



SPECIAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

State of Alaska DOT & PF, 2301 Peger Road, Main Conference Room

Meeting Minutes –Thursday, April 24, 2014 9:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee

*Michael Schmetzer for Mayor John Eberhart
 *Mayor Luke Hopkins, Chair
 *Mayor Bryce Ward, Vice Chair
 *Ryan Anderson for Steve Titus
 *Guy Sattley (via telephone)
 *Perry Walley
 *Alice Edwards (via telephone)
 **+Donna Gardino
 **Aaron Buckley (absent)
 **Deborah Todd
 **Kellen Spillman
 **Margaret Carpenter
 **Linda Mahlen
 Scott Bell

Representative Organization

Mayor, City of Fairbanks
 Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
 Mayor, City of North Pole
 Northern Region Director, DOT&PF
 FNSB Assembly Member
 City Council Member, City of Fairbanks
 DEC, Division of Air Quality
 FMATS MPO Coordinator
 FMATS Transportation Planner
 FMATS, Administrative Assistant
 FNSB Community Planning
 DOT&PF
 DOT&PF
 UAF Facilities Planning

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

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

Scott Bell from UAF Facilities Services, 803 Alumni Drive, Fairbanks stated that UAF had come before FMATS a couple years ago to request funding for improvements to improve the intersection of Alumni and Tanana Drive which was currently known as “dysfunction junction.” Mr. Bell stated that the intersection was a major commuter route for traffic coming in from the west traveling to College Road. Mr. Bell stated that UAF had hired Kittelson and Associates as well as working with to find a roundabout that would fit and it had been a struggle to fit one in that area due to the sloped ridgeline and steep approach grades. Mr. Bell stated that the project budget DOT had come up with was \$6.6-\$6.8 million and Kittelson had lowered that figure to \$5.5-\$5.8 million. Mr. Bell stated that UAF would like to change the design to be an improved three-way intersection which would simplify and make it more useable as well as greatly improve pedestrian circulation through the intersection at an estimated project cost of approximately \$3.1 million.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if UAF was hoping to reconfigure that area with a three-way intersection rather than installing the single-lane roundabout previously described.

Mr. Bell stated that Mayor Hopkins was correct.

4. Approval of the April 24, 2014 Agenda

Motion: To approve the April 24, 2014 Agenda. (Ward/Schmetzer).

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. New Business

a. TIP Amendment #7 – Public Review Draft (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino provided an overview of the purposes for TIP Amendment #7 presented in the meeting packet and went over the revisions that were included.

Ms. Gardino stated that they would like to put the Amendment out for a 30-day public review and comment period. Ms. Gardino explained that the primary purpose for the amendment was to change the termini of the College Road Reconstruction project from University Avenue to Danby to University Avenue to MaryLeigh, in order to rehabilitate the entire corridor from Margaret Avenue to University Avenue without leaving a 2,000 ft. gap. Ms. Gardino stated that changes to project termini required an amendment as opposed to an administrative modification. Ms. Gardino stated that since they were amending the TIP she had suggested to Mr. Bell that UAF submit their scope change.

Motion: To approve TIP Amendment #7 for public review (Walley/Schmetzer).

Discussion: Ms. Gardino provided a summary of changes that were made to the funding for the College Road Reconstruction as well as other projects.

Amendment to the Motion: To change the title of the UAF Roundabout: Tanana Loop and Alumni Drive project to the Tanana Loop and Alumni Drive Intersection Improvement project and to modify the scope and estimate, as presented. (Ward/Schmetzer).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Amendment to Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Discussion: Mayor Ward stated that he would be willing to assume maintenance responsibilities for the area of the project within the North Pole City Limits on the Peridot Road project.

Amendment to the Motion: To change the scope of the Peridot Reconstruction project by removing “to Badger Road, approximately .91 miles” and changing it to “to the end of the city limits, approximately .2 miles.” (Ward/Schmetzer).

Discussion: Ms. Gardino stated that she thought because of the changes that were proposed there would be Offset and CMAQ funding available and would work with DOT to figure out if CMAQ funds could be used for some of the projects. Ms. Gardino stated that she would get Ms. Carpenter to obtain a cost estimate from DOT for what that project would cost.

