noted that adding a sidewalk projects from the beginning of the TIP is not as critical, in this particular case, because sidewalk projects are exempt from conformity analysis.

- **Motion to Amend:** To add Wilbur Street, Davis Road, Peger Road and Lathrop Street to the motion. (Hopkins, Musick)

**Discussion:** Mr. Birkholz expressed concern over pre-prioritizing the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan by adding streets prior to the completion of the plan. Mayor Hopkins noted that he believes these streets to be of particular concern and would like them to be included in his motion. Mayor Hopkins noted that in conversations with the FNSB Transportation Director sidewalk issues have arisen, especially since

there are proposed bus routes in the area.

Mr. Roberts asked if there would be two (2) separate sidewalk projects, the one contained in the motion at hand, and one that will be created to address sections identified in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Ms. Gardino noted that there is currently a project titled Curb Corner and Sidewalk Upgrades project in the TIP, which is a two stage CMAQ funded project. Ms. Gardino noted that a separate project could be created after the completion of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

Mr. Pristash asked if a project could be added without being scored by the Technical Committee and Ms. Gardino stated it is up to the Policy Committee to decide to add projects or not.

- **Vote on the Amendment:** None opposed. Approved.
- **Amended Motion:** To add a project for consideration in the 2012—2015 TIP called FMATS Sidewalk Improvements for funding of new sidewalks to improve connectivity within the FMATS boundary to add Wilbur Street, Davis Road, Peger Road and Lathrop Street to the motion. (Hopkins, Musick)
- **Vote on the Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.
- **Motion:** To include for consideration in the 2012—2015 TIP, the Minnie Street Improvement project. (Hopkins, Musick).

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins stated that he feels this is a very important project on a very important corridor and needs to be included in the TIP. Mr. Pristash stated that about 20 years ago there was a project titled the Minnie Street Connector, in which the Johansen Expressway was to be connected with the Minnie Street/Illinois Street intersection. Mr. Pristash noted that this project was stopped because of environmental concerns and this new project is very important for the City of Fairbanks.

Mr. Roberts noted that, in a conversation with Mr. Schmetzer, he understood Minnie Street to have poor drainage and Mr. Pristash confirmed that there was no drainage on Minnie Street.

- **Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Gardino to address the projects that will occur in the future around the Bentley Mall area. Mr. Pristash noted that this project is funded by \$15,000,000 in GO Bond funding and the City of Fairbanks is currently receiving a TORA agreement with the DOT for that funding. Ms. Gardino asked Mr. Pristash what area that project will cover. Mr. Pristash stated that project will cover the Bentley Access Road, Helmericks Road, Upgrading the Herb Miller/Helmericks Intersection and upgrading the Old Steese Highway from Trainer Gate to the Johansen Expressway. Ms. Gardino noted that the agreement does not include the Old Steese Highway and she would like to know if the project will cover that in the future.

Ms. Brown stated that they are looking at adding pedestrian facilities and roundabouts on the Old Steese Highway. Mayor Hopkins asked if this project would be a STIP project and Mr. Birkholz noted that this project would be a GO Bond funded project and would not be included in the STIP. Mayor Hopkins asked if there will be enough GO Bond funding to cover all the road sections previously referred to. Mr. Birkholz noted that after the City of Fairbanks has completed their intended work there will be plenty of needs left to address in the area, such as a dedicated right turn lane along the Johansen Expressway to

turn into Hunter. Mr. Birkholz noted that there will be numerous other sidewalk projects that need to be funded, but there is a vague concept of what funding these improvements will require. Mr. Birkholz continued on to say that this project is in the preliminary phases and it is still unclear how much work can be accomplished with the \$15,000,000 in GO Bonk funding. Mr. Birkholz noted that there are other projects in the area such as a potential fly-over intersection and the Old Steese to McGrath Connector which will not be FMATS projects.

Mayor Hopkins asked about how potential improvements to this area would affect the conformity analysis. Ms. Gardino noted that no federal action is required for this project so conformity will not be an issue.

Mr. Musick asked if there has been any movement to get the railroad out of the area being discussed. Mr. Roberts stated that it has been discussed, but he is unaware of any proposed action. Mayor Hopkins stated that he was in discussions with State Legislators in regards to funding requests for an EIS for the Southern Rail re-alignment, but other potential Federal Railway Grants have had earmarks removed.

Mr. Carr, ARRC, noted that the Federal Railroad Administration does have a freight rail line relocation fund of \$50,000,000, but was cut in the last budget update. Mr. Carr noted that the State of Alaska is lacking a State Rail Plan, which was last updated in 1986. Mr. Carr went on to say that there are a number of projects that should be included in a State Rail Plan which would make projects eligible for a broader array of federal funds than Alaska is currently eligible for. Mr. Carr went on to list a number of federal funds that Alaska would be eligible for if it had a State Rail Plan, which the State of Alaska Department of Transportation is responsible for.

