



POLICY COMMITTEE

Main Conference Room

State of Alaska DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road

Fairbanks, Alaska

Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2013

1. Call to Order

Guy Sattley, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee

*Mayor Jerry Cleworth
*Mayor Bryce Ward
*Mayor Luke Hopkins
*Guy Sattley, Vice-Chair
*Perry Walley
*Ryan Anderson for Steve Titus, Chair
*Alice Edwards
*Joan Hardesty
***Donna Gardino
**Deborah Todd
**Margaret Carpenter
+Michael Schmetzer
Linda Mahlen
Barry Hooper
Al Beck
Kellen Spillman
Brenda Hewitt (via telephone)
Phill Worth
John Ringert

Representative Organization

Mayor, City of Fairbanks
Mayor, City of North Pole
Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
FNSB Assembly Member
City of Fairbanks Council Member
DOT&PF, Northern Region Director
DEC Division of Air Quality
DEC Division of Air Quality
FMATS, MPO Coordinator
FMATS, Administrative Assistant
DOT&PF Planning
City of Fairbanks, Public Works & Engineering
DOT&PF Planning
DOT&&PF Design
DOT&PF Design
FNSB Community Planning
Staff member for Representative Isaacson
Kittleson & Associates
Kittleson & Associates

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

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

None.

4. Approval of July 17, 2013 Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the July 17, 2013 Agenda. (Hopkins/Edwards).
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved

5. Approval of June 19, 2013 Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the June 19, 2013 meeting minutes. (Ward/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.

7. Old Business

a. TIP Amendment #5 Comments, Changes, and Conditional Approval (Action Item)

Motion: To approve TIP Amendment #5 that is expected to close to public comments on 7.19.13 and associated FMATS banking request letter. (Hopkins/Cleworth)

Discussion: Ms. Gardino explained the changes and comments received that were included in the meeting packet. Mayor Hopkins inquired about the luminaires on the North Pole Bike/Pedestrian project and the LED lighting replacements that were made. Mayor Ward inquired if FMATS money that was put towards that project to replace the lights. Mayor Ward stated that four LED lights were changed out but it was his understanding that DOT was going to come back and replaced those lights since the road was a DOT road and DOT did not have a provision for use of LED lighting. Ms. Gardino stated that DOT did not have a standard for LED lighting at this time.

Mayor Hopkins inquired why if FMATS had an approved the project, because the DOT did not have a standard for LED lighting, they were going to take the lights out. Mayor Cleworth stated that if DOT Statewide was looking at creating a different policy for LED lighting standards then why not drag their feet until that standard was decided on. Ms. Gardino stated that she would find out where Statewide was in developing the lighting standards and asked Mr. Anderson if he would also follow up on the DOT lighting standard question.

Mayor Cleworth inquired about the vehicle count budget addition for the College Road project in the banking request. Ms. Gardino stated that there were temporary vehicle counters and this counter was a permanent vehicle counter. Ms. Carpenter stated that the vehicle counter was permanent and counted vehicles all day long every day. Ms. Gardino explained that there were permanent traffic counters located on all major roads in Fairbanks that were used for the traffic model input and air quality conformity analysis. Mayor Cleworth inquired if the cameras triggering the lights were part of that traffic counting device. Ms. Gardino stated that when you see the cameras installed at the lights, it was not for watching you it was to trigger the traffic lights. Mayor Hopkins inquired about the total obligated funds listed on the current banking request.

Ms. Gardino explained that she had partnered two banking requests so the other request would not be forgotten. Mayor Hopkins inquired if the Chena Small Tracts project title was the original project title or if it was the revised title that DOT changed. Mayor Hopkins inquired what document was considered to be the authoritative document for naming the project. Ms. Gardino explained that the money appropriated this FFY had been allocated under the new project title and the last FFY appropriation had a different title as well so she did not have a definitive answer for that question. Mayor Hopkins stated that a title change request should be made to the Legislature to change the project name back to the original name and bring it back to the Policy Committee.

Vote on motion: None opposed. Approved.

