

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

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

**May 25, 2023
1:30 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
Wolfgang Junge	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

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Rhiannon Brown	AMATS
Joni Wilm	AMATS
Chelsea Ward-Waller	AMATS
Ned Conroy	Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Bart Rudolph	MOA/Public Transportation Department (PTD)
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Sean Baski	DOT&PF
Emily Weiser	
Randy Brown	MOA/PTD
Devora Gonzalez	
Morgan McCammon	DOWL
Dave Gamez	Lounsbury & Associates
Christina Huber	DOT&PF
Travis Holmes	DOT&PF
Steve McKeever	
John Taylor	DOT&PF
Julius Adolfsson	DOT&PF
Julie Jenkins	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Danielle Casey	FTA

**AMATS Technical Advisory Committee Member*

***Designated Assembly Alternate*

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

CHAIR JUNGE called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Kent Kohlhase, Municipal Manager, represented Mayor Bronson. Adeyemi Alimi represented the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation on behalf of Emma Pokon. Kevin Cross, Designated Assembly Alternate for Assembly Member Meg Zaletel, was absent. A quorum was established prior to the arrival of Mr. Alimi at 1:35 p.m.

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 VOLLAND moved to approve the agenda. MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – April 27, 2023

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

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. ACTION ITEMS**a. Certification Review: 10-minute open comment period on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) process**

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the 23 CFR 450.336 (b) states “In Transportation Management Areas (TMA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly shall review and evaluate the transportation planning process for each TMA no less than once every 4 years to determine if the process meets the requirements of applicable provisions of federal law and this subpart.” The last certification review was done in 2019 and AMATS received two corrective actions and two recommendations. The 2023 certification review began May 24th and finished early May 25th and FTA will determine if AMATS has addressed the corrective actions. FHWA and FTA are also present to hear any committee and/or public comments on the transportation planning process.

JULIE JENKINS with FHWA explained that she was in attendance to hear any public comments on the process. FHWA is also interested in hearing from the committee regarding collaboration and how AMATS is fulfilling their processes, and if committee members know that they do have a roll in the process.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Alimi joined the meeting via Teams at 1:35 p.m.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND mentioned that there had been confusion amongst two committee members, that are also members of the Anchorage Assembly, when evaluating whether projects should change scope, be right-sized, or be canceled. One of the questions always raised is that it might involve the state returning the money. The FHWA Division Administrator for Alaska, Sandra Garcia Aline, declined our request to meet to discuss that. As policymakers, it is frustrating when that threat is raised, but we cannot get any information about what the payback amount would be and any potential liability, if we want to cancel a highway expansion. How are we able to make informed decisions if we are not given that information? What are the offramps for these larger projects that involve millions of dollars? Especially projects that were first evaluated 20 years ago that had traffic and population projections completely opposite of current day.

There were no further comments.

b. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Air Quality Conformity Determination

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #1 Air Quality Conformity Determination was released for a 30-day public comment period beginning April 3, 2023. On April 11, the comment period was restarted due to an error having been discovered and corrected in TIP Amendment #1.

There were no comments.

MR. ALIM moved to approve the Air Quality Conformity Determination. MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

c. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #1 went through the interagency consultation process and development of the Air Quality Conformity Determination. The determination was released for a public comment period. During the process, the following three errors were discovered and corrected:

Table 9 – Transit

- Update Table 9 for the following:

FFY 2023-26 TIP Amendment #1						
Project	Carryover	2023	2024	2025	2026	<i>Beyond 2026</i>
Track Rehab (5337)	\$0 \$500	\$100 \$750	\$0 \$700	\$500 \$700	\$320 \$750	\$1,200 \$2,900
Preventative Maintenance (5337)	\$0 \$3,900	\$500 \$1,000	\$1,700 \$150	\$3,900 \$150	\$3,900 \$150	\$9,500 \$1,450
Bridge Rehabilitation (5337)	\$0 \$360	\$0 \$11,000	\$0 \$50	\$0 \$50	\$360 \$250	\$5,640
Total	\$0 \$4,760	\$600 \$12,750	\$1,700 \$900	\$4,400 \$900	\$4,580 \$1,150	\$16,340 \$9,990

In response to Assembly Member Volland’s question if AMATS now has extra money, MR. JONGENELEN explained that this is all Alaska Railroad’s funding and does not impact any projects being funded with AMATS allocations.

There were no public comments.

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

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

a. Northern Lights Boulevard Sidewalk Project Update

MR. JONGENELEN briefed the committee on the project.

DAVE GAMEZ with Lounsbury & Associates provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The committee discussed the width of the new sidewalk and slight acquisitions in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There will also be acquisitions or easements for bus stop pads or for moving utilities out of sidewalks. They also discussed the project not removing bus pullout stops from traffic lanes and resurfacing inside lanes due to having to replace the curb and gutter and sidewalk. Currently, there is an additional DOT&PF Pavement Preservation project that will resurface this portion of Northern Lights Boulevard.

CHAIR JUNGE opened the floor to public comments.

JAMES STARZEC, DOT&PF, asked if the DOT&PF Group A paving project will run concurrently? MR. GAMEZ noted that it is still early in the project and the schedules might line up at the end, but right now they are not dictating the schedule of the sidewalk project with Group A.

b. Q2 2023 Obligation Report

MR. JONGENELEN presented the Obligation Report.

In response to Assembly Member Volland's question that \$14M of the \$16M unobligated Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds will be used on the Spenard Road project, MR. JONGENELEN explained that AMATS has obligation authority, which means AMATS can only obligate 90% of that total. The remaining \$1.6M may be released through August's redistribution. AMATS will work with DOT Headquarters to see what happens with that funding and, if that money does come available, AMATS will have to bring it back before the committee to discuss what to do with that funding.

There were no public comments.

c. Quarterly Project Update

MR. JONGENELEN presented the project update.

There were no comments.

d. Transit Rideshare Update

MR. RUDOLPH with the MOA, Public Transportation Department provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The committee discussed liability.

There were no public comments.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION – None

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

CHAIR JUNGE informed the committee that the following are replacements for DOT&PF employees that have already or are retiring:

Ben White for Todd Vanhove
Galen Jones for Kelly Summers
Aaron Hunting for Tom Schmid

Laura Paul for Alan Drake

John Linnell will be Acting Regional Director.

Ben White will be acting as AMATS Policy Committee Chair until Chair Junge's replacement has been chosen.

Scott Thomas is also retiring and has not yet been replaced.

CHAIR JUNGE thanked everyone for their involvement, noting that this is his last AMATS meeting as he will be retiring next week.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.