

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**  
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2011

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Steve Titus 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
* Steve Titus, P.E.	DOT&PF
* Mayor Jerry Cleworth	City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Luke Hopkins	Fairbanks North Star Borough
* Mayor Doug Isaacson	City of North Pole
* Chad Roberts	City of Fairbanks
* Alice Edwards	ADEC, Air Quality Division
** Kellen Spillman	FMATS
*** Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
*** Ethan Birkholz	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Bruce Carr	ARRC
*** Scott Bell	UAF
*** Bernardo Hernandez	FNSB Planning
Guy Sattley	Public
Grier Hopkins	Unidentified
Patrick Cotter	PDC Engineering
John Haas	Fairbanks North Star Borough
Janet Brown	DOT&PF, Preconstruction
Chris Rogers	Information Insights
Meadow Bailey	DOT&PF
Kris Riesenbergl (Teleconference)	FHWA

**3. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**4. Approval of the September 22, 2011 Agenda**

- **Motion:** To approve the September 22, 2011 Policy Committee agenda. (Isaacson, Edwards)
- **Vote on the Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**5. Approval of August 24, 2011 Minutes**

- **Motion:** To approve the August 24, 2011 minutes. (Roberts, 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 Office Staff Report:

- Attended the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee meetings
- Held an open house for the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan
- Held an Advisory Group meeting for the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan
- Attended a meeting about traffic calming measures at University Park Elementary School to assist the school with potential funding sources, particularly Safe Routes to School funding
- Organized a meeting of the Seasonal Mobility Task Force to review the improvements that have been made over the last two seasons
- Assisted in preparing booklets for the Legislative Tour on Friday, September 23, 2011
- Began work on UPWP Amendment #1
- Conducted multiple newspaper and television interviews about the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and the FMATS ADA Curb Corner Upgrades project
- Conducted a Safe Routes to School progress update with the program manager in Juneau
- Worked on the Strategic Traffic Safety Plan update of the Special Users emphasis area
- Worked on TIP Amendment #1
- Wrote a letter of recommendation for Sierra Research, who is doing an RFP for Juneau's fine particulate matter and emissions efforts
- Reviewed legislation that will affect FMATS

Mayor Isaacson asked if there was a discussion, in the meeting with University Park Elementary School, about how inadequate traffic tables are for traffic calming. Ms. Gardino said that details were not discussed on specific traffic calming devices.

Mayor Hopkins arrived at the meeting. (10:08)

### **b) State Funds Subcommittee**

Ms. Gardino said that the State Funds Subcommittee met, but she would like to move the discussion to the New Business section of the agenda.

### **c) Unified Planning Work Program Subcommittee**

Ms. Gardino said that the UPWP Subcommittee met and drafted an amendment to include the City of Fairbanks' in-kind contributions, as well as the in-kind contributions of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Ms. Gardino said that the Technical Committee requested further information on the Fairbanks North Star Borough's contributions and that amendment should be completed by next month.

Mayor Isaacson asked if a discussion could be had regarding the FMATS Technical Committee's action items, specifically referring to the modification of the state funded Preventive Maintenance program to include railroad crossings. Ms. Gardino said that all of the recommendations from the Technical Committee would be covered in New Business.

## **7. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## 8. New Business

### a. Safe Routes to School Plan – Overview and Approval for Public Review (Action Item)

- **Motion:** To approve the Safe Routes to School Draft Inventory and Recommendations for public review and comment. (Roberts, Hopkins).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that a link to the Safe Routes to School document was sent to the FMATS Policy Committee on August 8, 2011 and again on September 12, 2011 asking for comments on the document. Ms. Gardino said that, to date, no comments had been received. Ms. Gardino said that the FMATS Safe Routes to School document appears very intimidating because of the size, but it is organized by school and easily navigable.

Mr. Cotter said that the original plan was to approach 18 schools in the FMATS area to participate in the SRTS program, but the School District said that school participation must be voluntary. Mr. Cotter continued on to say that engineers were sent to each school to talk to the front desk staff/principal and inventoried the infrastructure within a half mile of each school. Mr. Cotter said that from that information, as well as teacher tallies and parent surveys, a draft inventory was developed for each school.

