

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Planning and Development Center
Main Conference Room
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska**

**March 10, 2011
2:30 p.m.**

Technical Advisory Committee members present:

Name	Representing
Jennifer Witt	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT), Central Region, Planning
Kim Rice	ADOT, Central Region
Cindy Heil	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Steve Morris	MOA/Dept. of Health & Human Services
John Crapps	MOA/Traffic Department (TD)
Lance Wilber	MOA/Public Transportation Department (PTD)
Lois Epstein	AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee

Also in attendance

Name	Representing
Craig Lyon	MOA/Community Development Dept (CDD)
Vivian Underwood	MOA/CDD
Erika McConnell	MOA/CDD
Stephanie Mormilo	MOA/TD
Bart Rudolph	ADOT&PF
Anne Brooks	Brooks and Associates
Walt Parker	ACC
Lora Reinhold	
Mike Saville	

1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR CRAPPS called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. All Technical Advisory Committee members were present with the exception of Mr. Weaver, Mr. Cowles, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Carr and Ms. Epstein who were absent. A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

MR. LYON encouraged public involvement in this meeting of the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee. He explained staff would first make their presentation, followed

by any comments from Committee members, and the floor would then be open to public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MR. HANSEN moved to approve the agenda. MR. WILBER seconded. *Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved unanimously.*

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: October 8, 2009; November 5, 2009; December 3, 2009; January 28, 2010; May 13, 2010; June 10, 2010

MS. HEIL moved to approve October 8, 2009. MR. WILBER seconded. MR. WILBER noted on page 5, reduce bus stop contract maintenance should be “we may fund.” *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

MS. HEIL moved to approve November 5, 2009. MR. WILBER seconded. MS. WITT noted typo corrections on page 6, 4th paragraph down, the State had not yet finalized its not IT’S and program is capitalized. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

MR. WILBER moved to approve December 3, 2009. MR. HEIL seconded. MR. WILBER page 4, starting with Mr. Wilber, “I asked that we and the Muni met the match requirement delete “we”, deleted “unless” because there won’t be one if the Assembly doesn’t. MS. HEIL stated she had one on page 7, second from the bottom; “there had been an announcement at a national teleconference that the full model had been release but federal notice won’t happen until first of the year and then 2 year clock would start.” *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

MS. HEIL moved to approve January 28, 2010. MR. MORRIS seconded. MS. WITT commented she couldn’t vote on this one or June 10th minutes because they were they were very rough. They have incomplete sentences and are very choppy and it’s difficult to get the gist of the meeting. MR. MORRIS concurred. MS. WITT asked that the January 28 and June 10 minutes go back to staff for further editing and smoothing. She also asked that the May 13th minutes be re-worked as well. She said she believed that DOT sent corrections to staff. MR. RUDOLPH stated those comments were sent to Mr. Lyon today and doesn’t know whether they were incorporated. MS. RICE stated she would like to see another draft before approving.

MS. HEIL asked them to be reworked. All three were sent back to staff for reworking.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. ANCHORAGE CO MAINTENANCE PLAN, RELEASE OF TECHNICAL REVISIONS

MR. MORRIS requested the TAC release the CO Maintenance Plan and its appendices for a 30-day public review. They are being called being called technical revisions because there are no changes to the primary strategies or contingency measures in the plan. The revisions were precipitated by a new requirement by EPA to use a different emissions factor model than has been used in the past. The old MOBILE6 model is being replaced by MOVES. EPA is requiring that MOVES be used in all conformity determinations made after March 2, 2012. The MOVES model emission estimates are much higher than MOBILE6. If we were to continue using the current MOBILE6-based conformity budget in the CO plan there is a good possibility that would bust the budget. This means that future LRTPs, TIPs would not meet conformity requirements and could not be approved. To remedy this we drafted a new emissions budget and made some other changes to the CO Maintenance Plan that reflects the estimates generated by the MOVES model. What has changed are the numbers in the tables, the plots and the narrative that explains what's going on. Other than this there are no real changes to the plan; there are no changes to the primary or contingency control measures, and our prospects for continued compliance with the carbon monoxide standard; they are about the same with the MOVES projections. .

MS. HEIL commented on the methodology for using MOVES. She noted that the municipality and State gained concurrence from EPA on how the MOVES model is being used to model Anchorage emissions. Although it wasn't required we felt it would be good to get their input upfront on how we planned to use this brand new model. MR. MORRIS added even though we are starting well in advance of the March 2, 2012 implementation date, the schedule for gaining AMATS, Assembly and State approval doesn't allow a lot of extra time. Although EPA is considering extending the MOVES deadline beyond March 2, 2012 we are recommending that we proceed and get the CO Plan revisions done as soon as possible.

