

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Planning and Development Center  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
4700 Bragaw Street  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**May 22, 2008  
2:30 PM**

Those in attendance were:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Peter Serrano	Federal Highway Administration
** Jennifer Witt	ADOT, Central Region, Planning
** Rob Campbell	ADOT, Central Region
Dave Post	ADOT
** Cindy Heil	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
** Steve Morris	MOA/Department of Health and Human Services
** Lance Wilber	MOA/Traffic Department
Craig Lyon	MOA/TD
Vivian Underwood	MOA/TD
** Jim Lamson	MOA/PM&E
Rand Gaynor	MOA/PM&E
** Jody Karcz	MOA/Public Transportation Dept.
** Todd Cowles	MOA/Port of Anchorage
** Lois Epstein	MOA/AMATS Citizens Air Quality Advisory Committee

\* AMATS Policy Committee members

\*\* AMATS Technical Advisory Committee members

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR WILBER called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. A quorum was present. Tom Nelson and Bruce Carr were absent. Jim Lamson attended on behalf of Jerry Hanson. Ms. Epstein arrived at 2:45 p.m. CHAIR WILBER welcomed Jennifer Witt to the TAC, noting that she would serve as Vice Chair.

## **2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

CHAIR WILBER encouraged public involvement in this meeting of the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). He explained that Staff would first make their presentation, followed by any comments from TAC members, and the floor would then be open to public comment.

## **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CINDY HEIL moved for approval of the agenda. STEVE MORRIS seconded.

CHAIR WILBER noted that he had received a request to postpone action on the AMATS Urban Area Boundary Recommendation to a future meeting. Additionally, the quarterly obligation report will be heard under "Other Business."

CRAIG LYON indicated that the project managers who were scheduled to present the Traffic Department Managed Projects, Traffic Control Signalization, and Sign Inventory were not able to attend this meeting. That item would be postponed as well.

*There being no objection, the motion passed unanimously as amended.*

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None**

## **5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **a. Revisions to the Anchorage CO/SIP Maintenance Plan**

CRAIG LYON stated the TAC had been provided with a resolution of the AMATS Citizens Air Quality Advisory Committee from a May 19, 2008 meeting where this Plan was discussed. The CAQAC also discussed other measures that may possibly need to be included as contingency measures. The TAC was also provided with a letter from the State Department of Environmental Conservation, Air Quality. The Draft CO Maintenance Plan has been released for review and the comment period will end very shortly.

STEVE MORRIS suggested that, given what has occurred at the Assembly, with ADEC comments, and the CAQAC's review, the public comment period

be extended to July 1, 2008. MR. LYON clarified that the Assembly has introduced a resolution to reinstate or continue the I/M program beyond the date it was to cease. MR. MORRIS explained that the CAQAC has met several times to review this Plan and at the last meeting the Committee felt expressed their opinion that the Plan should not go forward without the I/M program. They stated that if the TAC and Policy Committee decided to discontinue the I/M program, they would like to see commitments to transit service improvements over time.

LOIS EPSTEIN arrived at 2:45 p.m.

MR. MORRIS stated there were concerns discussed at the last TAC meeting regarding the contingency measures and how quickly they should be implemented and the date by which the Assembly said the I/M program should be discontinued. ADEC has opined on both of these things. CINDY HEIL explained that ADEC received a briefing by Mr. Morris and ADEC issued a letter addressing the two issues he had outlined. She stated that when a plan is submitted to EPA it should be approvable and ADEC feels that this Plan would not be so, if there were no specificity in the implementation of the contingency plan. The comment on the second issue reflects an opinion from ADEC's legal department, which decisively states that the State would take over the I/M program, should it discontinue before EPA approves the Plan. There has been uncertainty in the last six months around these issues, so ADEC made the decision to issue a written statement that ADEC would take over the I/M program, should it discontinue prior to approval of the Plan.

PETER SERRANO asked if there are notes on the CAQAC meetings. MR. MORRIS stated that there are notes from three of the five meetings. He agreed to supply these to Mr. Serrano.

JODY KARZCZ moved to extend the public comment period to July 1, 2008 and to post both ADEC comments and AAQAC resolution on website. TODD COWLES seconded.

