

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System
POLICY COMMITTEE
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2011

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Chad Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

- * FMATS Policy Committee members
- ** FMATS Staff members
- *** FMATS Technical Committee members

Name	Representing
* Ethan Birkholz for Steve Titus, P.E.	DOT&PF, Planning
* 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
** Kellen Spillman	FMATS
** Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
*** Bernardo Hernandez	FNSB, Planning
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
*** Scott Bell	UAF
Guan Griffin	DOT&PF Construction Manager
Pat Shillinger	DOT&PF Project Engineer
Janet Brown	DOT&PF, Pre-construction
John Jackovich	Public
Kris Riesenber (Teleconference)	FHWA
Tom Carlson (Teleconference)	Sierra Research

3. Public Comments:

Mr. Scott Bell, UAF Associate Vice-Chancellor for Facility Services, said that he was present to discuss two UAF projects that appear in the 2012 – 2015 TIP. Mr. Bell said the two projects were the UAF Roundabout at Tanana Loop and Alumni Drive, as well as the Tanana Drive Extension. Mr. Bell said that UAF has been working for a few years to clean up the intersection at Tanana Loop and Alumni Drive, which is referred to as “dysfunction junction.” Mr. Bell said that the estimate from DOT for a roundabout at that intersection came in quite high and UAF has now hired a traffic engineering firm to do a traffic study of lower campus, with results expected in the fall of 2011. Mr. Bell went on to say that the University has been thinking about a roundabout, but there may very well be other options. Mr. Bell said that this intersection is the highest priority on the UAF campus and improvements will not only benefit UAF, but it will also benefit the vehicles that use campus to access western Fairbanks. Mr. Bell asked that the improvements to the Tanana Loop/Alumni Drive intersection be a high priority in the TIP.

Mr. Bell said that Tanana Drive is the dirt road that runs along the west side of the research areas and UAF has built it up over the years with waste dirt. Mr Bell said that UAF would like to receive money to begin final design, preferably state funding, and receive a Transfer of Responsibility Agreement from

DOT. Mr. Bell went on to say that UAF would drill into the site to make sure that there are no soil issues, before improving drainage, capping, and paving the project. Mr. Bell said that UAF would like to receive design funding to help them investigate everything and make sure that the road is in reasonable shape.

Mr. Roberts said that Mr. Rogers presented the FMATS Policy Committee with these projects approximately one year ago.

Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Bell if there has been any progress on the bike bath in terms of bringing it down to the roundabout. Mr. Bell said that there has been progress made on the Yankovich, Miller Hill, Sheep Creek bike path, but the concern is that in front of the UAF Farm there is very little right-of-way available. Mr. Bell said that currently there is a surveyor hired to determine the exact property boundaries before any decisions on why type of path to build are made.

4. Approval of the July 21, 2011 Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the July 21, 2011 Policy Committee agenda. (Cleworth, Isaacson)

Discussion: Mr. Birkholz said that he would like to add Cartwright Road and Curb Corner Upgrades as agenda items, after the Illinois Street Reconstruction agenda item. Mr. Birkholz said that these projects are late breaking construction increases. Ms. Gardino asked if these items could be added after the Surface Upgrades agenda item and there were no objections.

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

5. Approval of June 15, 2011 Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the June 15, 2011 minutes. (Isaacson, Hopkins)
- **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 the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee meetings
- Attended the Chena Riverfront Commission meeting
- Attended an open house on the Plack Road project
- Attended a Mobility Management advisory group meeting
- Participated in multiple teleconferences for the Special Users focus area of the Strategic Traffic Safety Plan
- Scheduled two open houses for the 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Finalized many end of the season change orders and cost increases
- Prepared the 2012 - 2015 TIP to submit to the public for public comment

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

a) Unified Planning Work Program Staff

Mr. Roberts said that this item was brought up at the last Policy Committee meeting and at this point the agenda item is meant for informational purposes.

