



## POLICY COMMITTEE

**Council Chambers, City Hall, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK  
Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2016**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**2. Introduction of Members and Attendees**

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Representative Organization</b>
*Bryce Ward, Chair	Mayor, City of North Pole
*Karl Kassel, Vice Chair	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*John Eberhart	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*Ryan Anderson	Acting Director, DOT&PF, Northern Region
*Janice (Golub) Westlind	FNSB Assembly Member
*Perry Walley	City Council Member, City of Fairbanks
*Denise Koch (via telephone)	DEC, Division of Air Quality
**Donna Gardino	FMATS MPO Coordinator
**Alicia Giamichael	FMATS Transportation Planner
**Deborah Todd	FMATS Administrative Assistant
**Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF Planning
+Judy Chapman	DOT&PF Planning
+Lee Borden	DEC, Division of Air Quality
**Rich Felsing	FNSB Planning
Rachel Kvapil	Fairbanks Cycle Club/Running Club North
Laura Minski	Tanana Valley Watershed
Chandra McGee	DEC Water Quality
Al Beck	DOT&PF
Gary Jenkins	DOWL
Julie Jones	Fairbanks Festival Fairbanks
Tony Johansen	Great Northwest Inc.

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

**3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)**

No public comment.

Mayor Ward presented Mr. Walley, who was resigning from the City Council and FMATS Policy Committee, with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked him for his years of service to FMATS, the City of Fairbanks, and the community.

**4. Approval of the April 20, 2016 Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the April 20, 2016 Agenda. (Walley/Kassel).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

**5. Approval of the March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the March 16, 2016 meeting minutes. (Kassel/Westlind).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

**6. Committee Reports**

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

Ms. Gardino provided information and highlights for all meetings, briefings, open houses, workshops, and presentations she and FMATS staff had attended or participated in.

**b. Coordinator's Office Reorganization Update**

Ms. Gardino explained that the City of Fairbanks had spoken with the insurance brokers; but they were still awaiting a quote. Ms. Gardino stated that she had discussed it with the City Chief of Staff and he had encouraged her to pursue other avenues because of the delays. Ms. Gardino stated that she was currently in the process of doing that. Ms. Gardino stated that there were three avenues currently being pursued. Ms. Gardino stated that one was the insurance opportunity at the City, the second was FMATS writing their own personnel policy and being paid by the City of North Pole and finding out what that would entail, and the third option was looking to the State to see if they would be interested in paying the FMATS' payroll but remaining housed at the City of Fairbanks. Ms. Gardino stated that she would be looking at all three of those options very seriously in the coming months since it had become an unsustainable situation.

**7. Old Business**

**a. Green Streets Policy Recommendation (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino stated there had been several subcommittee meetings regarding the development of the Green Streets Policy and they had been well attended. Ms. Gardino stated that they were working towards mitigating stormwater runoff and this element was a new planning factor in the FAST Act. Ms. Gardino stated that it had been discussed at length at the Technical Committee Meeting and several changes were made including the fact that a lot of the green infrastructure employed on transportation projects would provide cost savings in the long run instead of building oversized treatment facilities for the stormwater. Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS had received a letter of support from the Chena Riverfront Commission encouraging approval of the Green Streets Policy as well as letters of recommendation from the Downtown Association and the Stormwater Advisory Committee.

**Motion:** To release the Green Streets Policy for public comment.  
(Kassel/Westlind).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

**b. TIGER Grant Application Update**

Ms. Gardino stated that at the previous meeting she had informed the Policy Committee that FMATS was pursuing a TIGER Grant. Ms. Gardino stated that the application had been delayed by lengthy discussions between DOT and FMATS regarding match and maintenance. Ms. Gardino stated that the latest bridge report designated the bridge functionally obsolete but the numbers provided when it went to a one way bridge indicated that it was no longer functionally obsolete. Ms. Gardino stated that she had trouble getting information from the City of Fairbanks on the cost to maintain the bridge.

Ms. Gardino stated that she would see how the bridge inspection turned out this summer and possibly pursue the grant next year.

**c. Earmark Repurposing (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino explained that the letter was written to try and obtain some of the repurposed earmarks for the Fairbanks area. Ms. Gardino stated that there was less than \$10 million in funding available to the Northern Region. Ms. Gardino stated that they were trying to get some of that funding repurposed to fund some of the projects in the TIP or metropolitan planning area.