Mr. Roberts stated that currently there is no plan to relocate the railroad and currently FMATS is designing around the tracks.

Mr. Roberts asked Ms. Gardino what will happen if the remaining projects, included in the scoring sheet summary, are not ranked at this current time. Ms. Gardino noted that she will include other projects in the new TIP at her discretion if no further direction is received. Ms. Gardino continued to say that it is very difficult to predict out until 2015 with the tendency for project phases to slip. Ms. Gardino continued to say that she does not expect to add a great deal of new projects to the new TIP.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the Policy Committee will see the 2012-2015 TIP again and have an opportunity to comment. Ms. Gardino noted that in May she will go to the Technical Committee and the Policy Committee with a draft of the 2012 – 2015 TIP and each committee will have an opportunity to comment. Ms. Gardino noted that after the new TIP is approved by the Policy Committee she will forward it to the consultants who do the emission modeling to ensure that enough information is included to properly complete the model. Ms. Gardino continued to say that after the TIP is reviewed by the emissions consultants the new TIP will go out for a 30 day public comment period starting June 16.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he has heard of the possibility of the Chena River Walk Phase III possibly not becoming an FMATS project and wanted to know if anyone had additional information on that issue. Ms. Gardino noted that the concern over the Chena River Walk Phase III, potentially becoming a federally funded project, is the extended timeline associated with the federal process. Mayor Hopkins asked if the Chena River Walk Phase III should be in the TIP with GF funding on the project. Ms. Gardino stated that it was put in the illustrative section of the TIP to show that it was a project in the FMATS area and the Policy Committee could put State funding on the projects if they would like.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the Graehl Park Access project was in the 2012 – 2015 TIP and Ms. Gardino stated that it was not.

- **Motion:** To include for consideration in the 2012—2015 TIP, the Graehl Park Access project. (Hopkins, Musick).

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins noted that he has received a number of comments about the access into Graehl Park, especially in the winter, and would like this project to be considered in the new TIP.

Mr. Birkholz stated that because of the size of FMATS it is important for smaller projects like the Graehl Park Access project to be included in the TIP in the event that funding becomes available. Ms. Gardino noted that this project is compatible with the Wendell Avenue Bridge project.

- **Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

#### **f) 2012 – 2015 TIP Project Recommendations and Timeline**

This agenda item was cover as part of agenda item g.

#### **9. Public Comments**

Mr. Carr extended an invitation to everyone, particularly those with children, to the ARRC open house on May 14, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the ARRC Railroad Depot.

#### **10. Other Issues**

There were no other issues

#### **11. Informational Items**

##### **a) 2012 – 2015 TIP Conformity Analysis Update – Interagency Consultation**

Ms. Gardino noted that the Interagency Consultation for the 2012 – 2015 TIP was held yesterday to go over the planning assumptions and the agencies agreed that another consultation was not needed.

##### **b) Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Advisory Committee Meeting 4.21.11**

Ms. Gardino Introduced Nick Foster and Phill Worth, of Kittelson and Associates.

Mr. Foster briefly went over the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Advisory Group meeting and stated that a presentation on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan will be given at the May 18 Policy Committee meeting.

Ms. Gardino noted that the draft goals and objective of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan will be reviewed at the Advisory Group meeting and the website will be introduced.

Mr. Birkholz stated that maintenance of the bike paths is a huge issue around Fairbanks.

Mayor Hopkins asked is there is funding to aggressively advertise the open houses for the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Ms. Gardino went on to explain the aggressive advertising that is currently taking place for Bike to Work Week, which will include information about the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

##### **c) Bike to Work Month and Week (May 16 – May 20) – Proclamation**

Mr. Roberts read a proclamation signed by Mayor Hopkins, Mayor Cleworth, and Mayor Isaacson declaring May 16 – May 20 Bike to Work Week.

**d) FFY 11 Obligations and Offset List Update**

Ms. Gardino noted that currently FMATS is 4% obligated for FFY11, but more projects are expected to be obligated in the near future, such as the Noble Street Project.

**e) Capital Budget Update**

Ms. Gardino noted that there is a meeting today on the Capital Budget, but there is no new news that she is aware of.

**12. Committee Comments**

Mr. Musick noted that Monday, May 16 is Arbor Day and would like to invite everyone to the scheduled Arbor Day events and tree planning ceremonies.

Mayor Hopkins noted that in the Capital Budget there is still \$10,000,000 allocated for FMATS funding.

Mr. Roberts asked if Mr. Boyce's position had been filled and Mayor Hopkins noted that it had not. Mayor Hopkins went on to say that he and Mayor Cleworth have had conversations in regards to the position.

**13. Adjourn**

- **Motion to adjourn:** (Edwards/Hopkins). Approved. Adjourned at 11:59 am.

**Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.**

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

Date: 5/18/11