

August 4th, 2014 AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee Meeting
11:30AM- 1:00PM Department of Health & Human Services

AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Jedediah Smith	Public Transit Advisory Board, AAQAC Chair
John Laux	Health & Human Services Commission
Jon Spring	Planning & Zoning Commission
Jim Brown	Environmental Professional
Kimberly Morgan	Health & Safety Professional
Bruce Lee	Citizen Representative
Neil Thalaker	Citizen Representative

Public and Staff in Attendance:

Craig Lyon	MOA Transportation Planning / AMATS MPO
Steve Morris	MOA/DHHS
Anne Schlapia	MOA/DHHS
Chris Salerno	MOA/DHHS
Matt Stichick	MOA/DHHS
Aaron Jongenelen	ADOT&PF

The meeting began with roll call at 11:38 am.

Approval of March 7, 2014 meeting minutes: Motion by Jim Brown / 2nd by John Laux
The March 7th minutes were approved without changes.

Update on revisions to Anchorage Air Quality Ordinances

Matt Stichick reviewed the May 14, 2014 public hearing at which the Anchorage Health and Human Services Commission, with support of AAQAC members in attendance, passed a motion to recommend approval of proposed more stringent emission standards for inclusion in Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC). The proposed emission standards include a 20% opacity limit for woodstoves, fireplaces and other solid fuel heating devices, and a limitation allowing only EPA phase-2 qualified outdoor wood boilers to be installed in the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). Those proposed standards were presented to the ADEC Commissioner for approval, along with staff's justifications and supporting documentation. Upon response from the Commissioner, staff will submit the full list of requested air quality code revisions to the Anchorage Assembly for approval. Matt agreed to keep AAQAC and HHSC members informed of scheduled Assembly hearings on these changes (anticipated in fall 2014).

Review of Air Quality Conformity Determination for the AMATS 2015-2018 TIP

Matt reviewed the purpose of the air quality conformity determination to demonstrate how the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is consistent with measures in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) to maintain good air quality in the Municipality of Anchorage. Matt said that the MOA now has approved Limited Maintenance Plans (LMPs) in effect for maintenance of the CO and PM₁₀ air quality standards in Anchorage and Eagle River respectively. These plans simplify the process for demonstrating conformity with the SIP. The LMPs allow staff to project maintenance of air quality standards by demonstrating that in recent years, pollutant concentrations within the designated maintenance areas remain below a threshold at which EPA believes maintenance of National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) over the remainder of the planning period is reasonably likely. Matt explained that his data analyses show that Anchorage CO

design values (concentration metrics in the form used for comparison to the NAAQS) are well below the compliance threshold for the CO LMP. Eagle River PM₁₀ design values in recent years are below the PM₁₀ LMP compliance threshold, but with a smaller margin of safety.

Matt said that the Interagency Consultation Team (comprised of representatives from ADEC, ADOT, DHHS, EPA and FHWA) had reviewed and approved the conformity determination which is posted for public review and comment through August 10, 2014.

In response to a question from **Jon Spring** about additional conformity requirements considered in the conformity determination Matt said that the determination affirmed compliance with Transportation Conformity Rule requirements including:

- Use of the latest planning assumptions
- The ability to implement transportation control measures (TCM) in a timely manner as needed
- Interagency and public consultation

Jon enquired whether the metropolitan planning organization (AMATS) had demonstrated fiscal constraint and whether a newly proposed funding structure for the Knik Arm Crossing (KAC) project changes that finding. Matt acknowledged that the transportation conformity rule requires AMATS to demonstrate that TIP is fiscally constrained. **Aaron Jongenelen** indicated that ADOT and AMATS were currently in the process of reviewing fiscal constraint of projects in the TIP and **Craig Lyon** confirmed that FHWA must approve projects listed in the TIP and anticipated funding sources for their scheduled phases of completion. Craig said that the TIP does not include the latest KAC project proposal which anticipates TIFIA loan funding; however the next revision of the metropolitan transportation plan (MTP) would if the latest proposal receives approval by the state legislature.

Motion to recommend approval of the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the AMATS 2015-2018 TIP to the AMATS TAC: The motion by Bruce Lee / 2nd by Jim Brown passed unanimously.

Anchorage Air Quality Trends

Matt gave a presentation on Anchorage air quality trends in recent years. CO concentrations in Anchorage are declining and CO is a pollutant of decreasing concern. PM_{2.5} continues to be pollutant of potential concern (with annual design values ranging between 1/2 to 2/3 of the NAAQS) and PM₁₀ remains the pollutant of greatest concern. An additional exceedance of the PM₁₀ NAAQS in Anchorage prior to January 2016 would represent a violation of the standard.

Matt also reviewed the results of the most recent (2013) air toxics study in which mean ambient concentrations of benzene were found to be about half of those measured during 2008 and 2009.

Staff attributes this change to EPA regulations implemented in 2011 which significantly reduced the proportion of benzene that refiners are allowed to include in the gasoline they produce.

Motion to adjourn

A motion by Jim Brown/ 2nd by John Laux to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 pm passed unanimously.