

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

**August 17, 2009
3:00 PM**

Those in attendance were:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Aves Thompson	Alaska Trucking Association
Jack Jones	AIA/ADOT&PF
David Niebert	FedEx
Laura Edwards	MSC/ADOT&PF
Stuart Greydanus	MOA/Port of Anchorage
Craig Lyon	MOA/TD
Teresa Brewer	MOA/TD
Mike Thrasher	Totem Ocean
Dr. Jang Ra	UAA/Transportation Center
Ayron Spells	UPS
Mark Parmelee	ADOT&PF

1. CALL TO ORDER

Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) COORDINATOR Mr. LYON called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM.; MR. MIKE BLEWETT and MR. JIMMY DOYLE were excused. MR. DAVE BLAZEJEWSKI was absent. A quorum was established. CHAIR AVES THOMPSON presided.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

MS.BREWER 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 – MS. LAURA EDWARDS moved to approve the minutes; MR. STUART GREYDANUS seconded. Minutes from April 29, 2009 approved unanimously.

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

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Meeting Dates – The upcoming quarterly meeting date is scheduled for October 21, 2009. The quarterly meetings will be held in Conference Room #170 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The October 21, 2009 meeting date was approved unanimously.

b. Title 9 Update – CHAIR THOMPSON reported that the draft Title 9 update is currently undergoing the MOA Legal Department's review. It is hoped that Legal's review will be complete by September 1, 2009. After Legal's review, Traffic Department staff will conduct a final review before forwarding onto the Public Safety Committee in October, 2009. If approved by the Public Safety Committee, the draft document will then be forwarded onto the Assembly in November 2009. Public hearings will be held. When available, AMATS staff will request the draft update from Traffic Department.

c. Freight Survey Update & Discussion – DR. JANG RA provided an overview of the problem intersection freight survey proposal. DR. RA explained that he e-mailed a proposal to the Freight Advisory Committee members a few months ago. DR. RA reviewed the proposed budget. This project would examine problem freight intersections, survey experts - such as truck drivers, police officers, bus drivers, taxi drivers and other agencies, and collect data on accidents and other relevant information. A process for weighting and prioritizing problem intersections also needs developed. DR. RA suggested that UAA and AUTC students be funded to provide research support. As a representative of UAA, the AUTC, and the Freight Advisory Committee, DR. RA hopes to make a research contribution that will assist in understanding freight in the AMATS area.

In order to develop pertinent survey questions, DR. RA recommended that he examine other municipalities' freight surveys. If this effort is undertaken, then this research could help show existing trends, provide historical data,

and allow for future analysis for the 5, 10, and 20-year planning horizon. The survey output would be used to create a project website showing a problem intersections map, accident data, and possibly later a dynamic real time web camera. DR. RA is seeking the Freight Advisory Committee's agreement to request funds from various agencies, such as AMATS, ADOT&PF, and private entities.

CHAIR THOMPSON commented that he discussed the funding aspects with the AMATS Policy Committee and received positive feedback. Since this project is contained within the AMATS boundaries it is appropriate that AMATS fund such work rather than AUTC which has statewide interests. A periodic update of this work every 5 years is a sound plan. An annual update is not likely needed. CHAIR THOMPSON suggested that the budget be reviewed and a deliverable agreed upon. CHAIR THOMPSON requested that AMATS staff help prepare a proposal to the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee.

MR. LYON stated that this funding could come out of 2010 AMATS planning fund dollars. It may be possible to amend the 2009 AMATS planning program. Because the project cost is nominal (\$20K), it makes sense to use planning funds rather than TIP program dollars.

CHAIR THOMPSON stressed that with the H2H project and other freight factors, learning where the bottlenecks are now is crucial. Now is the time to ask and seek funding for this proposed freight survey.

MS. EDWARDS commented that ADOT&PF Commercial Vehicle Enforcement may also be able to provide funding. Commercial Vehicle Enforcement collects accident data for commercial vehicles and they would be happy to provide this to Dr. Ra. MS. EDWARDS asked how survey questions would be created and what project deliverables and reports would be produced.

DR. RA described that he would review and research existing freight surveys from other municipalities. Project deliverables would include a project website showing specific problem intersections, survey results, accident data, freight movements, etc. How to prioritize and weight/score the problem intersections is a process that still needs to be developed.

CHAIR THOMPSON discussed the project schedule. DR. RA responded that the initial project schedule showed the freight survey completed by October 2009. Because the Freight Advisory Committee meets on a quarterly basis and no real agreement was reached earlier, the schedule needs to be revised. However, a new semester (along with able students) will begin in January and end in May 2010. Work could start in January 2010.

