

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

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

**April 27, 2023
12:30 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
Wolfgang Junge	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)
Kent Kohlhasse	Municipal Manager, Mayor's Office
Emma Pokon	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Air Quality
Daniel Volland	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Kevin Cross**	MOA/Municipal Assembly

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Rhiannon Brown	AMATS
Jon Cecil	AMATS
Joni Wilm	AMATS
Morgan Miller	HDR
Luke Bowland*	DOT&PF
Stephanie Mormilo	HDL
Aaron Hunting	DOT&PF
Marcy Hensch	DOT&PF
Marc Luiken	Michael Baker International
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Deidre Peterson	DOT&PF
Sean Baski	DOT&PF
Shannon McCarthy	DOT&PF
Bart Rudolph	MOA/Public Transportation Department (PTD)
Steven Rzepka	DOT&PF
Trevor Strait	HDL
Randy Brown	MOA/PTD
John Linnell	DOT&PF
Alex Read	DOT&PF
Ron Johnson	
Taylor Horne	HDR

**AMATS Technical Advisory Committee Member*

***Designated Assembly Alternate*

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

CHAIR JUNGE called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Kent Kohlhase, Municipal Manager, represented Mayor Bronson. Assembly Member Cross acted as Designated Assembly Alternate for Assembly Member Zaletel. A quorum was established prior to the arrivals of Assembly Member Cross at 12:32 p.m. and Ms. Pokon at 12:34 p.m.

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.

Assembly Member Cross joined the meeting telephonically at 12:32 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MR. KOHLHASE moved to approve the agenda. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – March 23, 2023

MR. KOHLHASE moved to approve the minutes. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Narrative

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is required by federal law under Title 23 CFR 450.308. The Draft 2024-25 UPWP defines the transportation planning activities and products to be developed by AMATS and other transportation planning agencies during the federal fiscal years of 2024 and 2025 (October – September). He recommended Task 532 – Public Involvement Outreach and Task 534 – Website and Social Media be combined under Task 532 as the website and social media are considered public involvement and it makes sense to have one task for both.

Ms. Pokon joined the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

There were no comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to release the narrative for public review.
MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

b. Critical Urban Freight Corridors

MR. CECIL provided a brief recap that the Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFCs) are priority freight segments that typically consist of first- or last-mile connector routes from high-volume freight corridors to freight-intensive land and key urban freight facilities, such as the Port of Alaska. They lie within an urbanized area, or urban cluster as defined by the Census Bureau. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established a mileage cap of 122.22 miles of CUFCs for Alaska. DOT&PF (in consultation with MPOs) can designate CUFCs on both state and local networks. To date, Alaska has designated 15 miles of urban corridors.

At the March 23, 2023 Policy Committee meeting, it was discussed that A Street and Benson Boulevard were missing from the table. Those segments have been added for discussion. The revised total of proposed CUFCs is 35.9 miles with the addition of Benson Boulevard from Lois Avenue to LaTouche Street and A Street from the Port of Alaska to E. Tudor Road.

There were no comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to approve the designation of Critical Urban Freight Corridors. MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND expressed some concerns regarding A and C Streets with so many studies coming up and ongoing studies currently taking place.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

**c. Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Nomination –
Monica Ratliff**

MS. WILM noted that the AMATS Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is the citizens' forum for bicycle and pedestrian issues affecting the AMATS area. This group serves to make recommendations about bicycle and pedestrian planning issues to the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee. Members of this committee serve rotating three-year terms. Committee bylaws limit members to two consecutive terms. Monica Ratliff would be filling the vacant BPAC Anchorage School District seat and replacing John Miller, who had served 6 years.

MR. KOHLHASE commented that Ms. Ratliff appeared to be very qualified and it is always nice to see members of the community that are willing to step up and donate their time to an effort such as this.

There were no public comments.

MS. POKON moved to approve the appointment. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

a. Mountain Air Drive Update

ALEX READ and AARON HUNTING with DOT&PF provided a PowerPoint presentation.

In response to Mr. Kohlhase's question as to how well-attended was the open house, MR. READ noted there were just under 30 people in attendance.

There were no public comments.

b. Safer Seward Highway Presentation

SHANNON MCCARTHY with DOT&PF and MORGAN MILLER with HDR provided a PowerPoint presentation.

There were no comments.

c. AMATS Safety Forum

MS. WILM provided a PowerPoint presentation.

CHAIR JUNGE noted that DOT&PF has had discussions in the last few months with the Anchorage Assembly regarding the creation of Urban Safety Corridors, within Anchorage. Safety corridors outside the urbanized areas have been discussed, but not Urban Safety Corridors, so this is brand new. He suggested Ms. Wilm send an invitation to Scott Thomas as he was the lead in these discussions and frame this in a way that would complement or provide linkages to any Urban Safety Corridors created in the future possibly allowing an alignment.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND asked, if those are on-street facilities, could a Critical Urban Freight Corridor coexist with a designated Urban Safety Corridor?

MR. JONGENELEN replied, yes, because they are two different designations.

CHAIR JUNGE agreed with Mr. Jongenelen, adding that they are different data-driven events and outcomes. The Urban Safety Corridor criteria has not been defined yet, since it is new for the State of Alaska. It is a State of Alaska Headquarters led effort to develop that

policy and how DOT&PF will proceed. His suggestion for Ms. Wilm was to try and create the linkage with the crew when moving forward on their safety forum process making it complementary to each other.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER CROSS asked if there had ever been any consideration to connect Eagle River to Girdwood via Crow Pass? That would resolve a multitude of problems with transportation, housing issues for Girdwood, and eliminate some of the traffic flow on the Seward Highway from Portage to Girdwood. It is a contentious subject, but most of the residents in Eagle River have continually mentioned how remarkable it would be.

CHAIR JUNGE noted that it would be very challenging and he was not aware that any planning studies have ever looked at that as an option. He will ask their statewide planning department and provide an answer.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER CROSS had spoken with long-term Chugiak/Eagle River residents that the way it was drawn up for Eagle River and Girdwood was to actually be part of a different Borough, separate from Anchorage. That was the intention long ago.

There were no public comments.

d. Public Input Survey

MS. SCHUETTE provided a PowerPoint presentation.

There were no comments.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION - None

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MR. KOHLHASE announced that he is replacing Mr. Trombley.

CHAIR JUNGE noted that he will be retiring at the end of May. Additional DOT&PF employee retirements and replacements are as follows:

1. Todd Vanhove (longstanding planning chief) is retiring the end of the week and will be replaced by Ben White. Mr. White was originally at ADOT Headquarters.
2. Scott Thomas is retiring the end of May after 33 years of service.
3. Tom Schmid, Kelly Summers, and Alan Drake are also retiring.

He asked Assembly Member Volland if he and Assembly Member Zaletel are still working on scheduling an Assembly transportation working group to be held in May?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND replied, yes, and he is hoping to have a date set by next week.

CHAIR JUNGE added that DOT&PF had a great kickoff with the Girdwood Fire Department in receiving donated funds for rescue equipment. He appreciated the city and legislature backing them on this project. The fire stations along the Seward and Sterling Highways now all have brand new rescue equipment.

MR. JONGENELEN informed the committee that AMATS added some funding in the TIP to replace fairly old nonmotorized maintenance equipment for the Municipality of Anchorage. FHWA just granted approval for us to move forward with helping replace the machines during the next few years and provide benefits to everyone.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

MS. POKON moved to adjourn. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.