



POLICY COMMITTEE

Main Conference Room
State of Alaska DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska
Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2013

1. Call to Order

Chair Steve Titus called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

| Attendee | Representative Organization |
|--------------------------|---|
| *Mayor Jerry Cleworth | Mayor, City of Fairbanks |
| *Mayor Bryce Ward | Mayor, City of North Pole |
| *Mayor Luke Hopkins | Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough |
| *Guy Sattley, Vice-Chair | FNSB Assembly Member |
| *Perry Walley | City of Fairbanks, City Council |
| *Steve Titus, Chair | DOT&PF, Northern Region Director |
| *Alice Edwards | DEC Air Quality |
| +Joan Hardesty | DEC Division of Air Quality |
| ***Donna Gardino | FMATS, MPO Coordinator |
| **Deborah Todd | FMATS, Administrative Assistant |
| **+Margaret Carpenter | DOT&PF Planning |
| +Michael Schmetzer | City of Fairbanks, Public Works & Engineering |
| Linda Mahlen | DOT&PF Planning |
| Barry Hooper | DOT&&PF Design |
| Judy Chapman | DOT&PF Planning |
| Jennifer Anderson | DOT&PF Planning |
| Kellen Spillman | FNSB Community Planning |
| Brian Lindamood | Alaska Railroad |
| Susan Swain | Weststat Project Director-Fbks. Household Travel Survey |
| Kris Riesenber | FHWA |
| Dan Bross | KUAC |
| Bill Robertson | Citizen |
| Mary Ann Nickles | Citizen |

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

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

None.

4. Approval of June 19, 2013 Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the June 19, 2013 Agenda. (Hopkins/Sattley).
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved

5. Approval of May 15, 2013 Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the May 15, 2013 meeting minutes. (Sattley/Edwards).
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

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

Ms. Gardino provided an update and highlights from meetings she had attended and all other FMATS activities that had occurred from the report provided in the meeting packet.

b. Preventive Maintenance Subcommittee

Ms. Gardino explained the preventive maintenance projects that were being considered for next year from the list included in the meeting packet. Mayor Hopkins stated that he would like to see a couple columns added to the spreadsheet so that the ordinances that come before the Borough Assembly could be timed to coordinate with the road service area maintenance and the Borough's scheduling of maintenance projects in a timely manner. Ms. Gardino stated that she would include a match target so that people could see the match for the different borough road service districts.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

a. FMATS ADA Curb Corner Upgrade Phase 4 Increase (Action Item)

Mr. Titus explained that this increase had been determined to be unnecessary after reevaluation.

b. College Road Phase 2 Increase (Action Item)

Motion: To approve a Phase 2 increase of \$100,000 for the College Road Rehabilitation Project using offset funding. (Cleworth/Hopkins)

Discussion: Ms. Gardino explained the email from Russ Johnson of DOT included in the meeting packet regarding the need for the Phase 2 funding increase. Mayor Hopkins stated that the project scenario is similar to the delays encountered with the Noble Street project where utilities caused a contract delay and inquired if there were going to be a meeting with GVEA to address utility delay issues on future projects. Mr. Hooper stated that a summary of all the utility issues that have been encountered by DOT with GVEA was being drafted and there would be a meeting with GVEA to discuss the issues. Mr. Titus stated that he had a memo drafted to GVEA addressing the delays with utilities for future projects. Mayor Hopkins inquired if GVEA would still have to review the utility contracts and sign off on even if they were done by a consultant before construction could proceed. Mr. Titus stated that GVEA has agreed to review projects in a timely fashion after discussions with them. Mr. Sattley asked for an explanation of what the hiring a consultant does with respect to the utilities in layman's terms. Mr. Hooper explained that the consultant hired would have expertise in electrical engineering and would look at the system and come up with a design for the utilities that would then have to be approved by GVEA.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. Noble Street Upgrade Phase 2 Increase (Action Item)

Motion: To approve a Phase 2 increase of \$150,000 for Noble Street Upgrades using offset funding. (Edwards/Hopkins)

Discussion: Ms. Gardino explained that additional funding was required to rework design features to be more compatible with the Complete Streets Project.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

d. McGrath Road Upgrade Scope and Budget (Action Item)

Motion: To modify the scope of the McGrath Road Upgrade project to upgrade McGrath Road between Farmers Loop and the Old Steese Highway with improvements to the existing separated bicycle/pedestrian path as needed. (Hopkins/Sattley)

Discussion: Ms. Gardino explained that 1.3 miles of the road was in bad condition and the bulk of the work consisted of shoulder widening. Ms. Gardino further explained that the last 1.7 miles of the road where the road was really narrow required large amounts of right-of-way acquisition, so the focus for the bulk of the money would be on the lower section and the rehabilitation of the upper section of the project corridor. Ms. Gardino stated that conformity would not be required since the project would be just a rehabilitation of the existing road. Mayor Hopkins inquired about whether the responsibility of the bike path and road would belong to DOT. Mr. Titus explained that the road and bike path would both be DOT's responsibility. Mayor Cleworth inquired whether the space between the road and the bike path on the bottom half of McGrath Road was State right-of-way and whether the bike path went all the way to the top of the road. Ms. Gardino explained that it was State right-of-way and the bike path did not go all the way to the top of the road and there were houses very close to the road so adding additional right of way to the shoulder of the road would not be an option. Ms. Gardino stated that the survey information would help determine what would go there but she did not envision a separated facility in that area. Mr. Sattley stated that in his opinion the main issue on the lower half of the road was the lack of shoulder on the road. Mayor Ward stated that he grew up in that area and one of the concerns of people who lived in the area had been that there was no bike path connection between the Chena Hot Springs Road area, the Fox area and town. Mayor Ward inquired if there were any information about how many people traversed the top half of that road. Mr. Titus stated that there was no data for that area. Mr. Titus stated that a lot would be learned about the project as the survey data was collected and the observations made at today's meeting were good ones.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

e. TIP Amendment #5 Draft (Action Item)

