

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Planning & Development Center
Main Conference Room, 1st Floor
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska**

**February 11, 2021
2:30 PM**

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted virtually.

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
John Crapps	MOA/Traffic Engineering Department
Todd Vanhove	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Central Region Planning
Brian Lindamood	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
John Linnell	DOT&PF
Kent Kohlhase	MOA/Project Management & Engineering (PM&E)
Matt Stichick	MOA/Anchorage Health Department (AHD)
Jamie Acton	MOA/Public Transportation Department (PTD)
Adeyemi Alimi	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Michelle McNulty	MOA/Planning Department

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Craig Lyon	MOA/Planning
Aaron Jongenelen	MOA/Planning
Christine Schuette	MOA/Planning
Jim Amundsen	DOT&PF
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Bart Rudolph	PTD
John Weddleton*	MOA/Assembly Member
Meg Zaletel*	MOA/Assembly Member
Chris Schutte*	MOA/Economic & Community Development
Darrel Hess	AMATS Citizens Advisory Committee Chair
Mark Luiken	Michael Baker International

**AMATS Policy Committee Member*

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CHAIR CRAPPS called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Steve Ribuffo and Shaina Kilcoyne were excused. A quorum was established prior to the arrival of Mr. Vanhove at 2:33 p.m. and Ms. McNulty at 2:40 p.m.

Mr. Vanhove arrived at 2:33 p.m.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

CRAIG LYON 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. As a result of the virtual meetings, the public has been asked to submit an email request providing their name, phone number, and agenda item to AMATS by 6:30 p.m. the day prior to the meeting, but can also participate via Teams and provide testimony when the item is opened to the public for comments.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MR. STICHICK moved to approve the agenda. MR. ALIMI seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

Ms. McNulty arrived at 2:40 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – December 3, 2020

MR. VANHOVE moved to approve the minutes. MR. LINDAMOOD seconded.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Citizens Advisory Committee Seat Nomination

BACKGROUND:

The AMATS Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is the citizen’s forum for transportation issues affecting the AMATS area. This group serves to review projects and plans, share information with the public, and bring forth recommendations about transportation planning issues to the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee. Members of this committee serve rotating three-year terms. Committee bylaws limit members to two consecutive terms. Jim Winchester will serve as the Planning and Zoning Commission’s representative for the CAC.

MR. LYON informed the Committee that former representative, Brian Looney, is no longer seated on the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). The commission is recommending Commissioner Jim Winchester serve as Mr. Looney’s replacement on the CAC.

There were no comments.

MR. ALIMI moved to recommend to the Policy Committee the appointment of Jim Winchester to the CAC. MR. STICHICK seconded.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

b. Citizens Advisory Committee Name Change

MR. LYON noted that he received a letter submitted by Darrel Hess, AMATS Citizens Advisory Committee Chairman, dated January 21, 2021. Mr. Hess also serves as the MOA Ombudsman and AMATS Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chairman. He is recommending the Policy Committee drop the word “citizen” from the committee’s name pointing out that, when reviewing a brochure for the Ombudsman’s office several years ago, the word “citizen” was used in several instances. The use of this word may have discouraged noncitizens from reaching out seeking their assistance, so he is asking to have it replaced with something other than “citizens”.

The Committee asked for clarification the actual definition of a citizen residing in Anchorage, and how many members of the public are being affected.

MR. ALIMI noted that the dictionary’s definition reads, “A citizen can be defined as a resident of a city or town tied to the privileges in the community.”

MS. ZALETEL expressed that she will be recommending “Citizens Advisory Committee” be changed to “Community Advisory Committee” when this item goes before the Policy Committee.

MR. HESS explained that there is no definition of citizen in code. When he attended community meetings, he would talk about people being citizens because he considered anyone living in Anchorage to be a citizen of the Municipality. He later learned when dealing with different community groups that for someone who is a refugee or immigrant, the word “citizen” has a particular connotation. One does not have to be a U.S. citizen to serve on a board or commission, but the verbiage used to say on the Mayor’s website, “We are always looking for concerned citizens to serve.” We were trying to increase the diversity on boards and commissions, but that verbiage tended to discourage people, who might not be U.S. citizens, from applying.

MR. LYON clarified that AMATS is not a municipal board or commission. It is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) committee, and does not follow the same rules, and is not appointed by the Mayor, solely. The requirement that you do not have to be a citizen is not, necessarily, germane to AMATS.

MR. LINNELL pointed out that there may be a conflict with the state constitution regarding being a U.S. citizen and serving on a board or commission. That would need to be reviewed because, as Mr. Lyon mentioned, this is not just a municipal organization.

MR. HESS added that Ms. McNulty had suggested to consider the word “community” rather than resident or public, which is what he had mentioned. The word “community” would mean the acronym that has been used for years would continue and be less confusing when looking at older minutes, agendas, etc.

MR. STICHICK mentioned that a name change would also trigger a review of AMATS’ bylaws making sure the terms for the committee and who is available to serve as a community member match any changes intending to be made.

MR. LYON concurred that the bylaws of the committee, as well as the AMATS Operating Agreement would have to be changed. Operating Agreement language currently uses “CAC” and “citizens”.

MS. ACTON asked if this has any negative implications when it comes to FHWA and FTA doing AMATS’ annual reviews, or what they are looking for in a committee such as this. Do they require specific verbiage?

MR. LYON replied, no, there is not, and it has not been a topic in our certification over the years. What has been discussed is the creation of the AMATS Citizens Advisory Committee. As you recall, the MOA Planning and Zoning Commission used to serve as our Citizens Advisory Committee and there was language in a previous certification specifically commending AMATS for the creation of our Citizens Advisory Committee. Other than that, the name change has not come up as something we need to do.

MR. LINNELL moved to table this until a quantified demonstrated need for a change is brought forward since it will affect the Operating Agreement. MR. VANHOVE seconded.

MS. MCNULTY asked for clarification what would be a quantifiable and justifiable need.

MR. LINNELL replied that numbers would have to be provided and/or see actual people come forward that have not been able to participate for some reason.

MS. MCNULTY asked if that was only because of the complexity of changing the name and its relation to all other accompanying documents, and as noted in the bylaws.

MR. LINNELL replied, yes, that is correct. It has been pointed out that the definition of “citizen” is someone that is a resident of the city.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

MR. LYON announced that a virtual AMATS Non-motorized Plan open house is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

There were no comments.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

a. AMATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2

MR. LYON and MR. STICHICK briefed the Committee on the Air Quality Conformity Review.

There were no comments.

b. COVID Relief Funding

MR. LYON provided a presentation on relief funding.

MR. VANHOVE added that DOT&PF received this money. Although, it is our understanding that the executives have not yet released the money because they are trying to obtain official definitions from FHWA as to what that money can be used for, and where. It is a new change to open it up to departments, such as Operations and Maintenance. One of the things the State is looking at with the specific amount dedicated to the MPO is if this money goes to the MPO, or does it have to be spent within the MPO. There are two complete allocations of money with one including some additional supplemental money for bridges, alternative fuel corridors, etc.

c. AMATS FFY21 1st Quarter Project Obligation Report

MR. LYON presented the Obligation Report.

There were no comments.

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.