

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

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

**May 27, 2010
1:00 p.m.**

Policy Committee members Present:

Name	Representing
Patrick Flynn	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Lance Wilber	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 (MOA/TD)
Robert Kniefel*	MOA/TD
Vivian Underwood	MOA/TD
Teresa Brewer	MOA/TD
Van Le	MOA/TD
Jody Karcz*	MOA/Public Transportation Department
Judy Tymick	MOA/PTD
Larry Baker	MOA/Mayor's Office
George Vakalis	MOA/Municipal Manager's Office
Lori Schanche	MOA/Project Management & Engineering
Steve Morris*	MOA/Dept. of Health & Human Services
Bart Rudolph	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT)
Jim Amundsen	ADOT
Charlie Wagner	ADOT
Jennifer Witt*	ADOT
Mark Parmelee	ADOT
Mary Ann Pease	Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA)
Loran Frazier	KABATA
Alison Lohrke	Dowl HKM
Walt Parker	ACC
Gary Katsion	Kittelsohn & Associates

*AMATS Technical Advisory Committee members

1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR WILBER called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. All Policy Committee members were present with Ms. Heil filling in for Alice Edwards. A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

CHAIR WILBER 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. FLYNN moved to approve the agenda. MR. TRAINI seconded. *Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved unanimously.*

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2009

MR. FLYNN moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2009. MS. HEIL seconded. MR. TRAINI and MR. WILBER were not present at the meeting and abstained. *Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.*

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Draft CO Maintenance Plan

Referring to the Operating agreement, MR. MORRIS clarified they would be seeking the Policy Committee's recommendation, not approval, as the Assembly makes the final determination on the CO Maintenance Plan.

MR. MORRIS reported this plan came about as a consequence of action taken by the Assembly in July 2008. At that time, the Assembly reversed an earlier decision and reinstated the I/M program, and made some modifications to the program as well. As part of that action, the Assembly directed Health and Human Services (DHHS) to work with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to make the I/M Program a local option so it would not be subject to approval by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Staff completed its work with DEC, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed, and the changes to the Plan were drafted. MR. MORRIS noted additional changes to the Plan have been made since the Assembly approved changes in May 2009. The proposed changes delete the commitment to I/M, as well as changes required by the Clean Air Act. In particular, deleting a primary control measure like I/M, then it has to be a contingency measure as part of a menu of strategies for potential reinstatement if the standard were violated in the future. A technical analysis evaluating air quality trends were completed, and an emissions inventories taken to estimate emissions in future years out to 2023. The conclusion was there was no probability of violating the standard if the

I/M program were discontinued. Emissions are expected to decline over time even with the I/M Program eliminated. MR. MORRIS discussed the modeling, which used an approved EPA model. He noted the model did a good job of estimating what the real benefits of I/M were in Anchorage. He indicated DEC has reviewed this, and there were a couple minor changes since the public review draft in response to some of their comments, which the Policy Committee is being asked to approval also. The EPA has done a preliminary review, and he did not think EPA would have any issues with the Plan.

A schedule was included in the packet of materials showing the anticipated process. After Assembly approval, the plan goes to DEC to go through their public review process, and then onto the EPA who also has statutory requirements including responding to public comments and releasing it in the Federal Register notices. MR. MORRIS noted EPA staff has indicated if they receive the Plan by the end of the year, there is a possibility of combining this Plan revision with the one sent to them last year, and perhaps have approval as early as April or May 2011. The Clean Air Act provides 18 months for EPA's review.

MR. MORRIS clarified the recent Assembly action does not really affect the Plan. He noted Assembly action says I/M will be terminated after the EPA approves the Plan, and this is consistent with what is in the Plan.

MR. FLYNN noted there were discussions at the Assembly level about funding the Air Quality Monitoring Program and expressed concern about maintaining funding. In response to MR. FLYNN, MR. MORRIS indicated there has been discussion at the Staff level regarding funding, and the department directors have spoken with Administration, and they are evaluating the options. MR. FLYNN requested a report be added to the agenda, perhaps concurrent with the submission to EPA at the end of the year, on ways to assure we maintain our Air Quality Program.

There were no comments from the public.

