

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**  
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Meeting Minutes – August 24, 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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
* Ethan Birkholz for Steve Titus, P.E.	DOT&PF
* Mayor Jerry Cleworth	City of Fairbanks
* Jeff Jacobson for 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
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
*** Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
Robert Worley	Food Bank
Guy Sattley	Public
John Lohrey	FHWA
J.C. Phillips	Public
Linda Mahlen	DOT&PF, Planning
Jonathon Shambare	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Barry Hooper	DOT&PF Project Manager
Grier Hopkins	Unidentified

**3. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**4. Approval of the August 24, 2011 Agenda**

- **Motion:** To approve the August 24, 2011 Policy Committee agenda. (Isaacson, Edwards)
- **Vote on the Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**5. Approval of July 21, 2011 Minutes**

- **Motion:** To approve the July 21, 2011 minutes. (Edwards, Isaacson)
- **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
- Presented to the Kiwanis Club on the FMATS program as well as past and future FMATS projects
- Facilitated the Design Guidelines Subcommittee for the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan
- Attended the Strategic Traffic Safety Plan update meeting in Anchorage and took the lead on the Winter Maintenance strategy in the Special Users emphasis area
- Held two (2) open houses for the 2012 – 2015 draft TIP
- Received a debriefing on the TIGER Grant which FMATS previously applied for and was told that the application would have been stronger with supporting letters from local businesses showing that there would have been significant economic development
- Gave a presentation to the House Finance Transportation Fund Subcommittee on the FMATS processes and upcoming FMATS projects
- Revised the draft TIP to match the newly released draft STIP as well as drafted comments on the STIP to be forwarded to the DOT
- Coordinated with DOT to bring training on Complete Streets to the area

Mayor Isaacson asked Ms. Gardino if the Complete Streets training would be open for everyone because he would like Bill Butler to attend the training. Ms. Gardino said that she requested the training and would like everyone who is currently working on FMATS projects to attend the training. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that she will be working with the DOT closely to make sure that the seats necessary are available and she believes there will be forty seats available.

### b) Unified Planning Work Program Subcommittee

Ms. Gardino said that UPWP Subcommittee was tasked to look at the in-kind contributions of the City of Fairbanks as well as how the FNSB is reporting their in-kind contributions. Ms. Gardino said that the FNSB is going to amend their in-kind contributions to better reflect how it is being done and will not include other entities in their in-kind contributions. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that she is going to write up a narrative for the in-kind contributions that the City of Fairbanks is providing for the Coordinator's Office to be included in the UPWP. Ms. Gardino said that she hopes there to be a draft amendment to the UPWP to the Policy Committee next month for their consideration.

### c) State Funds Subcommittee

Ms. Gardino said that a meeting will be held on August 25, 2011 to decide the best way to allocate the SB46 funding.

## 7. Old Business

### a. Coordinator's Authority (Action Item postponed)

Mr. Roberts said that there is an action item on the table postponed from the June Policy Committee meeting.

- **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:** Ms. Gardino said that in the meeting packet are two pages from the June meeting minutes

which address the discussion that was had on the topic.

Mr. Roberts said that this motion was postponed to gather additional information so the motion is back on the table.

Ms. Gardino said that currently she does not have the authority to authorize any amount of money during seasonal shutdown or after substantial completion of a project. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that during the construction season, she has authority to authorize 10% of the contract amount or \$100,000, whichever is lower.

Mayor Cleworth said that the system in place currently is a good system and he feels that it does not need to be changed.

Mayor Isaacson asked if staff feels that there is a need for movement of funding after seasonal shutdown has occurred. Ms. Gardino said that Mr. Titus brought up this topic in June and changing the authority to include seasonal shutdown will not affect projects because there is not a big rush to approve funding. Ms. Gardino said that the authority was removed last year and Mr. Titus requested it to be reinstated at the June Policy Committee meeting.

Mayor Isaacson asked Mayor Cleworth if he thought any changes need to be made to the current system and Mayor Cleworth said that the only change that he feels might be prudent is to increase the Coordinator's authority during construction season.

