

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

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

**February 24, 2011  
1:00 p.m.**

Policy Committee members Present:

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Name	Representing
Robert Campbell	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Regional Director (ADOT&PF)
Cindy Heil*	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Air Quality
Larry Baker	Mayor's Office, Municipal Mayor

Also in attendance

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Name	Representing
Craig Lyon	MOA/Community Development Department (CDD)
Vivian Underwood	MOA/CDD
Aves Thompson	Alaska Trucking Association
Anne Brooks	Brooks and Associates
Bart Rudolph	ADOT&PF
Bob Laurie	ADOT&PF
Angelina Burney	DOWL HKM
Jon Spring	MOA/Consultant
Carla Hamey	

\*AMATS Technical Advisory Committee members

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR CAMPBELL called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. MR. Baker represented Mayor Sullivan. MR. Traini and MR. Flynn were absent. A quorum was established.

**2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

MR. LYON encouraged public involvement in this meeting of the AMATS Policy 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. LYON recommended proposed changes to the agenda. Given that various members of the Policy Committee were unable to attend, staff requested that all Informational Items be held over and moved to the next Policy Committee meeting. Also, since Item (5b) is not a business item, that this also be presented at the next meeting. CHAIR CAMPBELL asked if any of the audience was affected by moving the informational reports to the next meeting. MS. HEIL moved to approve the agenda. MR. BAKER seconded. *Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved unanimously.*

### 4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – None

### 5. BUSINESS ITEMS

#### a. Eagle River CBD Study

MS. VIVIAN UNDERWOOD presented information regarding the public planning process and recent Technical Advisory Committee approval and resolution of the Eagle River CBD Study. The resolution and staff issues and responses summary was provided to the Policy Committee. MS. UNDERWOOD noted that Ms. Debbie Ossiander recently went before the Technical Advisory Committee to urge approval of the Eagle River CBD study. Ms. Ossiander has worked diligently for years to seek improvement on the Old Glenn Hwy. and sponsored a legislative funding request for the purchase of the St. Andrews Parish property. The reason that approval of the Eagle River CBD study by the Policy Committee is important is that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update is now being undertaken. Unless projects are identified within the MTP, then these projects cannot be funded. The Eagle River CBD study will be used to identify the higher priority projects and implement these projects through the MTP. The consultant followed recommendations of the Chugiak-Eagle River revitalization plan to enhance the CBD as improving pedestrian friendly facilities, looking at a one-way couplet, and the a new concern east of the Old Glenn Highway.

The consultant then focused on three “big picture” scenarios or solutions strategies, to address worsening congestion. However, the community and public were not ready to buy into the one-way couplet recommendation or a proposed new solution that could have negative impacts on local neighborhoods. Nevertheless, the community recognized common elements that they did want brought forward into the MTP. Last September, 2010 – a total of 21 recommendations to help develop a system-wide plan and improvements for the Eagle River CBD. MS. UNDERWOOD described the various recommendations and projects identified within the plan. In particular, there would be a new connection between Business Blvd. and Eagle River Road. Also, a new four way intersection and interchange would be found at Farm Avenue to the Glenn Hwy. New signalized intersections at S. Juanita Loop and Santa Maria Drive are also proposed. MS. UNDERWOOD emphasized these projects are proposed and not “written in stone.” When these proposals were presented to the public, the public was not supportive of any

negative impacts to the neighborhood. For instance residents along Iris Way and Marcus Drive are opposed to through traffic.

Probably the top six recommended projects would be considered for inclusion within the MTP update.

CHAIR CAMPBELL asked if input had been obtained from the military. MS. UNDERWOOD responded that Mr. Vakalis had also expressed concern regarding the Powder Ridge and Artillery Road as it appears to cross military lands. MS. UNDERWOOD explained the military is not philosophically opposed to the proposed project as long as the project does not encroach on military property, buffers are established, etc. There may be opportunities to work with the military to address some of these concerns. CHAIR CAMPBELL asked the Policy Committee if they had any further questions. MR. BAKER indicated that he did not. CHAIR CAMPBELL wondered if local feedback had been obtained prior to suggesting adoption of the Eagle River CBD. MS. UNDERWOOD emphasized that over 100 people attended a public meeting and provided comments on the study. The issue response summary presents those public comments and can be found in the packet. Further, the public comments showed strong support to remedy the problems at Artillery Road and develop an interchange at Farm Avenue. However, one individual did feel the interchange at Farm Avenue would create negative impacts to the neighborhood. Farm Avenue is designated as a collector within the Official Streets and Highways Plan. There will be no difference in its functional classification. The community further supported two new signalization intersections. In discussions with Ms. Debbie Ossiander, Ms. Debbie Ossiander indicated she receives most of the contact pertains to complaints about traffic congestion in the Eagle River CBD. Within the next 20 years, traffic problems will only worsen. While the community may not desire some of the proposed projects, they may see a need for them later.

