

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

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

**August 21, 2025  
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:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
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
Daniel Volland	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Erin Baldwin-Day	MOA/Municipal Assembly

**Also in attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Emily Weiser	AMATS
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
Anna Bosin	DOT&PF
Brad Coy*	MOA/Traffic Engineering Department
Luke Bowland*	DOT&PF
Sean Baski	DOT&PF
Lauren Little	DOT&PF

*\*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 represented Mayor LaFrance. 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 BALDWIN-DAY moved to approve the agenda. MR. DOWNEY seconded.

*Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.*

### 4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – June 26, 2025 and July 17, 2025

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to approve the minutes. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

*Hearing on objections, the minutes were approved.*

### 5. ACTION ITEMS

#### a. 2023-2026 Funding Program Administrative Modification #3

MR. JONGENELEN noted that an administrative modification to the AMATS 2023-2026 Funding Program is needed to update Table 3: Non-motorized, Table 7: HSIP, and Table 8: NHS. These changes meet the requirements outlined in the AMATS Operating Agreement Section 6.6.2 and Policies and Procedures #5.

ANNA BOSIN was virtually present and assisted with responding to questions.

CHAIR HOLLAND opened the floor to public comments.

LUKE BOWLAND  
SEAN BASKI

MR. DOWNEY moved to approve. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DEY seconded.

*Hearing no objections, the motion passed.*

#### b. 2025 Public Participation Plan – Comment Response Summary

MS. SCHUETTE noted that this plan summarizes AMATS and all of its primary documents and procedures. AMATS staff received 36 comments on the draft Public Participation Plan and recommended changes based on these comments.

There were no comments.

MR. DOWNEY moved to approve. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DEY seconded.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND disagreed with a comment made that sending outreach materials to underserved individuals does not seem promising but that it is more effective to reach out through community groups, including community councils. His experience is that community councils are not often representative of the wider community, particularly

underserved individuals or diverse audiences. A certain demographic is often seen that is represented primarily by community councils. He supported AMATS in doing whatever it can to engage folks.

***Hearing no objections, the motion passed.***

**c. High-Crash Network Map**

MS. WEISER noted that several plans and analyses have identified high-crash or high-injury locations on the transportation system in the AMATS area. The presence of multiple sources of information can cause confusion or inefficiencies when planning projects. AMATS staff has compiled these sources into a single map displaying the high-crash network in the AMATS area, with a supporting table to provide further details on crash patterns for each corridor. The map and table could be used to inform project prioritization, scope, or design, and to identify areas where regular data analysis would be useful. For example, trends in crash rates. The map and table represent a time-effective effort to compile currently available information to inform projects. The next update of the Safety Plan could build upon this with a more robust analysis that carefully evaluates crash patterns, including by mode and crash severity, to identify roads or hotspots within the AMATS area with the highest safety needs.

CHAIR HOLLAND opened the floor to public comments.

SEAN BASKI

BRAD COY

MR. DOWNEY moved to adopt the attached map as the AMATS High-Crash Network and remain in effect until the next AMATS Safety Plan update is completed. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY asked how to incorporate the information in the table because part of what is helpful with the policy guidance is the type of crash that is occurring and the ranking.

MS. WEISER explained that there is almost a certainty this data will be referenced when developing the scope of a project. Should a project be nominated or considered, for example, on Tudor Road, which would be a huge project, most likely there would not be a project that covered the entire expanse of Tudor Road. If there was a project on a portion of Tudor, she suggested not relying on this table but, instead, going back to the data for the most common crash data.

The committee discussed adding a column for ownership of the road and adding crash rates to identify problem areas

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY moved to amend the motion to include the best data table publicly alongside the high-crash network map until the next Safety Plan update. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

***Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.***

***Hearing no objections, the main motion, as amended, passed.***

**d. AMATS TIP Amendment #4 Project Request**

MR. JONGENELEN noted that at the Anchorage Assembly meeting on July 29, 2025, AMATS staff was asked whether the project description for the Dale and Folker Street upgrade in the FFY25 AMATS Funding Program includes evaluating the intersections of Tudor Road as part of that project. The current project description does not specifically mention those intersections and a request was made for AMATS to consider updating the project description in the 2023–2026 AMATS Funding Program to include evaluating the intersections of Tudor/Dale and Tudor/Folker at the next available meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee. This type of edit would require an amendment to the AMATS Funding Program. The next amendment, which will outline other proposed changes, is expected to begin in October 2025.

CHAIR HOLLAND opened the floor to public comments.

ANNA BOSIN

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY moved to approve. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

*Hearing no objections, the motion passed.*

**e. PC Work Session on the Operating Agreement and Boundary Changes  
Agenda Setting**

MR. JONGENELEN noted that in January of 2025, AMATS sent a letter to the Governor of Alaska and DOT&PF Commissioner asking for more information regarding approval of the AMATS Boundary changes that were submitted in 2024. DOT&PF provided a letter response with concerns about the AMATS Operating Agreement and the amended AMATS Boundary. In March 2025, the PC discussed scheduling a work session to further discuss the letter.

The committee discussed formal legal review options, formal boundary approval from the governor, and AMATS' authority over National Highway System (NHS) roads within the boundary.

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to postpone to the next meeting. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND is hearing that even with having independent legal counsel, the committee may not arrive at consensus as a Policy Committee and envisions potential legal action between parties.

CHAIR HOLLAND does not intend to support the motion to postpone, noting that this has been a topic on the agenda since March, and discussion should go forward because there are other parts of the Operating Agreement that should also be addressed. If there are going to be legal representatives from the municipality, he would certainly have legal representatives from DOT&PF present.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY intends to support the motion, noting that it would allow us to consult with legal counsel, in advance of a public work session, to more fully understand our obligation.

