

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION
FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MS TEAMS Online
Anchorage, Alaska**

**NOV. 10, 2021
3:00 PM**

Those in attendance were:

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>REPRESENTING</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Joe Michel | ATA |
| Steve Ribuffo | Port of Alaska |
| Dan Smith | MSC/ADOT&PF |
| Doug Thompson | Holland America-Princess |
| Richard Heath | UPS |
| Mike Thrasher | TOTE/OCEAN |
| Robert Sherrill | USAF, DLA |
| Steve Ribuffo | Port of Alaska |
| Jimmy Doyle | Weaver Bros. |

Excused: Terri Lindseth, TSAIA

Absent: Brian Lindamood, ARRC, Darren Prokop, UAA

Other Participants:

Craig Lyon, AMATS

Jon Cecil, AMATS

Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS

Christine Schuette, AMATS

James Starzec, DOT/PF

Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker

Marc Luiken, DOT/PF

Eric Taylor, DOT/PF

Kathryn Hensley, MSC/DOTPF

1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MICHEL called the online meeting being conducted via MS Teams to order at 3:00 PM. A quorum was initially not established but was established about five minutes into meeting.

2. **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.** Mr. MICHEL read the public involvement message. A recording will be available of the meeting along with a sign in sheet.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approval moved for agenda by MR. RIBUFFO; seconded by MR. THOMPSON. *Agenda approved unanimously.*

4. **MINUTES** – MR. RIBUFFO moved to approve with no objections to approve the AUGUST 11, 2021 meeting minutes. **Minutes approved unanimously.**

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. **Expected Action of Freight Advisory Committee for 2021** – No further actions expected for 2021 actions. JOE MICHEL suggested preparing a letter regarding TIP Criteria.

6. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

- a. **Discussion of Urban Freight Corridors as part of the Alaska Long Range Transportation Plan and Alaska.** Brian Funkhouser with Michael Baker delivered a PowerPoint presentation. Firm of Michael Baker has been working with Kittelson & Associates, and DOT/PF on update to the State's freight plan. Seeking review comments that benefit Anchorage metro area for inclusion in the statewide freight plan. Consultants are about midway through the planning process for this project. Developing summary of existing conditions. Tech memos have been submitted and reviewed with state advisory committee. Working with freight committee on priority freight corridors. Looking to update State designations. State has opportunity to designate eligible road segments for new federal freight system (\$19M). Critical Urban/Rural Freight Corridors – looking at opportunities available for additional designations for segments that could be certified by the federal government. Looking at statewide multimodal freight network with upgrades and updates as well. Looking at action strategies. Federally Designated Freight System – another source of federal funding available to Alaska.

Looking at existing corridors (first and last mile connectors) roadways of statewide significance. Every state in nation has been given an allowance for this network (AK = 122 miles have been allocated). Fewer than 15 miles have been designated and certified by FHWA (all in Fairbanks Urbanized area). Anchorage has opportunity to add to this network. On rural side all mileage is consumed by the Dalton Highway (235 miles). Looking to the FAC for input and suggestions to designate and certify urban freight corridors in Anchorage. These roadways would then be eligible freight system funding. Identified candidates for these urban freight corridors. Identified list from AMATS Freight Mobility Plan (2017). Proposed additional urban freight corridors are in greater number in Anchorage area. There are some in Wasilla area (dependent on whether Mat-Su is designated as an MPO. Comments/Initial Reactions: JOE MICHEL thought list was excellent. Couple of access points could be added. Will circulate list among ATA members. Will forward PPT to Eric Taylor w/DOTPF. The SOA is well under the mileage cap of 122 miles, few limitations with regard to that. JOE MICHEL asked if more roads up to say 85 miles could be provided. Michael Baker replied that the federal FAST Act allows for that. Freight Plan update will be revised by state on recurrent basis (every 5 years). That cycle may be shortened to every 4 years. DOTPF will continue to monitor. Changes and edits can be made on the fly so to speak so you don't have to wait up to 4 or 5 years. JOE MICHEL suggested list be circulated among member agencies and groups. Upcoming meetings on state advisory freight committee – Brian Funkhouser will continue to coordinate with Eric Taylor. Overview of State Priority Freight Corridors – Very different from federal side. State system as a planning tool for the State STIP. 2016 State Plan identified critical corridors (roads, railroad, marine highways, seaports, airports). Making modifications to this priority network. Proposing adding routes. MR. RIBUFFO asked about designations for Alaska Marine Highway System and marine highway routes (Blue line on map). Asked for clarification. Marc Luiken responded to question. MARAD definition and State definition. Need to clear this up. Graphic will be updated by Michael Baker.

- b. Update on TIP Criteria (staff)** – Craig Lyon responded that TIP Criteria have been put out for public comment and got about 140 comments. Staff is adjudicating those comments before going to TAC and PC. Criteria previously presented to FAC. JOE MICHEL asked if any member did not have a copy of the proposed TIP Criteria. Craig Lyon noted that call for nominations, looked at prior plans, agency comments. Hoping to have criteria approved. Wrap up of new TIP is expected by August 2022. JOE MICHEL asked what the top two freight projects are in the TIP? Craig Lyon noted some projects are underway now, i.e., Seward-Glenn Hwy PEL is looking at port connections. Will look in MTP as there may be projects not identified in the TIP yet.
 - c. Update on 2050 MTP (staff)** – Aaron Jongenelen introduced himself. Explained purpose of MTP. Right now, staff is developing goals and objectives for the plan. Provided timeline. Releasing for 30-day public comment period. Survey forthcoming. Working on performance measures and criteria should be ready for comment in March 2022. Brian Funkhouser asked about potential for inclusion of projects from MTP into State Plan. Interested in any project priorities from MPO region.
- 7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS.** JOE MICHEL will update committee members as freight projects are identified. It would behoove FAC to find some projects in Anchorage Bowl.
 - 8. UPCOMING MEETINGS.** Feb. 10, 2022 is next FAC meeting.
 - 9. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.