Ms. Gardino said that an issue with increasing the Coordinator's authority would be the potential for match implications and she would not be comfortable making those decisions in a vacuum. Ms. Gardino said that there are potential implications beyond FMATS and directly to the cities.

Mayor Isaacson asked Mr. Birkholz why this issue is being considered. Mr. Birkholz said that he feels that authority level is very restrictive, but he feels the current Coordinator is very capable of making the judgment on whether she needs to come to the Policy Committee for authorization. Mr. Birkholz said that he feels the \$100,000 limit can put FMATS in a bind at times during construction season, due to contractors being held up.

Mr. Roberts said that currently Ms. Gardino has the authorization of 10% or \$100,000, whichever is less, the Technical Committee has the authority of 20% or \$250,000, and the Policy Committee has the authority of everything beyond that. Mr. Roberts said that during construction this can be pivotal, but during seasonal shutdown the time rush is not always there. Mr. Roberts said that there is a motion on the table to address the Coordinator's authority during seasonal shutdown and if the Policy Committee would like to change the Coordinator's authority during construction it should be done through a separate motion.

Mr. Jacobson said that the Borough is supportive of the City of Fairbanks conclusion that there is no need for the Coordinator to authorize increases during seasonal shutdown.

Mr. Musick expressed concern over paying contractors on time citing an example on Cowles Street. Mr. Roberts said that in that case payment was not delayed, but a bill showed up six months after. Mr. Schmetzer said that during seasonal shutdown it is very unlikely that a payment owed to a contractor will be requested.

- **Vote on the Motion:** Three (3) in favor, four opposed (Jacobson, Isaacson, Cleworth, Roberts). Motion fails.

Mayor Cleworth said that another motion needs to be formed to increase the Coordinator's authority during construction season, but is unsure of the exact amount.

Ms. Gardino said that there is time and suggested bringing the item before the Technical Committee. Mr. Birkholz said that he agrees and based upon past history, an amount can be agreed upon.

## **8. New Business**

### **a. Curb Corner Upgrades PH3/PH2 Modification (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To move the PH3 funding of \$120,000 to PH2 on the Curb Corner Upgrade Project to fund the temporary construction permits. (Jacobson, Cleworth).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that all of the work can be done under the design phase and this action is simply moving funding from one phase to another phase. Ms. Gardino said that originally it was thought that a phase 3 was necessary, but now all of the work can be done under the design phase.

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

### **b. College Road Rehabilitation PH 7 (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To move \$400,000 of FCTP funding from the Illinois Street Reconstruction Project PH4 to PH7 of the College Road Rehabilitation project in FFY11. (Jacobson, Birkholz)

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that in the last amendment to the TIP she was told that this phase was going to slip, but now it will be able to obligate this FFY and FMATS has the funding. Ms. Gardino said that this is a good thing because the project is moving forward.

Mayor Isaacson asked where the funding will be coming from to pay for this increase and Ms. Gardino said that the funding will be coming from lower estimates received on the construction phase of the Illinois Street project.

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

### **c. Illinois Street Reconstruction Funding Adjustments (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To approve a \$100,000 increase to PH2 for the Illinois Street Reconstruction Project to fund additional needs to complete the design and contract bidding phase of the project. Move \$71,300 of GCTP funding from University Avenue PH2 in FFY12 to partially fund this increase and take the remainder from PH4 on Illinois Street. Add all remaining AK092 1702 funding. \$423,046, to PH4 on Illinois Street, except \$800,000 for Noble Street Upgrades in FFY12. Move all remaining offset funding to Illinois Street PH4 in FFY11. (Jacobson, Cleworth).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that this motion will use up the majority of the earmark funding and will use up all of the offset funding to make sure that no funding was left on the table. Ms. Gardino said that in the original motion from the Technical Committee the increased amount was \$50,000, but after consultation with the City of Fairbanks and the state, \$100,000 was agreed upon.

Mr. Barry Hooper said that additional funding was needed to advertise the project as well as potential final changes to the plan set.

