

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

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

**December 16, 2010
1:00 p.m.**

Policy Committee members Present:

Name	Representing
Lance Wilber	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Regional Director (ADOT&PF)
Alice Edwards	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Air Quality
Dan Sullivan	Municipal Mayor
Patrick Flynn	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Dick Traini	MOA/Municipal Assembly

Also in attendance

Name	Representing
Craig Lyon	MOA/Traffic Department (TD)
Walter Parker	ACC
Anne Brooks	Brooks and Associates
John Tolley	MOA/H2H representative
Lora Reinhold	Trails
Cindy Heil*	ADEC
Bart Rudolph	ADOT&PF
Jennifer Witt*	ADOT&PF

*AMATS Technical Advisory Committee members

1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR WILBER called the meeting to order. All Policy Committee members were present with Mayor Sullivan arriving at 1:27 p.m. Mr. Vakalis filled in for Mayor Sullivan until his arrival. 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 with the addition of Agenda Item 5(b), Alaska Department of Transportation on AMATS. MR. TRAINI seconded. *Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved unanimously as amended.*

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MR. FLYNN moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2009. MS. EDWARDS seconded. *Hearing no objections, the minutes were unanimously approved as written.*

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. 2010-2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM, 2011 FINANCIAL PLAN

MR. LYON stated the UPWP is a set of programs that shows how staff time will be allocated among projects; these are planning funds being utilized here, not capital projects, and the tables' show how we allocate staff time for AMATS and some DOT work for their time spent on AMATS projects. When the 2010-2011 UPWP was adopted it was adopted with a 2010 budget, but not a 2011 allocation. The 2011 allocation is the same as the 2010 allocation. Table 1 shows some staff time with Federal funds and some TIP, FTA, EPA funds and this is a summary document. Table 2 illustrates the allocation being asked for approval today which is \$930,138. The majority of the work in 2011 will be for combined Anchorage Bowl –Chugiak/E.R. LRTPs. The TAC recommended approval and the document went out for public comment with no real issues.

MR. FLYNN asked what the rough time line for the LRTP to be brought back to us. MR. LYON stated it currently needs to be approved by June 2011. The work we need to do takes us past that timeframe and into Nov/Dec. MR. LYON explained that FHWA and FTA are receptive to an extension but would like a specific time line from us for why it will take longer. Staff is looking at a Nov/Dec timeframe; we need them to approve the extension to that timeline. MR. LYON stated we had just signed contract w/consultant.

MR. FLYNN stated he would appreciate draft having 2 scenarios: one short-term and one long-term plan for KAC and allows general public to comment on either scenario and in either direction on what we see on funding plans as the finances are updated.

MS. KARCZ mentioned although this amendment dealt with PL funds, there are some changes to FTA 5303 and other public transportation funding that need to be changed. MS. KARCZ requested the motion include consistency between Tables 1 and 2. Table 1 totals should read: Task 150 Transit Planning - \$383,982, Task 160 Transit Marketing - \$284,138, and Task 170 Rideshare - \$416,441. Task 292 – Travel Options should not have funding identified as there are carryover funds for the project.

CHAIR WILBER asked if this reflects work necessary to do the certification process. MR. LYON responded in the affirmative.

MR. VAKALIS moved to approve 2011 work funding program for AMATS and seconded by MR. TRAINI, approved unanimously.

CHAIR WILBER turned the gavel over to Vice Chair Vakalis.

b. ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REPRESENTATION TO AMATS

MR. FLYNN noted he had heard from at least one of his colleagues on the Assembly expressing concern with the direction of DOT and who the Central Region representative will be. MR. FLYNN had heard that Mr. Wilber apparently will not be serving as the Central Region Director next year. The Assembly has really appreciated the broad Anchorage perspective Mr. Wilber had brought to DOT, and so his colleague specifically asked that this body request from the Commissioner and Governor to revisit this decision, and carefully consider whether or not Mr. Wilber is perhaps in fact the appropriate person to remain in this job.

MR. FLYNN moved that the AMATS Policy Committee adopt a resolution respectfully requesting the Governor and Commission revisit this decision and carefully consider whether Mr. Wilber should remain in that position as the Central Regional DOT Director. MR. TRAINI seconded. MR. FLYNN will help Mr. Lyon write the resolution.

Hearing no objection, the motion passed unanimously. MR. WILBER abstained.

MR WILBER expressed his appreciation and support of the Assembly and the Policy Committee.

MR. Vakalis returned the gavel to CHAIR. WILBER.

d. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS – NONE

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY STUDY (RTA)

ANNE BROOKS, with Brooks and Associates, is the local representative with RLS & Associates, working on the Regional Transit Authority Plan. It's funded 50/50 by the Mat-Su Borough and the MOA through grants from the federal stimulus program for approximately \$100,000. This plan will look at the increase in the travel between communities in the region. The Plan will look at how RTAs are structured, whether it is feasible for our communities, and the benefits to an RTA.

The tasks to be completed include:

- Investigate the governance structure of typical RTAs
- Determine the advantage & disadvantage of an RTA
- Develop frameworks and staffing
- Develop a plan that could be implemented
- Looked at current state proposed enabling legislation.

MS. BROOKS provided a presentation describing the goals of the project, current state legislation, case studies and different forms of RTAs from various areas, alternatives (non-operating overlay district, overlay district providing new services, consolidated services, and a division of the existing MPO).

1:27 Mayor Sullivan arrived. Mr. Vakalis left.

MS. BROOKS discussed the next step is to complete Task 1 and submit it by the end of year. She discussed outreach efforts over the past week with a series of meetings in Anchorage and Mat-Su, including a joint Mat-Su and Anchorage Assembly meeting and other participants.

MR. FLYNN expressed that Option 2; overlay-district providing new services probably fits best in our region. Light rail is probably not going to occur any time soon but when and if, it would be multi-jurisdictional.

MS. BROOKS mentioned the van pool program is also multi-jurisdictional.

CHAIR WILBER asked what is the potential relationship between the MPO and the RTA and is the RLS looking at that? MS. BROOKS stated that typically happens if the board and managing committees are laid out differently. The RTA in southern Florida is a huge board. MS. BROOKS stated the next task is to get information on the structure of the boards that so we will be looking for thoughts and guidance. MR. FLYNN mentioned if we alter our current MPO structure, it would be a very different board than we have now.

CHAIR WILBER asked since we do not have an RTA and we have a distance of 40 miles to another community will the RTA's you're looking at be examples that have started with similar characteristics with regard to distance and population. MS. BROOKS stated yes there are. RLS' thought is show potential of what RTA could be as we grew and scale as you want and then look at what you want.

b. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MS. EDWARDS requested that we begin approving minutes in a timelier manner. Staff responded that they would be working on that.

MR. FLYNN stated if item 5b is unsuccessful related to requesting ADOT keep Mr. Wilber as Central Region Director it was a pleasure working with him on this committee and other capacities. CHAIR WILBER stated the last year has been very exciting; a lot of fun and it was valuable to have a different look at the AMATS process. He commended the staff at ADOT, Bart and Jennifer and appreciated everyone's support. If they do not have someone for this position the at the next PC meeting, the Vice Chair will run the meeting.

7. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS

Technical Advisory Committee, January 13, 2011

Policy Committee, January 27, 2011

Technical Advisory Committee, February 10, 2011

Policy Committee, February 24, 2011

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.