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## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Main Conference Room, State of AK DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fbks., AK  
Meeting Minutes – January 21, 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  
\*Luke Hopkins, Vice Chair  
\*Mike Schmetzer for John Eberhart  
\*Rob Campbell  
\*Guy Sattley  
\*Perry Walley  
\*Alice Edwards (via telephone)  
\*\*+Donna Gardino  
\*\*Deborah Todd  
Kellen Spillman  
\*\*+Judy Chapman  
\*\*Linda Mahlen  
\*\*Margaret Carpenter  
Shelley Potter  
Meadow Bailey  
+Brian Lindamood  
Lee Borden  
Andrew Ooms  
Phil Worth  
Bart Rudolph  
Jackson Fox  
Patrick Cotter

#### Representative Organization

Mayor, City of North Pole  
Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
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  
FNSB Community Planning  
DOT&PF Planning  
DOT&PF Planning  
DOT&PF Planning  
DOT&PF Planning  
DOT&PF Public Information Officer  
Alaska Railroad  
DEC  
Kittelson & Associates  
Kittelson & Associates  
Kittelson & Associates  
City of Fairbanks  
PDC Engineering

*\*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 January 21, 2015 Agenda

**Motion:** To approve the January 21, 2015 Agenda. (Hopkins/Schmetzer).

**Discussion:** No Discussion.

**Vote on Amendment to the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

### 5. Approval of the December 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the December 17, 2014 meeting minutes. (Hopkins/Walley).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

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

## 6. Committee Reports

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

Ms. Gardino presented highlights from meetings and other activities FMATS participated in from the monthly report included in the meeting packet.

### b. FMATS' Policy Subcommittee Report

Ms. Gardino explained that she had completed a second draft of the FMATS policy that she would hand out to the subcommittee for review and would be sending it out for everyone to review that Friday.

## 7. Old Business

### a. 2040 MTP Air Quality Conformity Analysis Approval (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that the editorial comments from FHWA had been addressed in the Final Conformity Analysis for the MTP. Ms. Gardino stated that the Technical Committee recommended approval of the Conformity Analysis.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about whether there had been discussion by the Technical Committee about possible effects of actions that took place after the Conformity Analysis had been adopted.

Ms. Gardino explained that there could be actions that followed under the MTP Approval, but unless they affected Conformity, they were not relevant and the Conformity had to be adopted prior to the MTP.

Ms. Edwards stated that it was generally the case that the Conformity Analysis was adopted before the final plan.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if Ms. Edwards felt that if it was under the requirements of the conformity action that it could go back and there could be an amendment to it, as needed, for changes in the MTP that might affect it.

Ms. Edwards stated that if the MTP were changed in a way that would impact Conformity, you had to go back and have the analysis and interagency consultation reapproved and come forward with an updated conformity determination to show that you had a conforming MTP.

**Motion:** To approve the FMATS 2040 MTP Conformity Analysis, as presented (Campbell/Hopkins).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

### b. 2040 MTP Comments and 2040 MTP Approval (Action Items)

Ms. Gardino explained that there was an Open House that generated 117 comments and all those comments were reviewed and responses were revised after discussions with the Technical Committee. Ms. Gardino stated that a summary of the comments was included in the meeting packet and introduced Andrew Ooms of Kittelson to provide an overview of the documents.

Mayor Hopkins requested that Kittelson go over the modifications made and whether there were any project inclusions or movement from one section to another.

Mr. Ooms stated that there were no changes to project designations or modeling needed and the only thing changed were the figures.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about specific changes that were made to the comment responses by the Technical Committee.

Ms. Gardino addressed specific comment responses that had been revised by the Technical Committee.

Mr. Ooms further explained that the railroad crossings and passenger information had been revised and additional information added to further clarify freight issues.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about specific changes for sidewalk paths and comp plan goals.

Ms. Gardino stated that there had been no changes to that.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if community concerns had not been addressed specifically in the State Rail Plan if they would be incorporated into the MTP if the Railroad had not had a chance to put them in.

Ms. Gardino explained that the rail projects were included in the Plan in the very long range section since they did not have the information for where the funding would come from at the present time.

Mr. Campbell inquired about words and terms that were used in the previous document and stated that he thought they had modified those terms, but did not see any markup in the revised document to indicate how that language had been changed.

Mr. Ooms responded that a number of the project descriptions had been revised to include the language that the Technical Committee had adopted.

Mr. Schmetzer inquired about the Vision Fairbanks Plan comment and how that language had been clarified.

Ms. Gardino and Mr. Ooms displayed the section of the document where the language had been revised.

Mr. Ooms stated that language was included that clarified that the language to "The Vision Fairbanks Plan should be interpreted as a guide to help develop of the downtown core and implement the changing needs of the community."

Mayor Hopkins inquired if it was stated anywhere in the document that the Vision Fairbanks Plan needed to be updated to comply with the City of Fairbanks Transportation project that was going to be out there.

Ms. Gardino stated that there was not a statement in the Plan that recommended that the Vision Fairbanks Plan be updated since there was flexibility within the Vision Fairbanks Plan that did not prohibit the Borough from making development decisions outside of the Plan.