Mr. Cotter said that there was a Safe Routes to School task force that met last winter to give suggestions on what type of events and organizations could benefit from the SRTS effort. Mr. Cotter also said that a school needs ranking model was developed to properly identify each school's infrastructure deficiencies. Mr. Cotter continued on to say that, according to the needs ranking model, the school with the best infrastructure was Arctic Lights Elementary and the schools with the most deficient infrastructure were Woodriver Elementary and Badger Elementary. Mr. Cotter said that toolkits were also developed for each school including infrastructure improvements and national information, such as how to start a walking school bus. Mr. Cotter said that there have been many efforts to get the word out about SRTS around the community, including PSA's, articles in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, and conversations with PTA groups. Mr. Cotter said that there is also an opportunity for Reflectasaurus to come to schools in the FMATS area, but University Park is the old school to express interest so far. Ms. Gardino said that Reflectasaurus will be in Fairbanks on November 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Mr. Cotter said that a GIS database was also developed with all of the SRTS recommendations, possibly for future FMATS projects.

Mayor Isaacson pointed out that in the Draft Inventory and Recommendations Report, Nordale Elementary appears under North Pole Elementary. Mr. Cotter said he would look into the issue.

Mayor Hopkins asked who owned the GIS data and Mr. Cotter said that FMATS owns the GIS data. Mayor Hopkins asked if this effort ends the work for the SRTS Grant or if this is just a first phase. Ms. Gardino said that there will be some changes made to this document and a sample grant application, for one of the FMATS schools, will be developed. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that this report, when complete, will allow the schools in the FMATS area, either City, or a particular service area, to be eligible to apply for SRTS funding. Ms. Gardino said that without the planning document the schools are not eligible for infrastructure funding through SRTS.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the Fairbanks North Star Borough must do grant applications for future funding. Ms. Gardino said it depends on the situation, but if the application were for a bike rack it would be the specific school doing the application. Ms. Gardino said if the project is constructing a sidewalk on a state-owned road, FMATS could apply for that funding. Ms. Gardino said that a Safe Routes to School project could be added to the TIP. Mayor Hopkins asked if the Safe Routes to School program is competitive statewide and Ms. Gardino said that there is \$1 million dedicated to the state of Alaska. Ms. Gardino said that Anchorage is not heavily pursuing the SRTS funding, but communities such as Cordova and Dillingham also have Safe Routes to School programs.

Mayor Hopkins asked which school PDC will develop a sample grant application for, stating that it would be beneficial to developed a sample grant for University Park Elementary. Ms. Gardino said that the original intent, as specified in the RFP, was to develop the sample grant for a couplet of a middle school and an elementary school in the same area. Mr. Cotter said that the only middle school involved in the program was Tanana Middle School. Mr. Cotter continued on to say that the original thought was to do a sample grant for Woodriver Elementary because they were actively involved and the school had the worst score on the infrastructure ranking matrix.

Ms. Gardino said that both University Park Elementary School and Woodriver Elementary School are in service areas and any grant work would have to be done with the approval of the specific service area. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that when the RFP was developed, FMATS did not know that the middle schools were not going to be heavily involved. Ms. Gardino said that the sample grant could be for any of the schools.

Mr. Titus asked how long the public review period will last and Ms. Gardino said the public review will last thirty days and start tomorrow (September 23, 2011).

Mayor Hopkins asked if there is a timeline for the couplet determination and Ms. Gardino said that the school would be chosen by FMATS.

- **Motion to Amend:** To amend the motion to add: Due to recent strong public comment, FMATS recommends the couplet of Woodriver Elementary and University Park Elementary be considered for a sample grant development. (Hopkins, Isaacson).

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins said that with the poor scoring of Woodriver Elementary and the recent actions at University Park Elementary, he feels these two schools would be an appropriate opportunity for a sample grant application.

Mayor Hopkins said that he would like clarification on whether the sample grant is just a sample grant or a couplet sample grant. Ms. Gardino said a sample grant is being developed and the idea of a couplet, from the RFP, was to pair a middle school and an elementary school. Ms. Gardino said that with the lack of interest shown from the middle schools, the sample grant could be changed to include two elementary schools. Ms. Gardino said that it does not even have to be a couplet, but could be a single school.

