



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2015

City of Fairbanks, Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, Alaska

1. Call to Order

Ms. Gardino called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

* **FMATS Policy Committee members**

** **FMATS Staff members**

*** **FMATS Technical Committee members**

| Name | Representing |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| *** Donna Gardino | FMATS Coordinator |
| *** Bob Pristash | City of Fairbanks |
| *** Tim Zinza for Jackson Fox | City of Fairbanks |
| *** Bill Butler (via telephone) | City of North Pole |
| *** Lee Borden | ADEC, Air Quality Division |
| *** Brian Lindamood | AK Railroad Corporation |
| *** Judy Chapman | DOT&PF Planning Chief |
| *** Jerry McBeath | FNSB Planning Commission |
| *** Christine Nelson | FNSB Community Planning Director |
| *** Glenn Miller | FNSB Transportation |
| *** Dave Sanches | Fort Wainwright Planning |
| *** Melanie Herbert (via telephone) | Tanana Chiefs Conference |
| *** Mary Pagel (absent) | UAF |
| *** Alan Hoza | Alaska West Express |
| ** Deborah Todd | FMATS Administrative Assistant |
| ** Alicia Giamichael | FMATS Planner |
| ** Linda Mahlen | DOT&PF Planning |
| ** Margaret Carpenter | DOT&PF Planning |

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comments.

4. Approval of the August 5, 2015 Agenda

Motion: To approve the August 5, 2015 Technical Committee Agenda.
(McBeath/Lindamood).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of the July 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the July 1, 2015 meeting minutes. (Lindamood/Sanches).

Discussion: Mr. McBeath commented that he wanted to mention a statement that was made on Page 9 of the minutes where Ms. Gardino had stated that FMATS

wanted to separate from the Union. Mr. McBeath stated that a Planning Commissioner had mentioned it to him and was upset by the anti-union sentiment of the statements.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Policy Development Subcommittee Report listed under Old Business.

7. Old Business

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

Ms. Gardino stated that a Policy Development Subcommittee meeting was held to review the Complete Streets policy, revisions were made, and the recommendation was to release the policy for public comments.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the Complete Streets Policy for public comment. (McBeath/Pristash).

Discussion: Mr. Lindamood stated that the reference was made to the AASHTO Green Book and it had a formal name and needed to be changed to the formal name.

Mr. McBeath stated that he did not understand the first line of the policy statement completely and asked for clarification of the statement of what was being established and developed.

Ms. Nelson inquired why “multi-modal transportation system” was deleted.

Ms. Chapman stated that she thought it was taken out so that it could focus more on the planning and front end work rather than having designers ferret out what the design and scope of the project was.

Ms. Gardino suggested the correction could say: “in the establishment and development of a multi modal transportation system.”

Mr. Hoza inquired about a possible revision to Page 13 for the second bullet: Complete Street approaches may include...” Mr. Hoza stated that from a through perspective it was inconclusive, but just wanted to ask the question if there was a potential for median islands and things that would inhibit through transfer. Mr. Hoza stated that maybe that did not need to be said but he did not see a reference about those.

Ms. Nelson stated that she thought that the first sentence clarified Mr. Hoza’s concern.

Ms. Chapman stated that she was going back to the system where you had freight routes and routes that were unencumbered and when looking at a complete street they were focusing on the entire system. Ms. Chapman stated that she thought it was okay to reference when it was in context of the entire system.

Mr. Pristash stated that the whole thing overlaid the functional classification of the street and all streets were not the same or used for the same functions.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. Coordinator’s Office Reorganization Subcommittee

Ms. Gardino stated that there was discussion at the previous Technical Committee and brought forward to the Policy Committee. Ms. Gardino stated that Mayor Hopkins thought it was a good idea to form a subcommittee to study the reorganization. Ms. Gardino asked for volunteers interested in being on the

subcommittee. Ms. Gardino stated that the subcommittee volunteers consisted of: Christine Nelson, Judy Chapman, Jackson Fox, Donna Gardino, and Alicia Giamichael.

Ms. Gardino stated that the City of Fairbanks was currently trying to figure out a plan to pay for the health care costs.

New Business

a. Banking Request (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that the Banking Request Draft was put together a week ago and she had received changes to it and she would present those to the Technical Committee. Ms. Gardino stated that Ms. Carpenter was working on the fiscal constraint of the TIP and she did not have the final numbers yet so would not need a recommendation from them until that process was completed.

Ms. Chapman explained the process for obligating Federal funding.