**Motion:** To forward the letter regarding earmark repurposing to Commissioner Luiken. (Kassel/Westlind).

**Discussion:** Mayor Kassel stated that he thought that this was a really important topic and there were a number of projects that could use this money. Mayor Kassel stated that a lot of folks had identified the need to get their act together as far as the Rail Plan was concerned. Mayor Kassel stated that they were sticking band-aids on the issues around town, which was potentially wasting money and making the ultimate solution more challenging and difficult than it needed to be. Mayor Kassel stated that this was a step in the right direction and thought it was important that they send the letter.

Mr. Anderson stated that the Commissioner was receiving a lot of comments from communities throughout the State. Mr. Anderson stated that this was a positive letter and well received. Mr. Anderson stated that they were considering them as they came forward, but it might take some time. Mr. Anderson stated that it was not going to be an easy discussion for them. Mr. Anderson stated that he thought it was a great letter and good effort to get the word out to the Commissioner from the Interior.

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

**8. New Business**

**a. Update from Meeting with Program Development**

Ms. Gardino explained that she and Mayor Ward had a meeting with Mike Vigue and Mike Crabb from the Program Development Section of DOT&PF. Ms. Gardino stated that the meeting was a follow-up to a previous discussion they had with Commissioner Luiken and Deputy Commissioner Hatter. Ms. Gardino stated that the first discussion was about the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) that replaced the Transportation Enhancement Program. Ms. Gardino stated that the program was established in MAP-21, but had not yet been implemented. Ms. Gardino stated that the offer was to provide FMATS an allocation of \$200,000 per year so they could conduct a competitive program and different entities and agencies could apply for that funding. Ms. Gardino stated that because of all the years that the funds had built up and not been used, there was around \$1,000,000 available to FMATS this year. Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS would have to come up with a competitive process and the DOT and FMATS were not eligible applicants. Ms. Gardino stated that they could, as an alternative, participate in the Statewide TAP that would be implemented next month.

Ms. Gardino stated that they also discussed the CMAQ Program and the funding changes. Ms. Gardino stated that they had not been sure about which program they were supposed to apply for and Mr. Vigue suggested that a separate meeting be held, and hosted by the Federal Highway Administration, to provide training on the CMAQ funds as well as the SIP. Ms. Gardino stated that Mr. Vigue was going to follow up on that.

Ms. Gardino stated that another program they discussed was the Discretionary Urban Planning Program (DUPP). Ms. Gardino stated that this was a program that DOT was going to establish to distribute planning funds to MPOs, and others, for transportation planning efforts. Ms. Gardino stated that they had decided not to implement that program and were now going to distribute the money that had been withheld. Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS had just received \$221,000 in planning funds that they had to figure out what to do with and part of that had to be obligated this year because it was from Federal Fiscal Year 13. Ms. Gardino stated that UPWP amendment was included in the agenda to discuss allocating that money for the update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Ms. Gardino stated that they discussed the PL (Planning Fund Distribution) for Fiscal Year 2017. Ms. Gardino stated that the estimated allocation for FY17 and FY18 had increased from FY16 due to an increase under MAP-21 and a four percent increase under the FAST Act. Ms. Gardino stated that they were working on developing their tasks to figure out how to allocate those funds so that each entity that worked under the UPWP received funds for those tasks. Ms. Gardino stated that FHWA wanted the State DOT to come up with a process to incorporate the TIP into the STIP. Ms. Gardino stated that Mr. Vigue had suggested that FMATS only amend their TIP when DOT amended their STIP which required a lot of coordination. Ms. Gardino stated that they wanted to make sure that their amendments got incorporated in a timely manner so their obligations of projects were not delayed. Ms. Gardino stated that coordination was not easy, but FMATS was certainly open to working with the DOT to make the process more cohesive. Ms. Gardino stated that FHWA had approved several of the final rules for the proposed rulemaking. Ms. Gardino stated that the DOT could now start work on their performance measures and targets. Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS then had 180 days to establish their targets. Ms. Gardino stated that Mr. Vigue would try to attend the May Policy Committee meeting to further discuss the performance measures and targets.