Mr. Titus asked if this motion is not to include public comment in the selection of a school for the sample grant and Mayor Hopkins said that if strong public comment were received for another school it could be considered when public comment closes.

Mayor Isaacson said that he thinks that the greatest need will come out of the 30 day public review, but he feels that Mayor Hopkins' motion will guide and benefit the discussion. Mr. Roberts said that he feels that the amendment is separate from the original motion and the amendment does make sense, in light of recent events. Mr. Titus said that he is confused about the timing of the sample grant and it is a byproduct of the public review. Ms. Gardino said that the sample grant is a task that was specified in the RFP and it will occur regardless of how many comments are received. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that the amount of comments could impact the specific school and ten comments have been received from Woodriver Elementary. Ms. Gardino said that each school has received the document and Woodriver Elementary has provided the most feedback to FMATS.

Mayor Hopkins said that the amendment directs FMATS to put the SRTS document out for public review and makes the comment in the public record to consider University Park Elementary and Woodriver Elementary for the sample grant application. Mayor Cleworth asked, if there is no amendment on the floor, if PDC would analyze the comments after the public comment period and decide on a school based on public comment. Ms. Gardino said that the original thought was to do a sample grant on Woodriver

Elementary, based on the ranking matrix and public comments already received. Mayor Cleworth said that his concern is that if there had been a death at a different school then that school would be nominated for the sample grant. Mayor Cleworth continued on to say that he feels that there is a public process that needs to be completed before deciding which school to complete a sample grant for.

Ms. Edwards asked if the sample grant is intended to run concurrently with the public comment period or after public review. Ms. Gardino said that she had intended to the sample grant after the public comment period. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that the grant size will not pay for all of the recommendations that are in the SRTS report. Ms. Gardino said that the improvements applied for in the SRTS program must be in reason and the application might be for signs and flashing lights. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that the grant must be coordinated with the specific service area.

Mr. Titus said that the sample grant decision could wait until after the public comment period. Ms. Edwards asked, if the amendment passed, how the recommendations for the sample grant would be conveyed to the public. Ms. Gardino said that the motion specified to consider Woodriver Elementary and University Park Elementary. Mayor Hopkins said that his motion was intended to convey, that as leaders of the community, their view was to create a sample grant including University Park Elementary and Woodriver Elementary.

- **Vote on the Amendment:** Four in favor, two opposed (Titus, Cleworth). Approved.
- **Amended Motion:** To approve the Safe Routes to School Draft Inventory and Recommendations for public review and comment, as amended. (Roberts, Hopkins).
- **Vote on the Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

#### **b. Curb Corner Upgrades PH4 Increase and Match (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino said that since the meeting packet had been published, the DOT decided that they did not need any funding for the Curb Corner project.

Mayor Hopkins said that he appreciates the advertisements that have been on the radio explaining the need for the Curb corner project.

#### **c. South Cushman Mitchell to Sanduri PH2 Increase (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino said that the request for funds on the South Cushman Mitchell to Sanduri project occurred after the FMATS Technical Committee meeting and the Technical Committee did not make a motion on this issue.

- **Motion:** To approve an increase of \$50,000 for PH2 of the South Cushman Mitchell to Sanduri project using funding currently under PH4 of the College Road Rehabilitation Project in FFY12. (Cleworth, Hopkins).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that in the packet is an e-mail from the design manager stating that a final review trip, traffic revisions, advertising, and storm water work caused a cost increase. Ms. Gardino said that she rounded it to \$50,000. Mr. Titus said that in the memo the project design manager said to round the increase to \$45,000 and Ms. Gardino rounded to \$50,000. Ms. Gardino said the original estimate was a little over \$45,000 and she would rather round up than down to be safe.