MR. DOWNEY does not intend to support the motion, noting that it would allow the committee to have the meeting on Monday, providing the opportunity to answer the questions being raised.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND noted that he is fine with AMATS' Operating Agreement. If the governor wants to approve the boundaries, great! He is also okay with them continuing to work within AMATS' existing boundaries. He is not interested in changing up the makeup of the Policy Committee and giving the governor more purview and more seats on the body. This is obviously a power move from the state to try to assert more authority over which projects get done within the boundaries and who gets a seat at the table for decision-making and policy-making. He is wary of going into this conversation, given what he has heard, in terms of how it would lead to an outcome that both entities are going to honor. It sounds like we are not going to get there.

MR. DOWNEY expressed that the primary legal question they do need an urgent answer to is who has authority over NHS roads. His position is that AMATS has authority over AMATS projects and there should not be unilateral decisions by DOT&PF. He did not see this as an opportunity by DOT&PF to change the Operating Agreement.

MR. JONGENELEN clarified that the Operating Agreement is between the governor and the mayor, but AMATS is grandfathered in. Should AMATS update the Operating Agreement, the makeup of our Policy Committee, or change the authority of power, then there are specific ramifications that would require redesignation. If we redesignate as an MPO, that would require us to update to current federal regulations on the makeup of the Policy Committee, which means we would have to add providers of public transportation to our board at a minimum. AMATS would have to at least add Alaska Railroad and the Public Transportation Department to this board.

CHAIR HOLLAND called for a roll call vote.

AYE

Assembly Member Baldwin-Day  
Assembly Member Volland

NAY

Mr. Olds  
Mr. Downey  
Chair Holland

***The motion failed with 2 votes in favor and 3 votes against.***

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved that the Policy Committee chair is requesting the Policy Committee to set the agenda for an AMATS work session on jurisdiction over NHS projects within the AMATS boundary. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

MR. DOWNEY clarified that the reason why this has the title "Operating Boundary Agreement" is because the chain letters that led to this question resulted from the boundary in question. There is contention by DOT&PF that the Operating Agreement for AMATS to have control over NHS roads would require a change to the Operating Agreement.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to postpone the item and the work session indefinitely.

***The motion failed for lack of a second.***

In response to Assembly Member Baldwin-Day's question having a representative from FHWA at this meeting, MR. JONGENELEN noted that he will send a request, but he believed FHWA has limits on being able to attend public meetings.

MR. DOWNEY asked for clarification that this motion would determine the agenda for Monday's meeting.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND **withdrew** his motion.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved that the PC set an AMATS work session on jurisdiction on NHS projects within the AMATS boundary. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

MR. JONGENELEN clarified that the motion would be specific to an AMATS work session on jurisdiction over NHS projects in the AMATS boundary.

CHAIR HOLLAND noted that a yes vote would be to change the action to omit the Operating Agreement from the work session and called for a roll call vote.

**AYE**

Assembly Member Baldwin-Day  
Assembly Member Volland

**NAY**

Mr. Olds  
Mr. Downey  
Chair Holland

MR. DOWNEY moved to create the agenda for Monday's meeting to be first defining the legal questions raised in the letter from Commissioner Anderson to AMATS on February 25, 2025, including the question of AMATS authority over National Highway System roads or roads of regional significance and whether that is an expansion or the status quo of AMATS existing authority. Secondly, decide whether it would be valuable to hire outside counsel, including the cost and scope of that. Lastly, it would be what would happen from the results of that legal analysis, including whether it would be binding on DOT&PF, the municipality, and AMATS, and how it would be presented to AMATS. MR. OLDS seconded.

**AYE**

Mr. Downey  
Chair Holland  
Mr. Olds

**NAY**

Assembly Member Baldwin-Day  
Assembly Member Volland

***The motion passed with 3 votes in favor and 2 votes against.***

**f. SAFE Roads (Safe Arterials for Everyone for Reliable Operations and Distraction Reducing Strategies) Initiative from US DOT**

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the Secretary of Transportation for USDOT initiated this recently regarding the estimated safety issues on our roads being unacceptable. The idea is to help improve safety mobility, eliminate distractions, and keep people and goods moving throughout the United States. State DOTs are being asked to develop a list of arterial sections, including intersections with the highest safety operational or compliance concerns to be addressed by the end of FY26, and to work in coordination with the MPO using safety data, analysis, and assessments to develop this list. This item was requested by a Policy Committee member to be put on the August agendas for an update.

LAUREN LITTLE with DOT&PF was present virtually and assisted with responding to questions.

CHAIR HOLLAND opened the floor to public comments.

ANNA BOSIN

MR. DOWNEY moved to postpone indefinitely. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

***Hearing no objections, the motion passed.***

MR. JONGENELEN informed the committee that the September meeting is cancelled. The 2027-2030 TIP is currently being worked on with a work session scheduled September 4, 2025 from 1:00-3:00pm in the conference room on Elmore Road.

**6. Informational Items**

*Item 6.a. was postponed to the next meeting.*

**a. Northern Lights Boulevard Non-Motorized Pavement Project Update**

**b. AMATS Community Advisory Committee Comments on RTP**

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the CAC had submitted comments on the Recreational Trails Plan. The comments were sent directly to the project team with a note that they were submitted directly from the CAC, not the PC. Historically, the comments would come before the PC for approval prior to being sent, which caused delays resulting in missing the comment period.

*The remaining items on the agenda were postponed to the next meeting.*

**c. FFY25 Q3 Obligation Report**

**d. Project Status Update Report**

**e. Next PC Meeting Overview**

**7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

MR. DOWNEY moved to adjourn. ASSEMBLY MEMBER BALDWIN-DAY seconded.

*Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3: p.m.*

Draft Minutes