



POLICY COMMITTEE

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

Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2015

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee

*Bryce Ward, Chair
 *Christine Nelson for Luke Hopkins, Vice Chair
 *Jerry Cleworth for John Eberhart
 *David Miller
 *Janice Golub for Guy Sattley
 *Perry Walley
 *Cindy Heil for Denise Koch
 **+Donna Gardino
 **Deborah Todd
 **Alicia Giamichael
 +Brian Lindamood
 +Judy Chapman
 +Bob Pristash
 +Jackson Fox
 +Lee Borden
 Sara Mason
 Meadow Bailey (via telephone)
 Shelley Potter
 Jim Williams
 Jason Avery
 Sarah LeFebvre

Representative Organization

Mayor, City of North Pole
 Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
 Mayor, City of Fairbanks
 Northern Region Director, DOT&PF
 FNSB Assembly Member
 City Council Member, City of Fairbanks
 DEC, Division of Air Quality
 FMATS MPO Coordinator
 FMATS Administrative Assistant
 FMATS Transportation Planner
 Alaska Railroad
 DOT&PF Planning
 City of Fairbanks
 City of Fairbanks
 DEC, Division of Air Quality
 Statewide Surface Transportation Program
 DOT Information Officer
 DOT Planning
 City of Fairbanks
 FNSB-Pioneer Park
 Exclusive Paving

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

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

4. Approval of the August 12, 2015 Agenda

Motion: To approve the August 12, 2015 Agenda. (Walley/Nelson).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of the July 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the July 15, 2015 meeting minutes. (Walley/Golub).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

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

Ms. Gardino provided information for all meetings, briefings, open houses, and presentations she and FMATS staff had attended or participated in.

b. FMATS Policy Subcommittee Report

Ms. Gardino stated that the Policy Subcommittee met and reviewed the Complete Streets policy, made some changes, brought it to the Technical Committee for review, and now were bringing it forward to the Policy Committee for their review and approval.

7. Old Business

a. Approval of the Complete Streets Policy for Public Comment (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that the Complete Streets policy was not a mandatory policy, but they were trying to consider all users and looking at more details at a planning level to be able to provide more direction to DOT or the City when they designed future projects to best utilize the resources and right-of-way.

Motion: To approve the Complete Streets Policy for public comment. (Heil/Golub).

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth stated that he struggled with Complete Streets and was first made aware of the concept during the Vision Fairbanks days. Mr. Cleworth stated that at first the concept was exciting but he fell out on the process about a quarter of the way through when he saw the direction the consultant was going with it. Mr. Cleworth stated that when the consultant suggested making Cushman a two-way street, he had a hard time trying to sell that concept to the community. Mr. Cleworth stated that one of the reasons that he ran for Mayor was to form a committee to look at the complete streets project that Kinney Engineering was overseeing. Mr. Cleworth stated that the concept of narrow lanes and where you put the snow when plowing or busses, did not work in the core area of Fairbanks. Mr. Cleworth stated that as they progressed they took what they could out of the complete streets project and used certain concepts. Mr. Cleworth stated that when designing any street, temporary snow storage had to be taken into consideration and thought that was a major concern here in Fairbanks. Mr. Cleworth stated that he agreed with a lot of it but had some concerns about the policy, such as street maintenance and snow storage. Mr. Cleworth stated that they needed to add maintenance needs and snow storage as well as pedestrian needs. Mr. Cleworth stated that they needed to look at the whole aspect of what they needed to do to maintain streets as well as what was needed to make complete streets as much as possible.

Amendment to the Motion: Under "Principles of Complete Streets, E., modify as follows: Allow flexibility in balancing user needs including maintenance needs and temporary snow storage. (Cleworth/Walley).

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth stated that he thought it was pretty self-explanatory and wanted to make sure that whether it was a DOT or City-maintained road, snow storage needed to be done efficiently. Mr. Cleworth stated that currently the City did not have the ability to pick up the snow immediately and needed to have temporary storage and accommodate it without taking it all the way down from three lanes to one. Mr. Cleworth stated that the current design allowed for temporary snow storage and needed to be addressed in the Complete Streets Policy.

Mayor Ward stated that Section C on Page 27 discussed maintenance issues and understood including it in the Principles of the Policy statement.

Mr. Cleworth stated that Mayor Ward was correct, but it was not spelled out and he thought it needed to be spelled out more clearly.