Mayor Hopkins inquired about the College Road Corridor Study recommendations being included in the MTP update since it did not say anywhere that the FMATS action on that had been not to recommend that study but here they were saying that it should be incorporated.

Ms. Gardino stated that the Policy Committee recommended the report, except for the three-lane concept, but there were other ideas in that study such as the addition of bus pullouts, that were included in the short range to be explored so it was not just about the four lanes.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if it said anywhere in the long range plan that they were not recommending three lanes on College Road.

Mr. Ooms stated that it was in the implementation plan that the College Road corridor would remain four lanes.

Mr. Worth stated that the plan was consistent with the recommendations that were made.

Mr. Campbell inquired if any of the comments received on the plan were made by the public.

Ms. Gardino stated that some of the comments were made by the public.

**Motion:** To approve the FMATS 2040 MTP: A Roadmap to 2040.  
(Campbell/Schmetzer).

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins inquired what happened after approval.

Ms. Gardino explained that they would be putting together nominations for all the FMATS short-range projects to be scored by the Technical Committee for development of the new TIP.

Mayor Hopkins inquired what time frame the short range TIP covered.

Ms. Gardino stated that the TIP would be from 2015 to 2018. Ms. Gardino stated that one of the new policies being worked on was that all short-range projects would be scored except for those that had already begun or had funding and all the rest of the projects would be scored by the Technical Committee so the same people scored all projects.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if members that had legislative bodies had presentations or work sessions.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that the City had work sessions and been contacted.

Mayor Ward stated that the City of North Pole had been contacted and it was up to the discretion of the North Pole City Council whether they wanted to have work sessions.

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

**c. TIP Amendment #8 Approval (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino stated that the recommendation from the Technical Committee was to approve TIP Amendment #8. Ms. Gardino explained the modifications that had been made to the projects included in the TIP Amendment.

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Gardino about the Fairbanks Pedestrian Improvements-Stage I project funding of \$440,000 which was reduced or removed from the project, and where that money ended up.

Ms. Gardino stated that she basically made a switch to make it more CMAQ-funded and the money went into the FMATS Improvement Program which was the place that she put everything when they had extra funding, because it was short-funded, it was zero-funded, so she did not add any money to any other projects.

Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Gardino if the FTP money that was listed all the way through the document went into the FMATS Improvement project.

Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Gardino if that meant that the FTP money went into the FMATS Improvement project.

Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Gardino to clarify what her error was.

Ms. Gardino stated that Mayor Hopkins was correct and that was her error that she had not written that down. Ms. Gardino clarified that they had \$2.1 million in the FMATS Improvement Project and \$56,000 of that had already been spent to bring the 2014 project up to low bid. Ms. Gardino stated that they were not fully funded. Ms. Gardino stated that they had a project that was \$3.1 Million to be designed and they currently only had about \$2.1 million. Ms. Gardino stated that when they went into design they had no money and decided to design them, find out how much money they cost, find out how much money they had, then prioritize those projects. Ms. Gardino stated that she planned to go to the Technical Committee next month and prioritize the projects in that program to decide which ones they wanted to go forward to construction this year. Ms. Gardino stated that the other project she knew was short-funded was the FMATS Pedestrian Improvements-Stage I that was to build a sidewalk on Peger Road, Davis, Wilbur and Lathrop, but the DOT had not come to her with a dollar amount yet, so she did not know how short-funded that project was.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if on that Stage I project, Ms. Gardino saw a complication with a motion that might be adopted to move; rather than putting it into the PM projects, putting it into that Stage I project, the FCTP monies that were dumped into the improvement projects stack.

Ms. Gardino stated that she did not see a problem with that at all, if that was what they wanted to do. Ms. Gardino stated that she had the Design Study Reports for the Improvement Program projects, but did not have even a good estimate for the pedestrian improvement projects, so her confidence level was not as high for the pedestrian improvements as it was for the improvements projects.

Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Gardino if the Technical Committee discussed any of the issues concerning current budget discussions that all of them were aware of, with actions in Juneau looking for project funding that had not been contracted, with the possibility of taking their capital money and putting it into maintenance projects and then putting FCTP money into some other placeholder.

Ms. Gardino stated that they had not had that discussion at the Technical Committee. Ms. Gardino stated that she had been diligently making sure that the projects they had on the books were programmed, because they usually did not program the money until they went to construction on a State-funded project, sometimes after the bids came back. Ms. Gardino stated that she had asked that all of their State funds be programmed ahead of time so that they had a home. Ms. Gardino stated that she had also received a list of projects that they were looking at taking away. Ms. Gardino stated that one of the projects that affected FMATS was the Yankovich project, which she had received the final for and did not think the Legislature could get to that money before they did. Ms. Gardino stated that the other project that was of concern was the Cushman/Gaffney funding, which was significant at over \$4.6 million. Ms. Gardino stated that those were the two projects she was aware of that the Legislature was eyeing and the City was committed to getting Cushman/Gaffney out.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that the money was badly needed on Cushman which was scheduled for construction this year.

Mayor Hopkins inquired when the project was scheduled for bidding.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that the project needed to be advertised no later than early May.

Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Campbell if DOT had any internal discussions about some of the funds that were obligated but not really programmed in relationship to the issues that he was bringing up.

