

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Mayor's Conference Room, 8th Floor
632 W. 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska**

**May 16, 2024
1:00 PM**

*This meeting is available for viewing at
[Transportation Planning / AMATS Meetings \(muni.org\)](https://www.muni.org/transportation-planning/amats-meetings)*

Policy Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
Sean Holland	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)
Kent Kohlhas	Municipal Manager, Mayor's Office
Jason Olds	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Air Quality
Daniel Volland	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Meg Zaletel	MOA/Municipal Assembly

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Jon Cecil	AMATS
Mook Puttong	AMATS
Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
Brian Lindamood*	ARRC
Luke Bowland*	DOT&PF
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Sean Baski	DOT&PF
Jason Norris	
Mark Eisenman	DOT&PF
Anna Bosin	DOT&PF
Brad Coy*	MOA/Traffic Engineering Dept.
Julie Jenkins	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Chris Hughes	
Morgan Miller	
Nancy Pease	
Brandon Telford	MOA/Project Management & Engineering Dept. (PM&E)
Cathy Gleason	Turnagain Community Council
Zakary Hartman	MOA/Traffic Engineering Dept.
Bart Rudolph	MOA/Public Transportation Dept. (PTD)
John Linnell	DOT&PF
Craig Lyon*	MOA/Planning Department
Colin Singleton	CRW Engineering
Steven Rzepka	DOT&PF
Allison Bolgiano	MOA/Assistant Municipal Attorney

**AMATS Technical Advisory Committee Member*

***Designated Assembly Alternate*

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

CHAIR HOLLAND called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Kent Kohlhase, Municipal Manager, represented Mayor Bronson. A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

AARON JONGENELEN encouraged public involvement in this meeting of the AMATS Policy 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. KOHLHASE moved to approve the agenda. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

MR. JONGENELEN informed the committee that that he had received a request from DOT&PF to add a STIP amendment update to the agenda as a Project Plan Update item.

CHAIR HOLLAND noted that he had not yet heard back from Deputy Commissioner Keith, but if she is able to join the meeting, to add the update as 6.b. and move Item 6.b., Pavement Replacement Project Discussion to 6.c.

Hearing no objections, the agenda, as amended, was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – March 21, 2024

MR. KOHLHASE moved to approve the minutes. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

Assembly Member Zaletel joined the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Narrative Update

MR. JONGENELEN noted that an update of the 2023-2026 TIP Narrative is needed to help address Corrective Action #1 from the 2023 TMA (Transportation Management Area) Certification Review.

23 CFR 450.326(c) and (d) Development and Content of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

The TIP must include a description of the effect of the projects on achieving the federal performance targets. This includes analysis and clarification of how the TPM (Transportation Performance Management) was administered through project selection and/or prioritization and how projects in the TIP will support the TPM targets. The TIP must include a description that demonstrates how projects contribute toward achieving the selected performance targets identified in the MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan) and link investment priorities to those performance targets.

There were no comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to approve. MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

b. AMATS Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update

MR. JONGENELEN noted that an update of the PPP is needed to help address Corrective Action #2 from the 2023 TMA Certification Review:

23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(vi) Interested parties, participation, and consultation:

The PPP must include information about the disposition of public comments and how/where the public can gain access to the disposition of public comments as part of the final MTP and TIP documents.

There were no comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to approve the update. ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

c. 2024-001 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Resolution on People Mover Bus Route R.

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the AMATS CAC held a special meeting on February 27, 2024, to discuss People Mover Route R as outlined in the 2020 Transit on the Move Plan on page 69 and the need for this route in the Chugiak/Eagle River area.

The committee discussed possibly sending this to the Public Transit Advisory Board, and sending this back to the CAC for a revision with guidance from staff,

CHAIR HOLLAND opened the floor to public comments.