Mayor Ward suggested that it might be more appropriate to add a separate section that specifically addressed maintenance.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he would not have a problem with that and was open for suggestions but it was up to Mayor Ward, as the Chair, to decide whether to add a separate section. Mr. Cleworth stated that the policy would probably be modified when the public comments came in and were incorporated so it could probably be added then, but did not need to be done right now.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth stated that he disagreed with the section on Page 25 where it discussed narrowed travel lanes and thought they needed to have a comfortable width for some snow berming.

Ms. Gardino stated that in that bullet they said, "may include", but was something that they might consider but was not for every situation.

Amendment to the Motion: Under Exemptions to Policy, add a new bullet "Funding limitations." (Cleworth/Walley).

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth gave an example of South Cushman from south of Airport Way down to the overpass that was discussed and one of the things that held it back was right-of-way acquisition. Mr. Cleworth stated that DOT and the City got together and figured out a way to make it work with the funding they had, got it done fairly quickly, worked within the budget they had; and scaled it down to make it work. Mr. Cleworth stated that they may not have the luxury of trying to accommodate everybody and just needed to get the road done. Mr. Cleworth stated that the complete streets process was a lengthy process and they had not had the time to do that for South Cushman and if they had gone through that lengthy process, it would probably still be on the drawing board.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Discussion: Mr. Miller stated that under Section C "Maintenance and Operations" would like to have them consider adding surface repair and mill/pave and making them exempt from the Complete Streets Policy for when they did not have the money to go through the whole process.

Amendment to the Motion: Under Maintenance and Operations, add "resurfacing" to the list contained within the second bullet. (Miller/Heil).

Discussion: No further discussion

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amended Motion: To approve the Complete Streets Policy for public comment with the following additions: Under "Principles of Complete Streets, E., modify as follows: Allow flexibility in balancing user needs including maintenance needs and temporary snow storage." Under Exemptions to

Policy, add a new bullet "Funding limitations, and under Maintenance and Operations, add "resurfacing" to the list contained within the second bullet.

Vote on Amended Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. Coordinator's Office Reorganization Subcommittee

Ms. Gardino stated that it was suggested that a subcommittee be developed for the Coordinator's Office Reorganization and they wanted to hold a meeting next week so they needed some additional volunteers for the subcommittee.

Ms. Gardino stated that they would be advertising the meeting.

8. New Business

a. Banking Request (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that there was no further banking request as a banking request was filled out in April, and there was no need for another request.

No further action was taken.

b. Approval of the 2015-2018 TIP Conformity (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that the recommendation from the Technical Committee was to approve the Conformity Analysis for the FMATS 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Gardino stated that it had gone out for public comment and the only comments received were from the FHWA and FTA on their findings so they were good to go forward.

Motion: To approve the Conformity Analysis for the Federally Approved FMATS 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). (Heil/Golub).

Discussion: Ms. Heil stated that she wanted to remind everyone of the importance of the Conformity Analysis. Ms. Heil stated that this was the document that was actually approved by FHWA and gave FMATS the ability to spend Federal dollars in the Fairbanks area, so she encouraged everyone to approve it.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. Approval of the Responsiveness Summary (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that the TIP and Conformity Analysis were out for public comment from June 17 to July 24, 2015 and the comments received were included in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino explained the comments, responses, and the revisions that were made.

Motion: To approve the Responsiveness Summary with the inclusion of the \$50,000 for the Gold Hill Road Project, Phase 2. (Heil/Golub).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

d. Approval of the 2015-2018 TIP (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that the recommendation from the Technical Committee was to approve the FMATS FFY2015-2018 TIP.

Motion: To approve the FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). (Heil/Golub).

Discussion: Mayor Ward inquired about the large number of projects that were listed as illustrative.

Ms. Gardino stated that there were not as many in the TIP as there were in the STIP. Ms. Gardino stated that they only had a couple of illustrative projects. Ms. Gardino stated that they might have to scale back the preventative maintenance projects next year to accommodate funding for change orders during construction of the Noble Street project.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

e. 2016-2019 STIP Presentation

Ms. Gardino introduced Sara Mason to provide the Policy Committee with a briefing about the state of the Statewide Transportation Program (STIP).

Ms. Mason stated that she worked in Juneau and her staff dealt with the statewide STIP.

Ms. Mason stated that her presentation was not specific to the Fairbanks area and included what they were dealing with statewide. Ms. Mason stated that there would be a public meeting for the STIP that evening from 4-6PM at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room if anyone was interested in attending.

f. 2016-2019 STIP Comments (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that she had prepared five pages of comments for the STIP and gave a brief explanation of those comments.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the Aurora Drive project and the Noyes Slough Bridge were State-maintained and should remain in the STIP and did not know why it was being moved back to FMATS.