CHAIR CAMPBELL inquired as to how this study and the proposed projects are weighted in comparison to the MTP. MS. UNDERWOOD explained the Eagle River CBD is used to provide project information to be considered for inclusion into the MTP. Projects identified within the MTP are then eligible for funding. If a project is not identified within the MTP, then no funding can be sought. This is why Ms. Debbie Ossiander is urging the approval and adoption of the Eagle River CBD study, so that these proposed projects can be included within the MTP update.

CHAIR CAMPBELL asked if the public had any comments. MR. CHUCK HOMAN stated that he lived on Iris Way. He felt that the study was limited in scope, as a frontage road along the Glenn Highway was not examined. MR. HOMAN referred to the Chugiak/Eagle River Long-Range Transportation Plan. MS. UNDERWOOD stated that she recalled MR. HOMAN discussing a frontage road at the public hearing. AMATS staff and the consultant spoke with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. If she recalled correctly, there is not enough current right-of-way available for a frontage road. The right-of-way assessment is outside of the consultant's scope of work. MR. HOMAN stated that if a frontage road was considered, the need for the project along Iris Way would be negated. MS. UNDERWOOD responded that AMATS staff worked closely with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

regarding the available right-of-way. In order to move ahead with the study, a set of underlying assumptions had to be made. The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities provided the basic concepts for the Glenn Highway which did not include right-of-way or a frontage road. MS. UNDERWOOD stated that she understood and appreciated MR. HOMAN's comments. MS. UNDERWOOD also explained that there is strong support for the top six projects. Currently, Iris Way is blocked off due to ordinance. In ten to 15 years with building traffic, this situation could become untenable. Simply because these projects are proposed and identified, this does not mean that they will ever be constructed or completed. This is a tool to help people deal with critical transportation issues. MS. UNDERWOOD stated that she appreciated Mr. HOMAN's concerns and asked if this explanation helped. MR. HOMAN responded in the affirmative.

CHAIR CAMPBELL asked for a motion to approve the Eagle River CBD Study. MS. HEIL moved to approve. MR. BAKER seconded.

MR. HOMAN asked if he would have the opportunity to testify, as he had a document that he wanted to read. CHAIR CAMPBELL asked MR. HOMAN to continue his comments. MR. HOMAN provided a copy of his comments and the Anchorage Housing Demand Market Analysis Survey recently completed by the MOA Department of Neighborhoods. That housing study noted that people want to live in safe, quiet neighborhoods. Currently, the residents along Iris Way enjoy quiet, a safe place for children, etc. MR. HOMAN noted that streets in Mountain View have also been closed off for safety reasons and to improve the character of the neighborhood. MR. HOMAN read his comments. CHAIR CAMPBELL asked if there were any further public comments. Seeing none, public comments were closed. CHAIR CAMPBELL asked if the Policy Committee had any further questions of Ms. Underwood. MS. HEIL inquired if Projects 4a, 4b, 5n, and others affecting Iris Way were in the top six projects. MS. UNDERWOOD responded that only a portion of 4b would be constructed but that if 4b is built, then 5n will not be constructed and visa versa. Both projects (4b and 5n) would not be constructed. MR. HOMAN questioned the need to show this on the plan. Geographical constraints and a large pond would require a great deal of fill causing potential drainage issues on MR. HOMAN's property and other residences. MR. HOMAN asked MS. UNDERWOOD if she has seen the pond. MS. UNDERWOOD stated she had and she understood the concern of the residents along Iris Way and Marcus Drive. However, Emergency Services has requested access and a connection to Breckenridge Drive. MS. HEIL inquired if projects 5w, etc. are in the top six priorities. MS. UNDERWOOD stated, yes project recommendation would include 5N or part of 4B and 5S. CHAIR CAMPBELL noted that the motion to approve the Eagle River CBD study was before the Policy Committee and asked for discussion. Seeing no discussion, the motion was approved without any objections.

CHAIR CAMPBELL asked if there was any other business before the Policy Committee today. Seeing none, MS. HEIL moved to adjourn the meeting. MR. BAKER seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.