Mr. Campbell stated that they he thought they discussed it in a general sense fairly often, but they were kind of at the mercy of the same winds that everybody else was. Mr. Campbell stated that they were not guiding the direction the wind was blowing right now. Mr. Campbell stated that they were in the same position that FMATS, the Cities, and everyone else was that had capital money out there right now. Mr. Campbell stated he did not have any information to give him regarding the FMATS money that was any different than any other money. Mr. Campbell stated that the Legislature could do what they wanted with the money that was unspent. Mr. Campbell stated that he thought they all had concerns about it on a certain level, but they also had concerns about the State budget on a bigger level so there was a lot of concern out there right now. Mr. Campbell stated that he did not have anything to tell him about specific targets since that was not really something they were working on right now.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if capital dollars could put into improvement projects that could be obligated quite quickly because the money they were putting in was for FY15.

Ms. Gardino stated that they had a balance of about \$1.2 million of State funding that was not really programmed, but at the same time they had several projects going to construction this year that could potentially need change orders and would require a State funding source because they were State-funded projects. Ms. Gardino stated that they could put State money on the Federal preventative maintenance projects so the short answer was yes- they could do that, but the risk was that they would not have funding for changes during construction on the Complete Streets project or the Pedestrian Improvements projects next year.

Mayor Hopkins commented that was the risk of CAPSIS just sitting out there for years.

Ms. Gardino stated that the three funding sources were SB30, SB230 SB46 the FY11, FY12, and FY13 appropriations were not on the list she saw that they were looking at.

Mayor Hopkins asked Ms. Gardino who the “they” was that she referred to.

Ms. Gardino stated that whoever it came down from in Juneau to the DOT, she did not know. Ms. Gardino stated that it really came down to Cushman and Yankovich and those were both gone this year if there was money.

Mr. Campbell inquired about the scope of the Gillam Way project and the adequacy of funding for installation of storm drain utilities and whether expectation aligned with the budget provided.

Ms. Gardino explained that there was adequate funding for the planned utilities.

Ms. Gardino explained how funding amounts for design of the Gillam project were derived at a meeting with DOT Design staff.

Mr. Campbell stated that his concern regarding the term “rehab” with respect to replacement of utilities was that it was very expensive, time-consuming, and disruptive to property owners along the project corridor.

Mr. Schmetzer suggested replacing the word “storm drains” with the word “utilities” which was all encompassing.

**Motion:** To approve FMATS Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #8. (Hopkins/Schmetzer).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

## 8. New Business

### a. CAPSIS Request Approval (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino explained that the Technical Committee recommendation had been to approve the CAPSIS Request which was very similar to the one submitted last year. Ms. Gardino passed out the sample project list for review.

Mayor Hopkins stated that in discussion with Legislators he noted that there had been a stronger question of what the priorities were and suggested that the FMATS project list be made a priority.

Mr. Sattley inquired about the handout with the project scores listed that had been carried forward from 2003 and inquired if they were scored using the same scoring criteria and whether they were prioritizing them based on the scores and was not crazy about relying on old scores.

Ms. Gardino stated that they were scored in 2008 and not scored since they were already included in the TIP and the projects needed to be prioritized.

Mr. Campbell inquired about where the total dollar amount requested was located.

Ms. Gardino stated that the total amount was \$15 million and was not on there but should be included in the first paragraph and would be.

Mayor Ward inquired if they would be able to add any additional weight if the project carried a resolutions of support from the City or Borough.

Ms. Gardino stated that she would attach the resolutions of support from all three governments.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if the letter sent to the Governor included the \$15 million dollar request.

Ms. Gardino stated that the specific dollar amount requested had been included in the letter to the Governor.

**Motion:** To approve the CAPSIS request, as presented. (Hopkins/Sattley).

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins inquired if they wanted to prioritize the list now or wait until later if asked what their priorities were and discuss it then.

Mr. Campbell recommended for the sake of brevity that they move forward with the \$15 million request and fill in the details later if they needed to.

Mayor Ward stated that they did have a process to score projects and if they were to look at prioritizing them, they should refer it back to the Technical Committee for scoring and he agreed with Mr. Campbell.

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

**b. 2015-2018 TIP Project Evaluation Criteria Approval (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino stated that the recommendation from the Technical Committee had been to approve the 2015-2018 TIP Project Evaluation Criteria.

**Motion:** To approve the 2015-2018 TIP Project Evaluation Criteria. (Campbell/Walley).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

**c. TIP Development Process and Schedule**

Ms. Gardino explained that this item was on the agenda merely as an information item to let the Policy Committee know the status of the TIP process.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if the call for project nominations was closed.

Ms. Gardino stated that nominations could be taken at any time.

**d. Letter Regarding the Alaska State Rail Plan (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino explained that the letter received from Murray Walsh of DOT Headquarters regarding the progress of the Alaska State Rail Plan was emailed to everyone and came after the letter she had drafted which was included in the meeting packet. Ms. Gardino stated that she had requested that they come to a meeting to present the plan.

Mayor Hopkins stated that at some point he would like to ask about the Nenana and Wasilla rail realignments.

