

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

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

**June 26, 2025
1:00 PM**

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[Transportation Planning / AMATS Meetings \(muni.org\)](https://www.muni.org/transportation-planning/amats-meetings)*

Policy Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
Sean Holland	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)
Kent Kohlhasse	MOA/Public Works Department
Jason Olds	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Air Quality
Erin Baldwin-Day	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Jared Goecker**	MOA/Municipal Assembly

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Rhiannon Brown	AMATS
Mook Puttong	AMATS
Leifiloa Felise	AMATS
Craig Lyon	DOWL
Stephanie Mormilo	HDL Engineering Consultants
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Brandon Telford	MOA/Project Management & Engineering (PM&E)
Zakary Hartman	MOA/Traffic Engineering Department
Mélisa Babb*	MOA/Planning Department
Daniel Mckenna-Foster	MOA/Long-Range Planning Division
Brad Coy*	MOA/Traffic Engineering Department
Ann Huynh	
Laura Achee	
Andy Mills	DOT&PF
Ben White*	DOT&PF
Kathleen McArdle	
Anna Bosin	DOT&PF
Luke Bowland*	DOT&PF
Adeyemi Alimi*	ADEC
Lisa Idell-Sassi	DOT&PF
Iris Samuels	ADN
Kathleen McArdle	
Lindsey Hajduk	NeighborWorks Alaska & Spenard Community Council Task Force
Morgan McCammon	DOWL
Bart Rudolph*	MOA/Public Transportation Department
Chelsea Ward-Waller	PM&E

Mark Eisenman	DOT&PF
Ryan Harris	DOT&PF
Alexa Dobson	Bike Anchorage Executive Director
Marc Luiken	
Joslyn Biloon	DOT&PF
Allie Hartman	
Adam Moser	DOT&PF
Nancy Pease	Rabbit Creek Community Council
Will Walker	
Jason Norris	

**AMATS Technical Advisory Committee Member*

***Designated Assembly Alternate*

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

CHAIR HOLLAND called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Kent Kohlhase represented Mayor LaFrance. Assembly Member Goecker represented Assembly Member Volland as the designated alternate. A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

AARON JONGENELEN 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.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MR. KOHLHASE moved to approve the agenda. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – April 17, 2025

MR. KOHLHASE moved to approve the minutes. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Functional Classification Comments

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) is currently working on an update to the functional classification of all roadways in the state of Alaska. They are responsible for ensuring that all public roads in the state, regardless of who owns them, are properly classified using guidance from the federal government and input from communities, tribes, and agencies. We are required to review statewide functional classifications every ten years, and we're in the middle of that process now. As part of this process, DOT&PF has been working with stakeholders, including AMATS staff, to provide input. Staff met with MOA staff to review roadways within the AMATS boundary and have since compiled a list of recommended functional classification changes as comments to the project team.

The committee discussed that lowering the functional class would have a financial impact on future projects.

CHAIR HOLLAND opened the floor to public comments.

MARK EISENMAN
LINDSEY HAJDUK

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY moved to approve. ASSEMBLY MEMBER GOECKER seconded.

CHAIR HOLLAND noted that the recommendation is to change 5th and 6th from Airport Heights to Gambell and the Ingra/Gambell/Seward Highway from interstate to principal arterial. He did not think they should break the interstate until there is another connection there. He proposed keeping it as an interstate.

CHAIR HOLLAND moved to amend to keep that functional classification as an interstate rather than class it down to principle arterial. MR. OLDS seconded.

Hearing objections, CHAIR HOLLAND called for a roll call vote on the amendment.

AYE
MR. OLDS
CHAIR HOLLAND

NAY
MR. KOHLHASE
ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY
ASSEMBLY MEMBER GOECKER

The amendment failed with 2 in favor and 3 against.

CHAIR HOLLAND moved to amend to keep all of Brayton Drive at its current classification as a collector road. MR. OLDS seconded.

Hearing objections, CHAIR HOLLAND called for a roll call vote on the amendment.