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

Ms. Gardino explained that the draft was sent out for agency review and public comment and received no public comment. Ms. Gardino stated that they sent it out for agency review and received concurrence from FHWA on June 24th and from FTA on July 8th.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the FFY2015-2018 TIP Conformity Analysis. (Chapman/Borden).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. Approval of the Responsiveness Summary (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that all the comments for the Draft TIP and Conformity Analysis had been received and all suggested modifications were made. Ms. Gardino explained that the modifications were not in the meeting packets so she presented and explained them.

Ms. Nelson inquired if the comments for the Peger Road project could be grouped together to make it easier to see them all in one place rather than dispersed throughout the document.

Mr. Hoza inquired about the Peger Road Bridge and an area around the south abutment where dirt had been moved away from it. Mr. Hoza inquired if something was going to be done for that erosion.

Mr. Pristash stated that the City would take a look at that area, but did not think it would be an issue for the bridge since it was on concrete pilings that were driven into the ground.

Ms. Gardino stated that she wanted to hold a Seasonal Mobility Task Force meeting since there were new people and to help get everyone familiar with each other.

Mr. McBeath inquired about the Minnie Street comment regarding planning on the Minnie Street project.

Ms. Gardino stated that she would change the response to that inquiry. Ms. Gardino explained the reason behind the scope and name change for the Tanana Loop-Alumni Drive project and read the new scope that was proposed.

Mr. McBeath inquired if the both DOT and UAF Facilities Management would be involved in the design process.

Ms. Chapman stated that Mr. McBeath was correct.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the 2015-2018 TIP Responsiveness Summary, as amended. (McBeath/Nelson).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

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

Ms. Gardino asked if there were any questions or comments as the document was not fully revised yet. Ms. Gardino stated that she thought the TIP narrative was informative and that they should read it if they had an opportunity.

Mr. Miller requested that in the first section where they talked about 5307 funds if they could remove the words “in kind match”.

Mr. Lindamood stated that the Railroad was reviewing the document and would provide comments before the end of August.

Ms. Gardino explained that the Policy Committee Meeting would be August 12th rather than August 19th due to an AML (Alaska Municipal League) function.

Ms. Gardino stated that the Policy Committee had also voted to change the location and time of their meetings to City Council Chambers to 12 p.m.

e. Cushman Street Reconstruction Phase 4 Increase (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained the funding increase request and where the funding would come from and stated that Mr. Pristash would provide further information.

Mr. Pristash explained the information included on Page 112 of the meeting packet and the utility conflicts in the project design had caused the increase.

Discussion: Mr. McBeath inquired about the ACS costs and what percent they typically paid.

Mr. Pristash stated that the ACS billing had been deleted from this request.

Mr. Pristash stated that the cost had arisen from the power source not being identified in the existing drawings. Mr. Pristash stated that the power source for the Sunrise Coffee stand in Sadler’s Parking lot had not been identified in the plans and had been an oversight. Mr. Pristash stated that a lot of the oversight was on the consultant design of the electrical portion of the project.

Mr. McBeath inquired if there was a clause in the contract that took major omissions or errors on the part of the Consultant into consideration.

Mr. Pristash stated that he would have to look into that, but he thought that omissions or errors fell back on the person reviewing the plans.

Mr. Lindamood stated that it was called a “professional opinion of probable costs” which was the Consultant opinion of what the cost might be and that was all it was.

Ms. Chapman stated that the Contractor was bidding to the plans and specifications and then a person out in the field checking what they were doing but there was always things that were forgotten or omitted and four percent was not that much.

Ms. Gardino stated that they had to include ICAP, so all that was available from FMATS was \$327,000 dollars.

Ms. Nelson inquired who paid the remainder if there was only \$327,000 left to give.

Mr. Pristash stated that he was not sure how to answer that question.

Mr. Lindamood inquired if it this was being funded with FMATS money, was a city street, and whether the FMATS money was State or Federal, and what the Agreement said between FMATS and the City for any kind of financial issues like a Transfer of Responsibility Agreement (TORA) or something like that.

Ms. Gardino stated that she thought it was a TORA.

Mr. Lindamood stated that he thought that if there was a TORA for that project, there should be an answer for who was responsible for that.

Mr. Pristash stated that typically a contingency was figured in the construction engineering budget.

Ms. Gardino and Ms. Chapman stated that they would take a look at the TORA to determine if there was anything that addressed shortfalls and who was responsible for them.

Mr. Lindamood inquired what would happen if the amount available was exceeded.

Mr. Pristash stated that he did not know the answer to that, but they had to move forward and would address the issue if and when it came up.

Mr. Pristash stated that they had negotiated with the utilities and had not accepted the billing yet, so they could go back and continue to negotiate with them to lower the costs.

