

March 23rd, 2009 AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

AMATS Committee Members in Attendance:

Toni Jones	MOA, Planning & Zoning Commission
Lois Epstein	Alaska Transportation Priorities Project.
Mary Ellen Gordian	ISER, UAA
Barbara Garner	Citizen Representative, UACC
Scott Lytle	ADOT & PF, Stevens Anchorage International Airport,

Staff and Public in Attendance:

Jeffrey Manfull	Public Trans. Advisory Board
George Conway	CDC, Municipal Health Commissioner
Cindy Heil	ADEC, Air Quality, PZC
Aneta Synan	ADOT & PF
Dave McCargo	Citizen
Chris Tofteberg	MOA, Environmental Services
Steve Morris	MOA, DHHS AQ
Yuriko Yano	MOA, DHHS AQ
Chris Salerno	MOA, DHHS AQ
Anne Schlapia	MOA, DHHS AQ
Matt Stichick	MOA, DHHS AQ
Stacey Cooper	MOA, DHHS AQ
Alton Staff	MOA, Public Transportation
Craig Lyon	MOA, AMATS, Transportation Planning
Neil Thalaker	Citizen

Toni Jones called the meeting to order at 11:38am. A quorum was present later during the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and Toni invited public participation. **Steve Morris** said the AMATS TAC recommended appointment of Jeff Manfull and George Conway, and AMATS Policy Committee will consider the appointments Thursday, March 26. Steve said a third nominee is still needed.

CO Plan and SIP Schedule

Steve Morris directed the group to the table of tasks and deadlines he believes are necessary to extend the new car grace period from 4 years to 6 years for the Inspection and Maintenance Program (I/M). He said the modified carbon monoxide (CO) plan must go through AMATS and the Anchorage Assembly prior to submittal to ADEC as a proposed SIP amendment. **Dave McCargo** asked if the SIP was on line. Cindy Heil said it was not in its entirety. Steve said the present CO plan is on the AMATS site. **Mary Ellen Gordian** asked if CO₂ was part of the SIP. Steve said that only EPA-designated criteria pollutants are included in the SIP. Dave asked if changes in State regulation are required. Steve affirmed they were. The modified CO Plan is not completed; Steve requested concurrence with the schedule. Steve affirmed the AMATS Air Quality Committee would be given an opportunity to review the draft CO Plan during the 30-day public comment period and that their comments would be forwarded to the AMATS TAC and Policy Committee. **Toni Jones** said P&Z may also want to review the plan in their capacity as the AMATS Citizen Committee.

Acceptance of Prior Meetings Minutes

The Citizens Group unanimously approved the meeting summary for the 23 February 2009 meeting as presented.

Review of AMATS Evaluation Criteria for Roadways, Transportation Enhancements, and CMAQ

AMATS is beginning the process of developing a new Transportation Improvement Program for 2009-2012. AMATS is reviewing the criteria used to prioritize federal funding for roadway, transportation enhancement and congestion mitigation/air quality (CMAQ) projects. **Lois Epstein** reviewed a sheet of her suggestions for the committee (handout provided). Lois and Toni met outside the committee to consider evaluation criteria for ranking plans and projects nominated for funding through AMATS. Lois recommended consistency between criteria for different categories and accord with the 2020 Plan. Public comment has been extended until April 3rd. **Craig Lyon** said because the pools for the funds are distinct, and each category has different focus, it makes sense that the criteria are different. He said that Cindy Heil and Tom Wilson (MOA Transit – retired) spent many hours refining the criteria and scoring sample projects to test whether criteria values resulted in sensible scores. **Cindy Heil** said they started the assessment with the FHWA criteria to get the sense of the funds' purpose. ITS technology was valued based on federal guidance for CMAQ. Because almost all CMAQ projects are implemented by Transit, ADEC or DHHS government support is necessary to ensure that there is a government entity willing to implement a nominated project. **Mary Ellen Gordian** recommended these not be changed arbitrarily since much time went into development, but agreed that CO₂ reduction be incorporated. Steve said "reduces VMT" can be a complicated criterion because some claim that expanding the capacity of a congested roads induces more traffic, others disagree. Cindy agreed the criterion could be very political. Craig said he'd like the committee to address the CMAQ criteria, at least. Steve agreed to send the group the expanded CMAQ criteria. The committee will resume discussion on criteria next meeting. The committee agreed to meet soon in order to draft committee comments for submittal to the TAC.

Lois Epstein noted that Lynn Peterson was giving a presentation on Thursday March 26 on Portland's experience with connecting land use planning and transportation investment. Steve noted that the Volcano Observatory would be hosting a talk by Geoff Plumlee, an expert on the environmental impacts of dust. His talk begin noon, April 16th at Glenn Olds Hall on the APU campus.

Adjournment

The next Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for 31 March 2009. The committee adjourned at 1:00 PM.