**Motion:** To approve the letter to the DOT&PF on the Alaska State Rail Plan. (Sattley/Walley).

**Amendment to the Motion:** To add a paragraph regarding the more valuable use of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in the development of the State Rail Plan. (Campbell/Hopkins).

**Vote on Amendment to the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**Amended Motion** To approve the letter to the DOT&PF on the Alaska State Rail Plan and to add a paragraph regarding the more valuable use of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in the development of the State Rail Plan. (Hopkins/Campbell).

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

**e. Local Planning Approval Agreement (Action Item)**

Ms. Gardino explained that a draft Resolution was contained in the meeting packet along with an MOU from 1987 on the implementation of FMATS recommendations and programming projects which was quite dated.

Ms. Gardino stated that this was part of the whole local planning approval process agreement that the DOT had been working on, but that process had not really addressed this agreement. Ms. Gardino stated that Mayor Ward had given her a Resolution signed by the North Pole City Council the night before and wanted a similar resolution brought forward to the Policy Committee to discuss the desire of the jurisdictions that the Policy Committee supports FMATS participation in the development of the MOU for the highway project review process. Ms. Gardino stated that North Pole had a Resolution in support of the same purpose. Ms. Gardino stated that this went back to the August 12th meeting when there was an action item which requested the State, DOT, the Borough, and FMATS review and update the MOU and associated FMATS in agreement, in an attempt to reflect the current planning environment and to streamline the process. Ms. Gardino stated that this

motion was unanimously agreed upon by the Policy Committee. Ms. Gardino quoted that the memo in the FMATS MOU dated April 24, 1987 was “for the continued operation of FMATS that deals with the development of master highway plans as required by AS 1920-080, which was executed by DOT, the Mayors of Fairbanks, North Pole, and the Borough, and Presiding Officer of the Assembly; and whereas the DOT and the Borough proceeded work on the MOU, but to date has excluded FMATS from the discussion except to allow FMATS review and comment.” Ms. Gardino stated that meant that basically the jurisdictions were affected by the outcome of the MOU, and thus, should be included in the discussions. Ms. Gardino stated that this was basically the gist of the Resolution.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he understood that the document referred to in the August action item had come back from the Attorney General’s Office sometime in the last couple months of the last calendar year; and believed that the document was ready to be signed. Mayor Hopkins stated that there had been public input received from FMATS members on that. Mayor Hopkins stated that he had called Mr. Campbell this morning to determine where that document was at because, as he understood it, the process had been completed except for the signing of it and inquired if anyone at the table knew where that document was at. Mayor Hopkins stated that he had a copy of what was sent around and it supposedly came back to DOT from the Attorney General’s Office, and Margaret Carpenter might have some information about that. Mayor Hopkins stated that he did not know what was up and asked if somebody could give an answer.

Ms. Gardino stated that she did not know where the document was at.

Mr. Campbell stated that he guessed if they were having just an open discussion on this; as far as he knew they had gotten the document back from the AG’s Office and he was led to believe that their Municipal Attorney was reviewing it. Mr. Campbell stated that maybe that had happened or maybe it hadn’t, or maybe his attorney was not going to read it, he did not know and asked Mayor Hopkins if he had any clarification on that.

Mayor Hopkins stated that his Attorney was not aware that it was sent over to them, so if there was a transmittal or something that got lost in the stack of stuff as they piled onto their Legal Department with other actions, they would be glad to take that up. Mayor Hopkins stated that he was just trying to get where they were at on it.

Mr. Campbell stated he thought that was where the document was, that he was aware of; and they had gotten it back from their AG. Mr. Campbell stated that if they hadn’t gotten it to him it was their bad maybe, and they could send it over to him.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he understood that the AG might not have made any corrections to it and asked if anybody at DOT knew that, because that was what he understood that there were no corrections to it.

Mr. Campbell stated that he would have to ask his Planning Chief and asked Ms. Chapman if she had any knowledge about the AG comments on the document.

Ms. Chapman stated that the AG did not really address much on the document and had not made any changes to it, to her knowledge. Ms. Chapman added that Ms. Carpenter might know.

Ms. Carpenter stated that the AG did not make any changes, but there was some, for lack of a better word, there could possibly be some issues with it getting down to the level of detail about lighting; but it did not go against any state statutes or anything like that. Ms. Carpenter stated that she had given Mr. Spillman a call and told him that, and it was her understanding that he was going to send it on to the Attorney, so in her opinion, it was in his hands.

Mr. Campbell stated that if Mayor Hopkins needed a copy of it, they would send him a copy of it today. Mayor Hopkins said. "Sure." "Okay." "Thanks."

Mr. Campbell stated that whether the Mayor already had a copy or not he did not know, but they would get one to him. Mr. Campbell stated that he thought that was kind of a different question than really what this Resolution was about and it almost flew in the face of that Resolution, in a way, if the intent was to sign this thing within the next 24 hours, on the face of this Resolution then they probably needed to have a discussion on that.

Mayor Hopkins stated that it was not the intent, to sign it within the next 24 hours, but to have a discussion about that process, so he was just trying to find out where that document was.

Mr. Campbell stated that sufficed to say that document had been around for quite a while in draft form.