Ms. Gardino said that available in the meeting packet are the pages out of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that describe the planning process and the responsibilities of each participating agency. Ms. Gardino said that this document defines what the FMATS' staff will be doing for the next two years. Ms. Gardino said that the breakdown of the funding that each staff office receives is also available in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino said that one of the current concerns is that with Planning (PL) funds, they can be transferred between years in a two year program, but must be spent within the two year program. Ms Gardino said that this is of particular concern because there has been a vacancy at the FNSB since May and the UPWP may need to be amended if the FNSB cannot spend all of their Planning (PL) funds as currently programmed.

Mayor Hopkins said that a discussion occurred at the Technical Committee meeting and it was brought up that the PL funds also go towards the GIS system that the FNSB maintains. Ms. Gardino said that the FNSB's GIS responsibility is outlined in the UPWP.

Mr. Roberts asked if this is a grant that can fund the GIS system if FMATS uses the GIS system. Ms. Gardino said that FMATS does use the GIS system frequently and it is used in all of the project development efforts for open houses and other information.

Mayor Isaacson asked how the actual in-kind contributions are calculated and Ms. Gardino said that the actual in-kind match required is \$13,000 and she does know exactly what the amount contributed by each entity as in-kind match is. Ms. Gardino said in the past Mr. Boyce would ask each City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, and FNSB employees that participated in the Technical Committee meetings for a breakdown of their time and document that each quarter. Mayor Isaacson said that in the UPWP it is stated that the timesheets of particular employees are collected and submitted to DOT. Ms. Gardino said that the timesheets are sent to the DOT and she has not seen the actual timesheets.

Mayor Hopkins said that for the grant there are quarterly reports that must be submitted to the DOT where that information is recorded. Mr. Roberts said that the FMATS Policy Committee just assumes that the UPWP quarterly report is completed. Mayor Hopkins said that the finance department at the FNSB compiles that documentation and sends it over to the DOT.

Mayor Isaacson said that for the benefit of the Policy Committee that information should be available in a report format that can be reviewed from time to time. Mr. Birkholz said that the information is available. Mayor Cleworth said that he is confused on certain items such as how positions at the City of Fairbanks and the City of North Pole can be used and reported as match for the FNSB position. Mayor Cleworth continued on to say that the City of Fairbanks contributes services such as office space, IT support, and a vehicle for FMATS which is not documented in the UPWP. Mayor Cleworth said that it might be beneficial to send this agenda item back to Technical Committee to re-allocate the numbers because the City of Fairbanks is providing a match, but it is not being show in the UPWP.

Mayor Hopkins said that on page 21 of the UPWP, the Coordinates Office expenditures are listed and the budget might need to be re-worked if the City is providing services and equipment to FMATS. Mr. Roberts said the way he understands the agreement is that the FNSB receives funding because the FNSB is responsible for planning and these are planning dollars.

Ms. Edwards asked when the next time the UPWP needs to be updated and Ms. Gardino said that a new UPWP will be completed next summer and currently the main concern is that the funds that FMATS has received will be spent in a timely manner. Mayor Hopkins said that the funds are being spent in a timely manner between planning and GIS work.

Mayor Isaacson asked if FMATS is going through the budget too fast and Mayor Hopkins said that the FNSB is staying within the budget. Mr. Birkholz said that if an entity exceeds the budget then they must find a place to charge to, like the DOT is currently doing.

Mayor Cleworth said that he would assume that the planner at the FNSB does work outside the MPO boundaries. Mayor Hopkins said that would be a fair assessment to some degree. Mayor Cleworth asked if it would be more prudent to view the PL funds as a grant to cover a portion of a position and the overhead incurred with the GIS system. Mayor Cleworth asked Mayor Hopkins if the FNSB is going to kick back the funding that would go to the FNSB planner position since there is a three month vacancy at that position. Mayor Hopkins said he is unaware of any kickback at this point and the FNSB is spending according to the budget, including upgrades to the GIS system.

- **Motion:** To have the FMATS Technical Committee rework Page 20 of the Unified Planning Work Program in-kind match and add the City of Fairbanks' contributions. (Cleworth/Isaacson).
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

b) Illinois Street Reconstruction (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino said in the meeting packet there was a sheet outlining the increase for phase 3 and phase 7 of the project as well as a sheet outlining eight action items that will provide for FMATS to go to authority to advertise on the Illinois Street Reconstruction project.