8. New Business

a. Public Participation Plan Update Draft (Action Item)

Motion: To approve the release of the Draft Public Participation for public comment. (Hopkins/Ward)

Discussion: Ms. Gardino explained the changes to the plan provided in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino stated that the reason for the update to the plan was to include changes to the Long Range Transportation Plan, inclusion of the new highway bill, name changes, plus addition of a key participation tool used by the Technical Committee to ensure proper vetting of all projects. Ms. Gardino stated that she had also made a lot of changes to the public participation section of the plan since it was very dated material. Ms. Gardino stated that the plan would be posted on the web for comment and brought back to the Policy Committee for approval in September.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. Alaska State Rail Plan Comments (Action Item)

Motion: To approve submittal of the comments on the Alaska State Rail Plan to DOT&PF. (Hopkins/Edwards)

Discussion: No discussion of this motion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. Greenspace Modifications (Action Item)

Motion: To approve modifications to the greenspace, as presented. (Edwards/Hopkins)

Discussion: Ms. Gardino showed the members a PowerPoint drawing of the greenspace area and explained modifications that were made to make the area ADA-compliant and accommodated the historic plaque placement and facilitated ease of maintenance in the area. Mr. Sattley inquired where the sculpture would be placed. Ms. Gardino stated that the sculpture would be approximately 20 ft. from the apex area and accessible from the street for installation of the sculpture. Mr. Sattley inquired if HC Contractors were involved in the design and redesign of the area and installation of the sculpture. Ms. Gardino stated that at this time the concrete foundation was the only thing being installed this summer. Mr. Sattley inquired if there would be a plug-in somewhere. Ms. Gardino stated that there would be a plug-in. Mayor Cleworth inquired about how ice blocks would be installed in the area for ice art in the winter. Borough installed the flowers and is maintaining the area. Mayor Hopkins inquired about where the flowerbeds were installed. Ms. Gardino stated that the seating area would be widened to better accommodate people. Mr. Sattley inquired why the engineering consultant was working for the artist rather than someone else in the food chain and when the consultant came up with the amount for the foundation changes would DOT review the changes and give their estimate and discuss it with the contractor. Mr. Sattley inquired if the motion could be postponed until next meeting.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

d. Request for Foundation Funding (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that she had no budget information to present to the Policy Committee for this action item and it should be postponed until next meeting when there was a dollar amount to present to the committee.

e. STIP Amendment #7 Comments

Ms. Gardino stated that this item was not an action item from the Technical Committee and comments were due August 7, 2013. Ms. Gardino went over the revisions to the STIP that were included in the meeting packet.

9. **Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)**
None.
10. **Other Issues**
None.
11. **Informational Items**
 - a. **College Road Corridor Study Update**
Ms. Gardino explained that there had been a College Road Advisory Group meeting on July 16th and presented John Ringert and Phill Worth from Kittleson & Associates who provided an updated presentation of their findings for the College Road Corridor Study project. Mayor Hopkins stated that the traffic counts for the Bentley Trust area of College Road should be looked at as development in that area would greatly increase traffic numbers in the future. Mr. Walley inquired about traffic numbers and mitigation in the area of the Tanana Valley Fairground during the annual fair when traffic numbers increased substantially and the area becomes very congested.
 - b. **Illinois Street Reconstruction Update**
Ms. Gardino stated that all the girders were set on the Noyes Slough Bridge, the contractor was working on signal installations at the College Road intersection, the aerial utility work was continuing, and the ACS underground system was being spliced. Ms. Gardino stated that DOT and the contractor were addressing cost overruns for safety issues, traffic control, and utilities on the project.
 - c. **Project Updates: Birch Hill, University Avenue Widening, and Yankovich/Miller Hill Road**
Ms. Gardino explained the project updates included in the meeting packet. Mr. Beck, Project Engineer from DOT, gave an update for the Birch Hill project. Mr. Beck stated that Authority to Proceed to final design was received the first week of July. Mayor Hopkins inquired if DOT would maintain Birch Hill and Mr. Beck stated that DOT would be maintaining Birch Hill. Mr. Beck stated that University Avenue would be constructed in four segments with the first segment of construction near Sam's Sourdough Restaurant. Mr. Beck stated that Segment 4 addressed the at-grade railroad crossing. Mr. Hooper gave an update for Yankovich/Miller Hill Road project stating that design work was being coordinated with UAF for Miller Hill and Tanana Loop and anticipated negotiating a maintenance agreement with the University. Mr. Hooper stated that DOT was finishing up the design study report and would be requesting local planning approval in October. Mayor Hopkins inquired about the status of the design for the Farm Road. Mr. Hooper stated that most of Farm Road would be a separated path.
 - d. **State Fund Summary**
Ms. Gardino explained the State Fund Summary included in the meeting packet.
 - e. **Obligations/Offset List**
Ms. Gardino presented information regarding additional obligations and offsets included in the meeting packet.
12. **Policy Committee Comments**
 - Mayor Hopkins-thanked Mr. Sattley for a good meeting and completing it on time.
 - Mayor Cleworth stated that he had learned that serious bicyclists used the side of road and they should accommodate that fact by building a wider roadway.
 - Mr. Sattley thanked everyone for a good meeting.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room on Peger Road.

Approved:  Date: 8/21/13
Steve Titus, P.E., Chair
FMATS Policy Committee