

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
800 Cushman Street, City Council Chambers
City Hall, Fairbanks, Alaska
Meeting Minutes – September 5, 2012

1. Call to Order

Jessica Smith called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

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 (absent)	FMATS Coordinator
** Jessica Smith (for Donna Gardino)	FMATS Transportation Planner
*** Jerry McBeath	FNSB Planning Commission
*** Dave Sanches (absent)	Fort Wainwright
*** Scott Bell	UAF
*** Melanie Herbert (absent)	Tanana Chiefs Conference
*** Ethan Birkholz	DOT&PF, Planning
*** Bill Butler	City of North Pole
*** Bruce Carr (absent)	ARRC
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC, Air Quality Division
*** Bernardo Hernandez	FNSB, Planning
*** Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
*** Bob Pristash (absent)	City of Fairbanks
*** Glenn Miller	FNSB Transportation
** Kellen Spillman	FNSB, Planning
** Margaret Carpenter	DOT&PF, Planning
Bill Chace	Community Member
Hannah Blankenship	DOT (PIO assistant)
Barry Hooper	DOT&PF
Linda Mahlen	DOT&PF Planning
Sarah Schacher	DOT&PF
Daniel Adamczak	DOT&PF
Kris Riesenbergl (by phone)	FHWA

3. Public Comments

Bill Chace addressed the committee concerning the opening/dedication of the Barnette Street Bridge. Mr. Chace offered the use of his Model-T Ford, originally owned by Tom Gibson/Bobby Sheldon for the dedication.

4. Approval of the September 5, 2012 Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the September 5, 2012 Agenda, as amended. (McBeath/Bell)
- **Discussion:** Mr. Hernandez asked for a discussion of Mr. Chace's proposal to be added to item 10, Other Issues.
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of the August 1, 2012 Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the September 5, 2012 Agenda. (Birkholz/Bell)
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

a. Boundary Subcommittee Update – Next Meeting 9.10.12

Ms. Smith reminded the committee of the Boundary Subcommittee's next meeting to be held the following Monday, September 10, 2012. She asked Mr. Spillman to walk the committee through the materials and outline of next week's agenda with the subcommittee. Mr. Spillman noted the maps and methodology located in the meeting packet, and the status of the Borough's boundary prediction for the next 20 years. Mr. Spillman noted the information in the packet (Fairbanks Urbanized Areas and FMATS MPA), and what decisions will need to be made by the subcommittee regarding newly urbanized areas, such as the area extending to the east of Farmer's Loop, along the Steese Highway.

Mr. McBeath asked specific questions regarding the provided methodology, including the definition of GIS (Geographic Information Systems), the role of ArcMAP and ArcGIS software, and the estimated population numbers provided in the methodology report. Mr. Spillman answered Mr. McBeath's questions, defining the type of software being used by the Borough for the projections, as well as the data acquired for the population estimates. Mr. McBeath asked for the Census Blocks to be clarified, including the intersected "source data layer feature." Mr. Spillman provided further explanation regarding Census Blocks; an area boundary defined by each particular census and can change from census to census.

Mr. Spillman noted that he could provide a more in depth explanation of the analysis for Mr. McBeath at a later time if that would be helpful.

7. Old Business

a. Illinois Street Reconstruction Update

Ms. Smith noted the bank duct work has been completed. The change orders to date are included in the meeting packet, which includes acceleration of the project. Mr. Schmetzer added that the cost of accelerating the project was negotiated between the engineer and contractor, resulting in signal completion before freeze-up of all signals south of Monroe High School. This includes the intersections at Minnie Street, Phillips Field Road, Terminal Driveway, and the south side of the Chena River. Striping, pavement, and the entire alignment will be open for the winter, and the contractor will complete the remaining portion of the project at the Noyes Slough Bridge next summer. Mr. Hernandez asked when the Barnette Bridge will be opened; Mr. Schmetzer said the bridge will be opened once the power is completed to the traffic signals, which should be completed this fall. Mr. Hooper agreed that the signals should be completed this fall, in late October or November.

8. New Business

a. Airport Way Median Options

Mr. Daniel Adamczak provided the committee with a PowerPoint presentation of Airport Way median alternatives as a possible preventive maintenance project. The alternatives presented included asphalt medians or stamped concrete medians, as well as a "do nothing" alternative,

leaving medians as-is on Airport Way, with no maintenance agreement currently in place, effectively being the least expensive with no additional or maintenance costs. However, the unmaintained grass medians or gravel/concrete medians with weeds growing would be the result of a do nothing alternative. The asphalt medians were the next least expensive alternative, followed by stamped concrete, which is the most expensive alternative. Regardless of alternatives, the lilac bushes will be preserved in the medians.