- **Motion:** To approve the recommended motions necessary to bring the Illinois Street Reconstruction project to construction. (Birkholz, Hopkins).

Ms. Gardino said that there was \$1.7 million in phase 7 of the Illinois Street Reconstruction project in the 2010 – 2013 TIP Amendment #5 and only \$269,200 was needed, but there was no funding in phase 3 and \$1,231,283 was needed. Ms. Gardino said that one of the required actions is to move the funding from phase 7 to phase 3 to cover the right-of-way increase. Ms. Gardino said that this still left about \$269,000 available and there was about \$500,000 remaining in PH4 after the construction estimate came in.

Ms. Gardino said that the Surface Transportation Authorization, which was released by the Senate, proposes to eliminate all earmarks. Ms. Gardino went on to say that there is a serious need to make sure that FMATS spends all of their earmarks before they are lost. Ms. Gardino said that some earmark funding from Noble was moved onto Illinois and some of the grandfather funding was moved into the design phase on University Avenue in FFY12. Ms. Gardino said that the down side is that \$1.2 million was moved off of the Noble Street project in FFY13 and at this time she put, as a placeholder, some of the funding that FMATS just received from the Capital Budget. Ms. Gardino said that there will be many opportunities in the future to remove that funding from the Noble Street project if other funding becomes available.

Ms. Gardino said that at the FMATS Technical Committee meeting and Policy Committee meeting next month the newly received funding from the Capital Budget will be discussed and planned for. Ms. Gardino said that some of the extra money, which became available from the Illinois Street project decrease, was used to fund an increase on the Curb Corner project. Ms. Gardino said that the Curb

Corner project had a bid opening recently and the low bid was higher than the engineers estimate, so some additional funding was needed. Ms. Gardino went on to say that the sign replacement project came in for an additional \$35,000, which she can approve.

Ms. Gardino asked Ms. Brown if the DOT was still asking for authority to advertise tomorrow (July 22) and Ms. Brown said plans will be printed next week and then submitted to FHWA by the end of the month (July).

Mayor Hopkins asked if this new schedule, given by Ms. Brown, would affect the ability to obligate the funds this FFY. Mr. Birkholz said that the funding will be obligated this FFY. Ms. Brown said that the Illinois Street Reconstruction project is running low on funding and will probably have to come back to request additional funding to print the plans. Mr. Birkholz said that FMATS should add \$100,000 to phase 2 of the Illinois street project.

Ms. Gardino said that she could not approve the design increase and the Policy Committee would have to do it. Ms. Gardino said the only way to do this would be to move grandfather funding from the design phase on University Avenue back to the Illinois Street project to cover the phase 2 cost increases. Ms. Gardino said that if DOT is aware of this increase today then the Policy Committee should include this increase in their actions.

- **Motion to amend:** To add \$150,000 of GCTP funding to PH2 of the Illinois Street Reconstruction project from the University Avenue Widening project. (Hopkins, Isaacson).

Mayor Isaacson asked how moving \$100,000 off of the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project will benefit the Illinois Street project or delay the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project. Mr. Roberts suggested completing the amendment at hand and returning to the question that Mayor Isaacson had.

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

Mayor Isaacson asked if there are too many projects in the TIP to complete the priority projects that FMATS has. Ms. Gardino said that with the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project, the environmental document is not complete and the project cannot obligate the funding for final design this year. Mr. Birkholz emphasized that the final design phase is slipping in this project and not the construction phase. Mr. Birkholz said that the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project is not slipping because of other projects, but it is slipping because of a SHPO issue with the Santa Claus House. Ms. Edwards asked if the \$100,000, which was taken away from the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project, will be showing up on FFY12 and Ms. Gardino said that she will be programming the \$100,000 for FFY12.

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

c) FMATS Surface Upgrades PH 4 Increase (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To approve a \$94,400 increase to PH4 for the FMATS Surface Upgrades project, using offset funding. The non-federal share will be funded by the respective service areas for their share of the additional work with the funds already paid to the state until those funds are exhausted. Additional match of approximately \$2,301 will be paid with 381 funds. (Hopkins, Birkholz)

Ms. Gardino said that in the meeting packet are a number of spread sheets, which breakdown the service area match amounts, because this project spans multiple service areas. Ms. Gardino said that if

this motion carries then the Smith Ranch service area would still owe \$2,300 and the motion specifies that this deficit will be covered with 381 funding. Ms. Gardino said that rather than going to the specific service area as well as the FNSB Assembly it would be much easier and less time consuming to pay the increase with 381 funding.

