



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Council Chambers, City Hall, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK

Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2015

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee	Representative Organization
*Bryce Ward, Chair	Mayor, City of North Pole
*Christine Nelson for Luke Hopkins, Vice Chair	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*John Eberhart	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*David Miller	Northern Region Director, DOT&PF
*Guy Sattley	FNSB Assembly Member
*Perry Walley	City Council Member, City of Fairbanks
*Denise Koch	DEC, Division of Air Quality
**+Donna Gardino	FMATS MPO Coordinator
**Deborah Todd	FMATS Administrative Assistant
**Alicia Giamichael	FMATS Transportation Planner
**Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF Planning
+Judy Chapman	DOT&PF Planning
+Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
Linda Mahlen	DOT&PF Planning
+Jackson Fox	City of Fairbanks
Janice Golub	FNSB
Lee Borden	DEC
Margarita Bell	City of Fairbanks

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

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

4. Approval of the May 20, 2015 Agenda

Motion: To approve the May 20, 2015 Agenda. (Eberhart/Sattley).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of the April 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the April 15, 2015 meeting minutes. (Eberhart/Sattley).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

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

Ms. Gardino presented the highlights from meetings, open houses, conferences, and presentations she had attended.

b. FMATS' Policy Subcommittee Report – Draft (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that there had been several meetings of the Policy Subcommittee and after several document revisions, they had released the draft document to the Technical Committee for review and comment. The Technical Committee had recommended that the draft document be released for public review and comment.

Mr. Sattley inquired how the Technical Committee could recommend that the document be released for public review when there were three items that were not included in the document.

Ms. Gardino stated that the three policies that were missing in the document were being actively worked on and the blanks were left as placeholders to indicate where they would be included.

Ms. Nelson stated that there were two ways that they could do it and that was for them to either release the document for public review with the missing components or wait until the three missing items were completed and then release the document. Ms. Nelson stated that there was no deadline for public review, so the document could be released now or later when the missing policies were in place.

Mr. Walley inquired how long it would take for the missing policies to be included in the document.

Ms. Gardino explained the concepts and policies that were missing and what the status was for each concept and guessed that it would take approximately six months to complete.

Mr. Walley inquired if they were on a deadline.

Ms. Gardino stated that they were not on a deadline.

Motion: To postpone release of the document for public review until the missing sections are completed. (Sattley/No Second). Motion failed.

Motion: To approve the Draft Policy document for public comment. (Eberhart/Walley).

Discussion: Mr. Eberhart stated that he thought it was very important to send out what they did have and it was clear that there were some unfinished items and some people might choose to make suggestions to it and that would be very helpful.

Mr. Walley inquired if the missing items would be brought before the Policy Committee for their review when they were completed.

Ms. Gardino stated that they would be brought back to the Policy Committee when they had them and inserted into the document when approved.

Ms. Nelson stated that in the pre-Policy Committee Meeting they had discussed identifying the incomplete sections in the Table of Contents and making sure that people knew that they could also comment on those sections.

Mr. Miller inquired if they were already following the policies and just putting them together in one place with the document.

Ms. Gardino stated that they had drafted the policies when they were developing the current TIP and decided to take the MTP and all the short range project in the plan and decided that they would nominate and score all those projects. Ms. Gardino stated that they were also breaking down items in the TIP into funding tables to make it clearer. Ms. Gardino stated that the thing that they had included was the 80-20 split for roadway and non-motorized projects.

Mayor Ward stated that the reason behind the document had been to establish policies to give direction and guidance about how FMATS operated.

Vote on Motion: Six in favor. One opposed. (Sattley). Approved.

c. FMATS Improvement Program Subcommittee Report (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that the FMATS Improvement Committee Meeting was held annually where entities brought their wish lists of those projects that took less time to repair and to preserve the existing life of the transportation system. Ms. Gardino stated that this year there were priority projects and it was requested by DOT&PF that FMATS escalate the process so that they could get the list for review to get an idea of how much money there were looking at. Ms. Gardino stated that she did not expect to have a lot of money next year but thought that it was important to have projects on the shelf and ready so they did not have to keep banking money. Ms. Gardino stated that that she would recommend that the Policy Committee not commit more than \$1 million towards construction given that the Noble Street project would be taking up the bulk of their funding next year.

There was a discussion about Phillips Field Road guardrail project which yielded a general consensus against funding the project by several Policy Committee members who had concerns about the guardrail and whether it was safe in that area.

Mayor Eberhart inquired about the past project that had proposed shoulder placement on Phillips Field Road and whether that idea was still being studied.

Motion: To approve the followings roads for the FFY16 FMATS Improvement Program: Turner Street, Rickert Street, Marshall Drive, Panorama Drive, Heather Drive, Hans Way, Doughchee Bridge, 5th Avenue Pedestrian Path, Blanket Boulevard Path, 8th Avenue Path, Snowman Lane Path, Storm Drains and Culverts. (Eberhart/Walley).

Discussion: Mr. Sattley inquired if the Technical Committee had reviewed the project list.

Ms. Gardino stated that normally process was for the Technical Committee to review the list and make recommendations to the Policy Committee.