Motion: To approve TIP Amendment #5 for public comment. (Cleworth/Hopkins)

Discussion: Ms. Gardino explained the four pages of TIP revisions included in the meeting packet in detail.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

f. STIP Amendment #6 Comments (Action Item)

Motion: To send STIP Amendment #6 comments to ADOT&PF Headquarters. (Edwards/Ward)

Discussion: Ms. Gardino explained the STIP Amendment comments and funding information included in the meeting packet. Mayor Hopkins inquired about NHS funding allocations and the reason for the delay of bridge replacement work on

University Avenue. Mr. Titus stated that DOT would be happy to give the Policy Committee an update on the University Avenue project and he would look into the delay issues and bring all the information including the funding information to the next meeting. Mr. Sattley inquired about the current thinking for the railroad crossing on University Avenue and whether it was going to be rebuilt or what had been decided on that. Mr. Titus stated that an overcrossing had been planned for that crossing and it was currently an unfunded project. Mr. Sattley inquired whether the other stages of the project could proceed while the crossing issue was being hashed out. Mr. Titus stated that the other phases would be able to proceed.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

Mary Ann Nickles stated that at the previous Technical Committee Meeting there had been discussion about Gillam Way and she wondered if there were any Cowles Street projects in the works, as that street had more traffic than Gillam Way. Ms. Gardino stated that Cowles Street Reconstruction was a project listed in the TIP and Mr. Schmetzer's crew had been out there trying to determine priorities for that project. Mayor Cleworth stated that the City had been discussing what to do to improve the sidewalks in that area using the existing corridor.

10. Other Issues

None.

11. Informational Items

a. Household Travel Survey Update

Ms. Anderson from DOT Planning introduced Susan Swain from Westat Research Corporation who gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Fairbanks Household Travel Survey they were conducting for DOT Planning to update the MTP and Travel Model for the region. Ms. Swain explained the survey and what was involved in participation, data collection and retrieval, and the proposed outcome they hoped to achieve. Ms. Swain stated that if there were any questions, people could contact her by email at: SusanSwain@Westat.com or by telephone at (301) 294-3890.

b. Illinois Street Reconstruction Update

Ms. Gardino explained that the Historical Plaque team was working diligently on finalizing the plaques for the greenspace and hoped to have them installed this year. Ms. Gardino stated that they were still working on construction of the concrete foundation for the greenspace art piece and then the art contract agreement would be finalized.

c. Gillam Way Upgrade Project Status

Ms. Gardino stated that there would be a project status meeting between ADOT&PF and the City of Fairbanks on June 20, 2013 at 1 p.m. at DOT to discuss proceeding with the Gillam Way Upgrade project.

d. CMAQ Funding

Ms. Gardino explained the CMAQ Funding spreadsheet summary included in the meeting packet.

e. State Rail Plan Update

Ms. Gardino explained the State Rail Plan update information included in the meeting packet.

f. Obligation/Offset List

Ms. Gardino presented information regarding additional obligations and offsets included in the meeting packet.

g. Legislative Information

Ms. Gardino explained the legislative update summary information included in the meeting packet. Mayor Hopkins requested that the link to the legislative information be sent to the Policy Committee members.

h. Railroad Mega-Project Update

Ms. Gardino explained the Railroad Mega Project update included in the meeting packet.

12. Policy Committee Comments

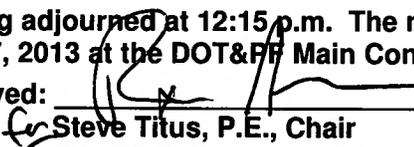
- Mayor Hopkins welcomed Judy Chapman back to DOT and stated that he looked forward to working with her for a few more years. Mayor Hopkins stated that he would like to have more discussion about CMAQ funding, updates for the Yankovich-Miller Hill Bike Path including what DOT&PF was looking at doing around the farm road, update on the Phase 2 design of Birch Hill Bike Path, and the University Avenue NHS project at the next meeting. Mayor Hopkins stated that he had concerns about landscape features, the obligation for maintaining landscape features, and now that it was an NHS project did the NHS include landscaping funds in those types of projects. Mayor Hopkins inquired if the last sentence in the STIP comments letter to DOT Headquarters could be changed to "FMATS is requesting a sit down with the State" instead of "willing to sit down with the State" as it seemed too wishy-washy. Mr. Titus stated that he saw no reason why that revision could not be made to the letter and instructed Ms. Gardino to revise the letter.
- Mayor Cleworth inquired about maintenance of the median on Airport Way and when it was scheduled to start. Mr. Titus stated that the median was scheduled to be mowed but not watered or anything else. Mayor Cleworth stated that he questioned the need for the Fairbanks Household Travel Survey, the amount of money spent on it, and the use of the data results obtained from it.
- Mayor Ward stated that construction started in North Pole on the bike path and he was looking forward to all the upcoming projects that were going on this year thanks to FMATS.
- Mr. Sattley stated that it was a good meeting and informative.
- Mr. Walley asked when the Westat focus group would meet. Ms. Gardino stated that the meeting would be held on June 19 and 20 from 6-8 p.m. at Sophie Station Hotel in Zach's Restaurant. People would be compensated for their time, the group would look at branding and try to get a feel from local residents about what would best get people to participate in the study.

13. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn.** (Sattley/Walley).
- **Vote on the motion.** None opposed. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2013 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room on Peger Road.

Approved: _____


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

Date: 7/17/2013