MS. WITT asked would the LRTP be done with MOVES or MOBILE6. MR. MORRIS replied that he hoped it would be done with MOVES. MS. HEIL noted that using MOVES would solve a lot of problems. If the TIP and LRTP conformity is done with MOBILE6 we will have to redo it with MOVES soon anyway. Adopting the MOVES model now will save work later.

MS. HEIL moved to release the Anchorage CO Maintenance Plan for a 30-day public comment period. MS. WITT seconded. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

b. 2010-2013 TIP, MAJOR AMENDMENT

MR. LYON explained this amendment was before the committee back in November when the TAC reviewed and released it for public comment. It went through PZC and the Assembly this past Tuesday and gained approval with very little comment at either venue. We are asking the TAC to recommend the approval of this to the PC. There are a number of projects that we really need to get obligated over at DOT as soon as possible.

MR. LYON noted that the Conformity needs to be approved as well and it should be done separately.

MS. RICE moved to approve the Conformity Determination. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

MS. HEIL moved to recommend approval to the PC the 2010-2013 TIP, Major Amendment. MS. RICE seconded. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

c. 2010-2013 TIP, ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION

MR. LYON stated this is an Administrative Modification that doesn't require an extensive public review process through the PZC and the Assembly. Because of the dollar figure it needs to be approved by the PC. This Admin Mod is tied up with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update we are doing right now. In review of the scope and work plan, etc...for doing that update we are realizing the dollar figure we had there originally will not cover what we need to do in terms of our public involvement process for that plan update. This is a request to move monies around inside the TIP to add an additional \$300,000 into that plan update so we can get done what we need to get done for that update.

MS. WITT asked if we are approving the Administrative Modification to add funds to the update of the MTP. MR. LYON replied that is correct and the MTP is formerly known as the LRTP.

MS. WITT moved to approve. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

MR. COWLES asked why it is in CMAQ. MR. LYON responded that is where the LRTP has been previously funded. It is where all of our other plans come from.

MR. WILBER asked that another administrative modification for the committee be considered. It would be included in Table 8, where the other earmarks are included. MR. WILBER explained in middle of last week, the Municipality of Anchorage received

information that earmarks that were part of previous Federal legislation and had not been expended or obligated, could be in jeopardy of being lost. At that time our department found out that Public Transportation received a \$750,000 earmark in FFY 2010 but it wasn't in the Federal Register. In order for us as a Municipality to pursue those funds they need to be shown in our TIP. He is asking the committee to do an administrative modification and show those dollars in Table 8. The money cannot be used for operating purposes it's strictly for capital. What we discovered in 2009, the municipality asked for a \$7M earmark for a variety of capital improvements at transit like security matters. We didn't know what happened until we received notice just recently that we got \$750,000. To ask FTA to obligate it we need to show it in the TIP.

MR. WILBER requests from the Committee to add to this Admin Mod a project in Table 8, titled People Mover, like the legislation, for \$750,000 FFY 2010 to the Anchorage People Mover to provide bus and bus facility needs as described in the Federal legislation.

MS. HEIL moved to approve. MR. MORRIS seconded. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

MR. WILBER noted we are required to provide a match, and he would get with Mr. Lyon for the additional language, and would bring the total \$937,500. Typically earmarks have three-years before they lapse but with the financial changes in Congress they may be in jeopardy along with other earmarks if they are not shown in the TIP. MS. WITT stated for clarification for the Admin Mod once they are approved it be posted on the web so that FHWA and FTA can go to our website and find the actual action. MR. LYON replied they will be posted on the TIP page.

MR. WILBER commented that staff should go to the PC so they are also aware of this. CHAIR CRAPPS asked if there are any objections to approving the document with both changes. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

d. AAQAC APPOINTMENTS

MR. LYON explained there are 2 reappointments to the Air Quality Advisory Committee. Both people are serving on the committee now and this would be their 2nd term. Rusty Meyers has been on the committee previously; he left and came back. And Lois Epstein, obviously serves on this committee as their representative. We are asking the TAC to recommend approval of their reappointment at the next PC meeting.

MR. MORRIS commented that Toni Jones is leaving the committee. She has been a terrific chair for 3 years and he wanted it noted that how much the staff and her fellow committee members appreciated her service. He noted that this is a volunteer effort and all she got for her effort was a few lunches. MR. LYON mentioned in the past we have

sent letters of thanks to them. He would draft a letter for the next meeting for their signature.

MS. BROOKS commented we should note that Lois Epstein is now with the Alaska Wilderness Society and not the Alaska Transportation Priorities.

MS. HEIL moved to recommend approval to the PC the reappointment of Rusty Meyers and Lois Epstein to the AAQAC. MS. WITT seconded. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

e. 2035 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP), TIME EXTENSION

MR. LYON presented the presented current version of the schedule for the plan update. In the discussions this is the time frame we finally settled on, which would be a time extension out to June 14, 2012. Remember at our previous meeting we talked about the lapse grace period on the Air Quality Conformity that we are going into on June 15, 2011 and that takes place whether you have an extension or not. That lapse grace period is for one year and this extension for the plan itself would be concurrent with the lapse grace period. Looking at the schedule you can see we hope to be done before that date. We are asking for your recommendation for approval on this extension letter signed by the PC Chair for this time frame.