The committee was asked by the DOT representatives (Sarah Schacher and Daniel Adamczak) what the committee believed was the best alternative for Airport Way median improvements. One committee member preferred stamped concrete; another did not have a preference. The remaining committee members voiced concerns that Airport Way needed a more robust improvement and beautification project, and until the DOT makes this a priority, concrete or otherwise more short-term improvements should be delayed until a more conclusive and long-term improvement project could be addressed and funded.

b. Borough FMATS Funding Breakdown Request

Ms. Smith briefed the committee on the Policy Committee's discussion of the UPWP PL Funding allocations to each agency (FMATS, AK DOT & PF, and FNSB). Ms. Smith explained that the UPWP funding was distributed to each agency, with the FNSB received approximately three times the amount the other agencies received. The Policy Committee questioned why this allocation was distributed as such, and had requested a breakdown of the UPWP PL Funding from the Borough to better assess the current allocation distribution.

Mr. Hernandez provided a spreadsheet with breakdowns from the FNSB budgets as pertaining to FMATS UPWP PL Funding received, as well as pertinent tasks as outlined in the UPWP. Mr. Hernandez walked the committee through the provided spreadsheet of Borough budget and expenditures. The spreadsheet showed line items that are direct expenditures of the FMATS PL funding, noting that in FFY11 there was a vacancy in the position that is heavily funded by this funding due to Todd Boyce's retirement. The spreadsheet also included the FFY12 budget and expenditures, as well as the draft FFY13 budget, yearly cash match for FNSB planning, and FY 2013 GIS Division's budget. Mr. Hernandez also noted expenditures by the Borough GIS and planning departments included LiDAR data and pictometry of the Borough. Mr. Hernandez also explained the tasks involved in running the GIS systems, the Borough's FMATS Transportation Planner position, and the associated resources such as IT, platting officers, and GIS technicians.

Mr. Spillman reminded the committee that the funding that was in question was that of the UPWP PL funding, and that other sources of funding were also included in the UPWP. Ms. Smith confirmed.

Mr. Schmetzer asked if positions such as the platting officers shown on the spreadsheet were working on FMATS projects when charging to these Cash Match funds. Mr. Hernandez said the platting officers are charging to DOT projects with properties within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), such as Antoinette Street, or 3rd Street, which is not an FMATS project, but is within the MPA. Mr. Spillman clarified that the Cash Match to which the platting officers were charge includes various FMATS projects ROW acquisition tasks, two of which being the projects along College Road and Antoinette Street. Mr. Schmetzer asked if this funding covered 100% of Kellen Spillman's salary, and Mr. Hernandez confirmed that it did. Mr. Schmetzer then asked if Mr. Spillman worked 100% for FMATS. Mr. Hernandez said he would say Mr. Spillman works 90% - 100% on FMATS or DOT

projects. Mr. Spillman also noted that with a federal grant, there is only so many ways the funding can be allocated within the Borough, but it is simply easier to put the funding through one source, such as a salary.

Ms. Smith clarified to the committee that the question asked by the Policy Committee was why the allocations were made as is to each agency. Mr. Hernandez noted that the Policy Committee asked for the breakdown from the Borough, and Ms. Smith agreed that it was all he could provide at this point. Mr. Hernandez also added that this allocation to the Borough has always been a part of the program, even before GIS was available to the department.

9. Public Comment Period

None.

10. Other Issues

a. Barnette Street Bridge Dedication/Opening – Bill Chace Model-T

The committee allowed for Mr. Chace to present photographs of his Model-T, which was one of the first cars in Fairbanks. Mr. Chace came to the Technical Committee meeting on request of Mayors Hopkins and Cleworth to offer the car for the opening of the bridge. Hannah Blankenship, assistant to Meadow Bailey (AKDOT&PF Public Information Officer), agreed to pass along Mr. Chace's information to Ms. Bailey.

11. Informational Items

a. 8.15.12 PC Action Items

Ms. Smith reminded the committee that the August 15th, 2012 Policy Committee Action items could be found in their meeting materials.

b. Surface Transportation Authorization Update

Ms. Smith noted that Jeff Ottesen will be here to speak to the Technical Committee at the next meeting on October 3rd regarding MAP-21. Mr. Birkholz added that he will be addressing match and allocation issues.

c. Obligations/Offset List – Complete for this year

Ms. Smith noted that all FMATS Obligations/Offsets are complete for this year.

d. CMAQ Funding

Ms. Carpenter noted that CMAQ funds will return to requiring a match. This was delayed with past transportation bills, but with the implementation of MAP-21 the match will again be required. A spreadsheet was provided by Ms. Carpenter to the committee and is included in the final meeting materials.

10. Technical Committee Comments

Ms. Hardesty and Mr. Hernandez thanked FMATS for arranging a tour of the Alaska Railroad project along the Tanana River.

11. Adjourn

- **Motion to Adjourn:** (Hernandez, Bell) @ 1:15PM

Next Technical Committee meeting Wednesday, October 3, 2012, Noon at Fairbanks City Hall, City Council Chambers.

Approved: 

Date: 9.5.12

Donna Gardino, Chair
FMATS Technical Committee