MAYOR SULLIVAN moved to recommended approval. MR. TRAINI seconded. *Hearing no objections, the motion was approved unanimously.*

b. Other Business Items - None

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Highway-Street Lighting Design

CHARLES WAGNER with the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) provided a presentation on how DOT approaches street lighting design. This included basic general information about highway lighting design with low mount lights, regular street lights, interchange lighting, high power lighting, and LED lighting, and the costs associated with

installation and maintenance of lighting. MR. WAGNER discussed the types of lighting systems used in DOT projects, including the recent Trunk Road project in Mat-Su Valley and the Old Glenn Highway project. He discussed the pros and cons of white light. MR. WAGNER noted DOT does not currently use LED lighting because what is commercially available does not provide the necessary amount of lumens for highways without having to install more lights.

b. West Dowling Road Bike Lane Striping

CHAIR WILBER included this on the agenda because there had been discussion in the community about West Dowling Road between Old Seward and C Street, and whether it would include striping for bike lanes as recommended in the Bike Plan, which is yet to be adopted by the Policy Committee. He noted there are some parts of that document that recommend bike lanes as roads are reconstruct roads on both City and State streets, and this would be taken into consideration and incorporated as well as they can and when they can.

CHAIR WILBER noted the road design will look pretty much like the section of Dowling between the Seward Highway and the Old Seward Highway, and continue on to C Street. There will be five lanes with pedestrian facilities on both sides, and there will be some accommodation for the Chester Creek Trail that goes under there. The project is currently in the right-of-way phase with anticipated construction starting next year. JIM AMUNDSEN, Project Manager with DOT, was present to respond to questions.

MR. TRAINI expressed concern about when construction would start because of the current condition of the road.

MR. FLYNN understood that at some point in this project, there would be a last, best opportunity to do a grade separated crossing at C Street and the railroad. In response, MR. AMUNDSEN noted this issue was discussed in the environmental documentation for this project, and as part of that environmental document the decision was made not to go the C Street direction. He noted they would be going up over Arctic Boulevard instead. DOT will be grade separating this route over Arctic and over the railroad, but will not be grade separating Arctic or C Street. MR. AMUNDSEN indicated either of those would need to be a separate project. He clarified the road being constructed would go up over the top of Arctic and the railroad, but for the new route. The existing Arctic will not be grade separated as part of this project.

c. Travel Options Program

MS. KARCZ provided a presentation on the Travel Options Program in Jamie Acton's absence. The Travel Options Program is part of a TIP project, and funded by congestion mitigation and air quality funding. It came out of the LRTP as part of finding the way to get more people out of their single occupant vehicle. She noted it was decided to take the Travel Options Program with funding Transit got for a Mobility Coordinator Position, and to put those two projects together with one person for the best use of the funding. Jamie Acton, the Mobility Coordinator/Travel

Options person, was hired a year ago. Projects they have been working on over the past year include:

- Flex Car or car sharing program to provide public transportation users with rental cars for an hour or two, or a day when needed. Meetings have been held with two car rental agencies to set up this project.
- Working with U.A.A. on their green program and biking initiatives.
- Working with the Tribal Transit Program, which is an FTA program in Anchorage. The Native Village of Eklutna is the only federally recognized tribe. They are trying to get funding for the Village to perhaps do more coordination in the Eagle River/Anchorage area and combining it with our Connect Service.
- Looking at a guaranteed ride home to provide options for van pool or bus commuters as a way to get them home when they do not have transportation.
- Grant process.
- Coordinated transportation efforts – held meetings with a dozen to two dozen agencies to talk about sharing resources.

In response to Mr. Flynn, Staff indicated they would look into the issue of rental car tax as it pertains to the Flex Car Program.

In response to Mr. Flynn, MS. KARCZ noted a lot of the agencies are non-profit, but they have invited for-profits in the past. She noted the Magic Bus has shown up at these meetings. At MR. FLYNN's suggestion, she indicated they will make sure to open this up more towards the karate schools and the small schools.

d. Other Informational Items

When the report is provided on air quality maintenance, MR. FLYNN requested that it would be helpful if the Air Quality Committee make a recommendation to the Policy Committee on what the Air Quality Committee would like them to do when seeking Assembly approval.

MAYOR SULLIVAN noted he would not be at the June meeting as he will be out-of-state.

7. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS

Technical Advisory Committee, June 10, 2010

Policy Committee, June 24, 2010

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.