

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

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

**September 11, 2014
2:30 p.m.**

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
Jennifer Witt	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Central Region, Planning
Eric DeSantis	DOT&PF, Central Region
Cindy Heil	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Steve Morris	MOA/Dept. of Health & Human Services
Sharen Walsh	MOA/Port of Anchorage
Stephanie Mormilo	MOA/Traffic Division
Jerry Hansen	MOA/Project Management & Engineering (PM&E)
Lance Wilber	MOA/Public Transportation Department
Brian Lindamood	Alaska Railroad Corporation

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Craig Lyon	MOA/Community Development Department (CDD)
Teresa Brewer	MOA/CDD
Joni Wilm	MOA/CDD
Jamie Acton	MOA/CDD
James Boyle	DOT&PF
Tim Steele*	MOA/Municipal Assembly
John Lohrey	FHWA
Laurie Cummings	HDR, Inc.
Jim Amundsen	DOT&PF
Gary Katsion	Kittelson & Associates
Steve Cleary	Alaska Trails
Julie Jessen	HDR, Inc.
Bryan Hill	PDC

*AMATS Policy Committee members

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CHAIR MORMILO called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. Jerry Weaver, Ken Morton, and Marge Stoneking were absent. Steve Morris arrived at 2:35 p.m. and Lance Wilber arrived at 2:36 p.m. A quorum was established.

Eric DeSentis represented the Alaska DOT&PF in Ken Morton's absence.

MS. WITT introduced John Lohrey with FHWA.

CHAIR MORMILO introduced Tim Steele, Municipal Assembly Member.

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

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

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –August 14, 2014

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

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. 2011-14 TIP Administrative Modification #13

BACKGROUND:

An administrative modification to the AMATS 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is needed to reflect changes in funding levels.

JAMES BOYLE presented the modification noting there have been corrections made to the Pavement Replacement Program to show the correct amount of \$4,740.00 and the Eagle River Road Rehabilitation Project to show the corrected amount of zero.

There were no public comments.

MS. WITT moved to approve the 2011-14 TIP Administrative Modification #13. MR. LINDAMOOD seconded.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

b. AMATS Public Transportation Representative Letter

BACKGROUND:

As you are aware one of the key provisions in MAP-21 relative to metropolitan transportation planning strengthens the requirement to include representation by providers of public transportation on MPO boards, specifically to Transportation Management Areas or TMAs. AMATS agrees that the need to have Transit at the table is vital to the success of our planning process and as such has representatives of major modes of transportation, including the Municipality of Anchorage's Public Transportation Department on our Technical Advisory Committee and by virtue of the Mayor of Anchorage serving on the AMATS Policy Committee. One of the provisions in the guidance issued June 2, 2014 by the FTA and FHWA includes an exemption from this requirement of those MPOs operating under state law that was in effect on or before December 18, 1991; such state law was not amended after December 19, 1991 and; the MPO has not been designated or re-designated after December 18, 1991. AMATS was designated as a Metropolitan Planning Organization by the Governor of the State of Alaska on April 8, 1976 in accordance with Federal law. As such AMATS certifies that they are exempt from this provision of MAP-21.

MR. LYON noted that this had been postponed from the previous meeting in order to allow the railroad the opportunity to review it, make comments, and to make certain anything that AMATS does, in this regard, will cover the Alaska Railroad Certification. He confirmed with both the FTA and FHWA that the suggested changes are acceptable, and taking the advantage of the exemption that is authorized in MAP-21, will also cover the railroad preventing them from having certification issues.

MR. LINDAMOOD concurred with Mr. Lyon.

There were no public comments.

MR. WILBER moved to recommend approval of the Public Transportation Representative Letter to the Policy Committee. MS. HEIL seconded.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

c. Other Business Items – None

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. AMATS Comments on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)

BACKGROUND:

The Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation System (AMATS) is submitting the following comments and recommendations on rulemaking on Statewide, Nonmetropolitan, and Metropolitan Transportation Planning to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The challenge of moving toward performance based planning will be big and unfunded burdens of data collection and analysis will be difficult. Also, while we appreciate the attempts at removing duplicative and repetitive requirements through MAP-21, we hope that those efforts will continue. With limited staff it is difficult to achieve the goals of MAP-21 related to performance based planning, but it is even more challenging when we are faced with duplicative requirements. AMATS strongly believes in having "Transit at the Table" and has had a long practice of involving representatives of providers of public transportation in all of our processes. We will continue to foster that practice.