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

#### **d. University Avenue Widening PH2 Increase (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To approve an additional \$165,600 in GO Bond funding and \$1,376,800 in FCTP funding for PH2 of University Avenue Widening in FFY12. The FCTP funding will come from PH4 of the College Road Rehabilitation Project and Gillam Way Rehabilitation (PH2). (Isaacson, Hopkins).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that the University Avenue Widening project increase did not go through the FMATS Technical Committee because she did not get the funding amounts until after the meeting. Ms. Gardino said that there is a breakdown in the meeting packet showing why this funding is needed for Phase 2 of the University Avenue Widening project, segment 1. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that currently there is \$1.4 million in phase 2 and they need \$4 million to get them through the final design of the project. Mayor Isaacson asked where the funding is coming from and Ms. Gardino said that the funding is coming from the College Road Rehabilitation project, because of a lowered estimate, and the Gillam Way rehabilitation project, because the City of Fairbanks has other priorities in FFY12.

Mayor Isaacson asked how there is \$2.2 million in savings on the College Road Rehabilitation project. Ms. Gardino said that she had been indexing the project for inflation over the past years and a refined estimate is \$2.4 million less than what is currently programmed in the TIP. Mr. Titus asked if the design phase of the University Avenue Widening project is going to be \$5.4 million and Ms. Gardino said the final design is going to cost \$5.4 million.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the document that the Planning Commission and the FNSB Assembly saw on University Avenue would be significantly changed in the design phase. Ms. Brown said there would be small changes made to the design, but there are not any significant changes to the University Avenue Widening project design anticipated, because changes would need to be made to the environmental document. Ms. Gardino said if major changes are needed then there must also be a re-evaluation of the environmental document. Mayor Hopkins asked if the document could be brought back to the FNSB Community Planning department if it significantly changes the design on University Avenue. Ms. Brown said if changes are made, the University Avenue Widening project design could be brought back to the FNSB Community Planning Commission.

Mayor Isaacson asked if the amounts in the motion match the amounts in 2012 – 2015 TIP Amendment #1. Ms. Gardino said that the amounts do match.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the entire amount reduced from the College Road Reconstruction project was going to the University Avenue Widening project. Ms. Gardino said that just a portion of the College Road Rehabilitation reduction is going to the University Avenue Widening project and the remaining funds will be addressed in TIP Amendment #1.

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

#### **e. State Funds Recommendations (Action Item)**

**Motion:** To approve the SB46 Allocation Recommendations, for discussion purposes, as presented and amended. (Cleworth, Hopkins).

**Discussion:** Ms. Gardino said that a subcommittee was convened to look at possible projects for the use of the SB46 allocation received in the last Capital Budget. Ms. Gardino said that the subcommittee came up with a list of ten priorities, which were then ranked by the FMATS Technical Committee. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that the FMATS Technical Committee made some changes to the projects and associated amounts and the final recommended results are available in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino noted that \$1.2 million, of the \$5 million received in the SB46 Capital Budget Appropriation, has already been placed on the Noble Street Upgrades project. Ms. Gardino said that there is roughly \$430,000 of the SB230 funding remaining and \$1,000 of the HB381 funding remaining.

Mayor Cleworth said that the only funding that the City of Fairbanks and the City of North Pole are going to have for preventive maintenance is funding from SB46. Mayor Cleworth said that if it was up to him the entire amount of SB46 funding would go towards Preventive Maintenance.

- **Motion to Amend:** To amend the motion to take out the three words “and associated appurtenances” from the Preventive Maintenance Program. (Cleworth, Roberts).

**Discussion:** Mayor Isaacson asked what the value of changing “railroad crossings” to “appurtenances” was and Ms. Gardino said the FMATS Technical Committee’s original motion was to change the wording to “railroad crossings.” Ms. Gardino continued on to say that the FMATS Technical Committee thought that “railroad crossings” was restrictive and “appurtenances” better described all of the features that could possibly be encompassed. Ms. Gardino said that on the Preventive Maintenance federal program the items of work are much more specific. Mayor Isaacson asked if this state funded Preventive Maintenance Program would help the City of North Pole with the ongoing issue who maintains the Railroad Crossings.

Mr. Bernardo Hernandez said that the intent of the motion was to make the funding available for railroad crossings, sidewalks, bike trails, and many other things. Mr. Bruce Carr said that he would not presume to tell the City of North Pole how to appropriate funds, but if the term “and appurtenances” were left in the motion then it would be possible to use funding on railroad crossings.

