

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Planning & Development Center  
Main Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
4700 Elmore Road**

**January 13, 2022  
2:30 PM**

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

| <u>Name</u>     | <u>Representing</u>  |
|-----------------|--|
| Brad Coy        | MOA/Traffic Engineering Department   |
| Brian Lindamood | Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)   |
| Todd Vanhove    | Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Central Region Planning |
| Luke Bowland    | DOT&PF   |
| Cindy Heil      | Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)                                    |
| Matt Stichick   | MOA/Anchorage Health Department (AHD)  |
| Craig Lyon      | MOA/Planning Department  |
| Bart Rudolph    | MOA/Public Transportation Department (PTD)   |
| Steve Ribuffo   | MOA/Port of Alaska   |
| Shaina Kilcoyne | MOA/Energy and Sustainability  |

Also in attendance:

| <u>Name</u>        | <u>Representing</u>                   |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Aaron Jongenelen   | MOA/Planning                          |
| Christine Schuette | MOA/Planning                          |
| Wolfgang Junge*    | DOT&PF                                |
| James Starzec      | DOT&PF                                |
| Steve Johnson      |                                       |
| Kathryn Wenger     | Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) |
| Andria Cross       | MOA/AHD                               |
| Sean Holland       | DOWL                                  |
| Alimi Adeyemi      | ADEC                                  |
| Diana Rhodes       | Anchorage Park Foundation             |
| Nancy Pease        |                                       |
| John Weddleton*    | MOA/Municipal Assembly                |
| William Taygan     |                                       |

*\*Policy Committee Member*

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

CHAIR COY called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. Mr. Rudolph represented PTD on behalf of Jamie Acton. A quorum was established prior to Ms. Kilcoyne's arrival at 2:35 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**

MR. LYON moved to approve the agenda. MR. VANHOVE seconded.

*Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.*

**4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – December 2, 2021**

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

CHAIR COY referred to page 10 noting a correction to “TIP criteria” that should read “TIP Handbook”.

*Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved, as amended.*

*Ms. Kilcoyne joined the meeting at 2:35 p.m.*

**5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**a. Community Advisory Committee (CAC) District 5 Appointment**

**BACKGROUND:**

*The AMATS Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is the resident’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. Michael Rehberg is being nominated to fill a Public Seat for Assembly District 5.*

MR. JONGENELEN informed the Committee of the vacancy and staff’s recommendation of Michael Rehberg to fill that seat.

The Committee discussed the qualifications of the three applications received (Michael Rehberg, Patrick Malone, Marc Grober), to determine whose knowledge and experience would prove to be most beneficial to the CAC.

CHAIR COY asked for public comments.

MARC GROBER expressed that he had spent a good deal of time talking to people who wanted to be heard by AMATS and people who have been on AMATS advisory committees. They had all indicated that AMATS does not hear them, does not listen to them, and ignores them. Not to put too fine a point upon it that the purpose of the multiple advisory committees, being essentially as identified in their bylaws to convey public input to AMATS, may well be totally missing in that (at least according to his informants and his own experience) it does not happen. He has to wonder if what staff is doing is ensuring that nobody who is an asserter [he begged everyone to understand the difference between assertiveness and aggressiveness], that staff intentionally excludes anybody who is assertive and anybody who wants to bring public concerns to AMATS. Arguably, they are doing a good job, based on his informants. He encouraged AMATS to avoid being offended by the fact that people do not like what you are doing and focus, instead, on the fact that people want to help you do it better. Having reviewed the resumés and that Mike Rehberg is a very nice guy, he would suggest that his resumé has an extensive background in these kinds of matters, especially advocacy and public involvement that you really need. Thank you for the opportunity.

There were no further comments.

MR. LYON moved to recommend to the Policy Committee the appointment of Mike Rehberg to the CAC. MS. KILCOYNE seconded.

CHAIR COY felt, personally, that Marc Grober was the better option.

MR. LINDAMOOD clarified that these recommendations are made by staff and asked if staff could review the applicants a second time.

MR. JONGENELEN stated that the recommendation would remain the same.

In response to Ms. Heil's question that if disruption occurred in any of the committees, is there a way to remove that member, MR. JONGENELEN noted, yes, that is done by the committee itself. That specific committee would make a recommendation to remove such member from their own committee and submit that to the TAC, who then forwards the recommendation to the Policy Committee for consideration.