Ms. Gardino interjected that it had been around for two and a half years.

Mayor Hopkins responded that was true both with Mr. Titus and himself.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 15-01 regarding FMATS participation in the development of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Highway Project Review Process. (Schmetzer/Walley).

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins stated that this was an action item and as far as he knew the actions that were discussed in the Resolution that was up for approval had not been before the Assembly and it talked about some of the actions that the Assembly and the Borough Administration felt that this insertion of this Resolution did point to a departure from the action that the FMATS Policy Committee took in terms of planning approval for highway projects. Mayor Hopkins stated that he was going to move to postpone this action until a time when it could come back from discussions with the Borough Assembly.

**Amendment to the Motion:** To postpone the action until after a time to be determined for discussion with the Borough Assembly. (Hopkins/Sattley).

**Discussion:** Mayor Hopkins stated that he thought that the discussion on the Resolution that the North Pole City Council just passed, in terms of having impact on the planning activities that were in the Borough's hands, and the documents they had drafted up and almost ready to sign, clarified and put in place many changes to those previous documents. Mayor Hopkins stated that projects did not have to necessarily come, depending on their importance for transportation, how they got moved through their planning process.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he thought it was a good document and did not know whether this body had even seen it at this point, so there were a lot of things that had to be done or looked at, he thought, rather than just acting on this local planning approval agreement.

Mr. Sattley stated that he thought the Resolution was premature, given what Mayor Hopkins had just said, so he supported postponing it.

Mr. Campbell stated that he thought this was an interesting topic that had a lot of layers to it, but he guessed he was going to peel a few back by starting this comment. Mr. Campbell stated that the whole idea of local planning approval was one that he thought was fairly convoluted in a lot of different ways. Mr. Campbell stated that they always referred back to the Alaska Statutes on this, if it required it, but looked at a lot of what that requirement did as duplicated by this body. Mr. Campbell stated that he thought that when that requirement was put in place there was probably a perception that the State Department of Transportation was able to run roads right through the middle of a local community without community input. Mr. Campbell stated that it was his belief that was passed to prohibit that type of activity without coordination with the local government; at a planning level. Mr. Campbell stated that here they had a body that had pretty much everybody who was anybody in local government sitting at this table right now and they were basically planning transportation for the MPO. Mr. Campbell stated that he had some concerns about this whole thing, in that, he felt that that in a way the Borough got two bites of the apple on this stuff because the Borough sat here at this table and had input into every project that they put forward, input into the scope of every project they put forward, had input into the funding, the timing, and everything else just like everybody else at the table did; but they had this trump card in their back pocket, and that trump card was that if they did not want this project to move forward, it still had to go through this local planning approval process. Mr. Campbell stated that it felt to him like a lot of these projects were kind of a struggle to get through two different planning organizations when you were trying to get things done. Mr. Campbell stated that he was not sure how this should be addressed, but he would offer for consideration that the agreement that they had in place as FMATS might well serve as planning approval within the MPO and it might not be required to go to the Fairbanks North Star Borough for approval. Mr. Campbell stated that he just threw that out as a conversation for consideration in their deliberations on these things; because he thought they did meet the intent of that legislation with this body right here as a planning organization that dealt

with transportation. Mr. Campbell stated that it might or might not be popular with his Borough brethren, he did not know. Mr. Campbell stated that it might be one less thing they had to monkey with over there and maybe they might like the idea of having a little daylight and not having to screw with all those things coming before their Planning Commission and maybe give those people a night off every now and then, or not.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he would reply back to that point. Mayor Hopkins stated that there was a multilayer response there. Mayor Hopkins stated that there were different bodies that had different authorities, for example, if he felt one way about a project here and he voted, he did not go to the Planning Commission and get to vote on that. Mayor Hopkins stated that it was presented by a staff report and on and on and on. Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Campbell if he had an opportunity to review the draft document that he and Mr. Titus worked on.

Mr. Campbell stated that he had not had looked at it specifically, but he had it reported to him in a general sense, and it was similar to the one that was in Anchorage right now, and he was familiar with that document.

Mayor Hopkins stated that on that issue he was going to say that the Anchorage Assembly had the last bite of the apple on things even though AMATS had an Assembly Member on it. Mayor Hopkins stated that it was a similar structure and Mr. Campbell might not like that either because it was a couple of bites.

Mr. Campbell stated that Mayor Hopkins was correct and he did not like that.

Mayor Hopkins stated that all of a sudden you had a Government Hill project and a Knik Arm Bridge and all that kind of stuff going.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he wanted to add that they had been down the bumpy road of having the legal entities in the various jurisdictions discuss it. Mayor Hopkins stated that he knew that the Borough Attorney had a particular view of Title 35 or something like that, and that was the discussion that was touched upon when they got into this discussion in a different venue or different time, that that was the law right now and if the statutory actions needed to be changed then that was what they should do. Mayor Hopkins stated that his dialog back to Mr. Campbell was that if they were going to insert that projects got decided in a different manner, than the entity that had planning authority or if it was for a municipality, then they should get the law changed. Mayor Hopkins stated that they touched upon that last year and thought that Anchorage and a couple other entities were wanting to know what was going on, and if he recalled correctly, it did not go much further than that in terms of legislative change in that Legislative session.