**b. Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Recommendation (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino stated that the Technical Committee recommendation had been to participate in the Statewide Transportation Alternative Program which was supposed to be released next month. Ms. Gardino stated that the Technical Committee felt that they had a better chance of receiving more funding if they participated in the statewide program.

Mayor Kassel inquired how confident they were in the schedule and structure of the State program and whether it was really going to happen in a month and be structured this way.

Ms. Gardino stated that her confidence level was not high, but that maybe DOT could provide more information on that.

Ms. Chapman stated that she had received an email from Mike Vigue that day and he indicated that they were still on track for getting the nomination criteria out by the end of May. Ms. Chapman stated that Mr. Vigue had reiterated the amount of funding available. Ms. Chapman stated there was quite a bit of money available out there but could understand their caution.

Ms. Gardino inquired if Ms. Chapman was saying that the urbanized area could only apply for the \$2.1 million dollars.

Ms. Chapman stated that her take on it was that they could apply for the statewide flexible funding of \$9.9 million available Statewide and the \$2.1 million available for populations between 5,000 and 200,000. \$3.7 million is available for populations of less than 5,000. Ms. Chapman stated that she had just received the email that morning and the solicitation would go out by the end of May.

Mr. Walley inquired about whether the monies could be used for existing or planned projects within the City if they were sidewalk projects.

Ms. Gardino stated that while the MPO could not apply, the City could apply and use some of that funding to do the FMATS Sidewalk Improvement Program and thought it would be a great one for the City and the Borough to look at for developing an application.

Mr. Walley inquired if that meant that now there were two pots of money available for different projects.

Ms. Chapman stated that only Anchorage received the larger amount of funding due to their population.

Ms. Gardino stated that there was now no allocation for MPOs of less than \$200,000 and the State had given them a different formula, but it was totally up to their discretion as to how the money was allocated.

**Motion:** To participate in the statewide Transportation Alternative Program for a larger share of the funding. (Kassel/Westlind).

**Discussion:** Mayor Ward was concerned that they could be gambling and receive nothing. Mayor Ward inquired how much FMATS would receive if they took the other option and how long the funds were good for.

Ms. Gardino stated that the funds were good for the year that they were in the Highway Bill plus three. Ms. Gardino asked Ms. Chapman if they needed to make the decision today or had time to get more information and apply for the program.

Ms. Chapman stated that she thought there was time and the note on the spreadsheet stated that \$4 million could potentially lapse at the end of May.

Ms. Gardino stated that if they wanted to do that program they would have to come up with the criteria and get those projects obligated this year because part of those funds expired this year.

Mayor Ward inquired Ms. Gardino thought there would be enough time for them to develop a program.

Ms. Gardino stated that they could copy an already established program to develop their program, but did not think that was a good way to plan.

Mayor Kassel stated that was his concern and he agreed with Ms. Gardino. Mayor Kassel stated that he worked for the government and they were here to help you but they did not move fast. Mayor Kassel stated that he did not think that they could move at the speed required to utilize the smaller allocation of money effectively. Mayor Kassel stated that they could put something together, but that was not the best way to plan. Mayor Kassel stated that he understood they were taking a risk, but did not think the risk was so huge that they would come out on the shorter end of the stick. Mayor Kassel stated that he thought they would still end up with a million and had the potential of getting more than that. Mayor Kassel stated that they would end up with a better product because it bought them more time which was more important to him. Mayor Kassel stated that was what weighed his decision to go with the larger statewide portion of money.

Mr. Walley stated that he agreed with both Mayors, but was leaning towards the \$10 million dollar side. Mr. Walley stated that there was a risk that they might get nothing one year, but might get more another year, and felt that getting more would make up for that loss. Mr. Walley asked Ms. Gardino if she had said that if they went that \$1 million dollar route they could bank up to three years of \$200,000.

Ms. Gardino stated Mr. Walley was correct and that if they went through the process this year and next year received \$200,000, next year they would not have to go through the solicitation for \$200,000 and could wait until it got up to \$600,000, \$800,000 or a million and then go through the solicitation process.

Mayor Ward asked Ms. Gardino if they were to do the program this year how much of the funding would lapse if it were to come to the MPO this year.

Ms. Gardino stated that it was FFY13, FFY14 and FFY15 and would guess that it would be roughly 25 percent or \$250,000.

