

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

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

**September 19, 2024
1:00 PM**

*This meeting is available for viewing at
[Transportation Planning / AMATS Meetings \(muni.org\)](http://Transportation Planning / AMATS Meetings (muni.org))*

Policy Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
Sean Holland	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)
Graham Downey	Mayor's Special Assistant for Housing & Transportation
Jason Olds	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Air Quality
Meg Zaletel	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Mark Littlefield**	MOA/Municipal Assembly

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Mook Puttong	AMATS
Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
Anna Bosin	DOT&PF
Ben White*	DOT&PF
Alexa Dobson	Bike Anchorage
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Mark Eisenman	DOT&PF
Marie Heidemann	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Brandon Telford	MOA/Project Management & Engineering Dept. (PM&E)
Noah King	DOT&PF
Adeyemi Alimi	ADEC
Mark Eisenman	DOT&PF
Sean Baski	DOT&PF
Brad Coy*	MOA/Traffic Engineering Dept.
Allie Hartman	
Bart Rudolph*	MOA/Public Transportation Dept. (PTD)
Zakary Hartman	MOA/Traffic Engineering Dept.
Jayme Jones	
Joselyn Biloon	DOT&PF
Jeff Read	Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA)

**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. Graham Downey, Special Administrative Assistant, represented Mayor LaFrance. Assembly Member Littlefield acted as designated alternate in the absence of Assembly Member Volland. 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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to approve the agenda. ASSEMBLY MEMBER LITTLEFIELD seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 15, 2024

MR. DOWNEY moved to approve the minutes. ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL seconded.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. ACTION ITEMS**a. AMATS Boundary Discussion**

MR. JONGENELEN noted that at the August 22, 2024, Policy Committee (PC) meeting, the DOT&PF representative requested the AMATS boundary (approved in February) be reviewed again. DOT&PF had concerns that planned projects along the Seward Highway, to be included in the new AMATS boundary, may be impacted by becoming part of the AMATS process. The boundary was back before the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review the changes made and to determine if the portion along the Seward Highway south from MP 114 to 113.2 should be included in the updated AMATS boundary. AMATS staff submitted the boundary update for Governor approval on August 18, and based on the discussion at the PC meeting, the boundary update approval by the Governor is on hold until a decision has been reached by the MPO. The TAC reviewed this request and recommended tabling this item until the next regularly scheduled TAC/PC meeting to give DOT&PF additional time to review the information provided on the boundary changes.

The committee discussed the general philosophy of how the boundary was extended, total road miles being added, and allocation responsibilities.

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to approve the AMATS boundary. ASSEMBLY MEMBER LITTLEFIELD seconded.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL clarified that there is sufficient information, it is not an addition of substantial road miles, and the justifications for the boundaries as they have moved make good sense. She did know why a delay would be necessary, especially if the MTP is being held up.

MR. JONGENELEN explained that the STIP has delayed everything, including delaying the funding six to eight months from FY2024 to FY2025. The FAST boundary has been held up by the governor since November.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL added that to the extent that the PC can get out of the way of the MTP, she would recommend getting out of the way so that this committee is not the reason for any delays.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

b. 5th Avenue Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Project

MR. JONGENELEN briefed the committee regarding a joint work session held on May 20, 2024, with AMATS PC and TAC in which DOT&PF presented HSIP projects within the TIP. Discussion took place regarding project HSP0014, 5th Avenue: Concrete Street to Karluk Street Pedestrian Improvements. It was requested of AMATS to provide more information regarding the improvements being made.

ANNA BOSIN and NOAH KING with DOT&PF assisted with responding to questions.

The committee discussed community council outreach, maintenance, median options, landscaping, barriers, snow disposal, pedestrian safety, reducing speed limits, lighting, and controlled crossings.

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to postpone to the next PC meeting to allow the Fairview Community Council the opportunity to weigh in on options A through G, plus the TAC recommendation. ASSEMBLY MEMBER LITTLEFIELD seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

c. DOT&PF Statewide Highway Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Comment/Response Letter

MR. JONGENELEN noted that on July 18, 2024, the AMATS PC approved a letter with comments to be sent to DOT&PF regarding STIP Amendment #1, and DOT&PF had provided

a response to those comments on August 26. He also asked the committee for direction regarding a letter asking for additional requests of AMATS related to minor changes to the TIP document and showing prior year obligations before the current TIP. This is a corrective action that the STIP had received as well. When FHWA says entire total project costs, they mean prior year obligations, what you have in your fiscal year of the TIP or STIP, and then future year anticipated amounts.