Mr. Pat Shillinger, DOT Project Engineer, said that the first increase was Goldizen Avenue which had numerous alligator crack and the contractor recommended doing an overlay. Mr. Shillinger said they deleted out the chips and did an overlay because the contractor was already in the area and the material was the same that they were doing banding and patching with. Mr. Shillinger said that the majority of the increases were along Western Avenue and Broadmoor Avenue which were first looked at two years ago. Mr. Shillinger continued on to say that in the two years there had been significantly more transitional cracks. Mr. Shillinger said that these are the two main roads into the area and this will extend the life of these roads. Mr. Shillinger said there has been significant community support on this project.

Mayor Isaacson asked what this increase would do to the CMAQ funding and Ms. Gardino said that this project is using offset funding and 381 funding not CMAQ funding. Mayor Isaacson asked what this increase would do to the 381 funding and Ms. Gardino said that there is roughly \$600,000 remaining. Mayor Hopkins said that he thinks paying the match on this project with 381 funds is a very good use of the funds to make sure this project is completed this season.

Ms. Edwards asked what the remaining offset funds are after this increase and Ms. Gardino said there will be no remaining offset funds after the meeting today, if all the motions are approved. Mr. Roberts said that FMATS has used state funding in the past as match and he thinks it is a good way to expedite the process and benefit the community.

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

d) FMATS ADA Curb Corner and Sidewalk Upgrades Stage I

- **Motion:** To approve \$152,486 for PH4 on the FMATS Curb Corner Upgrades project, using CMAQ funding, from the Illinois Street Reconstruction project. (Birkholz/Isaacson)

Mr. Birkholz said that this project was one of the few projects this year that came in higher than the engineers estimate. Ms. Gardino said that this project was split into two phases because a portion of the project required some construction easements and FMATS will be doing a second stage next year.

Mayor Isaacson asked how this project fits into the Illinois Street project. Ms. Gardino said the funding is basically restructured taking CMAQ funding away from the Illinois Street Reconstruction project and applying it to the Curb Corner project. Mr. Roberts asked if the air quality funding works for sidewalks as well and Ms. Gardino said it does and it is 100% federal funding. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that the entire project has been funded with CMAQ funding.

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

e) Cartwright Road (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To fund an additional \$427,829 using state funds, to extend resurfacing on the Cartwright Road project from the end of the current project to University Avenue, as amended. (Birkholz, Hopkins).

Mr. Birkholz said that a value engineering estimate was received from the contractor through the construction staff. Mr. Birkholz said that this project was funded through an earmark and does not complete Cartwright Road in its entirety. Mr. Birkholz said that originally it was believed that the engineers estimate was low and DOT asked FMATS to fund \$400,000 of the project. Mr. Birkholz said that the bids came in low and FMATS received all of their funding back.

Mr. Birkholz said that the road is actually as bad all the way to University Avenue and the environmental document covers the length. Mr. Birkholz said that this project would have been an FMATS project if the earmark had not been there and for only \$400,000 the remainder of the road can be added to the project.

Mayor Hopkins asked if it would be more appropriate to call out one of the funding sources to use on this project. Ms. Gardino said a funding source would have to be identified.

Mayor Isaacson asked how much SB230 funding would be remaining if this motion is approved. Ms. Gardino said that there was just under \$2.4 million remaining and \$1.2 million was put on Noble as a placeholder, so if the motion were to be approved, there would be just under \$800,000 remaining. Mr. Roberts asked if SB230 funding expires and Ms. Gardino said that it did not. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that SB230 funding is also being used as a placeholder on the College Road project. Mr. Birkholz said that if federal funding becomes available then the SB230 funding would be swapped out.