Motion: To approve State funds for changes on the Cushman Street Reconstruction project in an amount not to exceed \$328,000. (Pristash/Zinza).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

f. 2016-2019 STIP Comments (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained the projects that were included in the 2016-2019 STIP and Ms. Carpenter passed out a sheet containing a list of the projects.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Committee to forward the letter regarding the 2016-2019 STIP. (Pristash/Sanches).

Discussion: Ms. Chapman stated that she thought she should abstain from further discussion since she was with DOT and did not think it would be appropriate for her to make comments on a letter that was being submitted to DOT.

Amendment to the Motion: To retain the comments on Rosie Creek Road and Gold Mine Trail. (McBeath/Pristash).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. One abstention. (Chapman). Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To add that we appreciate including illustrative projects as it provides flexibility in the STIP when reacting to changing project schedules and funding opportunities, and to incorporate #15 in the introductory paragraph and remove the dollar amount for illustrative projects. (McBeath/Borden).

Vote on the Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. One abstention. (Chapman). Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To add, to the Airport Way West project comment, the resolution for the land transfer that the Assembly has passed regarding this project, and to discuss crash reduction, contribution to the revitalization of Airport Way, the extensive interagency cooperation that has occurred to move this project forward, and the importance of these efforts. (McBeath/Hosa).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. One abstention. (Chapman). Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To add, to the Elliott Highway MP 0-12 project comment, the concern that this route is used for freight movement to the North Slope and is the only access for the Haystack and other subdivisions off of Murphy Dome. (Zinza/Pristash).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. One abstention. (Chapman). Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To add, to the Airport Way/South Cushman project comment, the concern with the status of the project in the STIP, and amend the number of projects that have been completed in support of this corridor. (McBeath/Zinza).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. One abstention. (Chapman). Approved.

Amended Motion: To recommend to the Policy Committee to forward the letter regarding the 2016-2019 STIP and: to retain the comments on Rosie Creek and Gold Mine Trail; add that we appreciate including illustrative projects as it provides flexibility in the STIP when reacting to changing project schedules and funding opportunities; and to incorporate #15 in the introductory paragraph and remove the dollar amount for illustrative projects; and add, to the Airport Way West project comment, the resolution for the land transfer that the Assembly has passed regarding this project and to discuss crash reduction, contribution to the revitalization of Airport Way, the extensive interagency cooperation that has occurred to move this project forward and the importance of those efforts; and to add, to the Elliott Highway MP 0-12 project comment, the concern that this route is used for freight movement to the North Slope, and is the only access for the Haystack and other subdivisions off of Murphy Dome; and to add, to the Airport Way/South Cushman project comment, the concern with the status of the project in the STIP and amend the number of projects that have been completed in support of this corridor.

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

g. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

h. Other Issues

No other issues.

i. Informational Items

a. Federal Highway Reauthorization Status

Ms. Gardino explained that House and Senate passed a three month extension which meant that they were good until October 29th.

b. STIP Amendment #16 Comment Response

Ms. Gardino explained FMATS comments and responses included in the meeting packet.

c. 07.15.15 Policy Committee Action Items

Ms. Gardino explained the Policy Committee Action Items that were included in the meeting packet.

d. Obligations and Offsets

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

j. Technical Committee Comments

- Mr. Sanches commented that they could see some changes coming to Ft. Wainwright with the decisions made at Ft. Richardson. Mr. Sanches stated that a couple of the new helicopters would be showing up in September and then the Drones Grey Eagle Squadron would be showing up in the spring.
- Ms. Chapman commented that they would be having the DOT STIP Public Meeting on Wednesday, August 12th from 4-6 pm in the DOT Main Conference Room and the Headquarters STIP Planning Chief would be attending that meeting and could update the Policy Committee on the new STIP during the Policy Committee meeting.
- Ms. Gardino stated that FMATS would be attending the meeting with the TIP to explain the local projects.
- Mr. Pristash stated that he got interviewed and would be on television explaining what was happening on Cushman. Mr. Pristash explained that a bond had been received for the northern roundabout on Helmericks and would be on the City Council Agenda on August 10th which would give him authority to approve the change order to build that roundabout. Mr. Pristash stated that if they could get the illumination, the roundabout could be built this year.
- Mr. Lindamood stated that the Railroad was in the process of replacing a number of grade crossings in Northern Region and had a few more to finish up; so if you could not get somewhere due to the track being ripped out, be patient with them because it would better when they got done.
- Ms. Gardino stated that Ms. Giamichael would be conducting the September 2nd meeting because she would not be here.

k. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn. (Pristash/Sanches). Meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at noon in the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor City Hall, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK.

Approved: _____

Micha Giamichael
for Donna Gardino, Chair
FMATS Technical Committee

Date: _____

9-2-15