

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Planning & Development Center  
Main Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
4700 Elmore Road  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**July 8, 2010  
2:30 p.m.**

Technical Advisory Committee members Present:

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Name	Representing
Jennifer Witt	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT), Central Region, Planning
Kim Rice	ADOT, Central Region
Cindy Heil	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Steve Morris	MOA/Dept. of Health & Human Services
Trygve Erickson	MOA/Traffic Department (TD)
Jerry Hansen	MOA/Project Management & Engineering (PM&E)
Jody Karcz	MOA/Public Transportation Department
Lois Epstein	AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee
Bruce Carr	Alaska Railroad Corporation

Also in attendance

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Name	Representing
Craig Lyon	MOA/TD
Van Le	MOA/TD
Vivian Underwood	MOA/TD
John Crapps	MOA/TD
Dave Post	ADOT/PF
Bart Rudolph	ADOT/PF
Mark Parmalee	ADOT/PF
Joel Ulring	Golder Associates

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR ERICKSON called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. All Technical Advisory Committee members were present with MS. EPSTEIN arriving at 2:32 p.m., MS. RICE arriving at 2:35 p.m., and MR. MORRIS arriving at 2:40 p.m. MR. WEAVER and MR. COWLES were absent. A quorum was established.

**2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

MR. LYON encouraged public involvement in this meeting of the AMATS Technical Advisory 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. HANSEN moved to approve the agenda. MS. HEIL seconded. *Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved unanimously.*

### 4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

### 5. BUSINESS ITEMS

#### a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Obligation Report

MR. RUDOLPH presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Obligation report. G.2, Huffman continues to be the equalizer for the TIP; \$9.4 million in the blue column is advance construction to equal out the fiscal year. The pavement replacement program funding was originally going to be used for Jewel Lake resurfacing, but utilized ARRA funding instead. It would be nice to get something started there to work on. Project #5, Spenard Road, slipped back to 2011 waiting on final PS&E from the city. Page 2, Table 4, Transportation Enhancements, G.1., Muldoon Road Landscaping and Pedestrian Improvements requires an additional \$637,000 for ROW acquisition; this is the difference between the actual and appraisal costs. Anchorage Areawide trails rehab and pedestrian plan project implementation, each are scheduled for \$100,000 this year, in order to obligate these funds this year, we need a detail scope in next two weeks from MOA, so we pushed them back to 2011 given the time constraints and staffing. Page 3, under studies & plans, we are anticipating additional \$200,000 for the Combined LRTP to update road estimates and establish a project manger. Under programs, Arterial Dust Control, we are waiting on our internal environmental staff to do an environmental analysis on the use of magnesium chloride on the roads and what the impact is. In total, we are evenly balanced at this year.

MS. WITT we actually received a larger allocation than what was expected when the TIP was originally drafted. MR. RUDOLPH before the STIP was adopted we were operating under assumption that we would receive the same allocation amount as the previous year and that is why it is slightly higher than what was approved in TIP. MR. LYON is there anything that needs Technical or Policy Committee approval? MR. RUDOLPH Yes, the additional \$637, 000 for the Muldoon Road Landscaping and Pedestrian Improvements project.

MS. WITT moved to accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter AMATS FFY10 Project Obligation Report as presented. MR. CARR seconded. *Hearing no objections, the motion was approved unanimously.*

#### b. Other Business Items

MS. WITT referred to the AMATS 50/50 Matching Fund report on the agenda under information items, and noted it may need to be a business item. She suggested the TAC formalize a

recommendation to the Policy Committee so those funds could be allocated to projects and underway soon. The TAC discussed this topic under Agenda Item 6, Information Items.

## **6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **a. AMATS 50/50 Matching Funds**

MR. LYON originally put in to legislature for \$26,920,000 and we ultimately got \$10 million through governor's veto. Intent was if we didn't get everything we asked for how we would spend it. Municipal staff met with DOT staff. This is the suggestion: #1 project is Non-NHS rut repair. Most know that Debarr Road needs most help. We cannot spend Municipal Bonds on State owned facilities and you have to spend state or general funds to do this project.

Anchorage trails rehab was in the TIP and we are fixing the ones we have. Got through phase 1 and haven't had it since then, and we want to continue on that.

Bicycle plan has a list of projects in the plan to do so we will have to prioritize. Some design money needed there. This would start that.

Transit fleet expansion, FTA funds that are available that we need a local match for this provides the local match. Some are for continuing to replace fleet as it wears out.

CHAIR ERICKSON will staff suggestions be vetoed by administration? MR. LYON no definitive answer from 8<sup>th</sup> floor. It might behoove us to continue this meeting for a week to 7/15 then at 7/22 Policy Committee we could formalize that recommendation.

MS. WITT noted this allocation is a first for AMATS. The funding was directed to AMATS, not DOT and not to the Muni, and we have legislative intent backup documentation from perspective if Debarr Road is selected. We need to know soon, so that we can get the project started.. We are reluctant to do so without AMATS establishing its priorities.

MS. EPSTEIN replied I'm not sure who to direct this to but if someone could explain why the designs for the ped plan and trails were not done this year. I want to be sure next year we don't have the same situation and can actually spend the money. MR. LYON replied my understanding is that in order to let the money, the money gets funneled through DOT to make sure all processes followed required by Feds, and they need scope, schedule, etc. For whatever reason that part of process hasn't occurred. If we got that to them relatively quick that we can get it done this year. MS. WITT noted the timing is if it can't happen but right now there is such a huge backlog at FHWA and even with Central Region there is numerous new requirements placed on, any projects. There is lot of up front work that has to be done before we can even submit the paperwork and it is evolving as we speak. Even if done outside of DOT it is funneled through same handful of people before it can get out. If we can get it out in the next couple of weeks it needs to go through environmental needs and assign project manager, preliminary

environmental reviews internally before we can submit paperwork... MS. RICE noted we just have a few funding people to handle these and we have a backlog of work to catch up on. We will fund on a priority and if not in soon they won't get to the paperwork. Get everything obligated beginning with the bigger projects on list. MS. EPSTEIN no ped projects out of funding. MS. RICE end of year creates time crunch.

MR. CARR commented that the money, as previously stated was directed to AMATS. The group of projects we requested to be funded represented our priority projects.. Why now do we need to get the Administration to approve our list? The Administration is NOT AMATS. MR. LYON noted AMATS, cooperative between AMATS between the State and the City and 5 members of committee with the City. MR. CARR noted we already accomplished this coordination. Our list reflected our priorities. Everyone was aware of what we were going to do if we did not get full funding. I know week doesn't make difference, but to make everyone come back next week does not seem necessary to me. Seems to me process is in place and this is an informational item and we have to move to business item to approve, but at same time I think we've done everything to move forward.

MR. LYON noted AMATS rules say we cannot act on informational item and we cannot put item under business item that has not been noticed for a week. The best we can we for a business item is next Thursday.

MS. WITT asked is it possible to do it by teleconference. Can you do it electronically and send out here's what I said. MS. HEIL commented notice for public comment and give the opportunity for people to comment. Individually we could call in but we have to have these people noticed

MR. LYON responded we'd setup conference call here and folks who work out here would be in place everyone else could dial in for teleconference site and public show up could be there.

CHAIR ERICKSON noted we'll work on that. Public comment well taken.

Consensus move forward to reconvening in a week.

MS. KARCZ asked a modification on this sheet and delete 4d and lump 4d and 4e together because we would be looking at perhaps matching funds to our bus stop improvements

MR. LYON responded reason it's done this way was because it was in the original request to the state. MS. WITT asked how much of \$300,000 for 4d. MS. KARCZ noted the TIP item has always been Transit expansion/replacement and someone left it off and we would look at how to split those two. Would DOT have issues with 4d/4e with 2 definitions and then just say \$300000 at the end. MS. WITT could do is showing 4d and 4e here, and merge your cell over here on the right and then just show one dollar amount for the two and gives the flexibility unless you know exact dollar amounts.

MS. WITT noted Non-NHS rut repairs is pretty broad to have that understanding and consent between DOT and Muni, lot of money to spend on one road and yet going to be barely enough. In addressing the pedestrian plan and bike plan looking at it to address DOT and Muni staff work and looking at their costs. There parks of these crossings/sidewalks that we can fold into those projects and while out there might as well do those and hopefully we can start implementing comprehensively and does it make sense to carve out crossings or corridors and how to implement cost effectively and may be able to see some of those improvements

MS. HEIL asked to move AMATS 50/50 to continue the mtg for one week and move the AMATS 50/50 from info to a business item. MR. HANSEN seconded.

MR. POST noted maybe having the meeting immediately in advance of PC would be way of dealing with it ...

CHAIR ERICKSON noted you are really putting a box around comment. MR. LYON replied in addition, the mayor's conf room may not be available.

MS. HEIL replied maybe same day but not right before. Again, assuming we're going to act. Only thing is we don't know for sure if administration is going to have an opinion in one week.

MR. CARR responded he could not believe the Administration didn't already have documents or programs already in place.

MR. LYON replied this was cooperation with Muni and AMATS.

MR. HANSEN noted also it is the distribution of the money, not just the projects.

PASSED

MR. HANSEN left at 3:02

**b. OTHER INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

MR. LYON mentioned we had some discussion of creation of bicycle pedestrian committee with AMATS and working with Lois and Lori to come up with formalized memo, and he does not have that ready yet. It could be on the agenda too as an informational item as well. It would be an advisory committee and think it is a good idea. Just need to tweak it a little more.

CHAIR ERICKSON asked if as information or action item? MR. LYON responded can bring up as business item, don't have to decide now.

MR. MORRIS asked does that entail amending operating agreement. MR. LYON explained they used bylaws from air quality to create freight advisory and it is not in the operating agreement and don't think we need to rework the operating agreement to add this bicycle and ped committee. When we next update operating agreement we would add, but don't need to change now.

MS. EPSTEIN noted she thinks there would be some public interested. Membership would include categories of individuals and agencies.

MS. WITT would like to have a draft to take back and have people look at, but not be presented cold. Just be presented with it would be better. MR. LYON replied an informational item at next Thursday mtg.

**c. Committee Comments**

MS. EPSTEIN noted she saw Alaska had put together an earmarks policy and wanted to complement the State for doing that.

MR. MORRIS noted they were monitoring ozone for last 3 months and interestingly enough he can say ozone levels here are lower than Denali National Park. Ozone scavenged by the pollution. Our peaks are in April and falls off.

MS. KARZCZ mentioned in the back parking lot are 15 new replacements busses that came in thanks to AMATS funding. 8 of them are on the road today and 7 more to be equipped. Also have 10 van pool vehicles that came in, 9 are for replacement and 1 is for expansion so up to 54 operating vans that are operating.

**7. SCHEDULED AMATS MEETINGS**

Technical Advisory Committee, July 15, 2010

Policy Committee, July 22, 2010

Technical Advisory Committee, August 12, 2010

Policy Committee, August 26, 2010

Technical Advisory Committee, September 9, 2010

Policy Committee, September 23, 2010

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

At 3:11 p.m., the meeting was continued to July 15, 2010.