Mayor Ward stated that they talked about the \$10 million dollar pot but were competing with the entire state for that larger pot of money. Mayor Ward stated that historically they had received little to none of that money. Mayor Ward stated that he looked at the future of the MPO and understood they would lose roughly \$250,000 if they were not able to put the program into play this year, but that might give them a better option over that money in the long run. Mayor Ward stated that his big concern was that they would end up with nothing or be stuck in a State-run program that they had no control over. Mayor Ward asked if they could potentially change their status with this over a period of time and go with the State run program this year and next year decide to take the allocation or if they were stuck with their decision.

Ms. Chapman stated that she had asked the reverse of that question about whether you could take the \$980,000 this year and then in four years when they did another solicitation if they could participate in that statewide solicitation. Ms. Chapman stated that she guessed that they could ask that question but assumed that it probably worked both ways.

Mayor Kassel asked Ms. Gardino about the lapse requirement in three years and whether it kept accumulating. Mayor Kassel stated that it was his understanding that they could not accumulate that money because they would end up losing it.

Ms. Gardino stated that this year they had money from FY16 and FY17 and that would clear the books. Ms. Gardino stated that the new money would start in 2017 and they could have another solicitation for FY17, FY18, and FY19.

Mayor Kassel stated that he understood but that meant that they would then lose a quarter of that money if they did not use it and it would be a challenge to responsibly use that much money right away but could lose it if they did not use it.

Ms. Gardino stated that they could lose even more if they had a delayed project.

Mayor Kassel stated that they were gambling either way.

Ms. Gardino stated that she thought that with a bigger pot of money, those projects that were ready first would use the older money first. Ms. Gardino stated that you were better able to manage that money if you had a lot more projects. Ms. Gardino stated that if you only had a couple projects and they were both delayed, it was harder to manage that.

Mayor Ward stated that on the record, he did not have much faith in DOT being able to continue the program. Mayor Ward stated that he felt it was really unfortunate that they were even in this position where they were faced with having to lose Federal funds because the State/MPO was unable, for whatever reason, to make an action on this sooner. Mayor Ward stated that he thought it was poor planning that they were even in this position right now. Mayor Ward stated that knowing they were in this position right now, and in four years when the State said they were going to do this program again; would they be in this same position. Mayor Ward stated that he did not know. Mayor Ward stated that he did know that they had control of over the MPO and what they did here. Mayor Ward stated that was the reason he was leaning more towards taking the smaller allocation so that they had better control over it but guessed that it was a gamble either way.

Mayor Kassel stated that they had the option of tabling the motion for a month. Mayor Kassel stated that his only concern with that was that they were painting themselves farther and farther into the corner and setting themselves up for failure in actually spending the smaller pot of money effectively and was leaning towards needing to make the decision today. Mayor Kassel asked Ms. Gardino how much more information she thought they would have in a month.

Ms. Gardino stated that she did not think they would have the program out until the end of May.

Ms. Chapman stated that they were saying the end of May so they probably would not have the nomination criteria out. Ms. Chapman stated that if there were specific questions that they had they could make sure that the Headquarters folks got back to the Policy Committee by May 20<sup>th</sup> and hopefully they would have the criteria by that May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Anderson stated that he could see how this was kind of a tough one to get through. Mr. Anderson asked Ms. Gardino if the intent of this funding was to supplement the TIP; and projects that were already established in the TIP; to free up funding in the TIP for other uses, or if it was intended to be its own type of program where there would be public notices and call for projects and whatnot.

Ms. Gardino stated that the funding was intended to allow other entities like school districts or whoever wanted to apply for it. Ms. Gardino stated that if the cities or the Borough wanted to supplement the TIP projects they already had going that were underfunded; sidewalk connection projects, for example, that was an option. Ms. Gardino stated that she did not think that was how they should present the program. Ms. Gardino stated that it should be fairly presented to the public and all the entities who were eligible to participate.

Mr. Anderson stated that his thought was that there might be some relief for projects that were already in the TIP and might be a benefit or something that the Policy Committee might want to consider.

Mr. Walley asked Ms. Gardino about what postponing this action item would do and if it presented an inconvenience for her or if she would be rushed.

