

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

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

**June 20, 2024
1:00 PM**

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[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 Kohlhasse	Municipal Manager, Mayor's Office
Adeyemi Alimi	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Air Quality
Daniel Volland	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Mark Littlefield**	MOA/Municipal Assembly

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Daniel Mckenna-Foster	MOA/Long-Range Planning Division
Mark Eisenman	DOT&PF
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Zakary Hartman	MOA/Traffic Engineering Dept.
Luke Bowland*	DOT&PF
Ben White*	DOT&PF
Brandon Telford	MOA/Project Management & Engineering Dept. (PM&E)
John Linnell	DOT&PF
Bart Rudolph	MOA/Public Transportation Dept. (PTD)
Steven Rzepka	DOT&PF
Allie Hartman	MOA/Assembly Assistant
Joselyn Biloan	DOT&PF
Adam Moser	DOT&PF
Alex Read	DOT&PF
Adam Bradway	DOT&PF
Anna Bosin	DOT&PF
Lindsey Hajduk	AMATS Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (BPAC)
Brad Coy*	MOA/Traffic Engineering Dept.
Julius Adolfsson	DOT&PF, Juneau

**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. Adeyemi Alimi represented the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in Jason Olds' absence. Designated Assembly Member Alternate Mark Littlefield represented Assembly Member Zaletel. 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. ALIMI moved to approve the agenda. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – May 16, 2024

MR. KOHLHASE moved to approve the minutes. MR. ALIMI seconded.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. ACTION ITEMS**a. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Nominations**

MR. JONGENELEN noted that on May 20, 2024, DOT&PF presented HSIP projects that are in the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) during a joint session with the TAC and PC and discussed HSIP nominations being accepted originally for July 1, 2024, but have been extended for three months. Any nominations from AMATS will be sent to DOT&PF for consideration. The recently completed AMATS Safety Plan identified the following nine corridors through a priority assessment that can be considered for future funding:

- a. Bragaw Street from Northern Lights Boulevard to the Glenn Highway
- b. Debarr Road from Lake Otis Parkway to Boniface Parkway
- c. Mountain View Drive from Commercial Drive to Bragaw Street
- d. Lake Otis Parkway from Northern Lights Boulevard to 68th Avenue
- e. Muldoon Road from Duben Avenue to Northern Lights Boulevard
- f. Boniface Parkway from Tudor Road to Boundary Avenue

- g. Northern Lights Boulevard from Lake Otis Parkway to Muldoon Road
- h. Dimond Boulevard from Victor Road to Seward Highway
- i. Old Seward Highway from East 76th Avenue to Klatt Road

The Municipality of Anchorage is submitting an SS4A (Safe Streets and Roads for All) grant for the Bragaw Street Corridor.

The committee discussed nominating corridors, looking at problem areas, and individual project scoring through the HSIP program. They also discussed the five corridors that were identified as priorities in the Safety Plan

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to approve. MR. ALIMI seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

b. 3C (Comprehensive, Cooperative, and Continuing) Process

MR. JONGENELEN noted that, as part of the STIP development cycle, corrective actions were assigned by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Tier 1 was partially addressed as part of the STIP approval, and now Tier 2 corrective actions are underway. Shown below are the Tier 2 corrective actions required before a STIP/TIP amendment will be approved:

Federal Planning Finding Tier 2, 1a Corrective Action:

DOT&PF must develop and implement processes and procedures for a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) planning process that meets the requirements of 23 CFR 450.208. These documented procedures should also include the DOT&PF's role and responsibility for oversight of MPOs, procedures for air quality conformity, Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) development, MPO certifications, STIP development, and other joint planning processes.

DOT&PF met with MPO staff on May 21 and May 29 to talk through the 3C process document. AMATS TAC and PC are being asked to review this document and provide any comments. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the document and provided the following comments for consideration:

1. Update the bullet for "Project Prioritization and Selection" under "STIP Development" to include a presentation to the TAC and PC on the prioritization process and what projects were selected instead of the Project Evaluation Board (PEB).
2. Can a flow chart be created to outline the STIP process so it is easier to understand?

CHAIR HOLLAND noted that this item was discussed at the MVP and MPO Policy Board meeting this week and he had recused himself from participating because the MVP staff was looking for board approval to send a memorandum to DOT&PF, and he felt he should not participate. Upon hearing no objections, he did not recuse himself from this discussion. The committee discussed project off-ramping, specifically around Policy Committee members having access to information regarding federal payback and a collaborative process.

JAMES STARZEC assisted with responding to questions.

In response to Assembly Member Volland's question about whether this could be added as a future agenda item, MR. JONGENELEN explained that it could be added because there will probably be additions and edits later. DOT&PF is looking into developing some type of planning manual. There is an opportunity for further discussion about that type of information. He reminded everyone that the process is a little different for the STIP now because everything is going to be in the TIP, versus both the TIP and the STIP for individual projects. If a project wants to receive federal funding, it has to be put into the TIP, and we need to make sure staff has enough information to explain to the committees why this project is being added. It may be good for us as an MPO to lay out some groundwork as to what the committee wants staff to bring forward when a project is recommended to be added to the TIP or when we develop a new TIP.

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to forward the recommendations to DOT&PF and to have periodic update language included in the document. MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

c. Letter of Commitment for DOT&PF SMART (Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation) Grant

MR. JONGENELEN noted that staff was notified about a discretionary grant opportunity that DOT&PF is anticipating applying for, known as the SMART (Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation) grant. It looks at projects that will help revolutionize what we do for transportation projects and planning. DOT&PF is looking to apply for a grant for the implementation of the Alaska Data Bike Program. The intent is to leverage data collection technology on bicycles to monitor active transportation facility conditions, improve infrastructure maintenance, and enhance safety across Alaska's extensive path and trail network. It is more of a cost-friendly approach to collecting active transportation pavement data by putting sensors on bicycles and having them use the facilities and collect the data as they use it. This is a more innovative approach to collecting data more often

than what we do now and using that data to help with project selections. It also helps engage different communities to assist with collecting this data. The three phases of this grant consist of planning, implementation, and project success.

JULIUS ADOLFSSON responded to committee questions regarding collecting only the condition of the asset; any facility will be included that cannot be captured (sidewalks, paths, or boardwalks) with our current method of evaluating pavement conditions; and the magnitude of the grant application being in the realm of \$100-200,000 for the first phase that would acquire the equipment to assess the hours attributed and start a mini-pilot to see how it could be implemented in Alaska.

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to forward the letter on behalf of the AMATS Policy Committee. MR. ALIMI seconded.

In response to Assembly Member Volland regarding who rides the bikes, MR. ADOLFSSON expressed that we are just in phase one, but his thoughts are that they could use local volunteers, interns, or maybe project staff could ride a bike when traveling to a project.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

5.d. RESOLUTION FOR JON CECIL

MR. JONGENELEN announced that Jon Cecil is retiring, and staff is presenting a resolution recognizing and honoring Jon for his many years of service and achievements with AMATS.

MR. KOHLHASE expressed his appreciation, adding that he had worked with Jon prior to his role with AMATS.

There were no public comments.

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

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

a. MOA Long-Range Transportation Strategy

DANIEL MCKENNA-FOSTER provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining the strategy.

There were no comments.

b. STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) Update

BEN WHITE presented the STIP update.

There were no comments.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MR. KOHLHASE informed the committee that this is his last Policy Committee.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

9. Adjourn

MR. KOHLHASE moved to adjourn. MR. ALIM seconded.

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Draft Minutes