Mayor Cleworth said that \$1.5 million is a small amount of funding when it comes to roads and the biggest bang for the buck is to re-do roads. Mayor Cleworth said if railroad crossings and other projects are included in the Preventive Maintenance program the funding would go very quickly.

Mayor Hopkins asked if in Mayor Cleworth’s motion to amend he would be changing the term back to railroad crossings or deleting the term “and appurtenances” all together. Mayor Cleworth said that in his motion to amend he would delete the term altogether. Mayor Hopkins said that railroad crossings are in streets and he does not support the motion to amend made by Mayor Cleworth.

Mayor Isaacson said that he supports keeping the term “and associated appurtenances” because he has seen the complications that arise from poorly maintained railroad crossings. Mayor Isaacson asked who determines which programs will be funded in the State funded Preventive Maintenance program. Ms. Gardino said that a subcommittee typically meets, with representation from each entity, and decides which projects will be funded.

Mr. Titus asked if the FMATS Preventive Maintenance Program has ever funded railroad crossings and Ms. Gardino said FMATS Preventive Maintenance funds have not been used to maintain railroad crossings. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that Preventive Maintenance funds are not intended for normal maintenance of facilities. Mr. Titus said that he supports funding streets with the Preventive Maintenance funding and believes there to be other funds for maintaining railroad crossings. Mr. Titus noted that there are many railroad crossings in the FMATS area. Mr. Titus said that FMATS could fund railroad crossings in projects rather than preventive maintenance, citing the example of Phillips Field Road.

Ms. Gardino said that the wording as approved by the legislature for the use of SB46 funds was “to supplement existing federal funding to fund projects in the approved FMATS TIP and continued funding to support the operations of the FMATS Coordinator’s Office.” Mayor Cleworth asked how much the railroad crossing on Phillips Field Road cost and Ms. Gardino said that she believed the crossing to cost \$400,000.

Mr. Carr said that a rail crossing deteriorates due to automobile traffic and not because of rail traffic. Mr. Carr said that there are programs, such as federal rail programs or HSIP programs that can potentially repair a deteriorated crossing, but if there is funding put into crossings more frequently then they will not demand as costly of repairs. Mayor Cleworth said that his big fear is that costly railroad crossings, like the one on Phillips Field Road, will take up a great deal of the funding and many lane miles could be done with the Preventive Maintenance Program funding.

Mayor Hopkins said that he has an estimate for a railroad crossing that is under \$100,000 that could potentially be addressed by this funding.

Mayor Isaacson said that if railroad crossings are regularly maintained then the replacement costs of these crossings could be avoided.

- **Vote on the Amendment:** Three in favor. Three opposed (Hopkins, Isaacson, Roberts). Motion fails.

Mayor Cleworth pointed out that four of the nine projects nominated for the SB46 funding cannot be funded because \$1.2 million is already allocated towards the Noble Street Upgrades project.

Mayor Cleworth asked if a traffic study had been completed on the UAF Roundabout project. Mr. Scott Bell said that a traffic study is currently underway, by Kittelson and Associates, to get alternatives for the intersection. Mr. Bell said that one of the alternatives is a roundabout, but due to the geography at the particular location, a roundabout may be difficult. Mr. Bell said that the intersection is positioned on the top of a ridge that slopes, which could cause complications to a roundabout design. Mr. Bell said that improving the three way intersection that is currently in place may be the best solution.

- **Motion to Amend:** To remove the Tanana Drive Extension project from the list of SB46 Allocation Recommendations. (Cleworth, Roberts)

**Discussion:** Mayor Cleworth said that if the Tanana Drive Extension project is removed from the list of SB46 Allocation Recommendations, then it could potentially free up more funding for Preventive Maintenance.

Mayor Hopkins said that he would like to see the Tanana Drive Extension project left on the list because it is not currently funded, but in the future funding could be modified.

Ms. Gardino said that currently the funded projects are Preventive Maintenance Program (state funded), FMATS Pedestrian Improvements: Stage 1, Preventive Maintenance Program (federal), Cushman Street Complete Streets, and FMATS Pedestrian Improvements: Stage 2.

