

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Mayor's Conference Room, 8th Floor
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska**

**March 22, 2012
1:00 p.m.**

Policy Committee members Present:

Name	Representing
Robert Campbell	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Regional Director (DOT&PF)
Alice Edwards	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Air Quality
George Vakalis	Municipal Mayor
Patrick Flynn	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Chris Birch	MOA/Municipal Assembly

Also in attendance

Name	Representing
Craig Lyon	MOA/Community Development/Transportation Planning (MOA/CDD)
Erika McConnell	MOA/CDD
Steve Morris *	MOA/Dept. of Health & Human Services
Cindy Heil *	ADEC
Jennifer Witt *	DOT&PF
Walter Parker	Anchorage Citizens Coalition
Gary Katsion	Kittelson & Associates
Joann Mitchell	Brooks & Associates
Chris Grgich	DOWL HKM
Adam Trombley	MOA/Municipal Assembly

*AMATS Technical Advisory Committee members

1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR CAMPBELL called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. All Policy Committee members were present with George Vakalis sitting in for Mayor Sullivan.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

MR. LYON encouraged public involvement in this meeting of the AMATS Policy 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

There were no objections to the agenda as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – Feb 23, 2012

MR. VAKALIS moved to approve the minutes of February 23, 2012. ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN seconded.

MS. EDWARDS provided a correction noting she was not present at the last meeting, and Cindy Heil sat in for her.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as corrected.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – Update

MR. LYON reported the MTP is still scheduled for an Assembly public hearing on April 10th. MR. KATSION reported an Assembly work session was held on March 9, 2012. ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN thinks AMATS can expect a series of recommended amendments from members of the Assembly who were present at the work session. MR. VAKALIS clarified it is scheduled for Assembly public hearing and action on that date to make the timeline.

b. Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Bylaws

MR. LYON explained the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee would be a new committee created to serve as an advisory committee to the AMATS Technical Advisory (TAC) Committee and the Policy Committee. He noted there was a recent TAC work session and meeting to discuss the bylaws. The TAC recommended approval of the proposed bylaws.

MS. MCCONNELL explained these bylaws began with the bylaws that were used for the AMATS Freight Advisory Committee, as well as looking at bylaws examples from bike and pedestrian committees around the country. She noted at its work session the TAC made some good changes particularly to the content of the 11 members that would serve on the committee.

There were no public comments.

MR. VAKALIS noted Title 9 was recently revised, and there is a large section in there on bicycles. He noted one of the component agencies that had a lot of input into that title was the Police Department primarily for safety reasons, and whether there would be benefit to having a representative on the committee.

MS. MCCONNELL explained the original proposal did include a member from the Police Department as well as a couple other members from Municipal government. The TAC recommended that there be no governmental entities actually sitting on the committee with the exception of the Anchorage School District, and governmental entities that could be useful in the discussions such as the Police Department would be regularly invited to support the committee. ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN noted this is referred to in Paragraph 2.1.6 of the draft bylaws.

MR. LYON indicated some of the TAC discussion was whether those specialized people should be involved on a regular basis when a lot of issues that come up before this committee might have nothing to do with their area of expertise. He thinks the idea is that when a specific issue comes up staff makes sure they are at the meeting to offer their expertise to provide staff support on those types of issues.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN expressed concerns with regard to the 11 member committee being too large and unwieldy. It was noted 6 members would be required for a quorum.

MR. LYON noted there would not be a member of the Bike Committee on the TAC, and their recommendations would be forwarded to the TAC.

MS. MCCONNELL explained the purpose of the committee, which includes making sure the Bike, Pedestrian and Trails Plans are implemented, as well as public education components particularly between the bicycle and vehicular communities. She indicated the committee would help evaluate the non-motorized projects included in the TIP and the next MTP. The committee could also bring ideas of interest forward to AMATS.

In response to Mr. Vakalis, MR. LYON explained all committees are advisory to the Policy Committee, but all the committees decisions are funneled through the TAC, and the TAC reviews and makes recommendations to the Policy Committee. MR. VAKALIS thought this was unclear, and ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN explained this gives the Policy Committee the flexibility of sending something directly to Bike and Ped as opposed to through the TAC. He further noted the committees advise both the Policy Committee and the TAC, but as a practice we ask them to funnel things back up through the TAC.

CHAIR CAMPBELL noted from his perspective he was not excited about creating a committee that apparently has no stated purpose, no particular mission to accomplish to solve a problem that

we do not know exist. Having said that, he indicated if it is the will of this Committee to promote this committee, he will not stand in the way of it.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN stated that as we seek more and more alternative methods of transportation in the Anchorage Bowl in particular, he thinks having some folks who are more focused on non-motorized would be useful, and they would probably see things we might not. He thinks those extra eyes would be helpful to the process.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN moved to approve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Bylaws as recommended by the TAC. MS. EDWARDS seconded.