Ms. Gardino stated that they would have to come up with a whole program, criteria for the program, advertise it, and give people at least 30 days to come up with their nominations. Ms. Gardino stated that they would be right up against the August 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to obligate the money. Ms. Gardino stated that unless they did a project such as buying a bunch of bike and ped counters which was how AMATS was getting around the issue. Ms. Gardino stated that if they did a sidewalk project they had to program the preliminary engineering phase and then waited until that was done, and then programmed the next phase. Ms. Gardino stated that you did not get to obligate that all at once. Ms. Gardino stated that it was tough to come up with a program and get projects obligated.

Mr. Walley stated that it was a tough decision but he agreed with Mayor Ward and his concern about having control of the money here and knowing what they were doing with it. Mr. Walley stated that he agreed with them all and would leave it at that.

Mr. Eberhart asked Ms. Gardino for clarification about the different allocation amounts and the criteria for the different programs.

Mayor Kassel asked if the \$10 million dollar pot was really \$12 million and change because of the other money that was going into that, the \$1 million dollar pot of money had a portion that would lapse before they could



effectively spend it, so it was really only \$750,000. Mayor Kassel stated that was what tipped his decision toward the big bucket of money. Mayor Kassel stated that previously he had been in agreement with Mayor Ward that they needed to keep control of that money, but now that bucket was only going to be \$750,000.

Mayor Eberhart asked Ms. Gardino what they were likely to receive from the big bucket.

Ms. Gardino stated that it depended on how competitive they were with their nominations. Ms. Gardino stated that it was a guess.

Mayor Ward stated that another thing they needed to take into consideration was that they were not the ones that would actually be applying for the money; it was the agencies and the community. Mayor Ward stated that they had to think about how able the agencies and communities were to compete on a statewide basis because there were Federal Highway requirements that went along with these monies. Mayor Ward stated that he wondered if the agencies here would be competitive enough, without assistance, to compete for that larger share. Mayor Ward stated that if they went from past history, and the State waited three or four years to develop this program and pooled up that money to do the same thing again; they would be looking at roughly \$2 million dollars. Mayor Ward stated that he wondered if it would be worth it for them to take \$2 million of known money versus the potential to get \$12 million dollars. Mayor Ward stated that it all depended on the agencies in town and how competitive they could be. Mayor Ward stated that he wondered what they would do if they received \$4 million dollars and if they even had enough work out there to use all that money or whether it might be better served to have a smaller amount that was steady. Mayor Ward stated that Mayor Kassel had mentioned potentially delaying this action until the next meeting and he wondered if there was any way they could do that. Mayor Ward stated that he was very curious about the State's position on whether they could enroll in the statewide program this year and then next year go to an individual allocation. Mayor Ward stated that his guess would be no since they probably needed that allocation for the next go round. Mayor Ward stated that if any of the agencies in town were listening today they should contact the Policy Committee or Ms. Gardino and let her know whether they would or would not be able to compete on a statewide basis versus a local basis. Mayor Ward stated that he thought if there was any way they could potentially take that \$250,000 that would lapse and do what Anchorage was doing and buy some short term projects such as the bike and ped count devices or other type things; he thought it would be worth spending some more time on it.

Mayor Kassel stated that it was his understanding that this bucket was going to lapse. Mayor Kassel stated that his understanding was that if they did not use it right away, a quarter of it would lapse each year, so that buy the time they got to 2017, and had not done anything they ended up with nothing. Mayor Kassel stated that they could not save their \$1 million up to \$2 million, they had to spend it in small pieces.

Ms. Gardino stated that was basically how the project development process moved along. Ms. Gardino stated that you usually had twenty to thirty percent for the design of the facility and when you got to construction you needed \$1.2 million to build it and how were you going to get \$1.2 million.

Ms. Gardino stated that was the reason for nominating smaller projects such as trail rehabs and things that could move along quickly. Ms. Gardino stated that the cities and agencies needed to be thinking about what those projects would be.

**Motion:** To table the motion regarding the Transportation Alternative Program Recommendation until the next meeting. (Kassel/Westlind).

**Discussion:** Mr. Walley stated that he thought what Ms. Gardino was trying to convey was that the smaller pots of money could be used for design of a project.

Ms. Gardino stated that Mr. Walley was correct.

Mr. Walley asked Ms. Gardino about number of entities, communities, and school districts that were be involved.