Mr. Roberts asked what the point was of including the four projects that are not currently funded. Ms. Gardino said that all of the projects in the SB46 Allocation Recommendations list are in the TIP with the exception of the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Entrance project. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that she made the decision to include \$5 million worth of recommendations because things change so frequently that more funding could become available. Ms. Gardino said if federal funding became available then it could replace the SB46 funding currently programmed on the Noble Street Upgrades project.

Mr. Roberts asked, if additional funding is found, if the funding would just automatically flow into the lower projects on the SB46 Allocation Recommendations list. Ms. Gardino said if projects are removed from the SB46 Allocation Recommendations list they would still be in the TIP and eligible for funding, just not SB46 funding.

Mayor Isaacson said that he appreciates that Mayor Cleworth is attempting to find additional Preventive Maintenance funding and suggested dropping all of the projects that are not currently funded. Mayor Isaacson continued on to say that if additional SB46 funding were to become available it could just be added to the Preventive Maintenance Program.

Mr. Titus said that all of these projects are in the TIP and could be funded with federal sources, rather than SB46 funding. Ms. Gardino said that the intent of the state funded Preventive Maintenance Program is not to use federal funding. Mr. Titus said that the funding amount of projects such as the Tanana Drive Extension project could be federal or state funding and that decision is made by the FMATS Policy Committee.

Mayor Hopkins said that \$1.2 million has already been allocated to a project in the City of Fairbanks (Noble Street Upgrades) and there is \$3.78 million of state funding remaining that could be used to help other projects along. Mayor Hopkins noted that the original proposed FMATS allocation of SB46 funding was \$10 million, before the Governor cut the allocation by \$5 million. Mayor Hopkins continued on to say that he thinks all of the projects should remain on the list and to keep pursuing state funding. Mayor Hopkins said that he does not want to drop the Tanana Drive Extension project from the list.

Mayor Cleworth said that there are many projects, such as South Cushman, that have languished for a long time and if there is additional funding it should be going to the major projects, like Illinois Street.

- **Amendment Withdrawn:** (Cleworth, Roberts)

Mayor Cleworth said that he agrees with Mayor Isaacson that all of the unfunded SB46 Allocation Recommendation projects should be removed. Mayor Cleworth said that if additional funding becomes available he thinks that it should be allocated towards the Preventive Maintenance Program, which he feels is underfunded. Mayor Cleworth said that the City of Fairbanks does not want to go backwards on road maintenance.

- **Motion to amend:** To amend the motion to add: and fund the top five projects and drop the rest off of the list. (Cleworth, Isaacson).

**Discussion:** Mayor Isaacson said that if additional funding is acquired the projects could easily be brought back for consideration. Mr. Titus said that all of the projects are in the Illustrative section of the TIP and could be easily brought back.

Mayor Hopkins asked what would happen if one of the projects on the list required less funding and additional funding was freed up. Ms. Gardino said that the FMATS Policy Committee would make that decision.

Mayor Hopkins said that he is concerned with the elimination of the projects and would like to the FMATS Policy Committee to consider an amendment that if additional funding were found then the other projects on the list would be considered.

Mayor Isaacson said that the extra projects will not be able to be funded now and as time goes by the FMATS Policy Committee will have a different set of priorities.

Mayor Hopkins said that by his estimations \$3.2 million of the \$5 million of SB46 funding is going to be spent in the City of Fairbanks, not considering the Preventive Maintenance Program. Mayor Hopkins continued on to say that he sees many needs in the Fairbanks North Star Borough that are not on City Streets. Mayor Hopkins said that he will be voting against this amendment and he agrees with the FMATS Technical Committee's recommendations.

Mayor Cleworth said that he disagrees with Mayor Hopkins and the Fairbanks North Star Borough received \$5 million from the state for streets. Mayor Cleworth continued on to say that the City of Fairbanks did not receive any funding for streets from the state this year. Mayor Cleworth said that Representative Thompson and Representative Wilson attended the FMATS Policy Committee meeting and specified that a portion of the original SB46 allocation was intended for the City of Fairbanks. Mayor Cleworth said that he was told that the entire \$10 million, when it was \$10 million, was intended for City of Fairbanks projects. Mayor Cleworth said that the City of Fairbanks is very frustrated because they were told one thing and had another thing happen. Mayor Cleworth said that the most important use of funding is the Preventive Maintenance Program and the Fairbanks North Star Borough gets a share of that.

