

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

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

**June 14, 2012
2:30 p.m.**

Technical Advisory Committee members present:

| Name | Representing |
|-----------------|---|
| Jennifer Witt | Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Central Region |
| 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 |
| Jerry Hansen | MOA/Project Management & Engineering (PM&E) |
| Lance Wilber | MOA/Public Transportation Department |
| Bruce Carr | Alaska Railroad Corporation |

Also in attendance

| Name | Representing |
|-------------------|---|
| Craig Lyon | MOA/Community Development/Transportation Planning (MOA/CDD) |
| Vivian Underwood | MOA/CDD |
| Erika McConnell | MOA/CDD |
| Jamie Acton | MOA/Public Transportation Department |
| Kim Carpenter | MOA/Traffic Department |
| Bart Rudolph | DOT&PF |
| Gary Katsion | Kittelson & Associates |
| Charles Guinchard | Representative Mia Costello |
| Rich Wilson | Port of Anchorage |
| Judy Dougherty | Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA) |

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

In Stephanie Mormilo's absence, Jennifer Witt served as Chair.

CHAIR WITT called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Absent were Stephanie Mormilo, Jerry Weaver and Lois Epstein. 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. CARR moved to approve the agenda. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved unanimously.*

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – July 14, 2011 and September 22, 2011

MS. HEIL moved to approve the minutes of July 14, 2011. MR. WILBER seconded. *Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.*

MS. HEIL moved to approve the minutes of September 22, 14, 2011. MR. CARR seconded. *Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.*

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. AMATS Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Appointments

This is a request for the TAC to recommend that the Policy Committee appoint the slate of individuals listed below to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. All of the proposed members have been contacted and are willing to serve on the committee.

| Seat | Name | Affiliation | Term Expires |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|--------------|
| Bicycle Org. | Brian Litmans | Bicycle Commuters of Anchorage | 2015 |
| Public Health Org. | Karol Fink | SOA, Division of Public Health | 2014 |
| Disability Services Org. | Eric Gurley | Hope Community Resources | 2015 |
| Social Service Org. | Kate O'Brien | Spirit of Youth | 2014 |
| Anchorage School District | Dan Merrigan | ASD Student Transportation | 2016 |
| Community or Environmental Org. | Brendan Babb | Alaska Center for the Environment Board | 2016 |
| Business Org. | John Weddleton | Member, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and Spenard Chamber of Commerce | 2016 |

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|--|------|
| Public Seat A | Tina Tomsen | | 2015 |
| Public Seat B | Julia Petersen | | 2015 |
| Public Seat C | Elizabeth Blackburn | | 2016 |
| Public Seat D | Tim Kosednar | | 2014 |

MR. LYON and MS. MCCONNELL provided the staff presentation. MS. MCCONNELL explained 17 letters of interest were submitted for the 4 public member seats, and a five-member committee met to review those submittals. She stated the committee reached consensus on the four members recommended. With regard to seats for specific organizations, MS. MCCONNELL indicated individuals were targeted and recruited.

The TAC briefly discussed the slate of members.

There were no public comments.

MR. WILBER moved to approve the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee appointments to the Policy Committee. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, the motion was approved.*

b. Transportation Improvement Program Major Amendment 3

This major amendment is for several changes that need to be incorporated into the 2010-13 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to update program allocations, keep project schedules on track, and insure funding for needed improvements. The changes proposed in Amendment 3 were listed in the table provided to the TAC. The table also compares TIP Amendment 2 passed by the Policy Committee to the proposed changes in TIP Amendment 3.

MR. LYON reported the table of proposed changes to TIP Amendment 3 was included in the version that went to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Assembly. The table also included one change proposed by the Assembly.

MR. LYON noted additional funding of \$120,000 in 2013 would be required for Project 6, Safety Improvement Program, Traffic Counts Report in Table 3 as a result of changes being made by the State of Alaska.

KIM CARPENTER, Section Chief for the Data Collection group in Traffic explained the State of Alaska is changing the 12-200 form with regard to crashes. She noted they electronically accept records from the State now, but structural changes to our system will be required in order to be able to accept and process data once the State changes their system. The result will be data that is more quickly and uniformly processed.

MR. RUDOLPH noted when this amendment was started the 2012-2015 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was in draft form, but has since been finalized with

another amendment on the way. He provided a list of proposed amendments to Table 6 and Table 9 to reflect what is in the adopted STIP. He noted it does not affect the financial constrained portion of the TIP, but is required in the TIP so the Anchorage area is eligible to receive some related federal funds. He reviewed the proposed project changes as follows:

- Project 26793, Seward Highway, Midtown Congestion Relief. Project renamed with a change in scope.
- Project 27249, 5th and 6th Avenue Repaving. New project.
- Project 27250, Ingra Street and Gambell Street Repaving. New project.
- Muldoon Road and Glenn Interchange. Determination made to add it to the TIP now because it is a regionally significant project, will eventually be a big project, and reflects what is in the capital budget.
- Project 26536, Seward Highway Corridor Study. New project.
- Project 26791, Seward Highway: Seward at Alyeska Highway Improvements. New Project.
- Project 18903, Seward Highway: Recreational Improvements. New project.
- Whittier Maintenance and Operations. Change to dollar amounts to reflect the STIP.

CHAIR WITT suggested with the concurrence of the TAC that within the next couple of months the State and Municipality provide a brief overview on what happened on the transportation side in both the capital budget and the proposed G.O. (general obligation) bonds.

MR. WILBER discussed the recommendation to add the Veterans Transportation Community Living (VTCLI) grant to Table 8 of the TIP to reflect award of a \$120,000 grant to the Public Transportation Department for a project they will be using to provide travel information through an application process through iPhone and other technology. He noted it is targeted towards veterans, but will be available for everyone. He stated this grant needs to be incorporated into the TIP so the FTA can be asked to release the funds, and the project can be initiated. MR. WILBER noted there is a \$30,000 match for this project.

CHAIR WITT noted there were three sets of proposed changes to the TIP.

There were no comments from public.

MS. HEIL moved to accept the original TIP amendment that had gone through the public process. MR. CARR seconded.

MR. WILBER moved to amend Table 3, Project 6, Safety Improvement Program, to add an additional \$120,000 for the purposes of updating our accident and crash data forms. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, the amendment was approved.*

MR. CARR moved to amend the motion to include the changes to Table 6 and Table 9, which are reflective of both the now approved Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, as well

as the regionally submitted project that came out of the capital budget. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, the amendment was approved.*

MR. WILBER moved to add a project to Table 8 for Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative for a total of \$120,000. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, the amendment was approved.*

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED

Hearing no objections, the motion was approved.

MR. WILBER expressed appreciation for the quick work done by staff to process this TIP amendment.

CHAIR WITT noted the Department is already looking ahead to 2014, and advised the TAC there may be a need to do another major amendment to add only 2014 before the entire TIP is next updated. She indicated decisions and recommendations need to be made with regard to Dowling Road and whether to advance construct, and it will need to be initiated soon. She also indicated that DOT wants to update the pavement list for the Pavement Replacement Project in the TIP in order to get ahead.

c. **AMATS Operating Agreement - proposed amendment**

MR. LYON reviewed some of the changes in the proposed amendment to the AMATS Operating Agreement, which included:

- Minor amendments and major amendments were replaced with administrative modifications and amendments.
- LRTP (long range transportation plan) changed to MTP (metropolitan transportation plan).
- Added the Freight Advisory Committee and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
- SAFETEA-LU instead of TEA-21.
- Updates to timeframes (3 years instead of 4 years).
- Changes to reporting requirements for quarterly reports.
- Updates to citations in the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Most changes are updates to new language.

CHAIR WITT noted the TAC asked that these minor changes be included in an errata sheet for approval by the Policy Committee because the original agreement was signed in 2001. She noted the intent of the changes was to reflect current regulations without any substantive changes that would then require a new signature by the governor.

There were no comments from the public.

MR. WILBER moved that the TAC recommend approval of this addendum sheet to the existing AMATS Operating Agreement. MS. HEIL seconded.

In Section 5.3, Technical Advisory Committee, MR. HANSEN noted after the phrase “Directors of the Departments of Community Development” that “Project Management and Engineering” should be shown as deleted.

MR. MORRIS noted the acronym for the Air Quality Advisory Committee is AQAC, but in some instances it shows AAQAC. This should be changed wherever the phrase is incorrect.

MR. HANSEN moved to amend the motion with the changes as discussed. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, the motion to amend was approved.*

MR. WILBER discussed his concerns on how to address receipt of any new grants. He noted since a new grant represents a new project in the TIP it requires a major amendment and cannot be done as an administrative modification. The grant has to go through an entire public review project taking 6 months or more to complete in order to add a project for money that cannot be used on anything else. MR. WILBER indicated this is wasteful of AMATS and the public’s time. He discussed language for amendments “including addition or deletion of a project,” which is the language in Title 23.

MR. CARR noted in Fairbanks if a grant has been applied for they have been putting them in as an illustrative program in the TIP. He noted according to the process gone through before, the grant program can be moved from the illustrative program into the TIP without going through this. The illustrative program has to be in an amendment, but it could be a minor amendment. He suggested this be looked into.

CHAIR WITT suggested a general project in the TIP for any program grants that may be received. MR. WILBER stated these projects do not require conformity analysis, environmental documents, are not generally regionally significant, and are small dollar amounts.

MS. HEIL agreed with Ms. Witt’s idea of an illustrative placeholder.

MAIN MOTION

Hearing no objections, the main motion as amended was approved.

d. Letter of Support for Alaska Railroad Federal Passenger Funding Program

MR. CARR explained the draft letter before the TAC is in support of the current level or current approved funding for the Alaska Railroad’s (ARR) passenger program that they have been receiving since 2000. General discussion by the TAC followed.

RICH WILSON, Port Director for the Municipality, spoke in support of positive action on this issue by the TAC. He expressed concern for the impacts this would have on other entities in Alaska, as well as the financial impacts, and the precedence it would set. He indicated it is an arbitrary action by a federal entity that needs to be stopped in its tracks.

The following suggestions for changes to the letter were made:

- Address how the ARR uses its FTA monies for those facilities within the AMATS study area in order to identify how AMATS in Anchorage would be adversely affected.
- State there are facilities and impacts within the urbanized areas as well as rural and remote areas.

The TAC concurred with remanding this item back to staff to work with Mr. Carr.

e. **Other Business Items - None**

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Port, Waterways and Aviation Transportation Status**

MR. RIBUFFO introduced the new director for the Port of Anchorage, Rich Wilson. MR. RIBUFFO reported there are two things related to the port; the ongoing expansion project, and the port as it is today. He noted both have significant needs. The main port being used today is 50 years old with significant issues with infrastructure, and then there is the expansion project and some of the challenges everyone has read about in the newspaper.

Ongoing Expansion Project Highlights

- No construction this year on the expansion project, and used that year to plan the way ahead.
- Several studies underway to determine the best way to proceed.
- Corps of Engineer conducting its own study on reconstruction management process, and will make recommendations to the Port on the best way forward on how to better manage a construction project this size. Report expected by the end of the month.
- Corps of Engineers has contracted with CH2M Hill to conduct a Suitability Study to look intensively at the open cell sheet pile design itself, and whether to continue forward with the design, or possibly modify the design. Any report of any substance expected by the end of summer.
- Project Management & Engineering is now involved in the Port project.
- George Vakalis, Municipal Manager, is overseeing the construction project.

- The new team will use the information to help decide what the best way forward is, what the best contracting vehicle to use, what is the best team to bring together to assure success in the future.
- Goal is to start construction again in 2013.

Regular Port Highlights

- Will be conducting a review of the port from a master planning perspective, which has not been done since 1999.
- RFP being developed related to a Strategic Business Planning effort to look at the market place from a global, national and regional economics' perspective, what the Port does now, what the Port provides, where people see business growth in the future, whether the Port is best designed to handled that now, and what, if anything has to be changed to make the Port more competitive in the marketplace in the future.
- Critical infrastructure maintenance plan initiative (condition of the piles, condition of the cathodic protection, particularly the impress current piece, infrastructure as it pertains to storm water management, etc.). Study will provide a plan for the Port on how to best maintain that which they have to sustain it. Port needs to be sure when it provides a facility that it is safe and viable.
- Master Planning effort overall tying what the Port is gaining in the construction part of this to what the Port has now, how best to capitalize on that, and whether there are still needs to be addressed at some point when funds become available.
- Anticipates it will be a year-and-a-half to complete these planning efforts.

From waterways perspective, MR. RIBUFFO reported that last year the legislature gave \$500,000 each to the Port of Anchorage and MacKenzie to match with the Corps of Engineers for a total of \$1 million to conduct a feasibility study to determine the cause of a shoal growing off of Port MacKenzie in Knik Arm. He noted the shoal can cause navigation problems with customers coming into the Port particularly in the winter with some of the big container ships due to problems with tides, ice, silt and maneuverability when docking. He indicated it will take the Corps two to three years to complete the study and provide a recommendation on what to do next. He noted there are environmental issues, as well as dredging issues.

MR. WILSON stated the Port is undertaking a huge reset/repositioning with the help of Mr. Hansen, Legal, and contractors. He indicated they may be hiring for a top project manager, and to fill Emily Cotter's position.

In response to Charles Guinchard, staff representative to Representative Costello, MR. RIBUFFO noted the suitability study is estimated to be done by the end of summer, but the master planning effort will take conservatively up to 6 months.

With regard to the shoaling study, MR. RIBUFFO noted physical samples will be taken to determine where the material came from, and there is a hydrographic aspect to the study as well.