Ms. Gardino stated that she thought that the City was in a good position competitively because they designed Federal aid projects. Ms. Gardino stated that maybe they needed to be thinking simpler and smaller rather than larger. Ms. Gardino stated that the other thing she had not mentioned was the non-federal share and whether that had been budgeted.

Mayor Kassel inquired if the competition for all of that money excluded Anchorage.

Ms. Gardino stated that it excluded Anchorage because Anchorage received their own allocation.

Ms. Chapman stated that Anchorage was not eligible for that larger pot of money.

**Vote on Amendment to the Motion:** 5 in favor, 2 opposed (Walley/Eberhart). Approved.

**c. UPWP Amendment #3 (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino stated that the \$221,800 planning funds that had been saved up from FY13 - 16 needed to be obligated. Ms. Gardino stated that the Fairbanks Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update would be a good project to get started on since it needed the development of a new travel model update and incorporation of the new planning factors.

**Motion:** To approve the UPWP Amendment #3 as presented. (Kassel/Westlind).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

**d. TIP Amendment #3 Approval (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino explained that approximately 40 comments had been received from the public in support of the Yankovich/Miller Hill Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility and Multi-Use Path. Ms. Gardino explained the summary of changes for TIP Amendment #3.

**Motion:** To approve TIP Amendment #3. (Westlind/Walley).

**Discussion:** Ms. Westlind stated that she wanted to commend the public for all the comments they received on Yankovich and Miller Hill. Ms. Westlind stated that it was really good to have that local perspective from folks who used those paths every day because they pointed out a lot of little particular items that they might not have noticed before.

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

**e. Personnel Wage Consideration (Action Item)**

**• Executive Session**

Mayor Ward stated that the item before them was for wage consideration but everyone needed to keep in mind that if personal information was presented they would have to go into an Executive Session.

Ms. Gardino explained that this was a request from her to the Policy Committee to increase the wages for the FMATS Planner and Administrative Assistant. Ms. Gardino stated that she had included the fiscal note and information on wages for similar positions at DOT. Ms. Gardino stated that both Ms. Giamichael and Ms. Todd had been doing a great job for FMATS. Ms. Gardino stated that both positions had realized a net loss after the last pay increase because the cost of the health insurance was more than the increase in the cost of living. Ms. Gardino stated that she thought it was time to try bring the wages more in line with where they should be.

**Motion:** To approve the Fiscal Note for Personnel Wage Considerations, as presented. (Kassel/Westlind).

**Discussion:** Mayor Ward stated that he wanted to note for the record that he thought that there were some challenges when looking at the pay schedule for FMATS employees' because it fell under the City of Fairbanks.

Mayor Ward stated he knew that there were some items that they brought up under the reorganization. Mayor Ward stated that there needed to be more consistency so they did not have these issues in the future. Mayor Ward stated that the wage categories they were in were not comparable with what the job duties would be for other respective organizations. Mayor Ward stated that he would like see them address the underlying issue for this in the future which was the personnel system for FMATS employees.

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

**9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)**

Laura Minski-Tanana Valley Watershed-Ms. Minski stated that they were a non-profit in Fairbanks that focused on research education on watershed. Ms. Minski stated that she was commenting for herself and on behalf of Chandra McGee of DEC who had to leave the meeting early. Ms. Minski stated that Tanana Valley Watershed and DEC were there to support the Green Streets Policy. Ms. Minski stated that she knew it had already been approved but wanted to show their support with public comment. Ms. Minski stated that they felt that the Green Streets Policy included Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were good for the community and would help protect the Chena River. Ms. Minski stated that if they followed the news, a state of emergency was declared in Houston, Texas and stormwater could have tremendous impacts to a community. Ms. Minski

stated that she wanted to reiterate that they supported the policy and thought it was a great way to proactively plan for stormwater in their community.

Mayor Kassel thanked Ms. Minski for her comments and for all the work her organization was doing in the community. Mayor Kassel stated that they were doing an awesome job.