*Hearing opposition to the motion, CHAIR COY called for a vote.*

YEA

Mr. Lyon

Mr. Rudolph

Ms. Heil

Mr. Vanhove

Ms. Kilcoyne

Mr. Stichick

Mr. Bowland

Mr. Lindamood

Mr. Ribuffo

NAY

Chair Coy

***This motion passed with 9 yeas and 1 nay.***

**b. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification #6****BACKGROUND:**

*An administrative modification to the AMATS 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is needed to update Table 2 – Roadway; Table 3 - Non-Motorized; and Table 4 - Studies and Plans. The updates are listed below.*

**Table 2 – Roadway**

- Update Table 2 to balance the program and add money to start a new pavement project.

**Table 3 – Non-Motorized**

- Update Table 3 to move right-of-way funding for project #NMO00001 Downtown Trail Connection from FY2022 to beyond FY2022.

**Table 4 – Studies and Plans**

- Updated Table 4 to add \$100k in funding to project #PLN00001 AMATS MTP to fund the strategic planning model efforts. Update project descriptions for #PLN00001 AMATS MTP and #PLN00009 AMATS Safety Plan to explain that the FY2022 funding will be using a portion of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) funding, which is outside the AMATS STBG allocation.

MR. JONGENELEN explained the modifications and asked the Committee to recommend approval to the Policy Committee.

CHAIR COY asked for clarification that the additional money is to do more with the Travel Demand Model and is part of the current work being done, and will be ready in time. He also asked how much of this is going to the consultant versus in-house and if AMATS had a consultant in place.

MR. JONGENELEN replied, yes, this is part of the current model being done. We are doing everything we can and are moving quickly to get the funding so we can continue moving forward on the model update. All of it will be consultant work. In-house is funded through the UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program). With regard to the consultant, the contract is still being worked on.

MR. LINDAMOOD referred to Table 3 - Non-Motorized noting that he had seen two or three different versions of the Downtown Trail Connection and was not sure which version was before us today.

MR. JONGENELEN is fairly certain this is for the larger trail connection going near the railroad right-of-way.

MR. LINDAMOOD pointed out there will be construction on that bridge next year.

MR. JONGENELEN indicated that a meeting was just held to discuss this. The information actually came from the project itself asking us to move this out and, as he understood it, we are still in line with meeting those deadlines.

MR. LINDAMOOD was really trying to make sure they can accommodate whatever is necessary because he did not want this project to get pushed so far out that the bridge work is completed prior to the start of the connection project, and then it does not work.

There were no public comments.

MR. LINDAMOOD moved to approve the TIP Administrative Modification #6 as presented.  
MR. VANHOVE seconded.

*Hearing no objections, this motion passed.*

## **6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES**

### **a. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Nominations**

MR. JONGENELEN briefed the Committee on the nominations noting the comment period ends February 14 at 5:00 p.m.

CHAIR COY inquired that if the public completes a nomination form and the way they presented it is almost there, but not as refined as others that have been presented, is there a chance for them to refine it when it gets scored.

MR. JONGENELEN noted that we score them as they are submitted, but if we know there is some type of concern then we can look at that as part of the scoring. When scoring, we can note that information letting the committees know that we recognized this project needed a little tweaking and ask for their thoughts. We want to make sure it is part of the public process ensuring transparency and staff is not making all the changes behind the scenes. Staff may have recommendations for changes, but he would like to preserve what the public had submitted, unless the public stated they did not know, and staff had to do the research and provide that information.

There were no public comments.

## **7. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **a. Advisory Committee Term Limits**

MR. JONGENELEN presented information on the term limits.

CHAIR COY referred to the AMATS Committee Membership Table noting that some members were appointed in 2015 with three-year terms and two term limits. He asked for clarification that the members are typically reappointed after the three-year term to serve their second three-year term. Following the second term, unless they were a specialty organization, we would thank them for their service and open the seat up for applications. Could they reapply?

MR. JONGENELEN replied, yes, they could. For example, an organization existing of only one person and that person is the only one that could represent that organization. This has not yet been discussed how it would be handled, but he recommended to just bring them forward for reappointment by the committees with the recognition that this person is the only person that can fill this seat.

There were no public comments.

#### **8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

MR. VANHOVE noted that those from Headquarters' Program Development TRB (Transportation Research Board) are currently in Washington, D.C., so updates will be forthcoming.

CHAIR COY mentioned that the Traffic Calming position is now open. The Traffic Engineering Department is looking to hire an additional person.

#### **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

*Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.*