Mayor Isaacson said that in terms of use, impact to the community, and economic gain he thinks that the UAF Roundabout project would score higher than the Tanana Lakes project. Mayor Isaacson said that if there is extra funding he would like to have the ability to evaluate the particular projects that need funding at the time, rather than just funding the next project on the list.

Mr. Roberts said that he agrees with Mayor Cleworth in that everyone benefits from the Preventive Maintenance fund and thinks that \$1.5 million will be spent very quickly, with all three entities benefiting from the program.

- **Vote on the Amendment:** Five in favor. One opposed (Hopkins). Approved.
- **Motion:** To approve the SB46 Allocation Recommendations, for discussion purposes, as presented and amended. (Cleworth, Hopkins).
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**f. FFY12 – 15 TIP Amendment#1 (Action Item)**

- **Motion:** To release the draft FFY12—15 Transportation Improvement Program for public comment, as presented. (Cleworth, Hopkins)

Ms. Gardino said that the original TIP had just been incorporated in the STIP and the purpose of this amendment is because Phase 7 is needed for the Preventive Maintenance Program. Ms. Gardino noted that she found out about this need just prior to the FMATS Policy Committee meeting last month. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that since an amendment was required, she also moved the \$2.4 million of unneeded funds off of the College Road Rehabilitation project and increased the Preventive Maintenance Program by \$800,000 to bring the program up to \$2 million. Ms. Gardino said that the DOT is designing a \$2 million Preventive Maintenance Program and now it is fully funded. Ms. Gardino said that she also added a LED Street Light project Stage 3 to cover any lights that have not already been replaced and to also include lights from UAF. Ms. Gardino said the increases in South Cushman (Mitchell – Sanduri) and the University Avenue Widening project, already approved by the FMATS Policy Committee, were also included in this amendment. Ms. Gardino noted that she also deleted the funds for Gillam Way and added the GO Bond funding for the University Avenue Widening project, and reduced the right-of-way estimate for the Plack Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility. Ms. Gardino said she also added several project to the Illustrative section of the TIP.

Ms. Gardino said that the American Jobs Act provided funding for transportation projects and hopefully FMATS will receive some of that funding. Ms. Gardino continued on to say that the way the American Jobs Act is currently structured, FMATS would not be eligible because of an Alaska specific exemption that is not included in the Bill. Ms. Gardino said that in the event that funding is received, she believed that projects were needed in the illustrative section of the TIP, such as the Cushman Street Bridge Reconstruction project.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the Cushman Street Bridge was an oversight for not being included in the scope of work on the Illinois Street Reconstruction project. Ms. Gardino said that the Cushman Street Bridge is currently in the scope of work on the Illinois Street Reconstruction project and DOT Project Control is giving the Cushman Street Bridge a new project number. Ms. Gardino said it is in the environmental document for the Illinois Street Reconstruction project. Ms. Gardino said that the Cushman Street Bridge is really already part of the TIP, but it will just have a new number and a new line. Mr. Titus said that it is just a housekeeping issue.

Mayor Hopkins asked if anything is going to happen to the Cushman Street Bridge in the Illinois Street Reconstruction project, such as wider sidewalks and traffic lane improvements. Ms. Brown said that in the environmental document for the Illinois Street Reconstruction project, replacement of the Cushman Street Bridge is shown, but because of FMATS, the replacement of the bridge was taken out in the final design phase. Ms. Brown said that the Cushman Street Bridge will go to one-way traffic when construction on Illinois Street is finished. Ms. Brown said that the Cushman Street Bridge will also be reduced by one lane, but sidewalks will not be widened. Ms. Gardino said that bridge design will not allow wider sidewalks on the Cushman Street Bridge because dead load will be too great. Ms. Gardino said that the only way to get wider sidewalks on the Cushman Street Bridge is to replace the entire bridge.

Mayor Hopkins asked when the Cushman Street Bridge was removed from the scope of work on the Illinois Street Reconstruction project. Mr. Titus said that he did not remember exactly when the bridge was removed from the scope of work.

