

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

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

**October 25, 2012
1:00 p.m.**

Policy Committee Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Craig Lyon	MOA/Community Development/Transportation Planning (CCD)
Matt Stichick	MOA/Department of Health & Human Services Department (DHHS)
Bart Rudolph	DOT&PF
Jennifer Witt *	DOT&PF
Kris Riesenber	Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Division (via Phone)
Rachel Steer	DOWL HKM
Todd Logan	
G. M. Forsythe	
Pedro Kim	

**AMATS Technical Advisory Committee members*

1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR CAMPBELL called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Vakalis sat in for Mayor Sullivan. A quorum was established. Chris Birch arrived at 1:02 p.m.

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

Mr. Lyon noted he included in the Committee's packet the discussion of the bonds and grant funding in response to a question at the last meeting, and he will have a briefing on this under informational items.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Anchorage CO Limited Maintenance Plan

Topic: The Anchorage Limited CO Maintenance Plan (LMP) update takes advantage of EPA guidance that allows areas that have "design value" concentrations 15% or more below the 9 ppm federal standard (≤ 7.65 ppm) to prepare their updates using a simplified Limited Maintenance Plan procedure. Anchorage's current design value is 6.0 ppm. The LMP must be approved by AMATS, adopted by the Anchorage Assembly and forwarded to ADEC for incorporation in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The State will begin its own review and public comment process, and once completed will include the document as a revision to the SIP for air quality. The State then forwards the revisions to EPA for approval. Once received, the EPA has 90 days to make an adequacy determination for conformity purposes. Once this occurs, the emission budget analysis and associated transportation and air quality modeling will no longer be required.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting approval by the Policy Committee of the LMP. At its October 11, 2012 meeting, the TAC has recommended approval by the Policy Committee.

MR. LYON provided a presentation on the LMP. He noted during the public review process an additional amendment was added to provide flexibility in the number and location of CO monitoring sites in Anchorage. He believes in reviewing the monitoring sites that the Air Quality staff decided they were committing to too many monitoring sites and were concerned about whether it could be done. As a result, this change was suggested, it was included in the document, and the document was put out for public review for another 30 days.

MR. LYON indicated with the additional 30 day review the Policy Committee should not necessarily act on this item at this meeting if it is determined that this is a significant change, and the 30 days are needed.

CHAIR CAMPBELL summarized as follows: this document was out for a certain comment period, which was supposed to have passed by today; the Policy Committee was suppose to move this document forward for Assembly approval in the near future; there has been a change to the document; and the question is whether or not an additional 30 days is needed?

MR. LYON stated no comments have been received on this document during the comment period prior to the modification that has been subsequently released. He noted the document was originally released for comment on September 13, 2012 (5 weeks).

CHAIR CAMPBELL clarified the potential action before the Committee is to approve this document to move forward for Assembly consideration, or alternatively to delay this for a month to allow another public comment period and move it forward in November for Assembly consideration.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN asked if it is precedent that if the Policy Committee feels there has been a substantial change to extend for 30 days, or could it be extended for 14 days for example.

MR. LYON explained AMATS policies and procedures talks about a TIP or MTP amendment, and if it is substantially different than what has been released through the public process, then it is released for another 30 days. He noted there is no language there on this plan because this plan is approved by Assembly, and the Assembly is the final decision. He indicated this has not come up before for this particular item.

There were no public comments.

From a DEC perspective, MS. EDWARDS thinks the Policy Committee should wait to take action on this at its next meeting. She indicated that while it may appear to be a relatively minor change to the plan, when the plan was put out in September, it said that monitoring that work would be done with 4 sites. She noted over the course of the last month it has become clear that some flexibility with regard to that might be wanted, this was not brought through the committee process, and the public has not had a chance to really think about that. However, she noted this new language would provide the flexibility to shutdown monitoring sites, which would give some flexibility given budget or resource constraints to do something different. She stated this may still be protective of monitoring to make sure the commitments under the Clean Air Act are being maintained, but she does not view this as a minor change. She thinks this is a change to the plan, and it is something that EPA was consulted about. She noted DEC believes it needed to be a change to the SIP. MS. EDWARDS thinks this would be safer from a regulatory process perspective if at the local level people were given the time to look at this. She recognizes there may be very few, if any, comments that come in on it, but indicated a one month delay probably is not going to change the ultimate timing of this final plan all that much. She indicated the date the revision was noticed and posted on the website could potentially be used as a trigger date for this comment period, but it has not been a month since that was done.

