

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

**March 5, 2026
1:00 PM**

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
Brad Coy	MOA Traffic Engineering Department
Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
Luke Bowland	DOT&PF
Ben White	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Anchorage Field Office
Mélisa Babb	MOA/Planning Department
Melinda Kohlhaas	MOA/Project Management & Engineering Department (PM&E)

Virtual:

Bart Rudolph	MOA/Public Transportation Department
Taylor Keegan	MOA/Parks & Recreation Department
Mourad Dawoud	MOA/Health Department
Adeyemi Alimi	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Rhiannon Brown	AMATS
Emily Weiser	AMATS
Leifiloa Felise	AMATS
Pannapa Puttong	AMATS
Sarah Davenport	
Alex Bell	RSG, Inc.
Alexa Dobson	Bike Anchorage Executive Director
Craig Lyon	
Lindsey Hajduk	Director of Community Engagement & External Affairs & BPAC
Brian Elliott	DOT&PF
Connor Eshleman	DOT&PF
Emily Haynes	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Jeff Frkonja	RSG, Inc.
Joni Wilm	Honu Planning
Chris Hughes	HDR
James Marks	HDR
Alex Read	DOT&PF
Anna Bosin	DOT&PF
Linda Smith	

Erin Baldwin Day*	MOA/Assembly Member
Zakary Hartman	Traffic Engineering Department
Mark Eisenman	DOT&PF
Rob Kinnaird	PM&E
Nicolette Dent	Parks & Recreation Department
Will Taygan	Chugach Mountain Bike Riders

**Policy Committee Member*

***Policy Committee Designated Alternate*

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CHAIR COY called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Kate Dueber represented the Alaska Railroad Corporation on behalf of Brian Lindamood. Terry Umatum, Don Young Port of Alaska Interim Director was excused. A quorum was established prior to Mr. Dawoud joining the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

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.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MR. BOWLAND moved to approve the agenda. MS. BABB seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – February 5, 2026

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

MS. KOHLHAAS referred to page 9, noting that the comment in the middle of the page should be Taylor Keegan (TK), not Melinda Kohlhaas (MK).

MS. KOHLHAAS moved to amend the motion with the correction to page 9. MR. BOWLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

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

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)

MR. JONGENELEN noted that AMATS has been made aware of potential CMAQ funding that is set to lapse in FFY28. As of today, we have been notified that there is \$18.6M in available CMAQ funding that needs to be obligated by FFY28. AMATS staff and DOT&PF planners have coordinated on possible solutions to ensure that all the departments' CMAQ is funding is obligated in a timely manner. AMATS would like to formally request that the department make the CMAQ funding available for the Anchorage Downtown Transit Center. The total cost of this effort is \$25M based on initial planning and engineering efforts. This funding would allow the Municipality of Anchorage to advance the construction of the much-needed transit center in Anchorage. This funding would augment the Municipality of Anchorage's and AMATS' funding for this coordinated effort. The department could also opt to provide another level of funding depending on their needs. AMATS does realize there are a lot of needs across the state, and there may be a desire to fund other needs.

The committee discussed the project not currently on the Transit on the Move plan but that it will be included in the updated plan. A presentation is scheduled for later on today's agenda during informational items.

There were no public comments.

MR. RUDOLPH moved to recommend approval to the Policy Committee to send the letter to DOT&PF. MS. BABB seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

b. Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment #2

MS. BROWN noted that the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment #2 was released for a 45-day public comment period, in which 21 comments were received. Based on the comments received, the amendment was not changed, but eight comments were received that staff is requesting guidance from the committee to review and make recommendations to the Policy Committee.

In response to Ms. Babb's request to provide more detail on the comments, MS. BROWN explained that the eight comments received were from Bike Anchorage, BPAC, and a citizen expressing some concerns, and all but one were for the TIP NHS, which was for the Seward & O'Malley to Dimond project.