CHAIR WILBER noted that extending the comment period to July 1<sup>st</sup> adds another 39 days for comment. He preferred to allow a 45-day review period, during which the website should be amended to indicate the extension of the

comment period, indicate whether the TAC supports the CAQAC's recommendations, and include information on ADEC's position. MS. HEIL had concern with the work involved at the staff level and that fact that it would not be necessary, if the Assembly adopts an ordinance continuing or reinstating I/M.

CHAIR WILBER suggested extending the public comment period to July 8, 2008, make the CAQAC and ADEC comments available on the website, and after public comments are received the TAC can review the issue further. MR. MORRIS suggested also including an explanation to the public to explain the decision to extend the public comment period. *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*

***There being no objection, the motion passed unanimously.***

**b. 2027 CERLRTP-OSH&P, CBERRRSA Recommendations, Release for Public Review**

VIVIAN UNDERWOOD explained that at its June 14, 2008 meeting the Policy Committee approved the final draft of the CERLRTP-OS&HP. They also approved the Assembly's recommendations, one of which was to delete certain portions of the OS&HP to give the CBERRRSA up to nine months to review them. Assemblymember Sullivan asked if the CBERRRSA had not had an opportunity to comment and Debbie Ossiander explained that they had but she had met with people who expressed concern with roads that are shown as collectors on the map that they do not feel should be so designated. The Official Streets and Highways Plan (OS&HP) say that the nature and character of existing roads designated as collectors is not likely to change. However, municipal code requires streets in the development process to follow the OS&HP. A variance can be sought from the Platting Board (**NOTE:** this comment is corrected to state that a variance can not be sought from the Platting Board). There is a rural collector standard for Chugiak, Eagle River, Birchwood, and Hillside. There was also concern with the genesis of the list. The list is an explanation of the map. The OS&HP has existed since 1973. Between 1973 and 1976 there were no changes for this area, between 1976 and 1985 there were some changes. The first separate LRTP for the Chugiak-Eagle River area was developed in 1996. A citizens advisory committee participated in the development of that plan and there was general consensus on the map at that time. Birchwood Community Council has been most vocal

Council has been most vocal about their displeasure with the roads on the map. The Mayor felt the CBERRRSA was the appropriate venue to review the map and he asked them to indicate what they felt should be on the map and what should not be on the map. The Mayor asked that the CBERRRSA generate its own list and criteria for what should be on the OS&HP map. The Chair of the CBERRRSA chair was involved in an accident and the group did not meet over the summer. The person tasked with forming a committee and addressing this issue moved from the area. As a result the work was not accomplished.

MS. UNDERWOOD asked that the TAC release the CERLRTP-OS&HP, with recommendations by CBERRRSA and the TAC, to the public for review. The TAC's recommendation will be taken to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The matter will then return to the TAC and then be taken to the Policy Committee.

CHAIR WILBER asked that Ms. Underwood share the three recommendations made by the CBERRRSA. MS. UNDERWOOD stated that the CBERRRSA passed a motion in May regarding street typology. Street typology has not yet been adopted as part of the OS&HP. The CBERRRSA felt the street typology in the CERLRTP was more in line with the *Anchorage Bowl Comprehensive Plan* and preferred their street typology to be more in line with the Comprehensive Plan for the Chugiak-Eagle River area. Their motion was to approve the street typology in future LRTPs, but only after the separate chapter for Title 21 is written to address that. They recommended deleting Appendix B, Street Typology, and that Appendix D, the listing of functional classifications, be deleted from the map. This also implies that the text in the OS&HP section would be deleted. The intent is that this issue be addressed in 2011 at the next update of the CERLRTP.

MS. KARZC asked if the 2003 CERLRTP would be used until that time. MS. UNDERWOOD replied that this is the case.

CHAIR WILBER understood that AMATS staff does not object to the action to deleting Appendix C, which addresses street typology. However, staff recommends including Appendix D and Map 5 in the 2027 CERLRTP. He felt that the list of streets and the maps have not changed since the recommendation came from the TAC to the Assembly. Those street

classifications are consistent with the CERLRTP; inconsistencies could create issues when streets develop. He encouraged the TAC to retain its original recommendations.