Rachel Kvapil-President of Fairbanks Cycle Club: Ms. Kvapil stated that on behalf of the Fairbanks Cycle Club and Running Club North, which she was also a member of; wanted to say thank you for supporting the Yankovich project. Ms. Kvapil stated the non-profits were more concerned with safety, but she could also assure them that FairBikes, who she was working with on their marketing campaign, had also seen this as a very large economic opportunity. Ms. Kvapil stated that FairBikes was a commercial bike sharing program and would be working with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Ms. Kvapil stated that they anticipated that any new bike path in the area would also contribute to their product. Ms. Kvapil thanked the Policy Committee and stated that they looked forward to seeing what was proposed.

Julie Jones-Festival Fairbanks: Ms. Jones stated that Festival Fairbanks was a downtown non-profit and wanted to speak in support of the Green Streets Policy. Ms. Jones stated that they were very happy to see these kinds of things going forward. Ms. Jones stated that they knew it might not be easy on all of the businesses, but when changes were being made it was nice to think about keeping your own stormwater on your land, and hoped that it went forward. Ms. Jones stated that they were working on the Chena Riverwalk and thought it was great for economic development in the downtown area. Ms. Jones stated that they were ready to move, had permits for the railroad property in place to build a path on the north side of the river, and could spend any funding that became available to them. Ms. Jones stated that she hoped FMATS would keep them in mind going forward for any funding that became available.

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

No other issues.

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

##### **a. Old Steese Highway Reconstruction Update**

Al Beck from DOT and Gary Jenkins from DOWL Engineers gave a brief update on the project and showed a presentation that was given at the project Open House earlier in April 2016.

##### **b. Freight Mobility Plan Update-Public Opinion Survey and Interactive Map**

Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS had the Freight Mobility Plan and a survey with an interactive map on their website and introduced Ms. Giamichael to explain them.

Ms. Giamichael explained that a survey was released to the public with five pages of questions and a map that comments could be directly added to.

Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS wanted everyone to be aware of it and had it at the DOT Super Open House as well. Ms. Gardino stated that they hoped to get input from the public as well as the freight community.

**c. Statewide Implementation Plan**

Ms. Koch, via telephone, explained that she wanted to provide an update on an item that had popped up in the news recently related to a recent legal action. Ms. Koch stated that in December 2014, DEC submitted a moderate SIP Plan and EPA deemed it complete. Ms. Koch stated that per Clean Air Act process, EPA was required to make a determination on that moderate SIP by February 18<sup>th</sup> of this year. Ms. Koch stated that the determination could range from total approval to total disapproval or somewhere in between where they targeted areas of the SIP they disapproved of and the State needed to work on. Ms. Koch stated that the issue that came up recently had to do with the deadline. Ms. Koch stated that EPA should have made a determination on that SIP on February 18<sup>th</sup>, but they did not. Two weeks ago, on April 6<sup>th</sup>, Earth Justice filed a Notice of Intent to sue EPA. Ms. Koch stated that they were giving EPA notice that they would sue them in sixty days if EPA did not make a determination of a moderate SIP Plan. Ms. Koch stated that once EPA made their determination and deemed partial portions of the overall SIP to be disapproved or incomplete; DEC needed to address those items. Ms. Koch stated that it became the high priority item. Ms. Koch stated that there was a sanction clock that started once DEC received any sort of partial disapproval. Ms. Koch stated that it became important from the perspective of timing and workload issues.

Ms. Koch stated that this group was well aware that they anticipated that EPA would re-designate the Fairbanks North Star Borough non-attainment area from moderate to serious sometime this summer; probably in June. Ms. Koch stated that would also require DEC, with cooperation from the Borough, to start working on a serious SIP. Ms. Koch stated that DEC had already started working on portions of the serious SIP that they were able to work on. Ms. Koch stated that depending on when they received a notice from EPA, of what their determination was on their moderate SIP; they might be working on two SIPs at the same time. Ms. Koch stated that she had received some questions about whether that was efficient to be working on a moderate SIP when they knew that they might have to work on a serious SIP. Ms. Koch stated that was what the Clean Air Act required, even though they knew that an area was going to be re-designated as serious. Ms. Koch stated that the Clean Air Act required that EPA make that determination on a moderate SIP and required DEC to address those areas, if any, that EPA found to be not approvable. Ms. Koch stated that they would have to do it and there were portions of