KYLE MIELKE
BART RUDOLPH
JAMES STARZEC

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to refer to the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) for People Mover. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL noted that the following are her reasons for sending this to PTAB:

1. Their ability to evaluate it in the context of the current strategic plan that People Mover has. Does this request mean we should make a change to the strategic plan?
2. To explore the microtransit option and what funding might be available for that. Is there an interim solution while we look at the bigger solutions?
3. This advisory board is very familiar with route setting and the prioritization of the routes already adopted by the Policy Committee, so they are in a better position to take a request like this, evaluate it within People Mover's capacity, and use various funding sources.
4. PTAB can think outside of just AMATS or CMAQ funding, look at what might be available, and bring that back to this committee. This committee would then be in a better position to know what the role of AMATS might be. PTAB can also forward it to the Assembly and the municipality to generally see if there is not some leveraging, or an interim and long-term solution.

In response to Assembly Member Volland's question if other microtransit programs are currently operating in Anchorage, MR. RUDOLPH explained that there is not, but we are currently looking at establishing one in South Anchorage (south of Dimond all the way to Potters Marsh) and discussion could be had about moving that to Eagle River.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

d. 2024-002 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Resolution on Minnesota Drive Wall

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the AMATS CAC held a special meeting on March 12, 2024, to discuss the Minnesota Wall and passed resolution 2024-002 with the following recommendations:

1. Setting a timeline for a remedial safety project in 2024 that engages the Community Councils and other stakeholders, as requested by SCC and TCC.
2. Address SCC and TCC concerns that the median fence/wall has made non-motorized crossing less safe.
3. Make effective improvements to both the safety and convenience of non-motorized crossing of Minnesota Drive at Northern Lights and Benson Boulevards as soon as possible.

4. Ensure stakeholder collaboration for future non-motorized safety projects in Anchorage by engaging Community Councils and stakeholders at the early scoping stage and during project design.

The committee discussed DOT&PF improving their communication throughout the region to address any concerns, the Anchorage Assembly having passed its own resolution regarding, midblock crossings, fence material and location options, HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) project requirements, and any federal funding ramifications if the fence were removed prior to the 3-year monitoring requirement.

CHAIR HOLLAND opened the floor to public comments.

KYLE MIELKE
NANCY PEASE
JASON NORRIS
CATHY GLEASON, Turnagain Community Council

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to encourage DOT&PF to coordinate with communities in the area, update the TAC and PC as needed and take a more holistic look at what problems exist in the area and come back with possible solutions. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

a. Protected Bike Lane Pilot Project Presentation

ZAKARY HARTMAN and BRAD COY with MOA Traffic Engineering Department, ANNA BOSIN, with DOT&PF, and COLIN SINGLETON with CRW Engineering provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The committee discussed safety with project's location, data collection from users, and types of barriers

CHAIR HOLLAND opened the floor to public comments.

JASON NORRIS
ALLISON BOLGIANO

b. STIP Amendment Update – DOT&PF

This item was postponed due to the unavailability of those presenting the update.

c. Pavement Replacement Project Discussion

MR. JONGENELEN updated the committee on the project.

The committee discussed funding sources, interagency coordination, and resurfacing project timelines.

There were no public comments.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS –

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND noted that when it comes to addressing pedestrian safety, we are also supporting the needs of pedestrians. When the HSIP funding discussion takes place, he feels that part of that conversation should include intervention and if this could be a preferred policy if we are going to try to deter pedestrian activity at certain locations that while at the same time, putting in another crossing or another mechanism to help support active transportation.

CHAIR HOLLAND expressed that he and his staff will always be available to answer any questions or provide guidance regarding Title 23 requirements.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

KYLE MIELKE noted that his appointment request to sit on the Public Transit Advisory Board has been declined for the past two years, but he is even more encouraged by all that has been before the PTAB that he is one of the only members of the public that has attended all the PTAB meetings. He spoke with the director of the Public Transit Department, and she recommended him to the mayor. Even though there is a lot of contention regarding boards and commissions, his effort has been longstanding and has been long before all of this contention.

MR. JONGENELEN informed the committee that, due to AMATS' staff shortages, the advisory subcommittee meetings will not be held until staff is available to attend. The CAC, FAC, and BPAC have been very active recently, but the CAC will be the only committee continuing to meet due to federal requirements. He added that tomorrow (May 17) is bike-to-work day.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to adjourn. MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.