

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**  
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2011

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Steve Titus 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
* Steve Titus, P.E.	DOT&PF, Regional Director
* Mayor Jerry Cleworth	City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Luke Hopkins	Fairbanks North Star Borough
* Mayor Doug Isaacson	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
*** Bruce Carr	ARRC
*** Jeff Roach	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Bernardo Hernandez	FNSB, Planning
*** Michael Wenstrup	FNSB Planning Commission
** Kellen Spillman	FMATS
** Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF, Planning
Representative Steve Thompson	District 10
Representative Tammie Wilson	District 11
Janet Brown	DOT&PF, Pre-construction
Ethan Birkholz	DOT&PF, Planning
Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
Mary Ann Nickles	Public
Dan Bross	KUAC Radio
Kris Riesenber (Teleconference)	FHWA
Albert Beck	DOT & PF, Pre-construction

**3. Public Comments:**

Ms. Mary Ann Nickles said that she feels the raised planters along Second Avenue, near the Carlson Center, are a danger and it is difficult to see over them when driving.

**4. Approval of the June 15, 2011 Agenda**

- **Motion:** To approve the June 15, 2011 Policy Committee agenda. (Hopkins, Edwards)
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**5. Approval of May 18, 2011 Minutes**

- **Motion:** To approve the May 16, 2011 minutes. (Roberts, Edwards)

**Discussion:** Mayor Isaacson said he would like the word Legislator changed to Legislature on page 14, paragraph 3, sentence 3, in the minutes.

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

## **6. Committee Reports**

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

Ms. Gardino discussed several of the highlights of the Coordinator's Staff Report:

- Attended weekly Transportation Committee meetings of the Chamber of Commerce.
- Interviewed as a stake holder for the Strategic Traffic Safety Plan (STSP)
- Attended the Plack Road Open House
- Interviewed on the Charlie O'Toole Show along with the Plack Road Project Manager
- Completed the interagency consultation for the Airport Way West project level conformity and the comment period for that particular project ends today
- Facilitated the completion of the traffic travel model update
- Hosted the first Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Open House
- Attended a NEPA training session
- Completed the draft of the 2012 – 2015 TIP

Mr. Titus introduced Representative Tammie Wilson.

### **b) Preventive Maintenance Subcommittee Report**

Ms. Gardino said that before she speaks on the Preventive Maintenance Subcommittee Report she would like to point out that there is a summary of the 381 funding expenditures available in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino pointed out that with the proposed actions there is currently \$588,538.32 remaining in the 381 funds.

Ms. Gardino said that the Preventative Maintenance Subcommittee meets every year and is made up of representatives from the City of Fairbanks, the City of North Pole, the DOT & PF, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that these organizations bring with them a list of preventive maintenance projects that they would like to get done. The following projects were agreed upon by the Preventive Maintenance Sub-Committee:

- City of Fairbanks – Executive Park Estates mill and pave
- City of North Pole – Asphalt overlays on North Pole streets
- FNSB – Mill and Pave path behind Pioneer Park
- FNSB – Upgrade 11 approaches in the Farmer's Loop area
- FNSB - Overlays in College and University West subdivisions
- DOT – Spot repairs on Badger Bike path

Ms. Gardino said that the projects have been submitted to the design staff at DOT & PF and they are currently coming up with an estimate on the agreed upon projects. Ms. Gardino said after an estimate is completed on the projects, the Preventive Maintenance Subcommittee will reconvene and distribute the available funds amongst the projects.

## 7. Old Business

### a) Pedestrian Improvement Project (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To split the FMATS Pedestrian Improvement Project into two projects: one for the Davis Road area and one for the Kellum Street area. Fund the preliminary engineering phase of the Kellum Street project using \$200,000 of HB381 funding. (Cleworth/Hopkins)

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that last Policy Committee meeting there was a motion to add the Kellum Street Project to the Pedestrian Improvements project, which encompasses the Davis Park area. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that the roads are very different in these two areas and are owned and maintained by two different organizations. Ms. Gardino said that it makes more sense to create two different projects because they will also be designed by two different organizations. Ms. Gardino said that if they move along through the design process at the same time they could be bid together to realize economies of scale.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he thinks that this is a good idea and the projects should be separated.