MS. WITT asked Mr. Lyon if this does reflect all the changes the POC recommended. MR. LYON replied in the affirmative. MS. WITT asked for clarification is there enough leeway built into this schedule if we have to do a second public review. That is the plan replied MR. LYON.

MS. HEIL responded that June 15, 2012 will become a very rigid conformity lapse if we don't get new approval then. MR. LYON responded you can extend your plan to December 2012 but you are going into conformity lapse on June 15, 2012. We plan on having it done before then. MR. MORRIS asked if staff had talked with FHWA about the extension and are they going to be okay with this. MR. LYON answered their basic statement was we don't necessarily have a problem with you asking for more time we want to know what the reason is, and we are not going to do it twice.

MS. EPSTEIN noted per the schedule that a couple of the chapters were done and had we seen those. The documents lay out production and update of goals and objectives have a deadline of March 2nd. MS. BROOKS stated those both will be presented at the March 24th meeting.

MS. HEIL moved this letter the PC to request the extension. MR. WILBER seconded. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

f. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

MR. LYON noted there has been a suggestion of adding a person from KABATA to our TAC+ committee. In our Certification Review it was stated that AMATSAMATS should try to improve our working relationship with them. In short of adding them to the TAC, we are adding them to the TAC+. We have already had one meeting with the TAC+ and the suggestion was to ask this group here if they had any problems with that and we would recommend that addition. Typically we like to have an odd number on the committee for voting purposes but we don't have to.

MR. MORRIS commented he thought we were having someone from Administration, a representative from the Mayor's office on the committee. MS. WITT responded that was originally for the Project Oversight Committee.

MR. WILBER suggested that Mr. Lyon clarify for all of us and the members of the general public what the TAC+ is and how they came about. MR. LYON explained that the TAC, this group right here, meets as a regularly constituted part of AMATS for our Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update, which used to be called the Long Range Transportation Plan. In order to encourage public involvement and to make sure we are getting our message out on this plan update to a wider group of people we added a certain amount of groups onto our TAC+. A short term constituted membership for the length of this plan update, people, p from the Military, Homeland Security, Transit Advisory Board, and Mat-Su. The idea is that the members of the TAC+ would take the information they heard back to their groups and inform their members to increase our outreach. This suggestion would be to add the KABATA folks on to the TAC+ as well to inform their membership and keep them in the loop on our plan update. In our Federal Certification Review we had strong suggestions to increasing our working relationship with KABATA and he believes it would help in this matter.

MR. WILBER asked who approves the membership of the TAC+, is it a recommendation to the PC. MS. BROOKS stated it was just this body. MS. WITT asked in the invitation to the other entities did we specify who from that entity we wanted or did we ask them to appoint someone. MS. BROOKS stated staff made a call to the group and asked who they would recommend.

MR. WILBER recommended that we contact KABATA and invite them to participate on the TAC+ for the purpose of the update of the MTP. MS. WITT seconded.

MR. MORRIS asked if staff was recommending the TAC+. MR. LYON affirmed that staff was recommending the TAC+.

FRAIZER from the KABATA stated we've had some lengthy conversations with FHWA on how they wanted written agreements with roles spelled out with everyone in there. As it is my job to do what they mentioned and it would be easier to put someone on the committee and we welcome that. Our director would like to appointment someone.

MS. BROOKS asked are you asking for placement on the TAC itself or on the TAC+ for the MTP update. MR. FRAZIER said we will take what we can get at this time.

CHAIR CRAPPS asked if there were any other comments. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

MS. WITT asked that staff be working with that contact to get all the materials together and get them up to speed.MR. LYON said he would finish up the letter and get it out as quickly as possible.

MS. BROOKS mentioned she would like to bring something up but wasn't sure it was a business item or informational item, it relates to the MTP. We met with staff this week as part of our public involvement team and found that the Microsoft software staff is using is 2003. When the consultant provides them with documents for review, we have to dumb it down where we lose formatting for staff to review when it comes back. We would like to find a way for this committee to recommend to the Administration that the software be updated so we don't have to spend our money and time reformatting documents and spend it on actual outreach.

As a consultant she was going to write a letter and suggest this because of the extra work it adds to use the tool for the document; she just thinks we need to get behind it because with this Administration you have to go through a committee to expend the extra funds; she thinks it would help to get the backing from this Committee.