Mr. Roberts asked if there is enough 381 funding to cover this cost. Ms. Gardino said that she does not have the 381 accounting with her today, but she believes there to be roughly \$600,000 remaining. Mr. Roberts asked if it makes sense to use the balance of the 381 funds up and Ms. Gardino said that it did. Mayor Hopkins said that he believed 381 funds to be paying a portion of the Coordinator's Office expenses and Ms. Gardino said that was correct. Ms. Gardino said there is 381 funding in the Coordinators Office budget through FFY15.

Mayor Isaacson said that this increase seems like an example of a contractor knowing how to play the game by bidding low and requesting changes. Mr. Birkholz said that is not the case because an additional 4,600 feet is being added to the project. Mr. Birkholz said DOT did the environmental document for the entire road, but there was only enough funding to bid a portion of the roadway out and now the contractor will finish the roadway for this increase.

Mayor Hopkins said that this additional work is beyond the scope of the project.

Mr. Roberts asked what the likelihood of the contractor coming back for additional funding, after this increase. Mr. Birkholz said they have not had a change order in the first half of the project and it is state funding.

Mr. Musick asked if the firm is still mobilized and Mr. Birkholz said they are.

Mayor Isaacson asked how using state funds on this project will affect other projects in the TIP. Mr. Birkholz said that this would normally be an FMATS project, but it had the luxury of getting a legislative appropriation to fund that project. Mr. Birkholz continued on to say that for only a small amount of FMATS funding this project could complete the entire section of road.

Mayor Cleworth asked how long the environmental document would be good for if this additional work were not completed now. Mr. Birkholz said that environmental documents are typically good for about three years.

- **Motion to amend:** Specifying that 381 funds be used to fund the Cartwright Road Project PH4.

(Hopkins, Musick).

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

Mayor Isaacson asked if the only reason to use 381 funds is because it is the oldest funding and Mr. Birkholz said that was correct, but the older funding is more at risk. Mr. Birkholz continued on to say that in the Capital Budget there is often funding that is reallocated, so it is better to spend the oldest funding first.

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

d) Fairbanks Historic Properties (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To add the Fairbanks Historic Properties Identification Project as an Illustrative project to the 2012—2015 TIP. (Hopkins, Birkholz).

Ms. Janet Brown, DOT Pre-Construction, said that the idea is to do an inventory on historical and cultural properties on the roads surrounding projects that are in the TIP. Ms. Brown said that this will give the projects a head start and provide extra reference to projects in the future. Ms. Brown said that currently there is somewhat of an inventory of these historical properties in the SHPO office, but it is probably incomplete and this project would work to complete that list. Ms. Brown said that if this project is funded it would give a head start to projects and move projects along more quickly.

Mr. Birkholz asked if this project is to study the roads or the buildings adjacent to the roads. Ms. Brown said that the roads themselves and the buildings adjacent to the roads go hand in hand and this project would look at both of them.

Mayor Isaacson asked if illustrative means we are not spending the funding now, but FMATS would be obligating themselves to spend the funding later. Ms. Gardino said that if this project is illustrative no funding would be allocated, but if the Policy Committee chose to fund it in the future they could.

Mr. Schmetzer said that the City of Fairbanks would like to have more information on this project because there are a number of projects that are going to be occurring downtown in the next few years. Ms. Brown said that even if the projects are state funded there is still an environmental process to go through. Ms. Brown said if an inventory is done in the future then a project can be more accurately funded and a more accurate project timeline can be drafted.

Mayor Hopkins said that a project would end up at the same point after the SHPO process, but if this project were to receive funding, the cost could be more accurately estimated and a project could go through the environmental process more quickly. Mr. Roberts said he views the project as taking a step out of the environmental process that would have to be done anyway.

Mayor Isaacson asked how long this report would be good for before it would need to be updated. Ms. Brown said that on the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facility, it took time to determine if the Santa Claus house was eligible as a historic property, but if it were evaluated by this project, the designers would already know if it were a historical property. Ms. Brown said that the environmental process is still part of each project.

Mayor Isaacson said they moved the Santa Clause House to its current location over 20 years ago and there is nothing historical about it. Mayor Isaacson asked how long this inventory will last and Ms. Brown said that when a project is determined eligible it is on SHPO's database for the life of the structure. Ms.

Brown continued on to say that properties could be added further down the road that might not be considered historic at the current time.