MR. MORRIS asked how many streets are involved in Appendix D. MS. UNDERWOOD replied that the recommendation is to designate Rankin Road as a collector and extend it to Knik Vista and to extend Knik Vista to Rankin Road. Knik Vista is already on the list. An area resident is very concerned with connectivity in the area and was pleased with connections being made. There was also an administrative change to delete Helluva. The other recommendation is Starner from Chamber Lane to Bernie (extended). She suggested not changing the beginning point for that collector to Aurora Borealis.

MS. UNDERWOOD suspected that there is a lack of understanding about the provisions of the OS&HP and what standards would be used for collector. There may not be awareness that rural collector standards exist for this area and that standards are based on ADT. MS. HEIL asked if the term "rural collector" should be used rather than "collector". MS. UNDERWOOD stated she had posed this question to Ms. Bernardini in the Department. She noted that the listing is intended only to clarify the map.

MS. WITT noted that a designation of a road as a collector allows the designer to be more sensitive in terms of the location of the road.

MS. UNDERWOOD noted that this item is scheduled for hearing by the Planning and Zoning Commission on July 7, 2008.

CINDY HEIL moved to release the 2027 CERLRTP-OSH&P, CBERRRSA Recommendations for 45-day public review to July 7, 2008. STEVE MORRIS seconded.

CHAIR WILBER clarified that the TAC supports the CBERRRSA's recommendation to delete Appendix C, but not the recommendation to delete Appendix D and the OS&HP map.

***There being no objection, the motion passed unanimously.***

**c. AMATS Urban Area Boundary Recommendations**  
***POSTPONED***

**d. Other Business**

*First Quarterly Obligation Report*

DAVE POST stated the Chester Creek Trail Connection costs have gone up and down. At this point in time an additional \$1.55 million is need to cover design and right-of-way acquisition. A donation from the University was anticipated, but it appears that land will now be purchased. The impact of the additional \$1.55 million allocation is completely offset by de-obligating the Lake Otis Parkway widening project from Lake Otis to Debarr. Policy Committee approval of the change is needed. There is a time constraint to obligate construction funding in 2008.

CINDY HEIL moved to recommend approval of the staff recommendations to the Policy Committee. JENNIFER WITT seconded.

MS. KARZC asked in what stage the Lake Otis project is currently. CHAIR WILBER recalled that it was in preliminary engineering.

MS. EPSTEIN asked what happened with the University. RAND GAYNOR explained that initially the thought was that UAA would donate right-of-way, but that was not the case. There must be money to buy right-of-way from UAA in order to start the project. CHAIR WILBER asked what section of right-of-way is involved. MR. GAYNOR replied that the bulk is from Bragaw and through the housing units to connect to the campus. CHAIR WILBER asked if APU right-of-way is required. MR. GAYNOR replied that APU right-of-way has been acquired.

MR. CAMPBELL asked if the right-of-way that must be purchased is an offshoot to the University housing. MR. GAYNOR explained it is called the UAA Spur Trail. MR. CAMPBELL asked if it benefits UAA exclusively and they are being paid to have the trail developed. MR. GAYNOR responded that UAA might still donate the right-of-way. MR. CAMPBELL asked what would be the total right-of-way cost without this portion. MR. GAYNOR replied that the offer to UAA is approximately \$711,000.

***The motion passed with Rob Campbell objecting.***

**6. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**a. Traffic Department Managed Projects, Traffic Control  
Signalization, Sign Inventory**

***POSTPONED***

**b. Committee Comments**

JIM LAMSON stated that there would soon be coordination with ADOT regarding next year's legislative program. He indicated that funding was secured from Juneau this year for Victor Road.

MR. MORRIS thanked the CAQAC for their work this year; they have met five times since January.

MS. KARZCZ noted that this is the last day of school and there will be many children outside. She also indicated that this is the first day of the "kids ride free on Thursdays" program on People Mover.

**c. Scheduled AMATS Meetings**

Policy Committee, June 12, 2008

Technical Advisory Committee, June 26, 2008

**d. Other Informational Reports – None**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM