



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Main Conference Room, State of AK DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fbks., AK

Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2015

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee

*Bryce Ward, Chair
 *Christine Nelson for Luke Hopkins, Vice Chair
 *John Eberhart (left meeting at 10:20 a.m.)
 *Jerry Cleworth for John Eberhart
 *David Miller
 *Guy Sattley
 *Perry Walley
 *Denise Koch
 **+Donna Gardino
 **Deborah Todd
 **Alicia Giamichael
 Kellen Spillman
 **Margaret Carpenter
 +Judy Chapman
 +Cindy Heil
 +Brian Lindamood
 Shelley Potter
 Linda Mahlen
 Janice Golub
 Karina Huffaker
 Kelly Thrun
 Bill Ha'o

Representative Organization

Mayor, City of North Pole
 Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
 Mayor, City of Fairbanks
 Mayor, City of Fairbanks
 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
 FNSB Community Planning
 DOT&PF Planning
 DOT&PF Planning
 DEC Air Quality
 Alaska Railroad
 DOT&PF Planning
 DOT&PF Planning
 FNSB
 REDDI Program
 REDDI Program
 Bettisworth North

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

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

4. Approval of the April 15, 2015 Agenda

Motion: To approve the April 15, 2015 Agenda. (Walley/Sattley).

Discussion: Mayor Ward inquired if the REDDI Presentation people were present

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of the March 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the March 18, 2015 meeting minutes. (Walley/Sattley).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

a. Coordinator's Office Report and Technical Committee Action Items

Ms. Gardino presented the highlights from meetings, open houses, and presentations she attended in the month of April. Ms. Gardino introduced and welcomed Alicia Giamichael, the new FMATS Transportation Planner. Ms. Gardino stated that she was looking into other housing options for housing the FMATS Office due to the high cost of insurance at the City of Fairbanks making it difficult to sustain employees and causing concern about the future of the office. Ms. Gardino stated that they were preparing for the DOT Super Open House on Saturday, April 18th at 10AM at Hutchison High School.

b. FMATS' Policy Subcommittee Report

Ms. Gardino explained that she sent out another draft of the policy document and the Policy Subcommittee would be meeting at 2 p.m. that day in the FMATS Conference Room to discuss the draft document and Policy Committee members as well as the public were invited.

7. Old Business

PL Funding Recommendations (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that she met with most of them and explained that there was \$65,000 in funds that needed to be allocated and presented the list of possible projects that was derived for possible use of those funds. Ms. Gardino gave a brief explanation for each of the listed projects. Ms. Gardino stated that the recommendation from the Technical Committee was to use the PL funds for the Bike/Pedestrian project and convert the remaining funding into CTP funds and those funds would go into the TIP for projects.

Motion: To fund the Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Program and use the remaining funds to convert the FCTP to PL funding. (Nelson/Eberhart)

Discussion: Ms. Nelson stated that the Technical Committee felt that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Count Program was long overdue and was needed, but there were other projects that should also have been high on the priority list, but they only had so much funding to work with.

Mayor Ward stated that it would be fiscally responsible to move those funds from the planning phase to the construction phase since State funding was limited for construction. Mayor Ward stated that he would prefer to see a different motion than the one that was on the floor.

Mr. Miller inquired about the risk to projects for change orders.

Ms. Gardino stated that there was only about \$100,000 in offsets available if the the motions today passed, so they were tight.

Vote on the Motion: One in favor. (Nelson). Six opposed. (Walley, Sattley, Koch, Eberhart, Ward, Miller). Motion failed.

Motion: To recommend the Policy Committee convert the FCTP in the UPWP to PL Funds, as available. (Walley/Sattley).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None Opposed. Approved.

*For the record: Mayor Eberhart left the meeting and Mr. Cleworth stepped in for him to continue the meeting.

8. New Business

a. Banking Request (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that the Noble Street project had been moved out to 2016 and FMATS was assured that the project would obligate in 2016 and FMATS needed to get the banking request in for consideration by DOT&PF sooner than later. Ms. Gardino stated that money had been saved up from FY12, FY13, and FY15 and asked DOT to spend their money this year and let them use that money in FY16. Mr. Gardino stated that her recommendation was to forward this letter to DOT&PF.

Mr. Walley asked how many right-of-way issues there were on the project at this point. Ms. Gardino stated that there were 91 right of way issues and they were just slivers up and down the corridor.

Mr. Cleworth inquired if this had been done before on this project.

Ms. Gardino stated that it had been done before, but they needed to obligate the money before they lost it. Mr. Cleworth inquired if that could be done without the right of way. Ms. Gardino stated that she did not know but thought probably not.

Mr. Walley inquired about the history of banking requests.

Ms. Gardino stated that it had never been denied.

Mr. Sattley stated that if it was just one or two right-of-way takes he would say that they should try it, but since it was 91 there was probably something crucial there.

Motion: To approve the FMATS Banking Request Letter for the Noble Street Upgrades. (Walley/Sattley).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. Noble Street Upgrades Design Increase (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that the DOT was requesting \$200K to complete the final design for the Noble Street Upgrade project.

Mr. Wally inquired about the total amount spent to date for design on the project.

Ms. Gardino stated that the total was \$2,645,000 which was about 29 percent of the construction cost which was high. Ms. Gardino stated that the project had been around for a while and was started in 2002.

Mayor Ward inquired if DOT had an explanation for why that number was so high and if DOT could expand on that.

Mr. Miller stated that he did not have an answer to that question readily available, but he could find out.

Ms. Gardino stated that this was a consultant project which tended to be higher and had changed managers several times.

Mayor Ward inquired about the impact to the FMATS budget for this funding request.

Ms. Gardino explained that the project would be funded out of offset funding and would take approximately two thirds of their funding but had projects going out to bid and coming in low, so she was hopeful.

Mayor Ward inquired if the request would hamper any kind of a timeline of if the project could be stalled and revisited in another month.

Ms. Gardino stated that DOT currently had plenty of money to continue their work on the right-of-way and utilities so she did not see a problem with waiting one more month.

Mayor Ward inquired if they could postpone the process for another month and not cause a problem. Mr. Miller stated that he did not think a month was going to kill the project.

Motion: To postpone the decision on a Phase 2 increase on the Noble Street Upgrade project. (Cleworth/Walley).

Discussion: Ms. Nelson stated that she would like to get a little more information on the hazmat exploration and the mapping work that had been done on the plumes by DEC because she thought that this had already been done and was not sure how much or why they were redesigning something that was already supposed to have been part of the project.

Mayor Ward inquired if that information could be obtained prior to the next meeting.

Ms. Nelson stated that she did not see a problem and thought they would be able to gather that information by the next meeting.

Mayor Ward stated that item would be postponed until the May 20, 2015 Policy Committee meeting.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. TIP Amendment #9 Public Review Draft (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that the primary purpose of the TIP Amendment was to add the bus and bus facility allocation shown in the meeting packet on Page 22. Ms. Gardino stated that the Borough found out about funding from the Federal Transit Administration they could use and wanted to get that money into the TIP with this amendment. Ms. Gardino explained the other funding changes that she made to the amendment.

Mayor Cleworth inquired about the bus and bus facility allocation project, what it was for, and if FMATS had ever funded busses before.

Ms. Gardino stated that this was consider pass-through funding from the FTA and all the money had to be shown in the TIP and it met the eligibility requirements.

Mr. Sattley stated that he could not shed much more light on it but his recollection over the years was that transit money was pretty well funded in the past through transit, but thought that it was pretty safe.

Ms. Gardino stated that FCTP funds could be used for buying busses.

Motion: To approve TIP Amendment #9 for public comment including \$50,000 for PH3 of the FMATS Pedestrian Improvement Project-Stage I. (Walley/Nelson).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

d. 2015-2018 TIP Development Update – Project Scores

Ms. Gardino stated that this was not an action item but an update.

Ms. Gardino explained that they were working on the new TIP and all the projects had been scored and those scores were included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Cleworth inquired about the transit and paratransit busses and whether those funds were designated like CMAQ or whether the funds could be used for improvement projects such as sidewalks.

Ms. Gardino stated that the money could be used for sidewalks or roadway projects.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he felt that there were so many sidewalks that were failing and was concerned that these projects were getting off track and maybe someone could explain to him why they were on the list.

Ms. Nelson explained that the busses were getting older and and going into disrepair so some of them had to be replaced or would not be functional.