Mr. Roberts asked if this new increase will affect the way that this motion is funded. Ms. Gardino said that the amount will be made up by moving grandfather funding off of the University Avenue Widening project to the Illinois Street Reconstruction project. Ms. Gardino said if any additional funding is needed for the University Avenue Widening project then it could be taken from the GO bond funding.

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

#### **d. STIP Comments**

Ms. Gardino said that the draft 2012 - 2015 STIP was released on August 3, 2011 for public comment. And she would like to provide the Policy Committee with some information on the projects in the draft STIP and some potential comments for the DOT. Ms. Gardino said that there is a draft letter in the meeting packet.

Ms. Gardino said that the first comment is to express appreciation of new projects, such as the Fairbanks to North Pole Bike and Pedestrian Pathway and the Old Steese to McGrath Connector, being included in the STIP. Ms. Gardino said that a Nordale Road Resurfacing project was also included in the STIP and also could be mentioned in the letter. Ms. Gardino said that other projects such as Potter Road Resurfacing, Goldmine Trail, Goldstream Road, and Rosie Creek were also included in the STIP.

Ms. Gardino said that the second comment is in regards the number of projects that are in the STIP, but the funding is shown as illustrative. Ms. Gardino said that certain projects such as the North Pole Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway, Elliott Highway 0 – 12 project, Third Street Widening project, Airport Way West project, Old Nenana Rehabilitation project, and the Steese/Farmers Loop to Chena Hot Springs Road Connection project are all listed as illustrative projects. Ms. Gardino said that these projects are moving through the project development process, but currently there is no construction funding identified.

Ms. Gardino said that the third comment is that the FMATS CMAQ allocation was significantly reduced from \$1.5 million annually to \$667,000 annually. Ms. Gardino said that this is the funding that FMATS has historically used for sidewalks and pathways. Ms. Gardino said that two new projects were recently approved using CMAQ funding; one around the new senior living center and one around the South Davis Park, and the lack of CMAQ funding impacts those projects.

Mr. Musick asked where the funding comes from and who cut it. Ms. Gardino said the state receives funding and it is then distributed to Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks, because they are all non-attainment areas for certain pollutants. Ms. Edwards said that the funds are split amongst the non-attainment areas in the state, which are Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. Mr. Musick asked who makes those decisions. Mr. Birkholz said DOT Headquarters makes those decisions and it is a limited pot of funding that must be divided across the state. Mr. Birkholz said that the FNSB non-attainment area did also receive funding for the reduction of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Ms. Edwards said that there is a FMATS allocation and a Fairbanks Area PM<sub>2.5</sub> non-attainment area allocation both within the STIP.

Ms. Gardino said that the fourth comment is that the STIP shows that match funding is required for CMAQ funds, but she believes that the law has not changed and CMAQ funding is still 100% federal. Ms. Gardino said that CMAQ funds have been 100% since 2009 and would like clarification on the issue. Ms. Gardino said that they will look into the law and determine an answer.

Ms. Gardino said that the fifth comment is that the STIP does not show \$1,810,200 of grandfathered funding in FFY12 as agreed upon by the Northern Region DOT, which will be used for the University Avenue Widening project. Ms. Gardino said that this amount was reduced by the \$50,000 that was just approved for the Illinois Street project. Mr. Roberts asked what the STIP shows for grandfathered funding and Ms. Gardino said that the STIP does not show an amount. Ms. Gardino said that there is an agreement that will allow FMATS to move the funding to FFY12. Mr. Birkholz said that the reason that

the DOT Headquarters allowed FMATS to move the Grandfather funding is because they are more concerned about FMATS expending earmark funding first.

Ms. Gardino said that the final comment is that there are several rail projects in the Fairbanks area that FMATS would like to see moved forward, however the State Rail Plan has not been updated since 1990 and she believes this to be of statewide importance.

- **Motion to Amend:** To modify #2 of the STIP comment letter by deleting the last sentence and adding the following: "It is unfortunate to see them in the STIP without dedicated construction funding. It is unlikely any improvements will be made without funding in place." (Jacobson, Isaacson).

**Discussion:** Mr. Jacobson said that this change sets the tone, that without funding, projects do not do any good. Ms. Edwards said that since these projects are illustrative they could be funded very easily if funding becomes available.

