

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION
FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Planning and Development Center
Conference Room #170, 1st Floor
Anchorage, Alaska**

**January 12, 2010
3:00 PM**

Those in attendance were:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Aves Thompson	Alaska Trucking Association
Dave Niebert	FedEx
Stuart Greydanus	MOA/Port of Anchorage
Jack Jones	AIA/ADOT&PF
Jimmy Doyle	Weaver Brothers
Dr. Jang Ra	UAA/Transportation Center
Ayron Spells	UPS
Mike Thrasher	Totem Ocean
Craig Lyon	MOA/TD
Teresa Brewer	MOA/TD
<u>VISTORS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Mark Parmelee	ADOT&PF
John McPherson	Highway to Highway, HDR
Harrison Yeoh	UAA/Research Assistant
Kelly Brown	UAA/Research Assistant
Gary Kretchik	UAA/Research Assistant
Seong Dae Kim	UAA/Research Assistant
Van Le	MOA/TD
Vivian Underwood	MOA/TD

Excused: David Blazejewski, Alaska Railroad; Mike Blewett, Fred Meyers; and Laura Edwards,

1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MR. THOMPSON called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.; MR. DAVID BLAZEJEWSKI, MR. MIKE BLEWETT, and MS. LAURA EDWARDS were excused. A quorum was established. CHAIR THOMPSON presided.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

MR. LYON explained that this meeting offered opportunities for public comment. First, the Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) discusses the business action items and then the public is asked for comment.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There being no objections to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from October 21, 2009 approved unanimously.

5. INTRODUCTIONS – MOA/TD staff, the Freight Advisory Committee members, ADOT&PF, Highway To Highway staff, and UAA research assistants introduced themselves.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Meeting Dates – The upcoming quarterly meeting dates are scheduled for March 17, June 16, August 18, and November 17, 2010. The quarterly meetings will be held in Conference Room #170 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The 2010 meeting date schedule was approved unanimously.

b. Highway to Highway (H2H) Presentation – CHAIR THOMPSON introduced MR. MCPHERSON from HDR. MR. MCPHERSON provided an overview and presentation of the H2H Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the project. The H2H project's purpose and need incorporates freight mobility and movement. The purpose of the Highway-to-Highway project is to reduce congestion by improving mobility and access for people and goods traveling to and from Anchorage's major urban activity centers between the Seward and Glenn highways. While several alternative routes have been developed for the EIS, only the most practical, feasible routes will be examined further. Studies for the H2H project have shown that there are several failing intersections and that the existing corridor is a bottleneck within Anchorage. For instance, 36th Avenue and the Seward Highway is the worst bottleneck in the State. Traffic delays on the corridor cost an average of \$45 million annually (Based on an average cost per hour \$15.00). CHAIR THOMPSON noted that freight delay costs an average of \$160 to \$200.00 per hour (due to driver and truck costs). The National Highway System (NHS) is currently not well connected to the Port, Ted

Stevens Anchorage International Airport, and other freight areas. Improving freight circulation and movement is part of the H2H project.

MR. MCPHERSON outlined the project schedule. It is anticipated that by January 2010, screening results will be complete with public meetings taking place in February 2010. A decision on the alternatives to study in detail in the EIS is expected in March 2010. MS. UNDERWOOD asked if the project addressed through freight traffic versus local freight traffic. MR.

MCPHERSON stated that moving freight all the way through Anchorage is a problem. But that most of the trips are trying to reach employment and freight centers. CHAIR THOMPSON inquired if future routes from the Port such as the planned connectors at Gambell-Ingra would have an impact on the H2H project. MR. MCPHERSON responded that in order to refine the alternatives, freight travel time was estimated and modeled (i.e. travel time from the Port and to the Airport using the various alternatives). As alternatives move forward and into design, it is hoped that appropriate connections can be made into the Ship Creek Valley, where much of the freight movement originates. CHAIR THOMPSON offered to provide help on freight travel time to the H2H project team. MR. DOYLE noted that round trip travel times from the Port to the Dimond area have increased from a one-hour round-trip cycle to an hour and 30 minutes round-trip cycle during the past 20 years. With the rising population, expanding workload, and growing congestion – this has an impact on freight operations and costs. MR.

