



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 17, 2008, 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
State of Alaska, DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Rd, Main Conference Room

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Members and Attendees
3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)
4. Approval of the September 17, 2008 Agenda
5. Approval of the August 20, 2008 Minutes
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Technical Committee Report (Todd Boyce)
7. Old Business
8. New Business
 - a. Obligation Plan Status
 - b. TIP Timeline Extension (Action Item)
 - c. Proposed use of Grandfathering funds for the Railroad
 - d. EPA proposal on non-attainment boundaries for PM 2.5 (Alice Edwards)
9. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)
10. Other Issues
11. Informational Items
12. Adjourn

Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m., October 15, 2008 at DOT&PF
Main Conference Room

REVISED FMATS 2009 - 2012 TIP Development Timeline

1. Development of Draft Public Participation Plan by Technical Committee - April 2
2. Development of Draft Project Selection Criteria by Technical Committee - April 2
3. Preliminary Approval of Draft Public Participation Plan by Policy Committee - April 16
4. Preliminary Approval of Draft Project Selection Criteria by Policy Committee - April 16
5. Public Review of Draft Public Participation Plan - April 20-June 3
 - 45 - day Comment Period
6. Public Review of Draft Project Selection Criteria - April 20-June 3
 - 45 - day Comment Period
7. Opportunity for Project Nominations - April 20- June 3
 - FMATS Policy & Technical Meetings
 - Public Notice/ Open House (2)
8. Finalize Document Recommendations - Technical Committee - June 4
 - Participation Plan
 - Nomination Criteria
 - Revised TIP Development Timeline
9. Policy Committee Approves Document Recommendations - June 18
10. Project Scoring / Preliminary Recommendations to Coordinator by Technical Committee - July 2
11. Technical Committee Recommends Draft Project Scores and TIP to Policy Committee - September 3
12. Policy Committee Approves Draft TIP - September 17 *revise to November 19*
13. Public Review / 30-day Public Comment Period - September 22 - October 21 *revise to November 24 - December 29*
 - Public Notice/ Meetings/ Mailing
14. Final Review and Prioritization
 - Technical Committee Recommendations - November 5 *revise to January 7, 2009*
 - Policy Committee Review / Approval - November 19 *revise to January 28, 2009*
15. Final TIP Submitted to DOT&PF Headquarters - November 24 *revise to January 24, 2009*
 - Public Review of Major STIP Amendment - 30 days (another 30 day review is not required; can incorporate into STIP by an Administrative Modification)
16. Final TIP Submitted to FHWA - December 1 *revise to February 7, 2009*

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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8	DOT/PP	INT
	Regional Director	
	M & O Director	
X	Planning/Adm Chief	
	Design	
	Construction	
	Flow	
	Project Control	
	Information Officer	
X	FMATS	
	Return to Reg. Dir. Sec	
	File	

August 20, 2008

Steve Titus, P.E. Chairman
FMATS Policy Committee
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks AK 99709

Dear Chairman Titus:

At the June 18, 2008 FMATS Policy Committee meeting, a motion passed to "Move \$1.0 million in the grandfathered University Avenue funding to complete the EA for Phase I and move \$1.0 million from that same source to begin the EIS on Phase II and III on the Southern Bypass Project. The utilization of those funds would be subject to approval by FHWA. This proposed reallocation of grandfathered funding does not conform to the Department's intent in establishing the grandfathering allocation.

The grandfathered funds were allocated specifically for the University Avenue and Illinois Street projects. The State allocated these funds as additional funding to FMATS with the intention to help cover the cost of these large on-going projects that were started before the formation of the MPO. This allocation of additional grandfathered funds is not part of the FMATS allocation and is not intended for expenditure on any other FMATS projects. The grandfathered funds are coming from funds in the statewide Community Transportation Program otherwise intended for projects outside of any Metropolitan Planning Areas.

One consequence of pursuing this course of action would be a regulatory need to evaluate the new proposed use of the funds against the full universe of non-metropolitan project needs in all such areas of the state. That may result in the funds being transferred to another project elsewhere in the state.

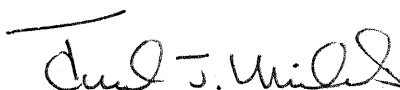
Last year the Department agreed that the grandfathered funding could be considered as one fund source that was transferrable between the University Avenue Project and the Illinois Street Project. We did not agree that these funds could be reallocated to other projects.

Ensuring the funds are used for one or both of the original projects that supported this funding request from a non-routine source would be the best way to ensure the funds are not lost to the FMATS program.

We would be happy to answer any questions you have concerning this. We realize this prior agreement, was a rather informal agreement, however the amounts and intent were made clear at several FMATS Policy Committee meetings.

One final observation would be the wisdom of using FHWA funds for a rail project. It would undoubtedly add unnecessary complexity to the project as compared to another funding source. Thus an alternate funding source, if secured, may prove to be substantially advantageous.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank T. Richards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Frank T. Richards, P.E.,
Deputy Commissioner
Highways & Public Facilities

cc: Leo von Scheben, P.E., L.S., M.B.A., Commissioner, DOT&PF
Randy Ruaro, Special Staff Assistant, Office of the Governor