Ms. Edwards said if all of these building are documented then you could reference that documentation further down the road.

Mayor Cleworth said he thinks it would make more sense to do an inventory with each project. Mayor Cleworth asks who makes the final determination on whether a project is historic or not. Ms. Brown said if a project is FHWA funded then FHWA makes the final determination and if it is state funded then SHPO makes the final determination. Ms. Brown said that privately owned structures can be historic, but the owner of the structure can demolish the structure.

Mr. Schmetzer said that there are several ongoing projects that are not covered in the project nomination form. Ms. Gardino said the scope is very generic and projects could be added to the project.

Mr. Musick asked if the Big I was considered historic and Ms. Brown said the Big I was determined not eligible.

Mayor Cleworth asked who would be hired to do this inventory. Ms. Brown said a qualified individual, usually with a masters degree in history or architecture would go look at these structures and determine if they were eligible and a letter would be written to FHWA or SHPO. Ms. Brown continued on to say that FHWA and SHPO would either agree or disagree with these findings.

Mayor Hopkins said this is an illustrative project and even though funding is tight we might get funding for it in the future. Mayor Isaacson said if we put this project in the TIP there is an expectation that it will become a project in the future.

Mayor Cleworth said when a project begins it has to go through the environmental process anyway, and he thinks it should be done project by project.

Mayor Hopkins said this project would allow DOT to get a good inventory on historic areas, thus making it easier to come up with estimates and timelines.

Mr. Birkholz said that many of the products produced by FMATS and DOT have to be updated every so often and this project would be no different. Mr. Birkholz said this project is one way to attempt to streamline projects and it is not a lot of funding.

Mayor Isaacson asked how much this project would eventually cost. Ms. Brown said if you did all of downtown Fairbanks it would cost more than the \$30,000, but that probably isn't necessary. Ms. Brown said the idea was to focus on the areas that are covered by TIP projects. Mr. Birkholz said for the three examples outlined in the project nomination form it would probably cost \$30,000.

- **Vote on the Motion:** Five in favor. Two opposed (Cleworth, Isaacson). Approved.

e) 2012 – 2015 TIP and Associated Conformity Determination (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To approve the release of the 2012—2015 TIP and associated conformity analysis for public comment, as modified and amended. (Cleworth, Hopkins)

Ms. Gardino said that the draft conformity analysis is available in the meeting packet. Mr. Tom Carlson, Sierra Research, said the conformity analysis is designed to ensure that the 2012 – 2015 TIP update is

tested against projections against the SIP for Fairbanks. Mr. Carlson said that that the TIP will not make the conditions any worse for both CO and PM_{2.5} than they are in the baseline. Mr. Carlson said in the initial section of the report those two pollutants are highlighted and CO is compared against budgets of the existing maintenance plan and PM_{2.5} is compared against future projections.

Mr. Carlson said that there were two different models used for this analysis AKMoble6 for CO and MOVES for PM_{2.5}. Mr. Carlson said CO and PM_{2.5} are below the acceptable levels for each pollutant.

Mayor Hopkins asked if AKMOBLE6 is the older model and MOVES is the newer model. Mr. Carlson said that was correct.

Mayor Cleworth asked what the horizon for stopping to monitor the CO level. Ms. Edwards said that there are two ten year maintenance periods so it would be 20 years and Fairbanks is about 10 years in. Ms. Edwards continued on to say that in 2004 Fairbanks was put on the maintenance list and in 2014 Fairbanks will be on the second maintenance list.

Mr. Roberts asked where Fairbanks is with PM_{2.5} attainment levels and Ms. Edwards said the attainment plan for PM_{2.5} is due pretty soon and will have a plan in place in the next year to two years.

Mr. Musick asked if the modeling accounts for severe inversions and Mr. Carlson said the models are just calculating emissions, but there is other modeling that accounts for atmospheric conditions which will be part of the PM_{2.5} plan. Ms. Edwards said the budgets which are set take into account factors such as inversions.

Mayor Isaacson asked how this emissions model takes into account the potential for an influx of workers associated with a large construction project. Mr. Carlson said the emissions are based off of the planning assumptions and planned construction projects put forward. Mr. Carlson said that these conformity analyses are updated frequently, so if there was a project, like a gas line, an update would probably be necessary.