the serious SIP that would build upon the moderate SIP. Ms. Koch stated that on the broader topic, and to end on a happier note, EPA had recently issued their targeted Airshed Grant notification. Ms. Koch stated that she had mentioned this a few months ago and this was really good news. Ms. Koch stated that EPA had issued the grant awards in the past, but in the past in order to be eligible for this money you had to be in non-attainment with the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. Ms. Koch stated that the Fairbanks North Star Borough non-attainment area was in the 24-hour standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Ms. Koch stated that this year, EPA brought into eligibility the areas that were in non-attainment for the 24-hour standards for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, so the Fairbanks area could apply for that grant. Ms. Koch stated that the overall pot of money people would compete for nationwide was a \$20 million. Ms. Koch stated that EPA anticipated that they would award anywhere from six to ten grantees and no award could exceed \$3 million dollars. Ms. Koch stated that the grant applications were due to EPA on July 11, 2016. Ms. Koch stated that the local match funds for the grant was not required but was encouraged. Ms. Koch stated that Ms. Heil had received some pointers on what EPA would be looking for when they were reviewing those grants. Ms. Koch stated that Ms. Heil had a conversation with Ron Lovell about that and all the Borough staff and the grant staff should be pretty well plugged into that by now.

**d. Obligations and Offsets**

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

**12. Policy Committee Comments**

- Mr. Walley stated that it had been quite an experience to take part in the Policy Committee of FMATS. Mr. Walley stated that he had just told Ms. Gardino that he was finally getting the hang of it and it had only taken him four years. Mr. Walley stated that he wanted to thank everyone on the panel because it was a commitment as well as past members that had been on the Policy Committee such as Guy Sattley, former Mayor Cleworth, former Mayor Hopkins, David Miller and Steve Titus, former Directors of DOT&PF, and the behind the scenes people that made it all happen as well as Janice Westlind, Alicia Giamichael, Deborah Todd, and Donna Gardino. Mr. Walley stated that he had asked her a lot of questions. Mr. Walley stated that he did not know about FMATS when he first started on this committee and felt like he was graduating from college now. Mr. Walley explained that he had moved outside of the City limits which under City Charter forced him to resign from the City Council and leave the Policy Committee. Mr. Walley stated that he would miss it, but would keep following what was going on with this committee. Mr. Walley stated that he knew that Mayor Eberhart would be appointing a new person to this position and to forewarn them. Mr. Walley

stated that he also wanted to welcome Ryan Anderson to the Policy Committee. Mr. Walley thanked Mayor Ward, Mayor Kassel and Ms. Westlind.

- Mr. Anderson stated that he wanted to thank everyone for the discussion today and that he appreciated it. Mr. Anderson stated that he was there in the acting capacity and did not think there had been any announcement of when a new Northern Region Director would be selected. Mr. Anderson stated that he did understand some of the angst out there about some of the funding programs and things that were discussed today. Mr. Anderson stated that he just wanted to let them know that the folks at DOT were working very hard to make sure that Northern Region and the Interior was well represented.
- Mayor Eberhart thanked Mr. Walley for his service. Mayor Eberhart stated that Mr. Walley was right when he said that it took years to get the hang of this. Mayor Eberhart stated that Mr. Walley always provided the City Council with a great report and hoped that he would do that for the next meeting as well. Mayor Eberhart stated that he looked forward to working with Mr. Anderson.
- Mayor Kassel thanked Mr. Walley for his service not only to FMATS, but to the community and thanked him for doing a great job. Mayor Kassel stated that Mr. Sattley sent his regards and coached him regularly for this meeting. Mayor Kassel also welcomed Mr. Anderson to the Policy Committee.
- Ms. Westlind stated that they were very sorry to see Mr. Walley go and welcomed Mr. Anderson.
- Ms. Koch stated that she also wanted to wish Mr. Walley well in his next endeavors. Ms. Koch stated that she was sorry that she was just a discombobulated voice on the phone and could not shake his hand. Ms. Koch stated that Mr. Walley was very welcoming when she was a new member on the FMATS Policy Committee. Ms. Koch stated that she also wanted to welcome Mr. Anderson to the Policy Committee.
- Mayor Ward thanked Mr. Walley for his service to FMATS and the City of Fairbanks. Mayor Ward stated that he hoped that he would consider service to the City of North Pole as well.

### 13. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn.** (Westlind/Kassel). The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 12 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Fairbanks City Hall, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Approved:   
Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair  
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: 5-24-16