Ms. Gardino stated that the project was in the FMATS area and because it was not on an NHS route probably should be shown in the FMATS TIP, but was a structurally deficient bridge owned by the DOT and FMATS could not afford to fund it at this time and was surprised to see it in the STIP and would like for it to stay but understood why it might go away.

Motion: To approve the letter regarding the 2016-2019 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). (Cleworth/Walley).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. One abstention (Miller). Approved.

9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

Jason Avery, Pioneer Park, 2300 Airport Way- Mr. Avery stated that he wanted to let the Policy Committee know that there was a nonprofit group that met at Pioneer Park that included all the museums as well as the Arts Association.

Mr. Avery stated that those groups had expressed their concerns over the years about the lack of signage for access to the Park for people from out of town.

Mr. Avery stated that it was a little tricky for people with 60 ft. RV's to get into the Park. Mr. Avery stated that they had discussions about additional signage and would like to see it on Peger as well as Airport Way both east and westbound as well as north and southbound on Peger showing that Pioneer Park was the next left, and giving them the proper signage into the Park. Mr. Avery stated that he had discussions with Ms. Gardino about the downtown signage project that was going to be expanded into some of the outer areas and would like to be included

into that signage project. Mr. Avery stated that he had spoken with DOT on numerous occasions about getting signage similar to the ones at the Antique Car Museum at Wedgewood and elsewhere, but understood that it was a cumbersome process. Mr. Avery stated that he wondered if there was anyone in the group willing to sit down with him to discuss a more streamlined way to do that.

Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Avery should come and see him.

10. Other Issues

No other issues.

11. Informational Items

a. Cushman Street Construction Increase

Ms. Gardino explained the reason for the construction funding increase of \$328,000 on the Cushman Street project.

b. DUPP Program Inquiry and Response

Ms. Gardino stated that Ms. Mason had provided FMATS with a better understanding for how the DUPP (Discretionary Urban Planning) Program worked and would be happy to help the organizations apply for those grant funds when they became available.

c. Federal Highway Reauthorization Status

Ms. Gardino stated that the Senate passed a six year highway transit bill and the next step was to go to the House. Congress was on vacation for August recess so nothing was happening right now.

d. STIP Amendment #16 Comment Response

Ms. Gardino stated that the responses to the comments on STIP Amendment #16 were included in the meeting packet.

e. Obligations and Offsets

Ms. Gardino summarized the obligations and offsets included in the meeting packet.

f. Transit Safety

Ms. Gardino stated she had received the letter and wanted to share it with the Policy Committee.

g. Executive Session: Personnel Issues of FMATS Staff

Motion: To enter into Executive Session (Golub/Heil).

The meeting entered into Executive Session and the recorder was turned off.

The meeting and recording resumed at 1:59 p.m.

Mayor Ward stated that no action had been taken in the Executive Session.

12. Policy Committee Comments

- Ms. Heil stated that she was contacted by Dan Bross of KUAC and he wondered about the status of the non-attainment plan. Ms. Heil stated that

she explained that she had begun discussions about stationary sources. Ms. Heil stated that they met with the stationary sources in January letting them know what the timetable looked like and asking them if they would begin to look at developing a BACT (Best Available Control Technology) Analysis to be submitted this winter. Ms. Heil stated that DEC would try to develop a BACT Plan and have that plan go out for public comment in March 2016 and the public process for the serious SIP (State Implementation Plan) portion would begin in early 2017. Ms. Heil stated that Mr. Bross wanted to know if they had a clean data year last year and if they had a clean data year this year, if they would be monitoring attainment. Ms. Heil stated that the rules did allow for the Governor to put in a request to change the boundaries. Ms. Heil stated that DEC had not put in a request yet, but there was a positive chance that if this winter was mild and they kept their emissions low; they could put in a request to separate the Fairbanks area. Ms. Heil stated that people had the opportunity to do clean burning and had some control over their future.

- Mr. Miller stated that he thought the Policy Committee needed to know that the State of Alaska had a new accounting system and the rollout was across all the State entities and was not going well. Mr. Miller stated that the DOT was having trouble paying their contractors and other people.
- Mr. Cleworth requested that a presentation be made to the City Council of the visuals for the Noble Street project.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. (Golub/Heil). The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 12 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Approved: 

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: 9-24-15