



## SPECIAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2014

### 1. Call to Order

Bryce Ward, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

### 2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

#### Attendee

\*Kellen Spillman for Luke Hopkins, Chair  
 \*Bryce Ward, Vice Chair  
 \*Bob Pristash for John Eberhart  
 \*Judy Chapman for Rob Campbell  
 \*Guy Sattley  
 \*Perry Walley  
 \*Alice Edwards (via telephone)  
 \*\*+Donna Gardino  
 \*\*Deborah Todd  
 \*\*Aaron Buckley  
 \*\*Margaret Carpenter  
 \*\*Shelley Potter  
 +Brian Lindamood  
 +Joan Hardesty  
 +Scott Bell  
 +Joan Hardesty  
 +Glenn Miller  
 +Dave Sanches  
 Jackson Fox

#### Representative Organization

Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
 Mayor, City of North Pole  
 Mayor, City of Fairbanks  
 Acting 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  
 DOT&PF Planning  
 DOT&PF Planning  
 Alaska Railroad  
 Department of Environmental Conservation  
 UAF  
 DEC Air Quality  
 FNSB Transportation  
 Ft. Wainwright Planning  
 City of Fairbanks

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

### 3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

### 4. New Business

#### a. STIP Amendment #11 Discussion and Comments (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that STIP Amendment #11 and the proposed draft comments were included in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino stated that she felt it was important to get the Policy Committee together to discuss and make comments on STIP Amendment #11 since she had not known about it until after the last meeting and comments were due on August 11<sup>th</sup>. which was prior to their next meeting. Ms. Gardino stated that she felt it was also a good opportunity to comment on the Transportation Alternative Program that they had not received much information for from the DOT about how to apply for this program. Ms. Gardino stated that there was supposed to be some kind of a program for Cities and Boroughs to apply for the funds but she did not know what that

program was or if the DOT&PF had addressed it. Ms. Gardino stated that there were also several projects, for example, University Avenue, that had disappeared from the list or been moved out. Ms. Gardino stated that it appeared to her that there was a lot of impact on Northern Region projects due to the Knik Arm project.

Mr. Sattley asked Ms. Gardino if the University Avenue project had disappeared. Ms. Gardino stated that the project was mostly a GO Bond project but there were some Federal funds needed since the estimate was higher than the available GO Bond funds and it was not listed in the STIP.

Mr. Sattley inquired if the GO Bond projects were itemized or mentioned to the public on the STIP prior to the vote on that. Ms. Gardino stated that it had been a 2008 GO Bond and they had given the list of projects on that GO Bond.

Ms. Chapman explained that she had spoken with Headquarters about that project and it had been a DOT oversight that University Avenue was left off the list. Ms. Chapman stated that the project would be put back into the list in Amendment #12 which would be happening after the federal fiscal year so it would not affect any of the project phases. Ms. Chapman stated that there was approximately \$16.9 million in the GO Bond left, so the first phase of work was \$23.8 million and they would have to supplement that with NHS funds.

Mr. Sattley asked Ms. Chapman if the project was back on schedule. Ms. Chapman stated that the project was back on schedule and it had just been an oversight on the part of DOT.

Mr. Sattley inquired about the term “grandfathered money” and they had kept nibbling away at the grandfathered money for the Illinois Street project and whether there was any grandfathered money for the University Avenue project. Ms. Gardino stated that there was no grandfathered money left for University Avenue as it had all been used on the Illinois and Cushman Street Bridge projects.

**Motion:** To approve the letter regarding STIP Amendment #11, with the changes incorporated. (Sattley/Walley)

**Discussion:** Mr. Spillman asked Ms. Chapman if she could offer insight on the four Dalton Highway and three Richardson Highway projects that had slipped off the STIP.

Ms. Chapman stated that one of the projects had already been put back in and the others were shown in outer years or not shown at all, which was a concern for DOT in regard to time-trap issues. Ms. Chapman stated that DOT had communicated back to Headquarters because Headquarters did not always have the detailed information that the regions had and they were forwarding that information to them.

Mr. Spillman stated that Mayor Hopkins had expressed concern about some of the Dalton Highway projects slipping because the natural gas trucking project was to begin sometime in 2016 and if they were not covered in the STIP it could

potentially increase the trucking up there pretty significantly if the natural gasline went through.

Ms. Chapman stated that DOT was advocating strongly for the gas line and Dalton projects and the Borough should advocate the gas line project as well.

Mr. Sattley asked Mr. Spillman to explain the Goldmine Trail project. Mr. Spillman stated that they had tried to get the Goldmine Trail project funded this year, but were asked to hold off on it but it was a priority to be funded in the STIP.

Ms. Chapman stated that the reason why service area transportation roads were taking a hit was because they were down to about a third of the funding they previously received for STP projects and as project delivery schedules became clearer they would probably see some of those types of projects moving in and out, which was the reason they did amendments. Ms. Chapman explained that as less STP money became available each year they would see fewer of those STP types of projects as time went on.

Mayor Ward stated that one of the things he thought was a bit problematic was the statement in the STIP that there was no affect from the Knik Bridge project and in his opinion there actually was. Mayor Ward stated that he wondered if DOT understood the sentiment behind that and the lack of reality between what was shown on paper and what was actually happening in the STIP.

Ms. Chapman stated that she would say that it was definitely going to have an impact, but when you had a lot of money going to one or two projects you tend to have less money for other projects elsewhere and that was the reality of it.

Mayor Ward thanked Ms. Gardino for preparing and bringing the STIP to their attention. Mayor Ward stated that he appreciated how up-to-date Ms. Gardino was on those types of issues that they might not have time to get into.

Mr. Sattley asked Ms. Chapman if the timing of Amendment #12, the one that was going to put the University Avenue project back in, was dependent on the Feds getting their act together or if would happen all by itself.

Ms. Chapman stated that it would happen. Ms. Chapman stated that they were planning to do it after the new Federal fiscal year to get it ready. Ms. Chapman stated that DOT had been asked to prepare their comments in the Region. Ms. Chapman stated that the way it worked was that Headquarters would ask all the regions to prepare a new project schedule for their projects and if things had moved around or delivery dates had changed they would give that to them and then they put together the amendment. Ms. Chapman stated that sometimes they got what they wanted and sometimes they did not. Ms. Chapman stated that it was assured to happen that they would get an Amendment #12. Ms. Chapman stated that it should not affect University Avenue which was ongoing right now, and was not dependent on whether it was showing up in the STIP.

Mr. Sattley asked Ms. Chapman if that happened all by itself. Ms. Chapman stated that the projects were programmed and active and they had money allocated to them so designers worked on those projects regardless.

Mr. Sattley asked Ms. Chapman how often amendments were done. Mr. Sattley inquired if they were done to a schedule or just whenever needed.

Ms. Chapman stated that there were three types of amendments that were done: 1) When a project either moved in or out of the STIP; 2) Administrative modifications were done to change a phase amount in a project; or 3) If there were incorporations by reference to either the AMATS or FMATS TIP.

Mr. Sattley stated that then they could look forward to the next Amendment. Ms. Gardino stated that she would make sure that they did (move University Avenue back in the STIP).

**Vote on Motion:** All in favor. None opposed. Approved.

**5. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)**

No public comment.

**6. Policy Committee Comments**

- Mr. Sattley stated that he was sticking around for the first part of the Technical Committee Meeting to see what they were up to.

**7. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn. (Ward/Eberhart). Meeting was adjourned by Mayor Ward at 11:46 a.m.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 10 a.m. in the Main Conference Room, DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mayor Bryce Ward, Acting Chair  
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/20/14