Ms. Gardino stated that busses had not been previously funded by FCTP money before and had received earmarks, but DOT Headquarters had implied that there might be some additional type of funding that could be available to fund busses so they were waiting for that as well.

Mayor Ward stated that it seemed like they were a dirt and asphalt organization and maybe some type of program that funded those types of projects would be more appropriate than using funding that was designated for highway projects.

Ms. Nelson stated that they should be focusing on getting more people out of single occupancy vehicles and if they could keep the project in and had other funding to offset it with, she thought that would be great.

Mayor Ward stated that he did not understand how, after looking at the scoring, a paratransit vehicle rated higher than a transit vehicle and had some concerns.

Mr. Sattley inquired if there were dollar amounts attached to the projects.

Ms. Nelson stated that there were estimates but they were rough estimates and no firm dollar figure had been attached to them.

Mayor Ward stated that if anyone had any further questions, they could talk to Ms. Gardino.

e. Comments on the NPRM on Pavement and Bridge Condition

Ms. Gardino stated that this information was not included in the meeting packet and the State would have a response, and she had a draft of the comments and read one of those comments to the group. Ms. Gardino stated that she did not recommend an action on this item.

f. STIP Amendment #14 Comments (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that a letter to the DOT Headquarters regarding STIP Amendment #14 was included in the meeting packet.

Motion: To forward the letter regarding the STIP Amendment #14 comments to the DOT&PF. (Sattley/Walley).

Discussion: Mr. Miller inquired if it was proper for FMATS to forward project recommendations that were outside the FMATS area.

Mr. Cleworth stated that Mr. Miller made a good point, but bridge structures were something that were crucial.

Mayor Ward stated that the bridge projects were kind of a hub and impacted all modes of transportation.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

g. Yankovich-Miller Hill Road Stage II Design

Ms. Gardino explained that Stage I would be constructed this summer, Stage II had some right-of-way issues in that area, and DOT would be holding a meeting to discuss those issues with the landowners. Ms. Gardino stated that they had the money for that meeting, but needed additional funding so she wanted to bring that to their attention. Ms. Gardino stated that she did not have a number yet and they might want to wait until August before they put forward the final funding for design.

9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

10. Other Issues

No other issues.

11. Informational Items

a. REDDI Presentation

Karina Huffaker, an ER Nurse at Fairbanks Memorial along with Kelly Thrun, a teacher at Joy Elementary School and mother of the child killed near University Park School provided a presentation about the REDDI Program which means: Report Every Dangerous Driver Immediately.

b. Planning Emphasis Areas-Correspondence

Ms. Gardino explained the planning emphasis areas that were to be included in the performance based program.

c. Obligations/Offsets

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

12. Policy Committee Comments

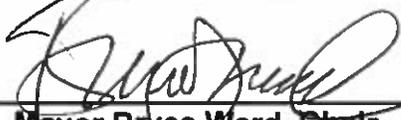
- Mr. Cleworth stated that it was great to be back again and informed everyone that Mike Schmetzer had resigned from the City of Fairbanks. Mr. Cleworth stated that he could not think of a nicer human being so it was a great loss for the City.
- Mr. Walley stated that he would like to echo Mr. Cleworth's comments and had gone to Mr. Schmetzer many times and his knowledge of projects would be a huge loss to the City.
- Mr. Walley stated that he would also like to welcome Denise Koch to FMATS and her first meeting.
- Mr. Sattley stated that he agreed with Mr. Cleworth and Mr. Walley about Mr. Schmetzer. Mr. Sattley stated that Mr. Schmetzer had once given a wonderful lecture on potholes. Mr. Sattley stated that it was a loss for the City and would love to hire him at the Borough.
- Mr. Miller stated that it was good to be there and they had worked closely with Mr. Schmetzer over the years and he would be missed.
- Ms. Koch stated that she wanted to thank everyone for the welcome and looked forward to getting more involved with this group.
- Mayor Ward stated that it was sad to hear about Mr. Schmetzer's departure, hoped he had new opportunities on the horizon, and things were good for him. Mayor Ward stated that he wanted to thank everyone for a productive meeting.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. (Cleworth/Walley). The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the Main Conference Room, DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks.

Approved: _____


Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: _____

5/20/15