

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

**Planning & Development Center  
Main Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
4700 Elmore Road  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**November 3, 2011  
2:30 p.m.**

Technical Advisory Committee members Present:

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Name	Representing
Dave Post	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Central Region, Planning
Ken Morton	DOT&PF, Central Region
Cindy Heil	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Steve Morris	MOA/Dept. of Health & Human Services
Stephen Ribuffo	MOA/Port of Anchorage
Stephanie Mormilo	MOA/Traffic Department
Jerry Hansen	MOA/Project Management & Engineering (PM&E)
Lance Wilber	MOA/Public Transportation Department (PTD)
Bruce Carr	Alaska Railroad Corporation

Also in attendance

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Name	Representing
Craig Lyon	MOA/Traffic Department
Julie Makela	MOA/PME
John Smith	MOA/PME
Jody Karcz	MOA/PTD
Jamie Acton	MOA/PTD
Bart Rudolph	DOT&PF
Anne Brooks	Brooks & Associates
Jon Spring	Spring Planning Services
Judy Dougherty	Knik Arm Bridge & Toll Authority (KABATA)
Kacy Hillman	DOWL HKM
Angelina Burney	DOWL HKM
Mark Marion	
Todd Logan	

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR MORMILO called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. Dave Post sat in for Jennifer Witt. Jerry Weaver and Lois Epstein 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

The agenda was amended to remove item 5C, 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Major Amendment #3, from the Business Items. MR. CARR moved to approve the agenda as amended. MR. WILBER seconded. *Hearing no objections, the amended agenda was approved.*

## 4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

## 5. BUSINESS ITEMS

### a. 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan - Update

JON SPRING provided an update noting the public review comment period for 30 days has finished. He reviewed some of the general comments received so far. ANNE BROOKS stated that two of the meetings were on Monday and Tuesday of last week in Anchorage, one at midday, and one in the evening. She indicated a lot of transit riders came to meeting downtown, and 54 to evening meeting. On Tuesday night in Eagle River, 15 people attended. MS. BROOKS explained about 40 different comments were received, and most were via email with about 200 lines items to address as the comment response summary is developed.

GARY KATSION explained the plan for getting comments back to the TAC for next meeting is to have comments listed and what the project team recommends. It should be ready for distribution on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the project team will be meeting over the next 2 weeks to develop project team responses on comments.

CINDY HEIL asked if the TAC was expected to get through all comments in one meeting, or plan on extending the meeting. MR. KATSION suggested there was some discussion of a work session on key items. He noted the POC would be working towards getting information to the TAC on the November 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding these items with little controversy, and then those comments that need more discussion will be addressed item by item.

MR. SPRING suggested that Ms. Epstein was very interested in looking at KABATA and the model data by TAZ which includes their allocation of employment and households in the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage. He asked if the TAC wanted a separate work session on this, what those allocations are, and how it differs from the AMATS model that is driving traffic projections for this plan. MR. WILBER agreed it would be good to have a work session before November 23<sup>rd</sup> and before the TAC considers this. He noted staff should make sure the KABATA people are invited. MS. HEIL suggested inviting the Policy Committee as well. MR. WILBER confirmed this would be an information sharing work session, not a decision making one, and MR. SPRING confirmed that.

STEVE MORRIS asked if the POC was going to show differences in the data, or if there will be explanations on what led to the differences, i.e. methodologies. MR. SPRING answered that the POC was not in a position to give that analysis as it did not have that information from KABATA, but they can provide Anchorage's detail.

No public comments/questions.

**b. 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

MR. LYON shared that at the last TAC meeting the UPWP was released for public comment. He noted this was scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) on November 7, 2011. Following that hearing the UPWP is scheduled to finish up at the PC meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. MR. LYON stated the UPWP has been available for about 3 weeks, and he had gotten comments from AMATS staff, DOT and Transit, and those changes have been incorporated. He indicated he was looking for conditional approval barring any large changes from PZC or adverse comments in order to provide this to FHWA in time.

MR. WILBER asked if there were funding tables available. MR. LYON responded that he did them, but had not brought them to this meeting. MR. WILBER wanted to ensure the funding changes in the TIP were incorporated into this document, and MR. LYON assured the TAC that this had been done.

In going back over Mr. Spring's discussion on the information from KABATA and the MOA, MR. CARR felt we seemed to have different models, and he wondered when AMATS was going to have regional transportation planning. MR. CARR felt AMATS had good text in Task 133, but that as one member of the TAC and one of the major modes here, he does not see regional planning happening. MR. CARR emphasized that he had worked with Mr. Wilber about a decade ago to try and develop regional coordination, but that it had fallen apart, and he hoped that this was the year AMATS could get decent regional planning started.

MR. CARR discussed funding coming to the AMATS area via the Alaska Railroad (ARR) related to installation of positive train control, which is large software to determine where trains are purely by data. There is an opportunity to reduce congestion by using intelligent

transportation systems. He noted that part of the AMATS' performance plan says to identify opportunities like this. MR CARR stated he hoped AMATS does not look at things simply from a highway perspective, but from a transportation system perspective. He indicated there is an opportunity not only at C Street, but around town where information can be shared among modes. MR. CARR stated he would be more than happy to sit down and work on this.