Mayor Hopkins inquired what would happen with regards to approach if the road were paved to a certain point.

Ms. Gardino stated that it would really reduce dust in that area.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved

Discussion: Mayor Hopkins stated that he wanted to make a revision to the Birch Hill Bike and Pedestrian Facility project using CMAQ funds and inquired whether the \$300,000 in Phase 3 would be adequate to fund that phase of the project and whether CMAQ funds could be used.

Ms. Gardino stated that she would check on that but the project would not be ready to construct until 2016.

Mr. Anderson stated that DOT would check on that.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about funding for the Phase 7 utilities on the Birch Hill project.

Ms. Gardino stated that no money was needed for utilities.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about the status of the Fairbanks Pedestrian Improvements Stage I project.

Mr. Anderson stated that the survey was completed and a conceptual design would be presented and DOT might be able to move the project forward to construction earlier since no right-of-way was needed for the project.

Mayor Ward inquired whether the project scope for College Road Rehabilitation needed to be changed.

Ms. Gardino stated that Mayor Ward was correct and she had just forgotten to highlight that project on the list.

Amendment to the Motion: To change the scope of the College Road Rehabilitation project to read "rehabilitate and repave College Road between University Avenue and Mary Leigh Avenue. (Ward/Schmetzer).

Discussion: No further discussion.

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

Amended Motion: To approve TIP Amendment #7 for public review, as amended.

Vote on Amended Motion: None opposed. Approved.

6. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

7. Other Issues

None.

8. Informational Items

a. Capital Budget Update

Ms. Gardino stated that the \$2 million was back in the budget for the woodstove change-out program. Ms. Gardino stated that the House did not pass the Knik Arm Bridge Bill.

Mayor Hopkins stated that the bill would go back to Committee. Mayor Hopkins stated that there were no changes in allocations to FMATS and DOT got \$1 million for Chena Small Tracts project and could move forward with that.

b. Obligations/Offsets

Ms. Gardino explained the obligations/offset list included in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino stated that the LED Street Light Project was about to go forward and that would change all 212 UAF streetlights to LED lights. Mayor Hopkins inquired if there was any State funding changes.

Ms. Gardino stated that there was \$702,000 remaining on the Noble Street project which was one of three projects and there was currently approximately \$2.8 million dollars total in State funds.

Mayor Hopkins stated that it was something that Technical Committee could discuss at their next meeting.

9. Policy Committee Comments

- Mr. Anderson thanked everyone for getting together today and he knew it was an off time, but it would help DOT get the College Road project money obligated this year.
- Mr. Schmetzer stated that the City of Fairbanks would come back to the Technical Committee for more design money on the South Cushman project as there was a small cost overrun of approximately \$30,000 for unanticipated right-of-way costs.

Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Schmetzer if the City of Fairbanks had had any discussions regarding landscaping on the Illinois Street project.

Ms. Gardino stated that she would add the Illinois landscaping to the next Technical Committee Meeting agenda.

- Mayor Ward stated that he was excited to see the scope change in Peridot and hoped something would finally happen with that project. Mayor Ward stated that the North Pole City Council was looking at a couple resolutions to improve the North Pole High School Boulevard intersection as well as 5th Avenue and Santa Claus Lane intersection by Terry Miller Park which was changed from a three-way to a two-way stop and had tossed around the idea of a roundabout for that intersection. Mayor Ward stated that a streetlight project was being looked at to go through and provide lighting for a couple subdivisions that did not have any.
- Mayor Hopkins stated that there would be news pieces about EPA being sued by Earth Justice for air quality non-attainment issues in Alaska. Mayor Hopkins stated that a ballot measure had been a signature booklet to place on the ballot to restrict the Borough from having any action. Mayor Hopkins stated that Mr. Sattley had been waiting on the telephone for approximately 50 minutes and had not been able to get through.
- Ms. Edwards had no comment.

Motion to Adjourn: (Ward/Walley). The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 am.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 21, 2014 in the DOT&PF Main Conference Room, 2301 Peger Road.

Approved: _____


Mayor Luke Hopkins, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: _____