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

## 8. New Business

### a) North Pole Pedestrian Interchange Facility Project Update

Ms. Janet Brown, DOT Pre-construction, gave a presentation on the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project.

Ms. Brown said that this project will add a five (5) foot sidewalk along Santa Claus Lane, which would require 20 different properties to be affected through the right-of-way process. Ms. Brown pointed out that a schedule of the project is available in the meeting packet and it appears that Authority to Advertise will be in April of 2014.

Mayor Isaacson noted that the Buzby Road area has been built out significantly since the aerial imagery was taken. Mayor Isaacson continued on to say that the street lights along Santa Claus Lane are in very poor condition. Ms. Brown said that the lights in question are owned by the City of North Pole, but the lights will be replaced as part of this project.

Mayor Isaacson asked if it would be favorable to split this project into phases and Ms. Brown said it would not escalate the project.

Mayor Hopkins asked if there are subdivision plans out by Buzby Road and Ms. Brown said there are development plans out by Buzby Road.

Mayor Cleworth asked if this project could be completed more quickly if the funding were to be available. Ms. Brown said that it could possibly go to construction in 2014 if everything goes according to schedule. Ms. Brown continued on to explain the potential lengthy procedures involved in the right-of-way process.

Mr. Musick asked if it would be possible to sleeve the culverts rather than installing the culverts traditionally and Ms. Brown said that it would be possible, but that decision may possibly be left up to the contractor.

Mayor Isaacson asked if the FMATS Policy Committee should make an amendment to move the construction funding from FFY15 to FFY14, since it now appears that this project will be ready to go to construction in FFY14.

Ms. Gardino said that the draft TIP and the meeting packet were put together before the updated schedule was received on the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that there will be ample opportunities to change the construction funding for this project before FFY15 through amendments. Ms. Gardino said that it would be better to wait until there is an update estimate on this project and other projects before FMATS starts moving projects around. Ms. Gardino said that the TIP does not reflect the 2014 schedule because the project was not expected to be ready in 2014 when she completed the draft TIP. Mayor Isaacson said that he just wants to make sure that this project does not slip further.

**b) South Cushman – Mitchell to Sanduri PH4 Increase (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To fund an additional \$430,000 for the South Cushman Mitchell to Sanduri project, based on the latest engineer's estimate by: moving \$430,000 of FCTP funding from Illinois Reconstruction to South Cushman, moving \$430,000 of 1702 earmark funding (AK092) from the Noble Street Upgrade Project to Illinois Street Reconstruction and adding \$430,000 of SB230 funding to the Noble Street Upgrade Project. (Cleworth/Roberts).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said the project is about ready to ask for Authority to Advertise and the final estimate is \$430,000 more than what was available in the TIP. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that she has taken CTP funding from the Illinois Street Reconstruction project and moved earmark funding from the Noble Street project in FFY13 to the Illinois Street Project. Ms. Gardino said that she then added SB 230 funding to the Noble Street project in FFY13, as a place holder.

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

**c) 2012 – 2015 TIP and Associated Conformity Determination**

Ms. Gardino noted that there is a sheet in the meeting packet that summarized the changes that have been made since the first draft 2012 – 2015 TIP was complete. Ms. Gardino said that she had hoped to have an action item on the TIP and conformity analysis at the meeting, but there were difficulties in completing the conformity analysis prior to this meeting. Ms. Gardino continued to say that the Policy Committee will see the 2012 – 2015 TIP and associated conformity next month prior to releasing the TIP for public comment. Ms. Gardino said that the schedule is being pushed a month, but the 2012 – 2015 TIP should still be in place prior to the October 1, 2011 deadline. Ms. Gardino said that the TIP is included in the meeting packet for informational purposes only.

Mayor Isaacson asked if the construction funding should be moved into FFY14 for the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project before the 2012 – 2015 TIP goes out for public comment. Ms. Gardino said it would be simple to add state funding to the project if the Policy Committee wished, or it would be complicated to move the federal funding around to accommodate this project. Mr. Titus said that in the future there will be multiple opportunities to move this funding around and he believes it to be beneficial to wait until there is an updated estimate.