The committee discussed the document being executed in 2002 with no indication showing the six or eight updates have taken place, so there might be value in updating it. They also discussed what prompts the updates and reviewing the Operating Agreement for any possible changes.

MR. JONGENELEN mentioned regarding the PC that there was a lawsuit filed and the courts found that was not valid if it forces a redesignation of the PC. It has to be a cooperative agreement between the parties if there is going to be a change to the PC makeup and is done through the Operating Agreement itself. The PC does not have to follow that statute as the MPO, but could.

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to approve. ASSEMBLY MEMBER LITTLEFIELD seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

d. Letter of Support for Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Grant Application

MR. JONGENELEN noted that DOT&PF submitted a letter of support to AMATS for a project they are looking at partnering with the Native Village of Eklutna for the North Fork Campbell Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project.

There were no comments.

MR. DOWNEY moved to approve. MR. OLDS seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

e. DOT&PF and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 3C Process Document

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 corrective actions were partially addressed as part of the partial STIP approval, and now Tier II corrective actions are underway. The Tier II corrective actions are required before a STIP/TIP amendment will be approved.

The committee discussed other joint planning efforts regarding the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), MOA-appropriated money, a separate long-range strategy (LRTS) plan, coordinating with MPOs, and the document having too many acronyms and being difficult for the public to understand. They also discussed if there is a requirement for the State of Alaska's LRTP to incorporate an LRTS strategy.

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to accept the document. ASSEMBLY MEMBER LITTLEFIELD seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

f. Policy Committee Agendas Review

CHAIR HOLLAND requested for staff to provide the PC a preview of the TAC agenda, allowing the PC a few days to either add or change any items prior to making it available to the public.

The committee and staff discussed placing limits on agenda items and what limits PC would place on any changes made to the TAC agenda.

MR. JONGENELEN pointed out that staff has, in the past, provided the PC a copy of the TAC agenda once it has been posted to the public, allowing the members to review what would tentatively be on the PC agenda.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL noted that the chairperson generally gets to set the agenda as the power of the chair. As long as the committee continues to observe Robert's Rules of Order, any member can move to add something to the agenda. If there is some openness to doing that, any member could bring it to the chairperson's attention to see if it could be added early or do it in the moment. We have a lot of mechanisms to be flexible with the agenda that are built into the processes that exist.

CHAIR HOLLAND's intent was to have the ability to add an item in advance to the TAC agenda for consideration prior to coming to the PC.

MR. JONGENELEN clarified that, historically, the chairperson has not set the agendas for either the PC or the TAC, it has always been staff based on what people send to them. This way it keeps it on neutral ground, unless the committee has a desire to change that. Staff can provide a draft in advance of the TAC agenda being posted for the PC to be able to add an item.

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to postpone indefinitely. ASSEMBLY MEMBER LITTLEFIELD seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

MR. JONGENELEN combined items 6.a. and 6.b. and provided a brief update.

a. Alaska Safety Roadway Behavior Symposium

b. Alaska Safety Partner Event

The committee discussed road and pedestrian safety, enhanced lighting, speed limits, traffic signal timing, urban safety corridors, the AMATS Safety Plan, the Vulnerable Users Plan (VRU), public education, tinted car windows limiting visibility, enforcement, and VisionZero goals.

MR. JONGENELEN added that AMATS staff was invited to participate in reviewing the four fatality sites. AMATS is partnering with the Center for Safe Alaskans and does have a non-motorized safety campaign currently underway.

There were no public comments.

c. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment #1 Work Session - October

MR. JONGENELEN explained that there is the possibility of needing an MTP amendment, but more discussion has been requested. A joint work session with the PC, TAC, and invite the Safer Seward Highway to provide an update on that project is being considered to take place in October in lieu of holding a regular meeting. To also have the PC provide direction on how staff should approach the MTP amendment and start it at the same time as the TIP amendment to prevent any delays in the process. He will not be available for the regular meeting in October, but would like to receive any specific questions early in order to be able to prepare responses for the work session.

There were no public comments.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS - None

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

MARK EISENMAN thanked the committee for the culvert grant application letter of support and informed Mr. Jongenelen that the deadline for the application is Monday afternoon.

9. ADJOURN

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ZALETEL moved to adjourn. ASSEMBLY MEMBER LITTLEFIELD seconded.

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.