MCPHERSON hopes that FAC members will keep track of the H2H project and provide comments on the proposed alternatives and designs. CHAIR THOMPSON thanked MR. MCPHERSON for the presentation.

c. FREIGHT SURVEY UPDATE & PRESENTATION- CHAIR

THOMPSON introduced MS. BROWN and MR. YEOH. MS. BROWN AND MR. YEOH provided an overview of their thesis presentation on the freight survey. Primarily, the goal of their work was to develop a reliable, repeatable process that would assist the FAC in systematically ranking freight projects. As part of their work, they developed the project management steps for implementing a database, modeling (the needed software and hardware requirements), and a website for problem freight movement intersections. Initially, the freight survey responses would act as the input into this database. To date, 31 responses have been gathered. The freight survey will be sent out soon to various stakeholders. CHAIR THOMPSON mentioned that the Alaska Trucking Association will distribute the freight survey to

their membership and provide a link on their website. MR.DOYLE asked how long responses would be gathered; responses will be sought for about a month. MR.DOYLE also noted that various terms found in the freight survey, such as turning radius, channelization may require definition. MS.LE suggested that definitions be included in the question; this may solicit a higher response rate. MR.YEOH and MS.BROWN agreed that definitions could be added to the freight survey. MS. UNDERWOOD wondered how written responses to questions would be handled. MS. BROWN explained that the survey does allow for written responses and also has a “fishing” question at the end to permit additional comments. Written responses will be added into the database. MS.UNDERWOOD asked if this would revise the prioritization criteria. MS. BROWN stated the criteria would be affected and by conducting future surveys, this would help to address problem freight intersections and keep the projects updated. DR.RA highlighted the benefit of the website containing the history of the projects, surveys, and links to live maps. CHAIR THOMPSON and FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS appreciated the efforts of MR.YEOH and MS.BROWN in developing the freight survey.

d. Site Reviews – Road Improvement Projects – MS.

BREWER thanked the FAC members for providing input to various road and site plan projects. In particular, the Victor Road and 100th Avenue project (access concerns) and the Baseball Subdivision (parking, access, ability to maneuver) solicited responses.

e. Training Opportunities. Talking Freight Series is holding a webinar on January 20, 2010 about cross-town freight movement and technologies. See the Talking Freight Website for more information.

- 7. Informational Reports: MS. BREWER/ALASKA WORLD TRADE CENTER TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE, November 2009–**
- MS. BREWER explained MS. EDWARDS provided a presentation on behalf of the FAC at the conference. MS. BREWER with MS. LE'S help is created a brochure on the FAC's activities to provide at the conference. Several agencies such as ADOT&PF, the Port of Anchorage, Port MacKenzie, Ted Stevens Anchorage International, Carlile, and others gave presentations. Carlile mentioned during their presentation that they offer training sessions with their driver simulator computer. This computer develops various driving scenarios. MS. BREWER scheduled sessions with the driver simulator for MOA

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transportation planners, engineers, and other agencies to experience how trucks maneuver through medians, parking lots, malls, etc. FAC members are encouraged to attend.

- a. Committee Comments – CHAIR THOMPSON would like to include a review of the existing MOA truck routes for the next agenda, as there are regulatory differences between MOA and State routes. MR.DOYLE stressed the importance of providing comments to the H2H project team. MR. BLAZEJEWSKI complimented MR.YEOH and MS. BROWN for their work on the freight survey. If a website could be developed showing the problem freight areas, then this could help drivers and freight companies be more productive. DR.RA that the preparatory work with the survey is done and with a little more participation and effort, a website could be developed. MR. SPELLS was glad that the FAC accomplished a goal and started the freight survey. MR.GREYDANUS will provide the freight survey to various entities at the Port of Anchorage and extended his thanks to the freight survey team. Discussion of FAC members and APD accompanying a driver through their routes followed.

- b. Public Comment – None

8. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.