Ms. Edwards pointed out that if state funding is put into the construction phase of the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project in FFY14, there would still be the federal funds from the right-of-way, of a separate project, to allocate in FFY14. Ms. Gardino said that would not be a problem because funding is being borrowed from FFY16 to bring South Cushman (15<sup>th</sup>-Mitchell) to construction in FFY15.

Mayor Hopkins asked if there is other GF money put in projects as far out as FFY14 and Ms. Gardino said that in a previous action at the meeting that the Policy Committee put \$430,000 of SB 230 funding on the Noble Street project.

Mayor Cleworth said that there are certain projects that just seem to slip and he suggested prioritizing certain projects. Mayor Cleworth noted that he receives more calls on South Cushman Street than any other street in Fairbanks.

**d) Preventive Maintenance Program PH2 Increase (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To fund an additional \$200,000 for PH2 of the Preventive Maintenance program, using offset funding. (Cleworth/Hopkins).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that there was \$100,000 in the TIP to begin the design of the Preventive Maintenance Program and this additional \$200,000 will allow the design of all three years to be funded in what is called a "one step." project Ms. Gardino said a one step will allow the entire design to be funded up front which will ultimately expedite the project. Ms. Gardino noted that the \$200,000 is offset funding and this would obligate immediately, if the Policy Committee approved this motion.

Mayor Isaacson asked where this funding would be coming from and Ms. Gardino said that this funding would be coming from the pot of offset funding. Ms. Gardino said that a summary of the current offsets and offset obligations is available in the back of the meeting packet and if this action is approved, there would be \$64,000 remaining.

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

**e) State Rail Plan – Resolution (Action Item)**

Mr. Titus noted that a draft resolution is available in the meeting packet.

- **Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee to forward the resolution in support of a State Rail Plan update to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. (Isaacson/Hopkins).

**Discussion:** Mr. Bruce Carr, ARRC, said that the foundation for this resolution actually began in the Mat-Su Borough and Anchorage. Mr. Carr continued on to say that, at the national level, there are a number of programs funded through the Department of Transportation, and to be eligible, there must be a current State Rail Plan. Mr. Carr said that it is difficult for the state of Alaska to compete on the national level, but it is impossible without a state rail plan. Mr. Carr said that the last plan was completed in 1986 with a brief update in 1990, due to the Whittier Tunnel. An effort was made to update it in the mid 1990's, but that effort was not finished. Mr. Carr said that AMATS is considering a resolution, the Mat-Su Borough, and the Haines Borough, illustrating that this is a state wide issue.

Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Carr how long it would take to update the State Rail Plan and Mr. Carr said that the ARRC estimates it would take eight (8) months to one (1) year. Mr. Carr continued on to say that the estimated cost of conducting an update is \$500,000 to \$750,000, judging from other state rail plans that he has looked into. Mr. Carr said that he believes that amount of funding adequate for the plan to cover the extension projects that the state has planned as well as look into economic development projects such as an extension to Canada.

Mr. Roberts asked if the DOT staff would take on and handle this plan and Mr. Carr said that it would probably be handled by DOT Headquarters and the local regional offices are not expected to fund the plan. Mr. Carr said that the local regions would be asked to participate in the plan, but headquarters is anticipated to take the lead.

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

**f) Wendell Street ADA – Additional Work (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To add Noble Street reclamation from Wendell Avenue to First Avenue to the Wendell ADA project. (Roberts/Edwards).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that there are two projects that are taking place in this area, the Wendell Avenue ADA project and the Noble Street project, neither of which will address the 294 feet of Noble Street from Wendell Street to First Avenue. Ms. Gardino noted that there is a graphic illustrating this motion in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino said that the Wendell Avenue ADA project is saving some funding because of the construction methods they are using and the saved funding could go toward reclaiming this section of roadway.

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

**g) August Policy Committee Meeting Date (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To set a new date for the August Policy Committee meeting to August 24. (Hopkins/Edwards).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that FMATS will be going out for public comment for the 2012 – 2015 TIP and Conformity Analysis on July 21 and that will go through August 19, which is two days after the originally scheduled Policy Committee date. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that to accommodate the complete public comment period, she is suggesting moving the meeting date.

- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.
- **Motion:** To move the July 20, 2011 Policy Committee meeting date to July 21, 2011. (Hopkins/Cleworth).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said she will check with room availability and possibly find another room if necessary.

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

**h) Coordinator's Authorization to use State funds for PH4 Increases (Clarification)**

Ms. Gardino said there is a matrix available in the meeting packet defining the authority levels of the FMATS' staff, the Technical Committee, and the Policy Committee have. Ms. Gardino said that she wanted clarification on whether this matrix just applied to federal funding or if the matrix applied to state funding also. Ms. Gardino noted that the matrix, which was specifically developed to address actions during construction, does not specifically define the funding source.

Mr. Titus asked the FMATS Policy Committee what their opinion on the matter was. Mayor Hopkins said that he feels it would be acceptable for Ms. Gardino to use state funding for these actions. Mr. Roberts stated that he agreed with Mayor Hopkins.

Mr. Titus said that he believes Ms. Gardino to have the authority to use state funds.

Mr. Titus noted that an amendment was made June 16 to this matrix stating that FMATS' staff does not have the authority to approve up to \$100,000 in PH4 during seasonal shutdown or after substantial completion of the project. Mr. Titus questioned why FMATS was taking this authority away from the FMATS Coordinator during seasonal shutdown and said that the term seasonal shutdown is hard to define. Mr. Titus asked the FMATS Policy Committee what their opinions on the amendment regarding seasonal shutdown were.

Mayor Hopkins said that he remembered their being a certain project that caused this amendment to be passed.

Mr. Roberts asked Ms. Gardino if she was in favor of this amendment when it was passed. Ms. Gardino said that if she ever has questions about a request she will bring it to the Technical Committee meeting. Ms. Gardino said if there is a request that she is unsure of that she always brings the request to the Technical Committee.

Mr. Titus said that the Coordinators track record is impeccable and some of these issues are time sensitive. Mr. Titus continued on to say that he views this amendment as restricting the FMATS Coordinator by limiting her ability to perform.

- **Motion:** To move that FMATS' Staff does have the authority to approve up to \$100,000 in PH4 during seasonal shutdown or after substantial completion of the project. (Hopkins/Cleworth).

**Discussion:** Mr. Schmetzer said that he is responsible for initiating the amendment at the FMATS Technical Committee level. Mr. Schmetzer continued on to say that because of charges coming in during the shutdown of a particular construction project he wanted to view the charges because his department had to pay match on all of the charges. Mr. Schmetzer said that the project in question was Cowles Street and a \$200,000 overrun, which did not show up until six (6) months after the project was completed. Mr. Schmetzer said that during the offseason there is really no rush to approve funding, but during the construction season, Ms. Gardino has to make quick decisions at times.

Mr. Titus asked Mr. Schmetzer if the particular charge on Cowles had been approved and Mr. Schmetzer said that the charge did not get approved. Mr. Schmetzer said the original request was \$200,000 which was reduced to \$97,000 which was eventually rescinded and billed to Phase 7 of the project.

Mayor Hopkins said that at certain times the FMATS Policy Committee has chosen to use GF funding to cover matches and in the future if Mr. Schmetzer needs assistance with matches it could be discussed at the FMATS Policy Committee.

Mayor Cleworth said that he would like more time to acquire additional information on the issue.

- **Motion:** To postpone action on the above motion until the next Policy Committee meeting. (Cleworth/Isaacson).

**Discussion:** Mayor Isaacson asked if this postponement would delay any projects and Ms. Gardino said she did not expect this to delay any actions.

Mr. Musick asked if there has been an issue since the amendment has been passed and Mr. Titus said, to his knowledge, there was not been a problem since the issue was passed. Ms. Gardino said that was accurate.