Mayor Hopkins asked if this motion puts the draft conformity analysis out for public comment and there will be an opportunity to comment before the final draft is issued. Ms. Gardino said that was true.

Mayor Cleworth asked if the FNSB staff has looked at the conformity analysis. Ms. Gardino said that the conformity analysis was sent out to FNSB Transportation, FNSB Air Quality, FHWA, DEC, FTA, and EPA, all of which concurred with the findings.

Ms. Gardino said that she must modify the TIP to reflect the modifications that have been made by the Policy Committee at the meeting today. Ms. Gardino said that there is a narrative that must be placed with the TIP and she has been compounding the original estimates by 4% annually until an engineer's estimate is completed. Ms. Gardino said that the TIP is fiscally constrained and there is also a section in the narrative about how projects are constrained.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the Policy Committee is moving the TIP as it appears, with the exception of the changes that the Policy committee has made today. Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Bell if he has looked at and commented on the UAF projects that appear in the TIP. Mr. Bell said he will look at and comment on the TIP.

Mayor Hopkins noted that Ms. Brown had mentioned that the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facility will be ready for construction in FFY14.

- **Motion to amend:** To move PH4 of the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project from FFY15 to FFY14, using SB230 fund. (Isaacson, Musick).

Mr. Birkholz said if this action is done then it will create a ripple effect because the TIP is currently fiscally constrained and another project might have to move out. Mr. Birkholz said that he did not have a problem with moving this project, but another project may slip because of this motion. Mr. Birkholz suggested approving the TIP as it is and there will be other opportunities through amendment to move this project up a year. Mr. Birkholz continued on to say that it is going to be difficult for Ms. Gardino to move these projects around with such short notice. Mr. Birkholz said that the TIP is currently fiscally constrained.

Ms. Gardino said that she had the project in FFY14, but the schedule that DOT provided her stated the project would not be ready for construction until FFY15, so she moved the project to FFY15. Ms. Gardino said last month, when the presentation was given to the Policy Committee, the schedule stated the project would be ready for construction in FFY14. Ms. Gardino said that it is difficult to plan that far out because schedules and estimates are always changing.

Mr. Birkholz said when the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project is ready to construct it will be constructed.

Mayor Cleworth asked where this project ranked when the wish list was made and sent to Juneau. Ms. Gardino said she believed it to be in the top three or four projects. Mayor Cleworth said this project could be considered when the Technical Committee begins to look at where to allocate the new state funds.

Mr. Birkholz said state funding could be put on the project today if the Policy Committee wanted to do that. Ms. Edwards said there are only a few projects with enough funding, such as Gillam Way, which could be moved out to make room for the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project in FFY14. Mr. Birkholz said an option would be to show advanced construction for a part of the project. Ms. Gardino said that in FFY13 FMATS is already borrowing funding from FFY14.

Ms. Gardino said she will have better estimates on projects in a few months and some of the estimates are currently planning level estimates. Ms. Gardino said there will be many amendments to the TIP prior to 2014. Ms. Gardino said she could amend the TIP today, but the Policy Committee is going to have to tell her where to get the funding from.

Mr. Birkholz said if state funding is put on the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project then there will be a surplus of funding in 2015. Ms. Gardino said that the surplus wouldn't be a problem because she would not have to take as much funding in advanced construction from the following year for the South Cushman project.

Mayor Hopkins asked if it would be possible to split the Gillam Way project in half and fund the first half in FFY14 and the second in FFY15 to allow for construction of the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project in FFY14. Ms. Gardino said it would be possible, but she did not recommend it.

Mr. Roberts asked if it would be possible to put SB230 funding on the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities Project as a placeholder. Ms. Gardino said it would be possible and there is \$2.4 million in funding remaining.

Mayor Hopkins asked Mayor Isaacson what his intent was behind his motion. Mayor Isaacson said that since it is going out for public comment he would like the public to see the construction intent of 2014. Mayor Isaacson continued on to say that if the expectation for construction is 2015 then there will be other projects prioritized in front of this project.