Mayor Cleworth said that the sidewalks on the Cushman Street Bridge are a big issue because they are very narrow, but does not understand why the sidewalks could not be expanded. Ms. Brown said that widening pedestrian facilities was considered, but bridge design said that the dead load could not be increased.

Ms. Gardino said that she wanted to make sure that the Cushman Street Bridge project is continued after the Illinois Street Reconstruction project is completed. Ms. Gardino emphasized that the Cushman Street Bridge project is not a new project, but a new number is being put on the project.

Ms. Edwards said that the FMATS Policy Committee actually approved \$50,000 for the South Cushman Mitchell to Sanduri project and the 2012 – 2015 TIP Draft Amendment #1 shows \$45,000.

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

## 9. Public Comments

Mr. Bell asked, if the sidewalks on the Cushman Street Bridge could not be widened, if a guardrail could be installed on Cushman Street.

Mayor Cleworth said that a bike lane could possibly be installed on the Cushman Street Bridge to offer a better buffer for pedestrians. Mayor Cleworth said that the Cushman Street Bridge is a dangerous bridge. Ms. Gardino said that there would currently be a seven foot buffer, between the sidewalk and the traffic lanes, on the east side of the bridge and a smaller buffer on the west.

Mayor Hopkins asked if the sidewalks on the Cushman Street Bridge are currently being work on. Ms. Brown said someone is currently working on the design and she would look into the status of the design. Mayor Cleworth asked if there would be an update of the Cushman Street Bridge project at the next FMATS Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Carr said that on September 27, 2011 Secretary LaHood, USDOT Secretary, will be in Alaska riding the railroad and visiting communities. Mr. Carr said that he hopes that the visit could be an opportunity to speak with Mr. LaHood to ensure that transportation funds come to Alaska in the future. Mr. Carr said that on September 28, 2011 there will be a groundbreaking ceremony in Salcha that is open to the public. Mr. Carr said on September 29, 2011 at 9:00am at the Princess Hotel there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors and it is open to the public. Mr. Carr said that there is a Strategic Minerals Conference on September 30, 2011 that he feels is a very important conference for the transportation industry.

## **10. Other Issues**

There were no other issues.

## **11. Informational Items**

### **a. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update**

Ms. Gardino said that an Existing Conditions Memo is out for public comment.

### **b. FFY11 Obligation List**

Ms. Gardino said that the obligation list is included in the meeting packet and FMATS is currently 87% obligated and will soon be 100% obligated. Mr. Titus said that all of the federal funding will be obligated this FFY and none will be lost.

### **c. Status of TIP Approval**

Ms. Gardino said that the FMATS TIP was incorporated into the STIP September 16, 2011.

### **d. American Jobs Act**

Ms. Gardino said that this is a stimulus package that was released by the President and there is language that would prevent FMATS from receiving and funding. Ms. Gardino said if anyone would like more information she could provide it to them.

Mayor Hopkins said that the American jobs Act is currently using the same language that ARRA used, which eliminates the FMATS MPO from receiving any funding. Mayor Hopkins continued on to say that the MPO is Hawaii would also be eliminated, but AMATS would still be eligible to receive funding. Mayor Hopkins said that he is going to submit a letter for the three Mayors to sign so that the congressional delegation is aware of the FMATS specific issue. Mr. Titus pointed out that there is an excerpt from the bill included in the meeting packet.

### **e. Surface Transportation Authorization Update**

Ms. Gardino said that the Surface Transportation Authorization was extended for highways through February, 2012, but the appropriations bill was voted down in the house. Ms. Gardino said that there is authorization, but there are no appropriations that have been approved. Mr. Titus said that he expects a great deal of action before the end of the month.

**12. Committee Comments.**

Mayor Hopkins asked that there is an overview of the Cushman Street Bridge and potential options at the next meeting. Mayor Hopkins said that the comments about the Fairbanks North Star Borough receiving \$5 million for their roads are not correct and they are actually the taxpayer's service area roads.

**13. Adjourn**

- **Motion to adjourn:** (Edwards, Roberts). Approved. Adjourned at 12:05 pm.

**Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.**

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

Date: 10/19/11