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

## 9. Public Comments

Representative Steve Thompson, District 10, said that he would like to speak on the capital budget and inform the FMATS Policy Committee what happened down in Juneau. Rep. Thompson said after the Senate made up the Capital Budget and transmitted it to the House he approached Senator Thomas, who sits on the Senate Finance Committee, and mentioned to him that there was zero funding for any projects in the City of Fairbanks city limits. Rep. Thompson said that Senator Thomas's reply was that he put money in there (the budget) by increasing the Governors Capital Request from \$3,000,000 to \$10,000,000 and the additional \$7,000,000 was for the City of Fairbanks. Rep. Thompson said that he asked Senator Thomas why he did not put the language in there so that it was clarified and Senator Thomas said "he did not think that he needed to and he would attend the FMATS meeting to clarify that the \$7,000,000 is specifically for the City of Fairbanks projects." Rep. Thompson said that Rep. Kawasaki gave Senator Thomas the language to put in to clarify that the \$7,000,000 was for the City of Fairbanks and that Senator Thomas's reply was "that he was going to attend the FMATS meeting and clarify that \$7,000,000 was for City of Fairbanks projects."

Rep. Thompson said as the process moved forward the Alaska House of Representatives did not receive the Capital Budget until about a week before the extended session ended. Rep. Thompson said that on February 2, 2011 a letter was received from the City of Fairbanks stating that the City of Fairbanks had completed their online request of the CAPSIS. Rep. Thompson said that this letter was sent to Senator Coghill, Rep. Gutenberg, Rep. Miller, Rep. Thompson, Rep. Allen Dick, Rep. Kawasaki, Sen. Paskvan, Rep. Tammie Wilson, Rep. Erik Feige, Sen. Albert Kookesh, and Sen. Joe Thomas. Rep. Thompson said that in the CAPSIS request the first item on the City's list was a request for \$7,000,000 for city-wide street improvement. Rep. Thompson said that on February 4, 2011 the City of Fairbanks went into CAPSIS and revised their list to better coordinate and be in line with what the FMATS Policy Committee had requested from the State. Rep. Thompson said that on February 28 his office in coordination with Sen. Paskovan's office, and Rep. Kawasaki's office sat down with a priority list of District 9 and 10 and came up with a list of capital monies that they would like included. Rep. Thompson said that Senator Paskvan included in that list Slaterville Subdivision Streets of \$5,725,000, which was the exact amount that the City of Fairbanks requested on their February 4, 2011 update. Rep. Thompson said that the Senators were very aware back in early February of the City of Fairbanks requests. Rep. Thompson said when the House received the capital budget it did not leave a great deal of room for projects to be added, but nearly all of the Fairbanks projects were added included some non-profit projects and some school projects.

Rep. Thompson said that the Capital Budget has grown to \$3.1 billion and the Governor has stated that he did not want anything more than \$2.8 billion. Rep. Thompson said that he was going to put language in that the \$7 million was for the City of Fairbanks, but decided not to because with a \$3 million cut coming to the capital budget he did not want the City of Fairbanks to be spelled out individually, because the Governor jumped onboard and helped push the \$44 million for the Tanana River Bridge and he made a comment that he would probably make cuts in the Northern Region. Rep. Thompson continued on to say that the Governor did not consider the Tanana River Bridge a statewide project, but rather a Northern Region project. Rep. Thompson said that rather than have the \$7,000,000 stand out he would rather have it left in FMATS because he had assurance from Senator Thomas that he would show up at the FMATS meeting and state that funding is for the City of Fairbanks, because there was no other funding on the Senate's request for the City of Fairbanks.

Rep. Thompson said that they do not know yet what the Governor will cut out of the Capital Budget and he could cut out a lot of the funding that is being discussed. Rep. Thompson said he wanted to clarify the intent of the funding even though the intent language is not included. Rep. Thompson said that he even asked Senator Thomas to bring out the funding for the City of Fairbanks road improvements as an individual line item like he did for the Borough where he has \$5,000,000 for area wide roads, not included in FMATS, but a standalone direct grant. Rep. Thompson said that Rep. Kawasaki is out of

state right now, but that he wanted to be at the FMATS Policy Committee meeting also to say that was their understanding and what they were told by the Senators for the City of Fairbanks.

Mr. Carr thanked Rep. Thompson and Rep. Wilson for assisting with the Tanana River Crossing project, which is the single largest infrastructure project in Interior and has statewide benefit. Mr. Carr said that this project will help the military in maintaining its world class status in the State of Alaska. Mr. Carr thanked Mayor Isaacson and Mayor Hopkins for their strong support for the Tanana River Crossing project.

Mr. Carr said the ARRC plans on having a ground breaking ceremony in Salcha sometime in August or September. Mr. Carr thanked the FMATS Policy Committee for the resolution of support for the Sate Rail Plan.

