

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

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

**April 22, 2010
1:00 p.m.**

Policy Committee members Present:

Name	Representing
Patrick Flynn	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Jennifer Witt	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Regional Director (ADOT/PF)
Cindy Heil*	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Air Quality
Dan Sullivan	Municipal Mayor
Dick Traini	MOA/Municipal Assembly

Also in attendance

Name	Representing
Craig Lyon	MOA/Traffic Department (TD)
Robert Kniefel*	MOA/TD
Van Le	MOA/TD
Vivian Underwood	MOA/TD
Jody Karcz	MOA/Public Transportation Department (PTD)
Alton Staff	MOA/PTD
Steve Morris	MOA/Department of Health and Human Services
Dave Post	ADOT&PF
Bart Rudolph	ADOT&PF
Andrew Niemec	Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA)
Jessica Semmler	DOWL HKM
Duane Hippe	HDR
Sandra Cook	HDR
Sam Racina	

*AMATS Technical Advisory Committee members

1. CALL TO ORDER

In Mr. Wilber's absence, Mayor Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Jennifer Witt arrived at 1:05 p.m. and sat in for Mr. Wilber. A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

CHAIR SULLIVAN 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

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – NONE

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. AMATS AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

MR. LYON reported the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended approval to the Policy Committee of the reappointment of Barbara Garner, and the appointment of two new members, Bruce Lee and Tom Grman.

SAM RACINA testified regarding the appointment of Bruce Lee. He indicated he sent emails out noting Mr. Lee was knowledgeable, but was no longer a part of the IM industry, and he did not consider Mr. Lee the best choice to represent the IM industry. He felt someone from one of the IM test centers doing the majority of the tests with the most active technicians in the field should be appointed.

MR. MORRIS noted Mr. Lee left the industry in September 2009, but has been active in and part of the IM industry for 25 years. MR. MORRIS talked with Mr. Lee indicated from that conversation that Mr. Lee still supports the IM industry, but as a small business owner he decided to get out because the future of IM seems to be in question. MR. MORRIS felt Mr. Lee is well respected in the industry, and confirmed he has an extensive knowledge base with over a decade of active involvement in the industry.

Hearing no objection, the appointment of BARBARA GARNER was approved.

Hearing no objection, the appointment of BRUCE LEE was approved.

Hearing no objection, the appointment of TOM GRMAN was approved.

With regard to Mr. Lee, it was noted the overall experience of the gentleman qualifies him to serve on the committee.

The Policy Committee expressed their appreciation to Dr. Gordian and Mr. Doughty for their service on Air Quality Advisory Committee.

b. AMATS OBLIGATION REPORT, SECOND QUARTER FFY10

MR. LYON reported the TAC heard this item at their last meeting, but there were no items at that time needing the TAC or Policy Committee approval. Since that time, Staff determined the tasks ahead related to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) combining the Anchorage Bowl and Chugiak-Eagle River Plans into one as required and requested by the Federal Highway Administration would need more funding to complete that project correctly. He noted Staff is asking for an addition \$200,000 for that task. Although the TAC did not have a chance to hear this request, in the interest of time, it is being brought before the Policy Committee because the RFP will be released soon.

MR. POST reported between the TAC meeting and this meeting, they identified the need for an additional \$200,000, which has been included in the Obligation Report, and approval of the Obligation Report by the Policy Committee would approve the request for the additional funds.

With regard to the second quarter Obligation Report, MR. POST indicated there were not a lot of cost increases at this time. He noted one major change since the last report as follows:

- Project G.4, Old Glenn Highway Rehab, Eagle River-Fire Lake to Peters Creek. Bids received were significantly lower than estimated resulting in an additional \$6.5 million in funds, which were reallocated to Project G.2, Huffman Road Reconstruction, Old Seward Highway to Pintail. The effect is less money will need to be borrowed next year.

MR. POST indicated Staff felt there was a need to reanalyze a lot of the cost estimates as part of the LRTP fiscal constraint has been a concern. He noted because of that concern, Staff had the cost estimates revised, and they were looked at with a higher level of scrutiny.

With regard to the bids received on the Old Glenn project, MS. WITT noted there was a clustering of bids with this bid being low and one outlier being higher.

CHAIR SULLIVAN noted in regard to the Spenard Road Project that it seemed like the Legislature removed AMATS funding in about this amount for a study of a different nature, and asked if it would be reflected in the Obligation Report. MR. POST clarified the Obligation Report is actual AMATS funds as opposed to State general funds, and the State's removal of matching funds would not affect the AMATS funds in this report.