AYE
MR. OLDS
CHAIR HOLLAND

NAY
MR. KOHLHASE
ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY
ASSEMBLY MEMBER GOECKER

The second amendment failed with 2 in favor and 3 against.

CHAIR HOLLAND moved to amend to keep Spenard Road at its current classification as a minor arterial. MR. OLDS seconded.

Hearing objections, CHAIR HOLLAND called for a roll call vote on the amendment.

AYE

MR. OLDS

CHAIR HOLLAND

NAY

MR. KOHLHASE

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY

ASSEMBLY MEMBER GOECKER

The third amendment failed with 2 in favor and 3 against.

CHAIR HOLLAND restated that the main motion is to approve the comments and forward them on to the classification group.

Hearing no objections, the main motion passed.

b. Updated Agreement on Performance Measures

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the reauthorization bill, MAP-21, was approved by Congress; it included provisions for MPOs and states to develop targets for specific performance measures related to transportation. As part of that authorization bill, it directed MPOs and states to work together on the development of those targets. This performance target requirement was carried forward in subsequent reauthorization bills. In 2017, Alaska's MPOs and ADOT&PF developed and approved an agreement on how these targets are developed, which included sharing of data, selection of performance targets, reporting of performance targets, and collection of data.

There were no comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY moved to approve. ASSEMBLY MEMBER GOECKER seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

c. 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program Narrative (UPWP)

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the 2026/2027 Work Program was released for a 30-day public comment period on April 23rd, 2025. AMATS received 23 comments on the draft narrative. These comments are responded to in the attached comment response summary. Recommended changes based on public comment are outlined in the AMATS Staff Recommendation column of the comment response form. A budget was developed based on the narrative and is provided as part of this final approval process.

There were no comments.

MR. KOHLHASAE moved to approve. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

d. Decision on the Minnesota Road Pavement Project

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the AMATS TIP currently contains two projects for non-motorized pavement work on Minnesota Drive, Hillcrest to Northern Lights Boulevard and Northern Lights Boulevard to Tudor Road. This project is currently underway and has received some comments on additional work that need to be reviewed by the TAC and PC.

TRAVIS HOLMES with DOT&PF and DAVE GAMEZ with Lounsbury & Associates provided a PowerPoint presentation. The following two items for discussion are:

- 1) Adding in work for the 4th crossing at Minnesota/Northern Lights and Minnesota/Benson Boulevard.
- 2) Adding in work for a HAWK signal to help with mid-block crossings

The committee discussed a speed study, the need for pedestrian facilities, and the HAWK signal being a standalone project,

There were no public comments.

MR. KOHLHASE moved to approve the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation for Alternative 2, which does not include the HAWK signal. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

e. Decision on the Muldoon Road Pavement Project

MR. JONGENELEN noted that AMATS staff was contacted by DOT&PF regarding the Muldoon Road Pavement Preservation Project, asking if AMATS could pay for the portion that is listed in Table 6 of the TIP, which is the Glenn Highway to the JBER gate. DOT&PF staff provided the following funding information:

FFYs

- 2025: Design-\$600,000
- 2026: Design-\$200,000
- 2028: ROW-\$10,000
- 2029: U/C-\$6,000,000

The DOT&PF-funded portion of Muldoon Road, from Debarr Road to the Glenn Highway, was originally shown in the TIP and STIP. However, as part of the new STIP, the funding for the DOT&PF portion was removed, and subsequently the project was removed from the STIP. This caused the project to be removed from the TIP as part of Amendment #2, and the

AMATS portion of the project was also delayed/stopped, as both projects were going to be completed together for cost savings and less overall impact on the driving public. After this change, the funding identified for the AMATS Muldoon Pavement Preservation project was moved into other projects that were moving forward, such as Spenard Road Rehabilitation, I/L Pavement Preservation, and 3rd Ave Reconstruction. At this time, there is no funding available for the Muldoon Pavement Preservation project from AMATS.

The committee discussed why the project was removed from the STIP initially.