Ms. Gardino stated they initiated the process and accelerated it because they had to have a Project Management Plan in place so that design funds could be obligated this year. Mr. Sattley stated that he would vote for it, but felt it was severely lacking information.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

7. Old Business

a. Noble Street Upgrades Project Design Increase (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that this agenda item had been postponed to obtain more information regarding the reason for the design increase.

Ms. Koch explained that she spoke to Jim Fish of the DEC Contaminated Sites Office in Fairbanks and he had assured her that he had been in contact with DOT but neither DEC or DEC-contractors had done this work so DOT sampling would not be duplicated work since DEC had not sampled that area.

Ms. Gardino stated that DOT needed the funding in order to proceed with hazardous material testing and other items that were on the list.

Motion: To approve \$200,000 design increase for the Noble Street Upgrade Project. (Walley/Nelson).

Discussion: Mayor Ward inquired about the status and amount of remaining funds.

Ms. Nelson stated that she had raised an issue at the Technical Committee about the redesign of the Complete Streets project and whether the contractor had ignored or not done the work appropriately. Ms. Nelson stated that she hoped that would be followed up on by DOT with the Contractor to ensure that they were not funding things twice. Mr. Miller stated that he did not have direct knowledge to say whether that was the case.

Vote on the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

8. New Business

a. Cushman Street Construction Increase (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that this item had not gone to the Technical Committee as it had just recently come up since the bid opening the prior Friday.

Ms. Gardino explained the reason for the increase request was to bring the funds up to low bid. She noted the low rate given for CENG. Ms. Gardino stated that the funds necessary and since it was a completely State funded project, Federal funds could not be used.

Mr. Walley stated that the City Council had passed the project based on the contingency that the additional funding would be provided by FMATS.

Mayor Ward inquired about the Tanana/Alumni Drive Project status.

Ms. Gardino stated that she was not sure about the status of the project.

Ms. Carpenter stated that DOT was working on the Scope, Schedule, and Budget for the project.

Mayor Ward inquired if they had to pull money from somewhere, could it be pulled from the Tanana/Alumni Drive project.

Ms. Gardino stated that they would have to find State money.

Ms. Gardino stated that the funding was definitely there and could be used but then she did not know what that meant for future funds availability for the Tanana/Alumni Drive project.

Mr. Walley inquired if the \$799,000 would be coming out of SB46 funding.

Motion: To approve the \$799,265.93 in additional funding using SB46 funds for the Cushman Street Reconstruction Project. (Walley/Sattley).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. FMATS Improvement Program Construction Increase (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that this was the FY15 Improvement Program and they were working on the final paperwork and the total had gone up \$141,000 for Aurora and Auburn Drive due to the addition of an inch of asphalt to make it three inches instead of two. There is three inches in place now.

Motion: To approve \$141,000 of additional funding for the FFY15 FMATS Improvement Program. (Walley/Nelson).

Mr. Pristash explained that there would be grade problems if they were to replace the asphalt with only two inches of asphalt rather than three inches that was already there.

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. FMATS Pedestrian Improvements Stage I Increase for Phases 2 & 7 (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained the reason for the increase in order to get the project which was included in the TIP out to construction this year.

Motion: To approve an increase of \$150,000 for a total of \$200,000 for the FMATS Pedestrian Facility Project-Stage I. (Nelson/Sattley).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

d. Gold Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Design Increase for Phase 2

Ms. Gardino stated that the project was going to construction this year and the Technical Committee had requested more information to justify the increase request.

e. 2015–2018 TIP Development Update–Project Scores and Schedule Changes

Ms. Gardino explained the delay in the release of the TIP from May to June. Ms. Gardino stated that she hoped to have the new TIP out to the Technical Committee next week. Ms. Gardino stated that there would be at least two public meetings and they were developing online information to involve the public as much as possible. Ms. Gardino stated that the consultant would be working on the conformity information. Ms. Gardino stated that all the comments received would be compiled and presented to the Policy Committee for their review and then the document would be submitted to FHWA.

9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

10. Other Issues

No other issues.

11. Informational Items

a. AMPO Presentation on MAP-21 Reauthorization

Ms. Gardino gave a presentation and update to the Policy Committee.

Ms. Gardino stated that the House had passed a bill to extend the Highway

Trust Fund for two more months and that bill was currently going to the Senate. Ms. Gardino stated that the two month extension would get them through July.

b. Obligations/Offsets

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

12. Policy Committee Comments

- Mr. Miller stated that it had been a tough week for the State with the paper citing 15,000 layoffs and it was disturbing. Mr. Miller commented that he hoped the Legislature could come to an agreement. Mr. Miller stated that the Sag River had washed out the road at MP394 and DOT was actually pulling sections of the road out to allow the water to flow east to west and the flow was starting to threaten Deadhorse. Mr. Miller stated that contractors were staged and ready to rebuild sections of road that were damaged after the water receded.
- Mayor Eberhart thanked the Policy Committee for approving the shortfall money on the Cushman Complete Streets project. Mayor Eberhart commented that the City was also looking for grants to increase projects in the downtown area.
- Mr. Walley commented that he wanted to echo Mayor Eberhart's thanks and remind everyone that Memorial Day weekend was coming up so people should keep fireworks to a minimum and enjoy the sun.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. (Walley/Nelson). The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks.

Approved: 

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: 6-17-15