MR. VAKALIS thinks if you have a committee that is looking at pedestrian or bicycle issues, and if it is not very clear that they do report to the TAC because the TAC has to take a look at this in the whole, and the TAC is advising the Policy Committee technically, and so if you were to get a recommendation separately from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee that comes to us, which it can under the way it is written in these bylaws, then all the Policy Committee will end up doing is sending it right back to the TAC to make sure there are no conflicts with anything else they have to analyze. So, for the sake of trying to make it clear, it seems to him that it makes more sense that at least they report to the TAC. He noted the Policy Committee can always ask for a separate report from them. He thinks to make this a coordinated effort to make sure it meets all the technical aspects that the Policy Committee expects the TAC to make recommendations on that it go to the TAC. He noted he understands what is done by practice, but he does not know that is a document.

CHAIR CAMPBELL suggested a separate motion that clarifies all advisory committees are to route through the TAC whether it is the Bicycle, Air Quality or Freight Advisory Committees, and he thinks it is appropriate for all of those committees to have that chain of report.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN indicated he could prepare an amendment to the policies and procedures for the Policy Committee making a blanket statement on this issue. The Policy Committee concurred.

MS. EDWARDS thinks the non-motorized aspects of our transportation system are important. She noted AMATS gets advice on freight and air quality, and it seems like this would be an appropriate focus for a group of individuals in this community to be working on that and giving AMATS that advice.

There were no public comments.

MR. LYON noted there are 3 places AMATS distributes money in terms of allocation, roadways, CMAQ and Transportation Enhancements. He noted the FHWA seem clear that they want that to be a priority for AMATS, and obviously the latest different suggestions related to

authorization and reauthorization legislation are showing an emphasis in that area. He thinks it would show FHWA that AMATS are paying attention and making it a priority.

Hearing no objections, the motion was approved.

c. **Other Business Items - None**

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Upcoming construction projects status – State and Municipality**

MR. LYON provided a list of Municipal projects coming up in 2012.

MR. VAKALIS noted there is a Construction Coordination meeting scheduled for May 3 for all entities, the State and everyone else who does road work in order to coordinate their efforts.

The Policy Committee discussed responsibility for maintenance of roads after they are built including State and Municipal roads, and ARDSA and SBRSAs.

The Policy Committee discussed the 88th Avenue improvements. MR. VAKALIS indicated the Municipality turned this project over to the State because the Municipality did not receive enough legislative funding to be able to complete all the improvements, and it was felt the State could get this project done sooner. CHAIR CAMPBELL indicated the State expects to begin moving in the next couple of months.

The bridge in Girdwood was discussed. MR. VAKALIS noted this bridge is failing, and it is the Forest Service's responsibility.

CHAIR CAMPBELL noted two large federally funded State projects that will be under construction this year as follows:

New Seward Highway, Tudor Road to Dowling
Dowling Road west of the Old Seward Highway

b. **Draft 2035 MTP Carbon Monoxide and PM10 Air Quality
Conformity Analysis**

MR. MORRIS discussed the public review draft noting the TAC released the air quality conformity analysis for a 30 day comment period which ends April 9. Prior to releasing the conformity determination, it went through the required interagency consultation where it was

discussed with DOT&PF, ADEC, Federal Highways, and EPA. He thinks they are all fairly comfortable with it. There were a couple minor changes to the draft prior to release. He stated the analysis shows the 2035 MTP does meet conformity requirements. The carbon monoxide emissions estimated to come from the MTP as envisioned through 2035 were under the allowable emissions budget for carbon monoxide. For PM10, there is a much less stringent way of looking at this than in the past because it has been so long since the standards have been violated, and it meets conformity requirements. There is a maintenance area for carbon monoxide in Anchorage Bowl, and technically a non-attainment area for PM10 out in Eagle River.

MR. MORRIS explained the carbon monoxide conformity determination was a closer call than maybe it should have been, and this is because they think there are some technical problems with the MOVES model the EPA mandates for the analysis. He specifically mentioned problems with starting emissions for cold temperatures for modeling, the 2007 emissions rate is almost the same as the 2035 emissions rate. He noted the Municipality and the State have talked to EPA about this. He hopes this will be resolved before this has to be done again. However, even with that problem, the MTP shows conformity.

He briefly discussed one plan they have been discussing with EPA and ADEC called a Limited Maintenance Plan, which allows elimination of the emissions budget process entirely.

With regard to PM10 violations, MR. MORRIS unless the rules change, Eagle River will be a maintenance area for PM10 for the next 20 years from 2004 to 2024.

c. Other Informational Items - None

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Elections are next month. By charter the Assembly will reorganize following that election, and ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FLYN and BIRCH indicated they may or may not be reappointed to the Policy Committee.

8. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS

Technical Advisory Committee, April 12, 2012

Policy Committee, April 26, 2012

Assembly MTP 2035 Presentation, April 10

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.