DAVID POST asked Mr. Rudolph if he had seen the financing table. MR. RUDOLPH replied that he had and noted comments from the last TAC were in there.

MARK MARION stated he was a community activist living in East Anchorage and while looking at UPWP he noticed it contains the East Anchorage Plan. He indicated one of the things he thought we need to look at is we need to figure out the security problem at 12<sup>th</sup> and Muldoon related to panhandlers. MR. WILBER responded that the City was working on making some security improvements in those areas, including installing cameras Downtown in transit. He stated the City was aware of the problem and doing what they can to fix it.

MS. HEIL moved to recommend conditional approval of the 2012-13 UPWP to the AMATS Policy Committee. MR. WILBER seconded. *Hearing no objections, the motion was approved unanimously.*

c. **Other Business Items - None**

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Obligation Report**

MR. RUDOLPH presented the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Obligation report for 2011. MR. RUDOLPH reminded the TAC of the requirement to balance out to zero, which has been done. He stated staff does not require any action by the TAC at this meeting.

MR. CARR asked where the work on the Dimond Center Transit Facility is listed. MR. RUDOLPH responded that it was outside of the constrained portion of the TIP in Table 8 as it was an earmark. He further stated it could be listed in other funded projects on the last page if AMATS wants to track it.

b. **UAA Car Sharing Update**

JAMIE ACTION, mobility coordinator for Public Transportation gave an overview on Transportation Demand Measures (TDM's) being utilized in the U-Med District. MS. ACTON discussed secured bike storage, the UPASS system, and a couple of options for car-sharing.

c. **100<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project Update**

JOHN SMITH, Project Manager with PM&E gave an update on this project, including discussion of the purpose and need. MR. SMITH explained this was the final link to 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor noting they have been working on this corridor for 10 years. He discussed the status of getting a wetlands permit from the Corps of Engineers (COE) and outlined some of the issues related to that. MR. SMITH stated the COE conveyed their concerns about the permit and had stated they would look favorably upon receiving resolutions from AMATS stating their support for the project. He stated he was at the TAC today to request a resolution to take back to the COE confirming this project is needed, serves a viable purpose in accomplishing our transportation needs, and is supported by AMATS.

MR. MORRIS asked if the wetlands to north had more value, and what the advantage was of shifting to the south. MR. SMITH responded the wetlands to the north have higher value in that they are patterned wetlands that have more biodiversity, and in shifting the alignment south slightly allows for establishing a conservation easement between the roadway and private property that exists to north. In response to Mr. Morris, MR. SMITH indicated there are approximately 170 different property owners to the north. MR. HANSEN added that the MOA was picking up a lot of those through tax foreclosures, and the properties were really not developable.

MR. POST stated he thought it was odd to consider passing a resolution for something that AMATS has already included in the MTP. He felt that when AMATS adopts a plan it has already shown support for those projects contained in the plan, and MR. SMITH agreed. However, MR. SMITH explained the reason they are here is that unfortunately the COE has already drafted a memo of record denying the permit. Basically, the MOA wants to go back to COE to show a project specific resolution that reconfirms AMATS' support for the 100<sup>th</sup> Ave project. MR. HANSEN stated the COE is questioning the need for this project, and the MOA thinks it is still important.

MR. WILBER stated if the COE finds benefit in a piece of paper from AMATS on one project then the TAC should do so. He noted, however, that the TAC could not act on the resolution at this meeting because it was not advertised as a business item in time, but the TAC could forward it to the PC for their consideration.

MR. CARR agreed with Mr. Wilber that this is really a paper exercise. He noted the issue has nothing to do with how AMATS strengthens or writes this resolution; it has to do with denying permits.

TODD LOGAN stated that he lives in South Anchorage and is a fan of good roads and good bike paths, but did not believe the purpose and need was met. MR. LOGAN felt that building a road through a large section of wetlands does not make much sense when you have a large four lane road right less than a mile away. MR. SMITH replied that he was also a commuter bicyclist and

that being able to move east to west through a corridor that does not involve Dimond Boulevard has a lot of benefits, and it is illegal to ride your bike on Minnesota. People do ride bikes on the frontage roads. He felt that based on non-motorized needs alone, this project has merit.

**d. Other Informational Items - None**

**7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

MR. CARR provided some details about the upcoming AMATS Freight Advisory Committee Tour of the freight operations in Seward. He also discussed traffic patterns and congestion associated with rail cars in the 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue alignment from Minnesota to Old Seward Highway.

MR. WILBER announced the impending retirement of Gary Taylor, Superintendent of Maintenance & Operation of Bus Services. Jody Karcz has been selected as the new Superintendent and begins on Monday, and then Public Transportation will be looking to fill her position as Planning Manager.

ANNE BROOKS informed TAC members of a House Transportation Subcommittee meeting tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. She noted she would be giving a presentation on the MTP and will also be talking about the proposed transportation infrastructure fund. She stated she has already provided a presentation to the Anchorage Caucus this week too.

**8. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS**

Policy Committee, November 17, 2011

Technical Advisory Committee, December 1, 2011

Policy Committee, December 15, 2011

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.