

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION
SOLUTIONS
FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MS TEAMS Online
Anchorage, Alaska**

**Aug. 9, 2023
3:00 PM**

Those in attendance were:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Joe Michel, Chair	ATA
Steve Ribuffo	Port of Alaska
Richard Heath, Vice Chair	UPS
Mike Thrasher	TOTE/OCEAN
Terri Lindseth	TSAIA
Carlos Rojas	MSC/DOT&PF

Excused: Robert Sherrill, USAF, DLA, Helena Wisniewski, UAA, Doug Thomson, Holland America-Princess

Absent: Eddie Walton, Matson, Brian Lindamood, ARRC

Other Participants:

Jon Cecil, AMATS
Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS
James Starzec, DOT/PF
Chelsea Ward-Waller, AMATS
Theresa Dutchuk, DOWL
Morgan McCammon, DOWL

1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MICHEL called the online meeting being conducted via MS Teams to order at 3:04p.m. A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT. Chair MICHEL read the public involvement message. A recording will be available of the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval moved for agenda by MS. LINDSETH; seconded by MR. RIBUFFO.
Agenda approved unanimously.

4. **MINUTES** – Minutes were unavailable.

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. **Selection of Chair and Vice Chair:** CHAIR MICHEL noted that due to a lack of quorum the positions of chair and vice chair had not been addressed at the previous quarterly meetings (Feb. and May). MR. ROJAS moved, and Mr. HEATH seconded to retain MR. MICHEL as the committee chair. CHAIR Michel moved and MR. RIBUFFO seconded the motion to retain MR. HEATH as vice chair.
- b. **Expected Action of Freight Advisory Committee for 2023** – MR. MICHEL highlighted FAC functional responsibilities as noted in Bylaws. Committee attendance has improved. There has been some discussion whether a freight advisory committee is necessary. MR. RIBUFFO noted that the Port of Alaska Modernization Program is moving forward with a new road planned in 2024 (Tract J alternative access road) and may ask the FAC in the future for support. Currently awaiting news on the Ocean Dock Road project, which will require a lot of discussion about truck transportation ingress/egress at the port. In the future the FAC could be helpful supporting other port initiatives. MS. LINDSETH noted that TSAIA is in the middle of a 20-year blueprint for the airport. They will have a good handle by this fall deciding where the future cargo space will go. May reach out to FAC at a future meeting for a letter of support. There were no public comments.

6. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

- a. **Alaska DOT/PF Carbon Reduction Strategy (DOWL).** Ms. Theresa Dutchuk, an environmental specialist with DOWL, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the State's Carbon Reduction Strategy. Ms. Dutchuk explained this initiative stems from BIL law adopted by Congress. In Dec. 2022 the STIP included the carbon reduction strategy. Data gaps include input from MPOs. Consultants expect to have a public review

document ready by September. The final Strategy will be presented to FHWA in October before the Nov. 15, 2023 deadline. FHWA will have 60 days to review the document. This will be a living document that will be revisited every four years. There are several projects that are eligible for funding. The analysis will consider the transportation sector and road carbon dioxide emissions, which represent about 27% of total transportation emissions in the state. The DEC has prepared a report that identified that most carbon dioxide emissions in the state come from passenger vehicles, then diesel highway emissions, followed by light duty trucks such as SUVs. A total of \$29 million between 2022 and 2026 will be available to MPOs (AMATS, FAST, and potential Mat-Su), which is approximately one-third of the total funding that is coming to the State. Ms. Dutchuk posed questions to AMATS and the FAC: In the Anchorage metropolitan area, what specific concerns do you have? Do you have any preliminary ideas to reduce carbon emissions in the area? What strategies would be most effective in the area? What public outreach would you suggest for the area? What types of projects would you suggest? CHAIR MICHEL asked for the specific language from the BIL legislation that discussed freight. Ms. Dutchuk promised to follow-up. CHAIR MICHEL asked what kind of recommendations would be appropriate? Ms. Dutchuk responded that comments relative to the transition from traditional energy sources to biodiesel and alternative fuels or electrification and any necessary infrastructure. CHAIR MICHEL thanked Ms. Dutchuk for her presentation.

- b. **Destination UMED Study (Staff).** Jon Cecil noted that the Destination UMED Transportation Demand Management study is almost complete. A total of eight public comments have been received and will be included in the Comment Response Table attached with the Final Plan and Strategy Toolkit which will be presented to the TAC and PC in September. CHAIR MICHEL asked if this was a rebirth of the UMED access road? Mr. Cecil replied that it was not because the study did not focus on any specific road infrastructure projects.
- c. **AMATS Safety Plan Update (Staff).** Jon Cecil presented an update on the Safety Plan on behalf of Joni Wilm who was not available. So far, the Safety Plan has completed major

milestones including the Public Involvement Plan, the Existing Conditions Report, the Safety Conditions Report, the Safety Plan Survey, two out of four planning stakeholder meetings, and the BPAC Safety Forum. A Safety Plan Open House is scheduled for October (date TBD). The Safety Plan is available at <https://publicinput.com/a8536>. Another project is the Complete Streets Plan which will have 2-to-3-year plan horizon. CHAIR MICHEL expressed interest in having Ms. Wilm attend future FAC meetings to brief the committee. There were no public comments. MR. RIBUFFO expressed that there will be a busy couple of days at the Port with Congressman Graves (R-LA) who is visiting from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In addition, next Tuesday (8/15) US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg will be in Anchorage visiting the Port. MR. HEATH expressed interest in the complete streets plan particularly as it relates to ingress/egress to the airport as well as the Turnagain corridor.

- d. **2050 MTP Update (Staff).** Ms. Chelsea Ward-Waller, MTP Coordinator, delivered a PowerPoint presentation about the current status of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. A breakdown of the plan contents was provided. It's a relatively large document, but it has been streamlined where possible. The 2050 MTP is available at: www.publicinput.com/2050_mtp. Mr. Cecil offered that a special meeting may be an opportunity to review and discuss the plan. CHAIR MICHEL indicated that once the plan is released then consider a special meeting.

- 7. **COMMITTEE COMMENTS.** MR. RIBUFFO noted that Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) recently visited the Port at the invitation of TOTE. Good meeting. She and Sen. Sullivan (R-AK) are in lockstep about the supply chain between Washington and Alaska. Lot of interest in Washington State about the viability and survival of the Port of Alaska which is very much appreciated. There is construction currently underway on the cargo dock. Assembly has approved basic design concept of the first cargo dock (65% design expected by December). Starting conversations about the design of the second cargo dock. The Assembly also gave the POA authority to enact a surcharge on the tariff. The Port now has a mechanism to make good on the payments for the bonds. A lot has happened at the port since the previous FAC meeting this year. MR. HEATH asked if the congressional itinerary

included a tour of the airport? MR. Ribuffo replied that he didn't have access to the itinerary. MS. LINDSETH responded that the FAA had attempted to have the congressman visit TSAIA, but the timing was problematic. CHAIR MICHEL shared his thoughts about AO 2023-65(S) which is an ordinance to amend municipal code regarding the safety, equity and access to infrastructure for bicyclists and other vulnerable road users. There was nothing seemingly harmful in the ordinance to the freight community. However, he will take more interest in municipal code and tracking future assembly agendas. MR. RIBUFFO had a process comment about assembly meetings. It's never a bad idea to check out the Assembly webpage.

8. **COMMITTEE COMMENTS.** CHAIR MICHEL also noted it may be necessary to hold a special meeting to take into consideration the 2050 MTP. A date and time is to be determined.
9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Mr. Starzec stated that the 2024-2027 STIP is out for public comment. There is a lot of good information. Displayed the webpage. Noted that the Tract J access road project at the port is included. Encourages everyone to look at the STIP and put their comments in as you see fit.
10. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.