MR. LYON noted that the Federal Government passed a law on MAP-21 regarding the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that pertained to Statewide and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Metropolitan Transportation Planning. He provided some draft comments and Chair Campbell of the Policy Committee asked that the TAC comment on the NPRM. The deadline of September 2, 2014 has been extended allowing for some time to act on this, but these are specific rules and regulations, and his general comments relate to what Chair Campbell felt seems to be an excess of repetitive and/or duplicative requirements throughout MAP-21. These are often a challenge to combine these and accomplish them. He also added the comment that AMATS believes, in working through MPO, that the language originally in SAFETEA-LU and continued in MAP-21 leaves a majority of the decisions up to the Boards themselves to determine how they want to have transit at the table, and the language in the rulemaking stated that an elected representative cannot represent transit because it is also one of their departments. AMATS has always thought by having the Mayor represent the City of Anchorage, and with one of his departments being the Public Transportation Department that this would cover having public transportation on the committee. The proposed rulemaking specifically states that option could not be utilized if it is an elected official.

MS. HEIL inquired as to how many MPO's are like Anchorage that are located within a single government unit, and suggested to come from that perspective by pointing out the lack of the rule in handling AMATS situation. She also commented that a "one size fits all" does not apply to AMATS.

In response to Ms. Heil, MR. LYON noted that he will take that language into account, and added that it should be up to the individual MPO to decide how to best bring members to the table.

MS. WITT suggested being very clear as to what the recommendation is. For example, the Public Transportation Representation should be noted whether AMATS supported the provision and the draft regulations that would make AMATS exempt, and either recommending that this should remain or that AMATS be eliminated from the requirement entirely. It is important to make the response to each citation clear.

The Committee agreed to have comments available for the Policy Committee.

b. AMATS Public Participation Plan

MR. LYON noted this is an update to the existing Public Participation Plan. He noted that the Committee has the option to schedule a work session to discuss it, make it available for a 30-day public review at the October meeting, and then adopt it following the review. He indicated that format changes have been made and the logo has been changed from Solutions to System. He also noted that currently the Planning and Zoning Commission acts as the AMATS Citizens Advisory Commission, and there is some value to that, but at the last certification it was made very clear that the Federal Highways and Federal Transit Administration were concerned about the representation that group gave AMATS, and strongly suggested that AMATS work on making that group a little more representative. He pointed out that they are a Municipal Board, and it is not something that AMATS can control the membership on, and in years past, AMATS has had a separate Citizens Advisory Committee, and this is the only major change being made to the proposed draft.

The Committee discussed changes being made prior to policy and procedures being followed. The Committee requested a work session on the update to the AMATS Public Participation Plan.

c. 2015-18 TIP Narrative

BACKGROUND:

This Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is prepared in compliance with the Statewide Planning, Metropolitan Planning Rules jointly issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) (23 CFR Part 450) and the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) (49 CFR Part 613). This document is a multi-year listing of transportation improvements that are planned in the federal fiscal years from October 2014 through September 2018.

MR. LYON noted that this was requested by FHWA and is a narrative that goes with the TIP Tables. This is just a draft designed to show the dollar figures, and the criteria that has been adopted along with the policies and procedures that include what percentage is put into each area, and so forth. The Policy Committee has already approved the TIP, and this narrative has an October timeframe for approval.

d. Other Informational Items

The Committee discussed the MTP RFP contracting. MR. LYON commented that preliminary discussions were held with both FTA and FHWA, and they agreed that an interim would not be a problem, but asked AMATS to submit a formal letter request. The staff could do the interim, but would face several challenges writing the MTP RFP, and a contractor would be able to complete it in a shorter period of time. He expressed that the other contracts are moving along with the exception of the Freight Mobility Study, and that is still in the purchasing phase.

The Committee discussed a follow-up on the request for a report showing the progression of the current tasks, and have it available for the October meeting.

CHAIR MORMILO suggesting making it Informational Item 6(a) on every TAC agenda.

TERESA BREWER updated the Committee on the Household Travel Survey noting that RSG, Inc. is conducting the Household Regional Travel Survey and will be here October 9th to do an update on the Travel Demand Model. Participants who complete the survey are eligible for an Amazon or Walmart gift certificate.

SHAREN WALSH noted that she is on the School District Capital Improvement Advisory Committee, and attended a presentation as to whether 6th Graders should be in Middle or Elementary School. The study proved to be overwhelming evidence that 6th Graders should stay in Elementary School for the good of their performance, but the transportation portion had not been addressed. It was pointed out in the discussion that the classwork facilities would be rebuilt or closed, but the costs of the transportation changes had not been included.

JAMIE ACTON informed the Committee that she had recently sent out the request for nominations for the Human Service Transportation Coordination grants for Alaska Mental Health Trust Funds. Now that the Public Transportation Department is the direct recipient of the 5310 funds for the elderly and disabled, the only money available for the competitive process is the Alaska Mental Health Trust Funds, and they have roughly \$550,000 which is two years worth of funding.

JONI WILM noted that the Spenard Corridor Strategic Plan has been distributed for internal review.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MR. WILBER commented that complimentary to the Household Survey, the same contractor will also be helping the Public Transportation Department do an onboard survey on buses that covers origin and destination purposes, and will be similar to the Household Survey. This will take place from September 17 – 28, 2014.

8. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS

Policy Committee, September 25, 2014, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Technical Advisory Committee, October 9, 2014, 2:30 – 4:30 PM

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

DRAFT