Mr. Roberts said the project that he would like to see funded through the STIP would be the Third Street Widening project because they have already begun right-of-way, as well as engineering. Mr. Roberts said that to have only illustrative funding on this project is difficult because they have already begun acquiring properties. Mr. Roberts said that this is a project that he would like to see addressed. Mr. Birkholz said that this project is in the right-of-way process which can be a time consuming process and when it looks like right-of-way will be completed, the state will work vigorously to swap funding out with another project. Mr. Roberts asked where the right-of-way process is and Mr. Birkholz said that there are a number of parcels and it is a challenging process.

Mayor Isaacson asked if there is a way to speed up right-of-way acquisition and Mr. Birkholz said that there is a process called the Uniform Act that needs to be followed regardless of the funding source. Mayor Isaacson said that he and Ms. Gardino attended a meeting with DOT planners last week and it was said that if state funding were used on projects it could speed up processes. Mr. Birkholz said that it often depends on the owner of the property because it usually speeds up the process if the property is not privately owned. Mr. Birkholz said that it is possible to do advanced right-of-way takes, but you must know what you are going to build first. Mr. Birkholz said that especially with federal funding you have to show justification that you need the property in question. Mr. Birkholz said that it is very easy to purchase the property if the landowner agrees to the appraised price of the property. Mr. Birkholz said that if there is not an agreement then it must go to condemnation. Mr. Birkholz continued on to say in the Illinois Street right-of-way, even though it is going to construction, it could take years to complete the process.

Mr. Birkholz said that there was a Tanana River Bridge project on the Alaska Highway where right-of-way began using state funds to speed up the process. Mr. Birkholz said that the same process is occurring on University Avenue because they are state funds. Mr. Birkholz said that if state funds are used, you can still follow a federal process, but begin with right-of-way acquisition sooner. Mr. Birkholz said that on long corridors this could be advantageous to do advanced right-of-way takes, but it can often be complicated when you get to an urban situation.

Mr. Roberts asked what would happen if an unforeseen circumstance arises and the Third Street Widening project is not funded for construction. Mr. Birkholz said if there is a right-of-way take you have 20 years to complete the project, but if there is not a right-of-way take then you only have 10 years until the project become a time trap. Mr. Birkholz said that this project is very regionally significant and he feels when it is ready for construction it will be funded. Mr. Birkholz said if the Northern Region would like to accelerate a NHS project, Headquarters would ask them what project they would like to see slip to accommodate this project.

- **Motion:** To approve the STIP Comment letter as identified by Donna, as discussed and as amended. (Isaacson, Birkholz).
- **Motion to Amend:** To modify #2 of the letter to delete “funded”. (Musick, Jacobson).
- **Vote to Amend:** None opposed. Approved.
- **Motion to Amend:** To modify #5 of the letter changing \$1,860,200 to \$1,810,200. (Jacobson, Birkholz).
- **Vote to Amend:** None opposed. Approved.
- **Motion to Amend:** To modify #6 of the letter changing “it” to “FMATS”. (Isaacson, Edwards).
- **Vote to Amend:** None opposed. Approved.
- **Motion to Amend:** To modify #6 of the letter to add “that” before “FMATS”. (Jacobson, Musick).
- **Vote to Amend:** None opposed. Approved.
- **Motion to Amend:** To modify #6 of the letter to change “ARRC” to “state”. (Jacobson, Isaacson)

**Discussion:** Mr. Bruce Carr said that the State’s Rail Plan is an expression of the State of Alaska and the direction that the state wants to take the railroads in the state. Mr. Carr emphasized that the Alaska Railroad is not the only railroad in the state because there is also the Whitepass and the Yukon. Mr. Carr said that the funding opportunities the State is missing are through US DOT programs and Federal Rail Administration program. These are typically applied for by the state DOT in the lower 48. Mr. Carr said that proper support is needed and the State DOT is what is missing. Mr. Carr said that he recommends the support of the FMATS Policy Committee by making this change.

Mr. Musick asked if it would be more appropriate to say state DOT rather than state. Mr. Birkholz said he feels that state would be more appropriate than state DOT, because funding comes from the municipal side as well as the DOT.