Ms. Gardino said that FMATS could put the project as an illustrative project in FFY14 so that it is shown in FFY14. Ms. Gardino said if this project is moved out of FFY15 that wouldn't be a problem because

she would just decrease the amount of advanced construction funding for South Cushman, borrowed from FFY16.

Mayor Hopkins asked how much funding would be left in the SB230 funding pot if this motion carries. Ms. Gardino said there would be \$489,000 remaining.

Mr. Birkholz said that in the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities there are over 20 sliver parcel acquisitions and it is possible that it could take longer than expected.

Mayor Cleworth asked if it is possible to design the project so there are no parcel takes. Ms. Brown said that the scope of the project would have to be changed and she did not think that to be what North Pole wanted. Ms. Brown continued on to say that there are already four foot shoulders on the road. Mayor Isaacson said he did not believe there to be four foot shoulders on St. Nicholas Drive. Mayor Hopkins expressed concern over using a great deal of SB230 funding on one project before the public comment period. Mr. Roberts said that FMATS has not used any funding yet and FMATS intends to use different funds to supplement the SB230 funding. Mr. Birkholz said he has no problem using the SB230 funding and understands Mayor Isaacson's concern.

Ms. Edwards asked if there will be a separate motion needed to allocate the funds, which were previously allocated towards the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities, in FFY15. Ms. Gardino said the funds will be applied to South Cushman.

- **Vote on the amendment:** None opposed. Amendment passed.
- **Vote on the motion:** None opposed. Approved.

9. Public Comments

Mr. John Jackovich said he was interested in the property acquisition process of FMATS and he is very pleased with what FMATS is doing.

10. Other Issues

There were no other issues

11. Informational Items

a) FMATS Signal Upgrade, Leasure Street and Sign Project PH4 Increases

Ms. Gardino said that the Technical Committee approved a \$104,900 increase to the FMATS Signal Upgrade project using offset funding, and a Leasure Street increase of \$71,000. Ms. Gardino said that the sign project also needed \$35,000.

b) Capital Budget Update

Ms. Gardino said that FMATS received \$5,000,000 for the FMATS TIP, \$180,000 for the Birch Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities, and \$100,000 for Chena Small Tracts.

Mayor Hopkins asked if these were Capital Appropriations and not L.A. and Ms. Gardino said that all three items she mentioned were Capital Appropriations.

Mayor Hopkins asked about some funding for North Pole Bike Path Connections and Ms. Gardino said she was not aware of any funding. Mr. Birkholz said it was probably Legislative Authority.

c) FFY11 Obligation and Offset List Update

Ms. Gardino said FMATS is currently 20% obligated. Mayor Hopkins asked what the date for obligating the Illinois Street Reconstructing project and Mr. Birkholz said it should be approved by FHWA in about a month. Mr. Roberts asked if any work is going to be done this season and Mr. Birkholz said it would be up to the contractor to make that decision.

d) Surface Transportation Authorization Update

Ms. Gardino said that both the House and the Senate have come up with their versions of the Surface Transportation Authorization and both of the drafts reduce the number of core programs and the Senate version will eliminate earmarks. Ms. Gardino said the proposed funding is significantly less than SAFETEA-LU.

Ms. Gardino said that she can send the summary document to the Policy Committee.

Mayor Hopkins said the information that he received in early July said that MPO's under 250,000 will go away. Mayor Hopkins continued on to recommend to the Policy Committee to support the MPO.

Mayor Isaacson said that Rep. Don Young's Office has asked the three Mayors to submit a letter to his office. Ms. Gardino said that she could draft a letter from the three Mayors to sign.

12. Committee Comments

Mayor Isaacson invited everyone to attend a WEIO reception at Hotel North Pole at 2:00.

Mayor Hopkins said that each three bodies, the City of North Pole, the City of Fairbanks and the FNSB, should each consider a resolution of support for the State Rail Plan.

Mayor Cleworth said that Wendell Street has been paved and asked when the striping will be completed. Mr. Schmetzer said the striping will be completed next week. Mayor Cleworth said that a table of contents in the TIP would be helpful.

13. Adjourn

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

Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.

Approved: _____


Steve Titus, P.E., Chair

FMATS Policy Committee

Date: _____