MR. BOWLAND noted that the O'Malley to Dimond project continues to move forward on the Stakeholder engagement in terms of revisiting the scope of that project. It is still in the public involvement process.

MS. KOHLHAAS pointed out that in the comments there was a request to remove the project from the MTP. She would like to see the analysis be further explored to understand if there is an aux lane needed to address ramp weaving and safety. There was interest expressed

previously regarding revising the purpose and need, and she would like to hear more from the public process about interest and ideas on connectivity and serving non-motorized facilities. For that reason, she would be interested in keeping the project in the MTP so that the project can have more development to understand both of these items.

MR. BOWLAND reiterated that after the stakeholder group engagement, there will be a public involvement portion. This will be back before the committee to discuss some of the recommended scope elements that DOT&PF will be looking to advance based on the stakeholder engagement and further refinement with the public involvement process.

MR. JONGENELEN echoed, having the committee request the project team provide a presentation to both the TAC and PC once they have more information.

MS. BABB asked if DOT&PF had any further thoughts on the content of the comments.

MR. BOWLAND noted that he listened in on the stakeholder engagement meeting they had the previous Friday but was not able to stay the entire meeting. He suggested requesting a detailed response from the project team, but there will be many conversations in the future. NEPA will be re-evaluated, but with the scope not defined right now, he did not know how much benefit there is to going into the details right now.

CHAIR COY mentioned that he is part of that group and felt it was open to expressing both concerns and perspectives. It does seem a bit early since no decisions have been made.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

WILL TAYGAN CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

MS. KOHLHAAS moved to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the 2050 MTP Amendment #2. MR. BOWLAND seconded.

MS. KOHLHAAS moved to amend to request the DOT&PF project team provide a presentation on the Seward Highway: O'Malley to Dimond project to the PC and the TAC and specifically request a response to the eight comments heard from the public. MS. BABB seconded.

In response to Mr. Bowland, MS. KOHLHAAS pointed out that the project team may not firm responses, but to just provide a status of the conversations that have taken place with the advisory committee allowing transparency, recognizing the comments, and what their next steps will be, instead of waiting too long for a firm answer.

MR. BOWLAND was just concerned that the project team may have to come back a second time by not having the answers. There will probably be another MTP amendment; a refined cost estimate will need to get back into the TIP and will come before AMATS multiple times in the future. Given a lot of the concerns and input received to date on this, they will have to have a robust presentation on the elements of the project they want to move forward with; here is the justification for it and the reasons why they are including it. They can have the project team come, but these questions will play out in the next 6 to 12 months very publicly.

MS. KOHLHAAS was sensing frustration in the comments and having the team come earlier and providing more input on forming and shaping of the scope with this new purpose and need would help guide understanding of what the stakeholders are interested in.

MR. BOWLAND would prefer to wait until after the stakeholder working group process and then bring it back to the committee at that time as opposed to answering questions that may or may not apply to scope elements that may or may not be included.

MS. BABB offered a friendly amendment for the Policy Committee to set a timeline for the presentation and that the TAC recommends it be sooner rather than later.

MS. KOHLHAAS accepted the friendly amendment. MS. BABB seconded.

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

Hearing no objections, the main motion, as amended, passed.

c. 2023-2026 Funding Program (TIP) Amendment #4

MR. JONGENELEN noted that on January 1, 2026, AMATS released Amendment #4 of the 2023–2026 Funding Program (TIP), updating the following tables: Table 1 (Summary), Table 2 (Complete Streets), Table 3 (Active Transportation), Table 4 (Plans and Studies), Table 5 (CMAQ), Table 6 (Pavement Replacement), Table 7 (HSIP), Table 8 (NHS), and Table 10 (Other Federal, State, and Local Funds). AMATS released Amendment #4 for a second 15-day public comment period on February 23 to incorporate four additional changes made based on feedback from the initial comment period. The new public comment period is open until March 9, so comments received on the revised amendment and responses from staff will be provided directly to the Policy Committee for their March 19 meeting. Staff recommended removing the small section in Table 2 that reads, “To upgrade 32nd Avenue from Benson Boulevard to Lois to current collector standards.” The request is to remove the current collector standards from the description, the reason being the project is being designed as a local road, not as a collector road.