CHAIR HOLLAND opened the floor to public comments.

STEPHANIE MORMILO
JASON NORRIS
ANNA BOSIN

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY moved to approve funding the design portion of the pavement project in the next feasible fiscal year with the construction moved to illustrative and to look at pursuing other funding sources with the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation. MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

f. AMATS Letter of Support for the North Fork Campbell Creek Culvert Replacements for the NOAA Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage Through Barrier Removal Grant Program

MR. JONGENELEN noted that there is an effort underway to help with the last major barrier to the fish passage along Campbell Creek. It is the highest priority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The project will help to replace a culvert battery opening approximately 4.48 miles of fish habitat above this location.

There were no comments.

MR. OLDS moved to approve the letter of support. MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Due to technical difficulties, Item 6.a. was reordered to be heard after Item 8.

b. 2027-2030 TIP Process

MR. JONGENELEN briefed the committee, noting that since all of the projects have to come from the MTP already, the idea is to just pull from the existing MTP projects and have one unified process for project nominations as part of the MTP process.

There were no comments.

c. Next PC Meeting Overview

MR. JONGENELEN noted that July will be another busy meeting and will include HSIP nominations, new member appointment for the Community Advisory Committee District 3, funding from AMATS for DeArmoun Road, information on switching money between what DOT&PF uses and what AMATS uses, a high-injury network map as part of the VisionZero group, the 2nd quarter obligation report, and the project status report.

There were no comments.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

CHAIR HOLLAND noted the following:

1. He thanked the Alaska Railroad for hitting a major milestone by approving DOT&PF's right-of-way permit for their Downtown Trails Project. DOT&PF still needs a Corp permit, but they should be building that project next year.
2. Taking another look at the Operating Agreement.
3. DOT&PF has some state money in certain parts of the city to help get smaller projects going. They are looking at more funding for Tudor and Muldoon.
4. With regard to VisionZero, pedestrian fatalities had been relatively steady for years but suffered a spike in 2024. The variable they were thinking of was due to this having been a low snow year, making everything less visible, and people are getting hit at night. This year is on pace to beat last year's fatalities. Everyone needs to take responsibility and not drive distracted or impaired.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY asked for further conversation regarding the issue with the state match for federally funded projects and what some of the impacts might be. Community members are concerned about delays, such as the Fish Creek Trail. She was also curious how the Technical Advisory Committee felt about their next meeting being on July 3 and if it should be adjusted.

LAUREN LITTLE with DOT&PF explained that DOT&PF has a sufficient state match to cover their FY25 program, as planned. If the legislature takes action during session when it starts up in January, they do not foresee any long-term impacts associated with the current situation of matched. If they do not take action, DOT&PF will see some impacts with the FY26 and FY27 programs.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY asked if the legislature would have to reappropriate the \$50 million that was vetoed.

MS. LITTLE replied, yes, they would in order to appropriate additional match funds.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY asked how much federal funding is at stake if the legislature appropriates and the governor vetoes the appropriation.

MS. LITTLE explained that with the current vetoes, roughly \$600 million in federal funds would be at risk. It would be a statewide impact and is not specific to FHWA funding. A match would have to be provided for a variety of federal programs, including the FAA and the FTA.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

JASON NORRIS had submitted a letter noting some frustration with the slow pace and change regarding pedestrian/cyclist safety. He expressed gratitude for the efforts being made to make things move forward (slow as they may be). He did realize there are certain bureaucratic and financial fiscal challenges getting this done.

MR. KOHLHASE moved to extend the meeting to 3:10 p.m. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

a. Update on the Academy and Vanguard Drive Project

STEPHANIE MORMILO with HDL Engineering Consultants provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The committee discussed that if construction occurs on the 92nd Avenue state project in advance of the Abbott Road intersection, it sounds like there would not be a signalized intersection installed at Abbott and pedestrian facility upgrades on Vanguard.

9. ADJOURN

ASSEMBLY MEMBER GOECKER moved to adjourn. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.