

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

**January 8, 2026
1:00 PM**

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
Brad Coy	MOA Traffic Engineering Department
Ben White	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Anchorage Field Office
Brian Lindamood	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
Luke Bowland	DOT&PF
Mélisa Babb	MOA/Planning Department
Melinda Kohlhaas	MOA/Project Management & Engineering Department (PM&E)
Adeyemi Alimi	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Taylor Keegan	MOA/Parks & Recreation Department
Jim Jager	Don Young Port of Alaska Interim Director
Mourad Dawoud	MOA/Health Department
Bart Rudolph	MOA/Public Transportation Department

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Rhiannon Brown	AMATS
Emily Weiser	AMATS
Leifiloa Felise	AMATS
Tanya Hong	PM&E
Kate Dueber	ARRC
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Zakary Hartman	MOA/Traffic Engineering Dept.
Brandon Telford	PM&E
Terry Umatum	MOA/Don Young Port of Alaska
Will Taygan	
David Weber	

**Policy Committee Member*

***Policy Committee Designated Alternate*

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CHAIR COY called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

AARON JONGENELEN 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.

Mr. Dawoud joined the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MR. LINDAMOOD moved to approve the agenda. MR. BOWLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – December 4, 2025

MS. KOHLHAAS moved to approve the minutes. MS. BABB seconded.

MS. KOHLHAAS noted that Mr. Kohlhaas' title should be Public Works Director.

CHAIR COY referred to Agenda Item 7, Committee Comments, and corrected the language in his comment to read, "Chair Coy thanked DOT&PF for the option to participate in the Seward Highway: O'Malley to Dimond Advisory Committee meeting and stated that due to Mr. Jongenelen's absence, he was asked to answer questions regarding AMATS' input on the projects' purpose and need."

Mr. White joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

MS. BABB moved to amend to include the changes requested by Ms. Kohlhaas and Chair Coy. MR. JAGER seconded.

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved, as amended.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. 2023-2026 AMATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification #4

MR. JONGENELEN noted that an administrative modification to the AMATS 2023-2026 TIP is needed to update Table 1: Summary, Table 2: Complete Streets, and Table 3: Active Transportation. The two Spenard Road Rehabilitation projects are being updated to show that it is a 50/50 match between the municipality and DOT&PF, instead of just being the municipality's responsibility. The following two additional changes regarding the match split need to be incorporated.

1. 4th Ave Signals and Lighting – Cordova to Ingra needs to be a 50/50 match split, which is in Table 2.
2. The 3rd Avenue Reconstruction from E Street to Gamble also needs to be a 50/50 match split match between the municipality and DOT&PF, so adding that in is being requested as part of this TIP administrative modification.

These changes meet the requirements outlined in the AMATS Operating Agreement, Section 6.6.2. and Policies and Procedures #5.

MR. BOWLAND appreciated working the Downtown Trail Connection into an administrative modification allowing the change to be made quickly, since the project is close to being advertised.

MS. KOHLHAAS thanked Mr. Jongeneelen for including these other projects: the 4th Avenue Signal and Lighting and the 3rd Avenue Reconstruction. With regard to the Spenard Road Rehabilitation Project from Minnesota to Northwood Drive, she noted that there is an item before the Assembly tonight that will be reclassifying this particular segment from a minor arterial to a collector roadway. If that passes, we may have to revisit the match split in the future. For now, it is still an item that has not been moved forward, so the change we are making now would be correct. She believed the municipality would be paying a 100% match of the 9.03% match requirement.

MR. JONGENELEN mentioned that a funding code change was just emailed to him and would fall in line with what we are doing with these administrative modifications that the committee might be interested in incorporating. Under the AMATS Area NHS Pavement & Bridge Preservation Project, there is a chunk of funding that says State STBG (Surface Transportation Block Grant). It appears the request is to change that to NHPP (National Highway Performance Program). It is not an error but is a change that can be made with no delays.

MR. WHITE explained that the code change is necessary and is just following protocol but would need an amendment to include the change.

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the amendment would include the funding code change and the two additional changes to the match split if the committee wishes to include them.

There were no public comments.

MS. KOHLHAAS moved to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the 2023-2026 TIP Administrative Modification #4, with some amendments that include adding two corrections to the projects to include 4th Avenue Signal and Lighting: Cordova to Ingra and 3rd Avenue Reconstruction: E Street to Gambell that show a 50% match split between MOA and ADOT. The other amendment would be modifying Table 8: AMATS Area NHS Pavement for FY26 funding. MR. BOWLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

b. Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Business Set Appointment

MS. SCHUETTE noted that these six seats are represented by members of the public from each of the Assembly districts. David Weber has applied for the District 5 seat vacancy. Mr. Weber has served on his community council board advocating for transportation issues. As a member of the CAC, he would like to advocate for more participation from voices not yet heard from.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

DAVE WEBER introduced himself and provided a brief history.