- **Vote to Amend:** None opposed. Approved.

Mayor Isaacson said that he is concerned that the Policy Committee is attempting to do too much to the letter and in his motion he specified that it would be approved as Ms. Gardino amends.

Ms. Gardino said the only change that she mentioned was adding Nordale Road to the list.

- **Motion to Amend:** To modify #1 of the letter to include “Nordale Road Rehabilitation”. (Isaacson, Edwards).
- **Vote to Amend:** None opposed. Approved.
- **Vote on the Motion as Amended:** None opposed. Approved.

#### **e. 2012 – 2015 TIP and Associated Conformity Determination Comment Review**

Ms. Gardino said that there is a three page responsiveness summary available in the meeting packet that covers all the comments received in regards to the draft 2012 – 2015 TIP and the conformity analysis as well as the comments themselves. Ms. Gardino said that she would first like to address the comment received regarding the conformity analysis. Ms. Gardino said that the comment inquired about transportation funding being withheld from FMATS if the Fairbanks area does not meet the PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions budgets. Ms. Gardino said that currently there are not any budgets and in the future, funding could be withheld if established budgets are not met. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that typically this does not happen if good faith efforts are made to meet these budgets. Ms. Gardino said that if these funds are to be withheld there is to be a sanction clock and an 18 month grace period.

Ms. Gardino asked the Policy Committee if it would be acceptable to approve the conformity analysis and then move onto the TIP comments to simplify the process. Mr. Roberts said that would be acceptable.

- **Motion:** To approve the FFY12—15 TIP Conformity Determination, as presented, and to forward it to FHWA and FTA for approval. (Jacobson, Edwards).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that the analysis is the same document as seen at last month's Policy Committee meeting and the baseline tests are being met.

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

Ms. Gardino said that in the TIP comments, there were 2 received in regards to the Goldhill Road Bike and Pedestrian Facility. Ms. Gardino said that one of the comments stated that the current conditions are dangerous to bicyclists and pedestrians and the facility needs to be built. Ms. Gardino said that the second comment supports the project, but there were concerns over widening the tree line and associated impacts. Ms. Gardino said that progress is being made on this project and there are new typical section posted on the DOT project website. Ms. Gardino said that these new typical sections significantly reduce the proposed tree line actions and there will be another open house in the next month or two.

Ms. Gardino said that there were two comments received regarding the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project. Ms. Gardino said that the comments asked this project as well as the North Pole Road/Rail Crossing Reduction project to be funded as soon as possible. Ms. Gardino said about five comments were received regarding both of the UAF projects asking FMATS to fund these projects. Ms. Gardino said that currently the TIP is fiscally constrained and she does expect some funding to get freed up next year because she received a new College Road estimate, which came in under the original estimate. Ms. Gardino said that FMATS could look at funding the UAF projects in an amendment. Ms. Gardino said that both UAF projects are in the TIP and it would be relatively simple to fund them. Mr. Roberts asked when FMATS would make those changes and Ms. Gardino said that FMATS needed to finalize the TIP so there is a program in place for FFY12, which begins on October 1, 2011. Ms. Gardino said that she expects to begin an amendment or an administrative modification shortly after the TIP is in place. Ms. Gardino said if the Policy Committee would like to fund the UAF projects that there is a non-federal share and there needs to be discussions with the University before that project could be funded.

Ms. Edwards said that there are many other illustrative projects in the TIP, along with the two UAF projects, and these decisions could be made after the TIP is approved.

- **Motion:** To approve the FFY12—15 TIP as presented and to forward it to DOT & PF Headquarters and FHWA/FTA for approval. (Cleworth, Jacobson).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said in the meeting packet after the conformity analysis there is a summary of

all the changes made to the TIP since the new funding levels were received. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that in FFY12 she has decided to fund the LED Streetlight Conversion project Stage 2, swapped out some state funds for federal funds, and changed some CMAQ funding to CTP funding.

Ms. Gardino said in FFY13 she reduced the Preventive Maintenance program, reduced the CMAQ funding on the Noble Street project, and deleted the CMAQ funding to the Pedestrian Improvements project Stage 1.

Ms. Gardino said in FFY14 there was a large cut in FMATS' CTP funding and the Gillam Way project had to be removed from FFY14.

Ms. Gardino said that in FFY15 South Cushman took the big hit and FMATS is advanced constructing funding from FFY16.

Ms. Gardino said that currently there is a lack of Highway Bill and it is possible that this TIP is very conservative and in the future there could be more funding available.

Mayor Isaacson thanked Ms. Gardino for the job that she has been doing with FMATS and her work with the FMATS TIP. Mayor Isaacson went on to say that he would like to see St. Nicholas completed sooner, but he understands how projects can be pushed out.

Mayor Cleworth said that he is voting for this TIP and there are projects that the City of Fairbanks is losing. Mayor Cleworth said in the future he is concerned that there are not enough Preventive Maintenance projects and feels that maintaining the current system is very important.

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

#### **f. 2012 – 2015 TIP and Associated Conformity Determination (Action Item)**

This agenda item was covered under agenda item e. 2012 – 2015 TIP and Associated Conformity Determination Comment Review.

#### **g. FFY12 Coordinator's Office Draft Budget**

- **Motion:** To approve the FFY12 FMATS Coordinator's Office Budget, as presented. (Edwards, Birkholz).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that the approved budget is shown in the UPWP, TIP and the budget is further broken out in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino said that this is not the first time that the Policy Committee has seen the budget, but it is now available in more detail.

Mayor Isaacson asked if during air travel FMATS is able to use mileage. Ms. Gardino said that she has not used mileage during air travel, but she could look into it. Mayor Isaacson asked if it would be possible to use mileage for the Coordinator's Office with the program that Alaska Airlines has set up. Ms. Gardino said that she could look into it, but currently she does not use the City of Fairbanks credit card to book her flights.

Mayor Cleworth asked where the funding for the DOT and the FNSB is shown and Ms. Gardino said the budget for the Coordinator's Office is only shown and the other two offices are shown in the UPWP.

Mr. Musick asked what the 5% charge for ICAP is and Ms. Gardino said it is the Indirect Cost Allocation Program at 4.79% that the DOT tacks onto any charge that gets processed for their indirect costs. Mr. Birkholz said that the FNSB and the City of Fairbanks also have ICAP.

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

## 9. Public Comments

Mr. Bruce Carr thanked Ms. Gardino for the presentation that she gave for the House Finance Transportation Subcommittee the previous week. Mr. Carr said that the ARRC Board of Directors will be meeting in Fairbanks on September 29, 2011 at the Princess Hotel and he will provide further information when it becomes available. Mr. Carr said that the Tanana Bridge project is underway and an employee has been moved up from Anchorage who will be a community liaison. Mr. Carr said that the public process is underway and he looks forward to this project being completed on time and on budget.

Mr. Carr said that the North Pole Road/Rail Crossing Reduction project is a project that is eligible for a variety of funding, and with all of the partners included in this project it makes a very powerful presentation. Mr. Carr said that it is very difficult for an Alaska based project to compete against projects in the lower 48, so the more that there is local community support the greater the chance of acquiring funding.

Mr. Jonathon Shambare, UAF, said that UAF is in support of the Tanana Loop project and to a limited extent is willing to provide some resources to help.

## 10. Other Issues

### a. September Meeting Date Change Consideration

Ms. Gardino said that Mayor Hopkins asked this to be put on the agenda because the 21<sup>st</sup> is not a good date for him. Mr. Jacobson said that it would be possible to hold the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> or the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Birkholz said that the 22<sup>nd</sup> would be better for Mr. Titus. Ms. Edwards said that there might be a conflict with the AMATS Policy Committee that she also sits on. Ms. Edwards said that if there is a conflict she could make arrangements to attend via teleconference if she could not be in Fairbanks.