With regard to the status of aviation, MR. LYON contacted Anchorage International Airport and Merrill Field, but he did not receive a response. He indicated he will contact them again. He noted Merrill Field is currently working on master plan, and there has been one public open house.

b. Non-Motorized Transportation Status

In Ms. Schanche's absence, MR. LYON provided a brief update on the status of non-motorized transportation. He reported they are:

- Working on the Area-Wide Trails Plan, held a number of public meetings, and a draft document is underway with more public meetings to follow to present the draft when completed.
- Working on an update to the Bike Plan Map.

The TAC indicated there was no need for Ms. Schanche to provide a more detailed report.

c. Deliverability Concerns Report

MR. RUDOLPH and MR. HANSEN had no deliverability concerns at this time.

d. Other Informational Items

Transportation Demand Model - Standardized Policy & Procedures. MS. HEIL reported on the Policy Committee's action on the resolution Mr. Morris provided on the standardization of inputs into the next transportation demand model for the next MTP update. She noted the Policy Committee did not approve the resolution, but did pass a motion directing the TAC to begin to work on policies and procedures to do some standardization. She thinks staff should begin setting up work sessions in the latter part of the summer to begin work on this. MS. HEIL explained these procedures would set out such things as how to do the demand model, what it would take, how it would go, how it would come up before the TAC, and how and when to work with Mat-Su. She noted all these timing and logistical details would then go forward to the Policy Committee for consideration. MR. LYON noted he had been provided with a draft policies and procedures by Mr. Morris.

Limited Maintenance Plan for Carbon Monoxide. MR. MORRIS noted he and Ms. Heil have completed a draft Limited Maintenance Plan for Carbon Monoxide, which if found adequate would obviate the need for a CO emission budget and the associated work required on TIPs and MTPs. He noted the approval process could take some time. At first glance, he indicated the Limited Maintenance Plan process seems to be an easy process. MS. HEIL explained that once approved, all AMATS would need to do in the future would include a page showing the design value they continue to meet similar to the PM10 conformity determination done for the MTP. MR. MORRIS indicated they would have the Air Quality Committee look at the draft

plan. MS. HEIL noted that the Limited Maintenance Plan process would still require an inter-agency consultation.

Alaska Railroad Update. MR. CARR noted a notice to proceed has been issued for the State-wide Rail Plan update, and they hope to see a contractor on board in the next couple of weeks. It should be approximately a 12 to 14 month effort.

He explained Flint Hills Refinery has reduced another crude unit. He indicated Flint Hills originally had 3 units and are now down to about 1-1/2, and as a result the ARR has lost a considerable amount of business. He further noted the ARR has lost 52 jobs, and cut its capital program about \$15 to \$20 million this year already. He indicated if there are any further cutbacks to the Flint Hill Refinery movement goes, the ARR will have to cut more employees. He noted most of those ARR jobs related to the Flint Hills Refinery came out of Anchorage.

MR. CARR reminded the TAC that on June 20th the AMATS Freight Advisory Committee set up an informational trip to Whittier on the Alaska Railroad and busing back to Anchorage.

DOT Central Region Update. MR. MORTON noted Central Region will be starting an exercise to identify more pavement replacement projects probably with an eye towards State funds as opposed to federal funds. He indicated the goal is to work with the Environmental Group and the Project Management Group to identify projects and to have a list together by August.

CHAIR WITT reported Central Planning in working with the Regional Director has issued their first quarterly newsletter to the area legislators. She explained they split the region into four newsletters aligned with senate districts. The letters were sent out in hard copy followed up with an electronic copy as a way to help folks to be drawn into the Department's websites and locations for project information and status. She noted the intent is to do letters quarterly. She further noted there is a separate email address for comments, recommendations and suggestions for improving the correspondence.

Public Transportation Update. MR. WILBER reported new fare boxes were installed on all the routes this past weekend. He indicated feedback from drivers and passengers has been good. He noted there is also a ticket vending machine inside the Transit Center, and they are looking at buying more, although they currently do not accept credit cards.

Project Management & Engineering Update. MR. HANSEN reported on construction season noting projects include East 1/2 of 9th Avenue between Cordova and Latouche, a lot of residential roads, and a lot of pavement rehab. He hopes they will get the section of East Northern Lights out to Muldoon done this year. With money from each Senate district in the bowl, he indicated their emphasis will be on doing some reclaiming to make asphalt last longer instead of reconstructing the whole road. He noted this worked successfully in Spenard and Sand Lake, and are shooting for this fall to use at least half the money from each district.

Transportation Planning. MR. LYON further explained the June 20th Freight Advisory Committee trip to Whittier noting the Committee, along with TAC members, or their designees, will ride down to Whittier on the Railroad, tour freight operations and barge operations in Whittier, have lunch followed by one other tour, and then return by bus.

7. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS

Policy Committee, June 28, 2012

Technical Advisory Committee, July 12, 2012

Policy Committee, July 26, 2011

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.