Mr. Sattley requested that Mr. Campbell think back to College Road which was one of the high points of his tenure here he guessed.

Mr. Campbell stated that it was a memorable one anyway.

Mr. Sattley stated that he remembered that although Mr. Campbell was trying his best to be really nice to them, he several times gave them lectures that they were a big picture planning outfit and that they should not get involved in bus turnouts, striping, and bike lanes which, for some bizarre reason, DOT could not put bicycle symbols on because it was different money, or the wrong year, or something; even though the bicycle lanes would be there, be wide, and be taking up a lane of traffic; a driving lane--and a lot of other nitty-gritty things. Mr. Sattley stated that his heartburn was the bus turnouts and still was because they were redoing the road and not doing the bus turnouts. Mr. Sattley stated that was Mr. Campbell's lecture to them that they were the big picture outfit and should not get involved in little, nitty-gritty striping and bus turnout issues. Mr. Sattley stated that was fine, but then he was thinking that was the role, or should be the role, of the project going through the Planning Commission, because they had a better venue for public comment, well-advertised meetings, sometimes a whole room full of people, and that was when the nitty-gritty stuff could be addressed. Mr. Sattley continued that he thought it was quite appropriate that those projects went through the Planning Commission process, possibly the Assembly, depending on whether they were controversial or not; and the big picture approval here. Mr. Sattley stated that maybe he was missing the point, but thought that it was appropriate to do it the way it was being done.

Mayor Ward thanked Mr. Sattley and stated that he wanted to interject because they were getting a little bit off topic. Mayor Ward stated that the Resolution at hand was asking for FMATS to be involved in the development of the MOU. Mayor Ward stated that like Mr. Campbell stated, there were layers to this and he felt that they were getting off the actual topic of the Resolution.

Mr. Sattley stated that he was just responding to Mr. Campbell's discussion of layers.

Mr. Campbell asked if he could make one more comment which might be off topic as well. Mr. Campbell continued that he would say that within that empowering legislation there was ability within there to have agreements with the local planning, signed by the local governments, to supersede planning authority on project approval. Mr. Campbell stated that was something this body could take on if it wanted to; if everyone was agreeable to doing that, but he got the feeling that they were not. Mr. Campbell stated that it was certainly something that was within their jurisdiction as FMATS to discuss whether they would like to pursue something like that because he thought that was germane to this topic of how FMATS interacted with local planning authority and got projects through the system. Mr. Campbell stated that he would leave that out there as a possibility if people were interested.

Mayor Ward thanked Mr. Campbell and stated that he wanted to bring them back to the Resolution on the table. Mayor Ward stated that he thought it was very straightforward and stated an action that was already taken by the body back on August 5<sup>th</sup> of 2012. Mayor Ward stated that where or not that was in the process, he would have hoped that the action had been received well by

the Borough and the State to include FMATS in that discussion at the table when drafting that document as it did affect the Cities, FMATS, and the processes that they had outlined here. Mayor Ward stated that with that being said, he did not see where postponing this did anything. Mayor Ward stated that he thought this was a very relevant document to the process that they were in especially if it had not been signed yet and had gone to a draft stage. Mayor Ward stated that he would ask that before it was signed and thought, as implied with the Resolution, that FMATS be able to sit down and go over that with the Borough and the State. Mayor Ward stated that he thought postponing this would be basically killing this. Mayor Ward stated that if they were not in favor of it, they should just vote it down.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that the City supported this and they felt left out of the process. Mr. Schmetzer stated that he had been in this state for 34 years and was a consulting engineer for 20 before he took this job in 2006. Mr. Schmetzer stated that he understood the Borough process and knew it intimately. Mr. Schmetzer stated that his wife was the Borough Subdivision Engineer for five years, he had consulted to the Borough, and was a Service Area Commissioner in one of the largest service areas. Mr. Schmetzer stated that the one problem they had was that he did not think that the Borough understood the City and they needed to get into this process and explain how they did projects in the City. Mr. Schmetzer stated that the one of the big issues was that the Borough was incredibly fearful of any right-of-way take. Mr. Schmetzer stated that he was telling Mr. Sattley prior to the meeting that the list of projects they had completed in the last six years was astounding-- \$75 million bucks including: Second & Wilbur, East Cowles, 23rd, Illinois, the Bentley, the North Bentley, Wickersham, Wendell, South Cushman and now Cushman. Mr. Schmetzer stated that he had never had a contentious right-of-way take on any project, not one. Mr. Schmetzer stated that people were out handing him cups of coffee and wanting to give the crew donuts and saying thank-you for making the project happen, but at the Borough level whenever there was a right-of-way take, it was forbidden and people went crazy. Mr. Schmetzer stated that for the City to delay these projects because there were people graciously giving him right-of-way did not make sense to him and thought that those were some of the things they needed to work out with them when they talked.