MR. LYON believes the secondary comment period has been active for a week.

If this comment period is 30 days, ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN stated he is not opposed to it, but if this change was released on the Nov. 18th for 30 days that would put the end of the comment period on November 17. He noted he is cognizant of the import of Ms. Edwards' comments. He thinks following the public process appropriately is an appropriate response.

MR. VAKALIS moved that the Policy Committee resolve that at least 30 days of publication will be allowed for the *Anchorage Limited CO Maintenance Plan*, and at the very next meeting Policy Committee holds that it will be taken up at that meeting assuming that 30 days has occurred prior too, which means it might have to done in December. ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN seconded. **(This motion was subsequently withdrawn.)**

CHAIR CAMPBELL stated his concern with timing. He asked Mr. Lyon to find out when the actual publish date was and schedule an ad hoc meeting the next day in order to move this forward to the first Assembly meeting, if possible. Conversely, he suggested the Committee could tentatively approve pending no additional public comments to that date. He stated he does not want to deny people the opportunity to comment on this document. He noted it has been out 40 days to date without comment. He thinks following the process is important, but at the same time he would like to find a way to expedite this.

CHAIR CAMPBELL asked Mr. Lyon to find out what the date is. He noted if it does not fit in with the Committee meeting appropriately, and as Assembly Member Flynn suggests, it is two days after the next meeting, then maybe the meeting could be changed by a couple days in order to take this up as a special item at that meeting.

MS. EDWARDS noted there is a quite a period of time for the State to process this plan and for its public comment period. She indicated there were things the State could do to try and shorten that timeline. She suggested the State could start its public comment period before the Assembly completes its action and shorten up the legal review. She noted this really does not appear to be an extremely controversial issue, and from a regulatory perspective should not be all that complicated. She thinks some time can be made up on the back end of this process as well.

CHAIR CAMPBELL recommended postponing this item until the next meeting, which will be set depending on the comment period Mr. Lyon determines from his on-line notice.

Hearing no objections, action on the Anchorage Limited CO Maintenance Plan was postponed until the next meeting with the meeting date to be determined by Mr. Lyon.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN withdrew his previous motion for approval.

b. Other Business Items - None

6. INFORMATION ITEMS**a. Bond & Grant Funding – Senate District Residential Pavement Rehabs**

With regard to the bond and grant funding list, there was a question on how the Senate district residential pavement rehabs get parceled out. MR. LYON explained PM&E did a survey and tour of all these different Senate districts to categorize and judge the worst roads that needed the most help, and then PM&E came up with this program. He noted there are different needs in different districts, and Public Works has a plan in place with specific roads, but Mr. Hansen is not available to provide that information.

MR. VAKALIS noted PM&E came up with scoring criteria, went to every single road and applied that scoring criteria to come up with a priority list.

MR. LYON explained this list was used to ask for specific money for specific districts.

b. TIP Amendment 4

MR. LYON explained there is a TIP amendment out, and he has received approximately 100 comments related to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Plans. He indicated they have been asking AMATS to increase the funding in Table 4 for Bike Plan implementation in 2013 and 2014. He noted the amendment will go to the TAC for recommendation on possible changes, if the TAC thinks those are necessary, and then will go forward to this Committee. The comment period closed October 23, 2012.

c. Other Informational Items - None**7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS - None****8. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS**

Technical Advisory Committee, November 1, 2012

Policy Committee, November 15, 2012

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.