Hearing no objection, the Second Quarter Obligation Report was approved.

c. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS - None**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. EAGLE RIVER CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AND RESIDENTIAL CORE CIRCULATION STUDY UPDATE

VIVIAN UNDERWOOD provided a presentation and update on the Eagle River Central Business District and Residential Core Study (CBD). She noted this project has been on the LRTP for Chugiak-Eagle River since 2003 and is seen as the next required step in addressing the worsening conditions and congestion in Eagle River. The goal is to have an actionable plan with buy-in from key stakeholders (Community Councils, Chamber of Commerce, Road Board, local businesses and residents, and the State) in order to nominate projects to the CIP, the TIP and the 2011 LRTP.

MS. UNDERWOOD noted the public involvement opportunities for the CBD, which included:

- Public Meeting/Open Houses held on January 28, 2010 and April 1, 2010.
- There was a website survey for the public, which is now closed.
- Discussion of the proposed future project schedule
- Joint TAC and Planning & Zoning Commission Work Session scheduled for June 10.
- Anticipated release of the draft for public review by the Policy Committee on June 24.
- Planning & Zoning Commission public hearing August 2.
- TAC recommendation to the Assembly August 12.

MS. UNDERWOOD reviewed the study area and facilities of particular concern, the current traffic system and issues, and expected population and employment growth to the year 2035. She discussed future system deficiencies and the potential solution strategies as follows:

- No Plan Strategy
- Solution Strategy 1 – Connected Streets
- Solution Strategy 2 – Couplet
- Solution Strategy 3 – Main Street

MS. UNDERWOOD noted an additional \$20,000 was received from the Alaska Department of Transportation for another public meeting. There were no comments from the public.

b. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

JODY KARZ provided a public transportation briefing as part of the AMATS Public Participation Plan. The key points discussed were:

- With the 2010 budget, all Eagle River local service was eliminated on March 1.
- The cumulative effect of the Eagle River cut was a 3.3% reduction in service.
- Ridership in March increased approximately 1.5%.

- Eagle River local service was replaced with AnchorRIDES Connect service operated by MV, our AnchorRIDES service provider. People eligible for AnchorRIDES in the Eagle River-Chugiak area continued to be served, and the ability for all the riding public to fill up AnchorRIDES vehicles coming into Anchorage was added. The public can be picked up from the Eagle River Transit Center and delivered to the Muldoon Transfer Center for a standard People Mover fare.
- Assembly provided \$50,000 in the 2010 budget, and it was matched with federal grants to try this demonstration project.
- 18 new buses were put in service in July/August 2008, and 15 new 40-foot buses are expected to arrive in May. Approximately 14 more busses are still needed to complete the transit fleet replacement.
- The Van Pool Program, with 55 vans has been highly successful and benefits commuters as well as taking many vehicles off the Glenn Highway. 8 to 10 vehicles are replaced annually.
- Construction on the Museum Station downtown is done.
- Working in the UMED are this year to improve pedestrian crossings and bus stop upgrades.
- Working with Traffic to coordinate bus stop improvements with their signal installation on Spirit Drive in the UMED area.
- OptiCom Pilot Demonstration Project providing transit signal low level priority at 19 signals on two routes in Anchorage was approved by the Assembly and started mid-March. One route operates on Spenard Road and one on Arctic Boulevard. This technology should reduce running time on the two pilot routes. The pilot project is through March 2011. It is working well, and no complaints have been received.
- Plans for a user survey of the AnchorRIDES Connect service for feedback on how well the service is working and the need for other trips.

MR. FLYNN indicated this would be useful as support for the 2011 budget. There were no comments from the public.

c. ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT ON AIR QUALITY

A written report on the Anchorage Air Quality Status was provided to the Policy Committee.

MR. MORRIS noted an assumption was made for the purposes of this analysis that the IM program would go away, and this would result in a temporary rise in CO levels in 2011 as a short-term consequence elimination of the IM Program.

d. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MR. TRAINI was welcomed as a new member of the Policy Committee.

Bart Rudolph was introduced as the new AMATS Planner for the State Department of Transportation.

e. OTHER INFORMATIONAL REPORTS - NONE

7. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS

Technical Advisory Committee, May 13, 2010

Policy Committee, May 27, 2010

Technical Advisory Committee, June 10, 2010

Policy Committee, June 24, 2010

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.