MS. KOHLHAAS moved to recommend to the Policy Committee to appoint Dave Weber as a member of the CAC. MR. JAGER seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

c. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) District 5 Appointment

MS. WEISER noted that Will Taygan has applied for the business representative seat that has been vacant for two years. He is employed by Trek Bicycle Store of Anchorage and is active in the bicycle community and various activities.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

WILL TAYGAN introduced himself and provided a brief history.

MR. JAGER moved to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of Will Taygan to serve on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. MR. LINDAMOOD seconded

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS -**a. 50th Anniversary of AMATS**

MR. JONGENELEN announced that 2026 is the 50th anniversary for AMATS. AMATS was first designated as an MPO by the governor in April 1976. MS. SCHUETTE created a logo just in celebration of their 50th anniversary, not changing the AMATS logo. MR. JONGENELEN added that maybe some shirts, stickers, and other swag will be available. MS. SCHUETTE noted that the history's feature could be made available online following the Policy Committee meeting.

MS. KOHLHAAS noted that it is exciting and a nice job on the logo presentation. It shows representation of all users in the road corridor.

MS. SCHUETTE replied to Mr. Jager that the logo shows cyclists on their own separated pathway.

There were no public comments.

b. Next TAC Meeting Overview

MR. JONGENELEN informed the committee that February is a safety month, so AMATS safety targets & the Public Transportation Department's safety targets will be before the committee for recommendation and approval. He will reach out to Mr. Lindamood for ARRC. Ms. Weiser has taken over as AMATS' Safety Coordinator and will be putting together the safety target settings. There will be some informational items, project updates, and possibly the Quarter 1 Obligation Report. There are no items to hold a March meeting, and he will also be traveling in and out of the country.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MS. KOHLHAAS announced that PM&E hired a civil engineer as their new project administrator, Rob Kinnaird, who will be specifically focused on federally funded projects, AMATS projects, and working alongside project manager Tanya Hong.

MR. LINDAMOOD noted that the railroad is bringing in the new year by driving pile all over Anchorage. For those that have questions, the bridge right outside of their office, Downtown to Ship Creek, is getting replaced in part to make room for a bike path. Likewise, down at Potter Marsh, after the earthquake in 1964, they put in three 60-inch iron culverts to replace the bridge to provide the community of Potter Marsh. If anyone would like to know how long untreated steel culverts last in the ocean, it is about 62 years. Last October, one of the culverts decided it did not want to be a culvert and the culvert next to it thought that was a great idea. That is being fixed along with the bridge. If you are wandering around in the woods in Eagle River, following DOT&PF's lead with replacing the bridge over Eagle River, they were replacing their own bridge over Eagle River, which can barely be seen, but they are driving pile on that. Hopefully, by March, it will be a lot quieter as far as the pile driving. They are trying to keep it drained during regular daily hours.

MR. JAGER announced that the Anchorage Assembly appointed a new permanent port director last December, Terry Umatum. In addition to representing the port, he has a long tie to the Alaska trucking industry and will be filling the Technical Advisory Committee's seat.

MS. BABB clarified that Ms. Kohlhaas' mention of the Official Streets & Highways Plan Reclassification effort is not today but will be Anchorage Assembly agenda item #14 for a public hearing on Tuesday.

MR. WHITE announced that James Starzec will be in an acting status for a Transportation Planner 3 position at statewide planning. In the interim, it may be two months or more depending on hiring freezes, etc. Mr. Starzec is moving on to a bigger and better position with more responsibilities, and Mark Eisenman will be stepping in and helping them out. He and Mr. Eisenman have some big shoes to fill.

MR. BOWLAND announced that the draft environmental assessment for the Safer Seward Highway went out for a 45-day public review in late December. He believed the comment period will end around February 12.

CHAIR COY noted that with the new year there is also a new AMEA contract, which affects a lot of the municipal positions. The Vision Zero coordinator is getting reposted. They have not been able to find anybody, and the salary range will look a lot bigger and get a bump from just a few different changes that happened with the new contract. If it was not attractive to you last month, hopefully it will be attractive to you this month. They do hope they can fill the vacant positions both in their department and other parts of the city with those who want to come and join us, similar to how Rob (Mr. Kinnaird) joined us. That is what he has for the Traffic Engineering Department.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

MR. JONGENELEN asked for feedback from those online regarding the sound. Their response was that the sound was great

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Coy adjourned the meeting at 1:41 p.m.