MR. RUDOLPH noted the proposed change from Transit was not part of the original amendment. They have a project in the CMAQ table for youth and seniors to ride free, but they were informed that this is not an eligible project for TA or CRP project funding. The Administration and the Assembly agreed that the youth ride free and added an extra day for seniors to ride free, so this project is no longer needed. They are intending to propose moving all that funding from 2023 -2025 into the Downtown Transit Center project for FY26. The project is number CMAQ 00015.

MR. WHITE referred to Table 8, NHS 0006, for the Glenn Highway MP 134 Rehabilitation from Airport Heights to the Parks Highway, noting that the project team stated they will need to add \$3M in design for FY26 to try and wrap it up and get it ready for construction and the next step in project development.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

ALEX READ

MR. BOWLAND moved to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the 2023-2026 Funding Program TIP Amendment #4 and Air Quality Conformity Demonstration. MS. BABB seconded.

MR. RUDOLPH moved to amend the CMAQ table for project 00015 to move all the funding from FY2023 – FY2025 into CMAQ project 00018: Downtown Transit Center for FY2026. MS. BABB seconded.

1st Amendment:

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

MR. WHITE moved to amend Table 8: NHS006 Glenn Highway to add \$3M in FY26. This will be NHPP with the possibility that it could be AC. MR. BOWLAND seconded.

2nd Amendment:

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

MS. KOHLHAAS moved to amend to add the 32nd Avenue project correction to change the description, removing the portion of text being upgraded to collector standards. MS. BABB seconded.

3rd Amendment:

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

Hearing no objections, the main motion, as amended, passed.

d. 2027-2030 Funding Program (TIP)

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the current Funding Program is set to expire at the end of 2026. AMATS held two work sessions on what to expect with the next four years of funding in September of 2025. AMATS Staff then prepared the draft 2027-2030 Funding Program for review. The public review period ran for a 45-day review period from January 1st to February 15th.

The committee discussed the narrative signal and lighting referenced on page 14 being changed to 3rd Avenue.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

WILL TAYGAN

MR. WHITE moved to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the TIP Narrative and the 2027-2030 TIP Narrative Air Quality Conformity Determination. MS. KOHLHAAS seconded.

MS. KOHLHAAS moved to amend to recommend to the Policy Committee the inclusion of an Illustrative project for the Eagle River Pathway Study to get more information on the cost and configuration for the future. MS. BABB seconded.

1st Amendment:

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

MR. BOWLAND moved to amend the narrative on page 14 to correct the name of the 3rd Avenue Signals and Lighting project to the 3rd Avenue Reconstruction. MS. KOHLHAAS seconded.

2nd Amendment:

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

Hearing no objections, the main motion, as amended, passed..

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS -

a. People Mover – Transit on the Move Presentation

STEPHEN STONE with People Mover presented Transit on the Move.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments,

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN DAY

b. 32nd Avenue Project Presentation

TRAVIS HOLMES with DOT&PF and DAVE GAMEZ with Lounsbury & Associates presented the 32nd Avenue project.

The committee discussed right-of-way sections and potential one-way.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN DAY
LINDSEY HAJDUK

c. Next TAC Meeting Overview

MR. JONGENELEN noted there will be a joint work session for the TAC and PC in April to discuss the Climate Action Plan. The next meeting will cover HSIP nominations for this year.

There were no comments.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MR. JONGENELEN informed the committee that Ms. Puttong (Mook) has accepted another position elsewhere within the municipality and expressed his appreciation for her exceptional work while on AMATS.

MS. BABB also expressed appreciation for Ms. Puttong's work with the Planning Department.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

MR. LYON added that during his time as the Planning Department's Director, Ms. Puttong's performance was above what was expected of her.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.