CHAIR CRAPPS suggested she get the letter to staff to get on the agenda. MS. WITT asked would it be preferable to have the action in the minutes so that we can act on it sooner rather than later. Is this something that affects the whole IT department and not where we go tell AMATS to go update their stuff? Mr. LYON responded software has to go through a cost containment committee.

CHAIR CRAPPS asked is it time critical to do it now or can we wait for Ms. Brooks' letter. MR. LYON stated we can get started on it right now if we have a motion. MS. HEIL concurred now. MS. WITT stated now because documents are coming together.

MR. MORRIS moved that staff prepare a letter pointing out the inefficiencies of the software and recommend an upgrade to Word 7 or to whatever is appropriate. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, it was approved unanimously.*

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW

MR. LYON noted he sent in the final comments on the Certification Review this morning and hopes the Feds will have a relatively quick turnaround time. It was on their recommendations, actions and findings so when he hears back he will let the Committees know. At this stage it is still in draft form and not out for public consumption and as soon as they send it back we'll let everyone see it.

b. CONSTRUCTION PROEJCT STATUS

MR. RUDOLPH explained the list of DOT's upcoming advertising scheduled projects in Anchorage or AMATS area. It is available on the website so anyone can access the information. He made note of a couple projects, 1) Huffman Road because it's already out to bid, 2) Spenard Road and 3) O'Malley will be moving forward this year. Those 3 are not on here for those reasons. The pavement rehabilitation projects are A Street and Potter Drive. MS. RICE asked so this is not the Obligation Report. Not at all replied MR. RUDOLPH, it's just a public document out on the web for when we might advertise these projects for bid. MR. WILBER asked Mr. Rudolph if this doesn't include other construction work that DOT is doing that might include maintenance repair like the rut repair on the Seward Hwy or some of the other stuff, so in addition to this, there is other work going on. MR. RUDOLPH responded right, every year Gary Jones and his staff put together a map of the construction around town and it comes out in May.

MS. WITT responded there is quite a bit of money in the Governor's budget for other issues and maintenance. It will be greatly welcomed.

c. EAGLE RIVER TRAILS – CONNECTIVITY/OVERPASS

LORA REINBOLD stated she is a volunteer on the trails project and she gave an overview of the project status. MS. REINBOLD presented a resolution asking AMATS to support the overpass to promote trail connectivity, community recreation and school sports programs.

The very last page is a resolution; whereas, trails provide recreational opportunities for schools and community, whereas, it is optimal to connect schools in parks, whereas, an overpass would help connect trails to allow safe road crossing; therefore, be it resolved that AMATS TAC supports an overpass on Yosemite.

MR. WILBER asked if Mr. Reinbold had talked with Lori Schanche regarding the location of the trail or overpass and did she mention the current adopted pedestrian and bike plan or any work she is doing on the trails plan that calls for a pedestrian overpass.

MS. REINBOLD responded Ms. Schanche was one of the very first people she talked with and said Ms. Schanche is having a hard time coming out to check out the trails and assess them. Ms. Reinbold asked her about the Long-Range Plan and stated we are having a hard time getting together to discuss this.

MR. WILBER stated he would be like to talk with Ms. Schanche before he would support this resolution to see what she thinks as she is our non-motorized person. He can't disagree with the purpose of the trail but he thinks he doesn't have all the information. MS. REINBOLD invited everyone to come see it. It's beautiful; they are groomed all year long. She's tried to get Ms. Schanche out there, snowshoeing, walking, hiking, biking we have a lot of meet up groups out there. MR. WILBER noted if he doesn't, Mr. Lyon will get a hold of Ms. Schanche. MS. WITT asked to put it on our next meeting agenda.

Comment [p1]: Lance please look over, I was not able to clearly hear what you were saying and tried to get the gist of it.

CHAIR CRAPPS asked the upper vista trail on the map, whose land is that green section. MS REINBOLD stated it was Heritage Land Bank owned and it is designated park land and we asking that it be dedicated park land. So that is something we are weighing in on.

d. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

CHAIR CRAPPS asked as far as the Informational item on the Eagle River Trails is the Committee okay with bringing it forward as a business item at our next meeting. MS. WITT mentioned we are giving it over to staff to evaluate and bring back.

MR. LYON introduced Erika McConnell as the new Senior Transportation Planner and she will be working on, other things, the OS&HP. She has extensive background in public involvement from the other plans she been working on, as well as many years of experience as a land use planner and we are very fortunate to have her with our group.

e. OTHER INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

CHAIR CRAPPS announced that he has been the acting Traffic Engineer. His understanding is, at the current time, that Stephanie Mormilo will be starting March 28 as the Traffic Engineer. Unfortunately she will be on vacation and won't be here for the next meeting so he will chair one more meeting.

7. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS

Joint PC, TAC+ meeting, March 24, 2011, P&R Conference rm in Eagle River
Technical Advisory Committee, April 14, 2011
Policy Committee, April 28, 2011

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.