MS. EDWARDS discussed reports and survey questions. In order to ensure pertinent survey questions are asked, a review of those questions prior to the release of the survey is needed.

DR. RA stated that he will draft a proposal. MR. MIKE THRASHER commented that the best strategy is to personally interview truck drivers. They will provide relevant information – especially regarding the turning movements of 53' trailers and would gladly identify intersection/road trouble spots.

MR. JACK JONES noted that while it is necessary to identify problems, it is also important to prioritize these problem intersections. How will these intersections be prioritized – which project needs done the soonest, what is the severity of the problem, who will analyze this data? By prioritizing these intersections and improvement needs, this will help with the LRTP project list. MS. EDWARDS asked if the prioritization would be evaluated according to location, accident rate, other? A review of the goals and objectives followed.

CHAIR THOMPSON suggested that the survey will ultimately show clusters of the problem areas. With that data, then recommendations, such as added lanes, turning radius, signal timing, etc. could be provided. MR. THRASHER responded that with the help of 10-12 truck drivers (coffee and donuts) they could identify intersection issues within 45 minutes. DR. RA agreed that truck drivers are experts and their insights along with other stakeholders is necessary to make informed decisions regarding project improvements, etc.

CHAIR THOMPSON noted that input from truck drivers should be weighted more when prioritizing because this is a freight survey. While the police have empirical data regarding accidents, truck drivers have firsthand knowledge of the transportation system. MR. AYRON SPELLS pointed out that criteria

are still needed for appropriately evaluating problem intersections. Accident data and identifying problem intersections alone may not adequately address freight issues. For instance, if an area has limited freight volume and traffic, a challenging intersection may not be as problematic for truck drivers. Yet, an area, such as Ship Creek which has increased freight volumes and freight movement, truck drivers may have greater safety concerns.

MS. BREWER described the AMATS model, freight, and traffic forecasts. Little data is available on freight volumes so any data collected by Dr. Ra's efforts would be greatly appreciated.

MS. EDWARDS recommended developing a schedule for the freight survey. CHAIR THOMPSON confirmed that the next steps were as follows: 1) Dr. Ra prepares formal funding proposal for AMATS Technical Advisory Committee with assistance from AMATS staff. 2) Dr. Ra researches literature on other municipalities' freight surveys. MS. EDWARDS underscored the importance of bringing the proposed survey questions to the Freight Advisory Committee prior to conducting the survey. DR.RA agreed that a more formal decision by the committee to move forward with the freight survey is appropriate.

MR. JONES asked if other procedures needed to be followed or additional information required for presenting the funding proposal to the AMATS Technical Committee.

CHAIR THOMPSON asked for a vote of confidence to allow Dr Ra to prepare the freight survey funding proposal and conduct the literature research.

No objection. Unanimous vote of confidence.

MR. DAVE NEIBERT provided an example of freight movement problems caused by new road improvements (i.e. Raspberry Road extension to Arctic Blvd. – medians and pork chops). With a well-crafted survey, truck drivers will come to us and provide these details.

d. Updated Problem Intersections Map – MS. BREWER provided a brief summary on the updates to the Problem Intersections Map. Please provide any changes to the map to Teresa.

e. Site Review – Wal-Mart: Benson & A Street – CHAIR THOMPSON discussed a site review plan for a large retail establishment. Earlier, Teresa Brewer sought input from CHAIR THOMPSON and the Alaska Trucking Association regarding freight movement at this location. ATA provided comment. This coordination between AMATS staff and ATA allowed us to make useful comments related to freight. MS. BREWER mentioned the concept plan for the Seward Highway Dowling to 36th Avenue project. Of particular interest to freight are the International Airport Road tear drop roundabouts. Contact information for the DOT&PF project manager was provided.

f. Training Opportunities. MS. EDWARDS will send out an invitation to the Freight Advisory Committee to meet at Commercial Vehicle Enforcement's training room for the next Talking Freight Series on September 16, 2009.

7. Informational Reports: MS. EDWARDS/FREIGHT CONFERENCE – Due to time constraints, this report was tabled to the next meeting.

- a.** Committee Comments – None
- b.** Public Comment – MR. MARK PARMELEE clarified that federal involvement is required before spending funds on a project. Is there an obligation to pay for the literature research? DR.RA stated, no – as the funding might not be available.

8. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.