- **Motion:** To move the September 21 Policy Committee meeting to Thursday, September 22 at 10:00 AM. (Jacobson, Birkholz).
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

## 11. Informational Items

### a. FFY11 Obligation List

Ms. Gardino said that with the actions at the Policy Committee meeting today the College Road project and the Illinois Street Phase 2 can be obligated. Ms. Gardino said that the Preventive Maintenance Program is in project control, the South Cushman project is at DOT Headquarters and Wendell has been sent to FHWA. Ms. Gardino said that all FMATS' projects will be out the door and set to obligate this FFY.

Mr. Roberts said that it is confirmed that the FMATS Policy Committee meeting will be at DOT in the Main Conference Room.

### b. North Pole Road/Rail Crossing Reduction Project Quarterly Report

Ms. Gardino said that an update on the North Pole Road/Rail Crossing Reduction project is in the meeting packet and FRA's review of the draft EA will begin on August 1, 2011 and agency review is scheduled to begin in October of 2011.

### **c. Surface Transportation Authorization Update**

Ms. Gardino said that there is not much of an update on the Surface Transportation Authorization since the last Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Edwards said that given the potential reduction of CMAQ funding it should be watched in the new Transportation Bill. Ms. Edwards said that CMAQ funding is a separate funding source and it could potentially be cut in a new Transportation Bill.

Ms. Gardino said that both bills are proposing to cut over 100 programs.

### **12. Committee Comments.**

Mayor Cleworth asked what the status of the project in the Taku Subdivision was and if any of the work will be completed this year.

Ms. Gardino said that the question is involving the Preventive Maintenance program that has been bid and awarded to Exclusive. Ms. Gardino asked Mr. Birkholz if any work will be completed this year. Mr. Birkholz said he would have to check on the schedules. Mr. Schmetzer said that the contractor is currently working on two projects for the City of Fairbanks and he does not believe DOT to have any authority to require work to start this year. Mr. Schmetzer said that the project is in position to begin very early next year.

Mayor Isaacson said he had an opportunity to take part in the Alaska Strategic traffic Safety Plan update and attended the meetings looking at the Special Users emphasis area. Mayor Isaacson said that many of the planners in Southeast feel that what Fairbanks designates as bicycle paths, are too dangerous to have bicycles on. Mayor Isaacson said that with all the pedestrian traffic that those pathways see, it is safer for the bicycle riders to use the roadway rather than the separated pathway. Mayor Isaacson said that the planners were also encouraging extended shoulders for bicycle usage. Mayor Isaacson said that there is a Rural Road Task Force that is dealing with the issue of off highway vehicle accommodation. Mayor Isaacson continued on to say that there is some push even from the Municipality of Anchorage to allow off highway vehicles on pathways, especially in the rural areas. Mayor Isaacson encourages the municipalities to become involved with the STSP.

Mayor Isaacson said in a Fairbanks Regional Economic Planning meeting that all three Mayors attended there was a presentation on the need for a roundabout by UAF. Mayor Isaacson said that it would be beneficial to have a presentation to the FMATS Policy Committee so that the committee understands the University's need for the roundabout.

Mr. Musick said that he sees a benefit in adding widened shoulders to accommodate bikes and pedestrians because soil quality degrades separated paths more quickly.

Mr. Jacobson said that he hopes the Northern Region DOT is well on their way to obligating all of their federal funding this FFY. Mr. Jacobson said that he would like to see the Barnette Street Bridge be opened for pedestrian access. Mr. Jacobson said that there is a lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities on the Cushman Street Bridge along with heavy amounts of traffic. Mr. Jacobson said that this is even more problematic in the winter and would like DOT to consider opening up the Barnette Street Bridge to pedestrian traffic.

Ms. Gardino said that she inquired about this issue at the final inspection and was told that there was a safety issue. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that there is no proper crosswalk and access on the other end.

Mr. Roberts said that maybe the state could come back with a more definitive answer at the next meeting.

Ms. Gardino said that the next open house for the FMATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is to be held on September 8, 2011 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Ms. Gardino said that a summary of the comments will be reviewed and recommendations prioritized at that meeting.

### 13. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn:** (Isaacson, Edwards). Approved. Adjourned at 11:36 pm.

**Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Thursday, September 22, 2011 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.**

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

Date: 9/22/11