Mayor Ward thanked Mr. Schmetzer and stated that just for clarification they did have a motion on the table to postpone and asked if there was any further discussion on the postponement of the Resolution.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he just wanted to reiterate that the motion was so that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly and the elected bodies in the Borough could see this document. Mayor Hopkins stated that it might have been out there because Mayor Ward had put a notice out there for his Council to adopt; and maybe the City of Fairbanks had one coming forward.- He did not know and had not heard that in this discussion. Mayor Hopkins stated that he would ask to postpone so that the Borough could have this in

front of them-the elected officials-the way they were in North Pole and the way it might have been with the City of Fairbanks, and don't worry about it.

Mayor Ward inquired who would be taking Ms. Gardino's place in the meeting at this point.

Mr. Buckley stated that he would be taking over for Ms. Gardino.

Mayor Ward stated that at this point in the meeting the record should note that Ms. Gardino had to step out due to another commitment and Mr. Buckley would take over for her.

Mr. Campbell asked a clarification of what a yes or a no vote meant here.

Mayor Ward inquired if Mr. Buckley had the verbiage of the motion.

Mr. Buckley stated that he did not have the exact verbiage and inquired if Mayor Hopkins could provide that.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he had not written it down, but it was a motion to postpone so that the Borough Assembly could review it and bring it back. Mayor Hopkins stated that it had to get scheduled on their discussion or work session.

Mayor Ward stated that a "yes" vote would be to postpone and a "no" vote would be not to postpone.

Mr. Walley asked if Mayor Ward could clarify that one more time.

Mayor Ward clarified that a "yes" vote would be to postpone it and a "no" vote would be not to postpone it.

**Vote on Amendment to the Motion:** Three in Favor. (Sattley, Hopkins, Edwards). Four Opposed. (Ward/Schmetzer/Walley/Campbell). Amendment to the Motion failed.

Mayor Ward stated that they were back to the Resolution as presented and inquired if there was any further discussion.

**Discussion;** Mayor Hopkins stated that if the document that had been approved to be worked on from last August, or whenever the exact date was. Mayor Hopkins stated that it had gone through the process and they had emails, comments, and the process was there. Mayor Hopkins stated that if people in this body had not seen the document, before they acted on that they had a previous action that was approved by the FMATS body and they could complete that and they could sit down with it. Mayor Hopkins stated that this one was now at that final step and we were now trying to stop that action that was approved by the Policy Committee previously and they were trying to change that direction and he did not think that was necessary again. Mayor Hopkins stated that he would vote "no" on this because he did not think they needed to be inserting something that was coming from one legislative body that they were basing it on. Mayor Hopkins stated that he thought they

could set it aside and they had a document. A draft document that had been approved by the entities that were assigned to do that and taken comment.

Mayor Ward stated that he had a question for Mayor Hopkins regarding the August 5<sup>th</sup> motion which stated, "The State of Alaska DOT, the FNSB, and FMATS review and update the Memorandum of Understanding." Mayor Ward inquired if in Mayor Hopkins' opinion FMATS was included in that process.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he would have to go back and look at the record. Mayor Hopkins stated that he understood that there were comments that were given, they were discussed, they were worked on, and thought Mr. Spillman had some comment to put some content to that. Mayor Hopkins stated that he was the guy at the end of the hallway in the other office and did not have all that information, but that was what he understood. Mayor Hopkins stated that if Mayor Ward wanted to allow Mr. Spillman to speak, maybe he could answer it better than him or with more clarity.

Mayor Ward stated that he thought Mayor Hopkins had answered his question.

Mr. Campbell stated that what he thought he was understanding, and maybe Mayor Ward could go into it a little more as the primary sponsor of the motion and Resolution that came through, was that there must be some dissatisfaction somewhere in the existing process that he felt that somehow his community was not being adequately represented or being overrepresented, or something. Mr. Campbell asked Mayor Ward if he could clarify what his thoughts were. Mr. Campbell stated that he did not think Mayor Ward just wanted to get involved because he had nothing better to do with his time. Mr. Campbell stated that there must be something going on here, and asked if Mayor Ward could clarify, what he thought, in a nutshell, the issue was here for this motion.

Mayor Ward stated that he had not seen a copy of this agreement and he felt that FMATS should be included in the discussion, this being the representation of the City of North Pole and the transportation planning process. Mayor Ward stated that the City of North Pole had no engineers and relied very heavily on the State for that and relied very heavily for transportation planning on the FMATS Policy Board. Mayor Ward stated that he felt that it was important that this Board, as a planning organization, be included in the drafting of that document. Mayor Ward stated he felt that it was a key part of bringing a project from conception to completion. Mayor Ward stated that was his thought and there were layers and he would love to go into the layers of this at some future time, but for right now he thought that addressed the intent behind it. Mayor Ward stated that, in his opinion, he did not see where this would complicate the process if the process had been followed and if it had not been followed, it gave an opportunity for correction.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he would like to have permission from the Chair to ask Mr. Spillman if it was correct that there were comments that were submitted by the entities in this process of development of the MOU.

Mayor Ward agreed and asked Mayor Hopkins what the question was again.

Mayor Hopkins stated that the entities of FMATS were able to submit comments on that based on the direction that was given in that and the discussion that revolved around the action of the Policy vote in August.