Representative Tammie Wilson, District 11, said that this year was a very unusual year for the Capital Budget and she was sitting as a freshman on finance. Rep. Wilson said that Rep. Thompson came to her and asked her if they should put language in about the FMATS money or whether they should take it out. Rep. Wilson said that they were at a meeting in the first of December with the City of Fairbanks who first gave them what the requests were and they went back to check with CAPSIS and everything was put in there in a timely fashion. Rep. Wilson said that the Tanana River Bridge was seen as being their project and as much as they talked about it being a statewide project with a statewide impact it ended up being her project. Rep. Wilson said that it is not even in her district, but it ended up being her project, which is fine because the economic development is needed and it is very important to the military. Rep. Wilson said that they did give up a lot of funds because of the bridge and the same thing happened last year. Rep. Wilson said that when the Representative came to her they were sitting on pins and needles with the Capital Budget and they had the confidence in the FMATS team that if the intent was raised on what that money was used for that they did not need to bring some kind of discussion down there (Juneau) and have all of it stripped away. Rep. Wilson said that \$5,000,000 went to the Borough for road service projects and she knows that there are some projects in there for the North Pole area. Rep. Wilson said that she had a discussion with the Senator and asked him whether or not that money should go, part of that to the City, before they opened up the discussion in House Finance to whether or not they need it. Rep. Wilson continued on to say that she was assured, that it was his intent, that the money would go there (City of Fairbanks). Rep. Wilson said she does not know if there was some miscommunication down there, but they are going to work with Mayor Cleworth to try to get things in there sooner rather than later. Rep. Wilson said that she hopes that FMATS looks at some of the money as going to City of Fairbanks Streets.

Rep. Wilson said from her point of view it is confusing having so many requests from so many different entities for road funding. Rep. Wilson said that it looks like a whole lot of requests for one area as compared to a whole plan that lays out the projects. Rep. Wilson continued on to say that the more that the organizations in the Fairbanks area get along and coordinate with projects it sends a strong message to the legislature and the Governor.

Rep. Wilson said that she is holding a meeting for the property owners along Plack Road and thanked DOT for all the work that they are doing so that lines are drawn out for the property owners.

Mayor Isaacson asked Rep. Wilson, in regards to the confusion associated with multiple funding requests, if that does not happen in other areas. Rep. Wilson said that AMATS submits most of the requests for the Anchorage area, but FMATS appears to be unique in that there are so many overlapping boundaries. Rep. Wilson said that if projects have been ranked throughout the entire area it would be easier to push rather than everyone trying to push individual projects.

Mayor Hopkins expressed his opinion on the difficulties of ranking all of the projects from the different organizations who own roads in the Fairbanks area.

Rep. Wilson asked if there is a way through FMATS that the process (of funding road projects) could be more clarified. Rep. Wilson expressed concern over seeing a high number of road service areas approaching FMATS about road funding. Rep. Wilson continued on to say that she would like to see road service areas included in the TIP and the STIP.

Mr. Carr said that AMATS is slightly different because when you overlay the boundaries of AMATS on top the boundaries of the Municipality of Anchorage they are almost identical. Mr. Carr said that this leads to a great deal of coordination between the projects that AMATS is requesting funding for and the projects that the Municipality of Anchorage requests.

## **10. Other Issues**

There were no other issues

## **11. Informational Items**

### **a) Steese/Johansen Improvement Project Update**

Mr. Albert Beck, DOT & PF, gave a presentation on the Steese/Johansen Improvement project. Mr. Beck said that this project is a GO Bond funded project.

Mayor Hopkins asked who decides where the funding will go in this project and Mr. Beck stated that the DOT will make that decision, but he is unaware of the process.

Mayor Isaacson asked Mr. Titus when this becomes an FMATS project and Mr. Titus said that any project on the NHS system will never be an FMATS project. Ms. Gardino said that anything that the City of Fairbanks takes over maintenance of could potentially become a project in the TIP.

Mayor Cleworth noted that there were two different resolutions passed by the City of Fairbanks, one resolution to take over maintenance, only if land could be acquired for a snow dump and one resolution to take over the maintenance on the Bentley Trust Road, only if the Old Steese Highway were to be developed.

