

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

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

**October 24, 2013
1:30 p.m.**

Policy Committee Members Present:

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

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Teresa Brewer	MOA/Community Development/Transportation Planning (CCD)
Vivian Underwood	MOA/CCD
Laurie Cummings	HDR
Kirk Huff	ACC
Gary Katsion	Kittelson & Associates
Lesley Lepley	DOWL HKM
Todd Logan	
Kris Riesenber	FHWA, Juneau (via phone)

**AMATS Technical Advisory Committee members*

1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR CAMPBELL called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Cindy Heil represented the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in Alice Edwards' absence. George Vakalis represented Mayor Sullivan. Tim Steele represented Patrick Flynn. A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

TERESA BREWER encouraged public involvement in this meeting of the AMATS Policy Committee. She 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

MS. HEIL moved to approve the agenda. MR. STEELE seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 22, 2013

MR. VAKALIS moved to approve the minutes. MS. HEIL seconded.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Freight Advisory Committee Appointments

MS. BREWER requested the Policy Committee approve the appointments of Col. Kendra Mathews, Director for Logistics (J4), Alaskan Command, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Mr. Rich Wilson, Director of the Port of Anchorage, to the Freight Advisory Committee.

MR. VAKALIS moved to approve the appointments. MS. HEIL seconded.

There were no public comments.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

b. Other Business Items - None

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Glenn Highway 3rd Lane Project update

BRIAN SCHUMACHER with DOT&PF provided a presentation to the Committee introducing their preliminary concept in adding a 3rd lane from Hiland interchange to Artillery. The project team is planning on extending the existing the 3rd lane that terminates at Hiland, to continue through Hiland, over the river through Artillery, and terminate it halfway between Artillery and North Eagle River. He explained the plan is to realign it right down the middle between where the two highways converge. The existing northbound hill is currently at a 6% grade, and the plan is to flatten it to about 3.7%, and connect the two outside curves tangent to tangent making it a

straight shot. MR. SCHUMACHER stated that DOT&PF felt it will increase visibility for the off ramp at Artillery, increase visibility for the bridge, and flattening the hill will eliminate what is known as “brake light hill”. He indicated there will be three lanes in both directions with provisions in the future for high occupancy vehicle lanes in the middle, keeping the existing lanes as frontage roads, and maintain the pathway as is.

PAUL WITT with HDR Engineering informed the Committee they will be releasing an RFP at the end of the year and the schedule is to start work early in 2014. This will only be for the northbound lanes and will be a two year project. If funding should be received early for the southbound lanes, it is possible that could be added into the contract, but most likely that will be a separate bid at a later date.

MR. BIRCH asked for more information as to the funding since it is not an AMATS project. MR. SCHUMACHER indicated that last November it was on the ballot measure for a bond, and they received \$35 million. He also noted that during the development of their concept they found that Enstar has a 20” high pressure main natural gas pipeline that zig-zags down the proposed alignment. The Department is requesting an additional \$10 million to relocate that pipeline. MR. BIRCH remarked \$10 million seems like a lot of money. MR. SCHUMACHER noted it is for 4500-feet of 20” high pressure, and he is unsure if all of the \$10 million is just for the pipeline.

MR STEELE inquired if the moving of the pipeline would interfere with the schedule. MR. WITT stated they have a couple of options, and it could have some interference with the schedule. He further explained that DOT&PF may go out with a separate contract to begin this earlier in the year. If most of the pipeline can be relocated before the contractor comes on board, then it should not affect the schedule. To lower the risk of claims, they may combine the pipeline relocation with the contractors work, per se, and might have to move it into part of another year because they can’t start until all of the contracts are signed.

MR. STEELE asked if this is within their contract and all of the environmental analysis that was done, or does it have to be done separately. MR. WITT stated they will have the environmental analysis required for it.

MR. WITT added that a public meeting is being held in Eagle River tonight at the Gruening Middle School at 5:30 p.m.

There were no public comments.

b. 2014-15 Unified Planning Work Program public release

MS. BREWER explained that they are anticipating an increase in the budget to be slightly over \$1 million due to the urbanized boundary area for AMATS. She pointed out that the budget will show an increase of staff, and that AMATS has been operating with only two staff members, while in the past it has usually been three. With all of the upcoming plans, the multiple RFP's for a Freight Mobility Study, Congestion Management Plan, Status of the System, and a Household Travel Survey, having an increase in staff is highly recommended.

CHAIR CAMPBELL asked if this was federal pass thru money that comes to the Municipality AMATS in order to do the planning required to support the AMATS mission every year, and would this be a standard release that is done every year at this time for the upcoming year. MS. HEIL clarified this is for the next 2-year cycle and that the UPWP is a 2-year plan. CHAIR CAMPBELL also asked if this has been through the Technical Advisory Committee. MS. HEIL confirmed it has but a work session is being scheduled to discuss it. MR. STEELE asked if it was for the PC's approval. MS. BREWER said it was for informational purposes only, but the Policy Committee is invited to participate in the work session. CHAIR CAMPBELL noted this was actually released for the 30-day public comment period by the TAC, and this is just for information only. He assumes at one of the future meetings, the Committee will formally approve it, once it has come back through the TAC with an incorporation of the public comments received.

c. 2011-14 TIP Administrative Modification #7

MS. BREWER indicated there were some slight changes to the Modification #7 for the federal share and the total project cost. MS. HEIL added that it was a minor amendment that can be approved by the Technical Advisory Committee, and reiterated that this is just for informational purposes only. CHAIR CAMPBELL summarized that the program for the year is obviously a flexible document and gets modified as projects are moved forward, costs change, anticipated events happen or don't happen according to the schedule, and so as a reflection of that, AMATS would have the quarterly updates to the program. To his knowledge, nothing has changed substantially, and this is a bookkeeping procedure where a few numbers have been changed, without any shift to the programming of the projects.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MS. HEIL informed the Committee that on September 20th, the Department released for comment, draft regulations still at the PM-2.5 issues in Fairbanks. There are some edits in those regulations that are statewide and everyone is encouraged to look at them, and comment on them. CHAIR CAMPBELL asked what the status is in moving forward in the maintenance area. MS. HEIL responded that regarding the Limited Maintenance Plan, the Department of

Environmental Conservation has submitted the 2nd 10-year plan as required for Anchorage and Fairbanks, and it was done in a format using what is called a “Limited Maintenance Plan”. In essence, it was taken out of the new chapter to describe how they are meeting their attainment. It is not necessary to budget anymore, but the actual monitors can be used to show that the requirements are being met. Fairbanks has had their LMP amended and approved, and that went into effect October 7th or 8th. This is taking a little longer with Anchorage due to a number of SIP amendments. There is now a “MOVES” budget that allows AMATS to do its conformity. She further stated they are trying to do an action that will approve all of the amendments at once. CHAIR CAMPBELL noted briefly that attempts are being made to get it through EPA, but it is still there, and asked if there is an estimated date. MS. HEIL answered that prior to the partial shutdown they were anticipating the final quarter of 2013, but she is now expecting it to be the 1st quarter of 2014.

MR. BIRCH inquired as to the coal fire replacement at the university in Fairbanks. MS. HEIL indicated that based on the filters, it has been determined to be at the breathable level where that pollution is coming from; and have also identified that 60-80% is coming from home heating, such as wood and coal. The main issue is focused on home heating. The SIP process is not driving the changes that are happening with that power plant.

8. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS

Technical Advisory Committee, November 7, 2013

Policy Committee, November 21, 2013

9. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.