Mr. Spillman stated that the Agreement went before the FMATS Technical Committee at least two times, as well and the FMATS Policy Committee in the draft form. Mr. Spillman stated that they received ample comments from both Mr. Fox on behalf of the City of Fairbanks, and two sets of comments from Ms. Gardino on behalf of FMATS. Mr. Spillman stated that the vast majority of those comments were incorporated into the agreement and the Borough and the DOT compiled responsiveness summaries to every single comment as to how they were either incorporated or why they were not incorporated into the document. Mr. Spillman stated that the document, in draft form, was included in both the Technical Committee and Policy Committee meeting packets.

Mayor Hopkins stated that he would ask the body what had not occurred. Mayor Hopkins stated that they had not signed it, they had a draft document that finally came through from the Attorney General's office. Mayor Hopkins inquired if it was just that they did not like what they had seen.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that from the City of Fairbanks' perspective they did not feel that they were part of the discussion and the debate. Mr. Schmetzer stated that right now there was a requirement that if there was a right-of-way take, they were going to the Planning Commission. Mr. Schmetzer stated that could kill Cushman Complete Streets this summer.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if it was on the timeline, on an action, or both.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that it was both.

Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Spillman if that was addressed in the document.

Mr. Spillman stated that the draft document aimed to streamline the process and unless the project was denied or conditions were attached by the Planning Commission, it cut the Borough Assembly completely out. Mr. Spillman stated that their intent was to streamline the entire process as well as certain projects like rehab and highway safety improvement projects being totally exempted.

Mayor Hopkins inquired if that was what Mr. Schmetzer did not like or if he was not aware that was the action that was in that draft document.

Mr. Schmetzer explained that he had not seen the document but was just aware that was part of the final document and he had not seen the final.

Mayor Ward stated that he did not believe anyone had seen the final except for Mayor Hopkins and maybe someone from the State.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that as he had said, there would be people on Cushman graciously handing them right-of-way and the Borough viewed that

as a very contentious issue and it was not in his opinion. Mr. Schmetzer stated that they were just rebuilding streets for the most part. Mr. Schmetzer stated that it could delay the project and if it delayed this project this year, they had a trickle-down effect with Noble. Mr. Schmetzer stated that Noble was going next year and could get delayed a year. Mr. Schmetzer stated that if Noble could not be delayed a year because of funding constraints, then Cushman Complete Streets would get delayed until 2018. Mr. Schmetzer stated that as he understood it, the mysteries of the TIP, it was a confusing document to him, but it would throw that document into a tizzy.

**Vote on Motion:** Four-opposed (Sattley/Hopkins/Campbell/Edwards) Three in favor (Ward/Schmetzer/Walley). Motion failed.

**f. STIP Amendment #13 Comments (Action Item)**

Mr. Buckley explained the comment letter for STIP Amendment #13 and introduced Shelley Potter to explain the funding allocation analysis process.

**Motion:** Move to approve STIP Amendment #13. (Campbell/Walley).

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

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

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

No public comment.

**10. Other Issues**

No other issues.

**11. Informational Items**

**a. Vacancy – Transportation Planner at FMATS**

Mr. Buckley stated that he was leaving his position at FMATS at the end of the month and there would be a vacancy for an FMATS Transportation Planner. Mr. Buckley stated that the position was posted on the FMATS website and was working on getting it posted on the American Planning Association and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations websites as well. Mr. Buckley stated that he wanted to say thank you to the Policy Committee as well.

**b. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Assessing Pavement and Bridge Condition; FHWA-2013-0053 (Due April 6, 2015)**

Mr. Buckley stated Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was included in the meeting packet and comments were due April 6th.

**c. Obligations/Offsets**

Mr. Buckley explained that the Obligations/Offsets were included in the meeting packet.

**12. Policy Committee Comments**

Mr. Sattley stated that he had no comment and it was a good meeting.

Mayor Hopkins commented that he forgot to look at his notes for Item 8f STIP Amendment and he thought Ms. Gardino was going to include language

from their meeting with her on the DUP funds. Mayor Hopkins stated that there was an issue out there and asked to have that item placed on the agenda next month.

Mayor Hopkins also requested an overview of Dalton Highway projects and a preview of STIP Amendment #14. Mayor Hopkins commented that he was glad that Mayor Ward was the Chair and told him not to resign.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that the City was designing a new roundabout in the Bentley area, going on the north side of the tracks. Mr. Schmetzer stated they had seen it before as it was included in the original design and became known as the "roundabout to nowhere" because the developer was dropping his end of the bargain to construct an additional connector road. Mr. Schmetzer stated that the developer was now building that road, so roundabout construction was scheduled for this summer. Mr. Schmetzer stated that Mr. Fox could give them an update on that if they wanted to see it.

Mayor Hopkins asked Mr. Schmetzer exactly where that was located.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that it would be located northwest of Cold Spot Feed and southwest of Sports Authority just as you came across the tracks you would enter into another roundabout that would let you enter into Helmericks/Fred Meyer or it would take you to the west into the development currently occurring on the west side.

Mayor Ward commented that he looked forward to the next meeting.

**13. Adjourn**

Mayor Ward adjourned the meeting at 12:23 pm.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the Main Conference Room, DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks.

Approved:  Date: 2-24-15  
Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair  
FMATS Policy Committee