### **b) Airport Way West Improvement Project Update**

Ms. Janet Brown gave a presentation on the Airport Way West project.

Mayor Isaacson asked when this becomes an FMATS project and Mr. Titus said that this is a STIP project and FMATS will not be involved besides it being inside the FMATS boundary.

### **c) FFY11 Obligation and Offset List Update**

Ms. Gardino said that the current obligation report and offset list are available in the meeting packet.

### **d) Capital Budget Update**

Ms. Gardino said that there is a letter in the meeting packet that she forwarded to the Governor.

Mr. Titus said that as he understands it, there is still \$10,000,000 in the Capital Budget for FMATS.

### **e) Surface Transportation Authorization Update**

Ms. Gardino said that in the meeting packet there are talking points regarding the MPO threshold from the President's preliminary draft proposal. This included eliminating all MPOs smaller than 200,000 in population, which would be 200 of the 382 MPOs. Ms. Gardino said that this is undesirable because land use would be a local function and transportation planning would be a state function. Ms. Gardino said that she just received notification that the House is going to be releasing their Surface Transportation Reauthorization the week of July 4, 2011.

Mayor Isaacson asked Ms. Gardino asked who they should be writing and Ms. Gardino said they should be writing their congressmen as well as the Chairs of the Senate and House Transportation Committee. Ms. Gardino will forward contacts to him.

## **12. Committee Comments**

Mr. Titus thanked Rep. Thompson and Rep. Wilson for attending the meeting and for fighting to secure funding for FMATS. Mr. Titus said that in the letter that was submitted to the Governor five (5) of the eleven (11) projects were City of Fairbanks projects, so he feels that they will get their fare share of the funding. Mr. Titus said that he hopes that this funding does survive the budget cuts because it helps FMATS.

Mayor Cleworth noted that he left the FMATS Policy Committee meeting early last month, before he had an opportunity to hear Senator Thomas speak. Mayor Cleworth said, reading from the minutes, "Senator Thomas stated that he would have to look to see what the City of Fairbanks CAPSIS requests were and they came very late, if at all." Mayor Cleworth continued on to say that this caused the City of Fairbanks a great deal of concern, so the City of Fairbanks, went back and documented all of the e-mails between the Senators. Mayor Cleworth asked Senator Thomas how he could be under the impression that the CAPSIS requests were not submitted. Mayor Cleworth said that the City of Fairbanks will be doing the same thing with Senator Paskvan also. Mayor Cleworth said that the City of Fairbanks was told several different things and the lobbyists sent an e-mail stating what Rep. Thompson said at the meeting today. Mayor Cleworth said that it is a very awkward system and he does not want to be in a future system that he is competing against other projects from the City of North Pole or the Borough.

Mayor Cleworth asked when the FMATS Memorandum of Understanding was signed and Mr. Titus stated that he believed that it was signed in 2007. Mayor Cleworth went on to say that he originally thought that there were two (2) FMATS' employees, but later found out that there were actually four (4) employees funded through FMATS. Mayor Cleworth asked how the salaries of the employees are established and who these employees report to.

Mr. Titus asked if Mayor Cleworth would like that as a report next meeting and Mayor Cleworth said that would be acceptable. Mayor Isaacson said he would like illumination on the issue also. Mr. Titus said the short answer is that there is a DOT employee that does FMATS stuff and a Fairbanks North Star Borough employee that also does FMATS stuff and they are both funded through the UPWP.

Mayor Hopkins said that they are not employees of FMATS and that the employees are funded through a grant. Mayor Cleworth asked if these employees are funded through a FMATS grant and Ms. Gardino said that was correct and the funds are planning funds that are distributed to the DOT, the Borough, and FMATS.

Mayor Isaacson thanked DOT for the presentation on the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities and the urgency put on the project.

Mayor Hopkins said that the MPO issue brought up in the transportation bill was quite a concern. Mayor Hopkins said that he would not like to see the MPO go away because it provides a very needed function to the community and it is a concern.

**13. Adjourn**

- **Motion to adjourn:** (Isaacson, Hopkins). Approved. Adjourned at 12:08 pm.

**Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.**

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

Date: 7/22/11