

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

**Planning & Development Center
Conference Room 170
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska**

**January 26, 2021
2:30 PM**

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

Citizens Advisory Committee Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Jon Scudder	JBER
Brian Looney	Planning and Zoning Commission
Bruce Bustamante	Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
Mike Fenster	District 6
Jonathan Lang	District 5
Bob French	Federation of Community Councils
Matt Cruickshank	District 2
S.J. Klein	District 1
Jim Winchester	Planning & Zoning Commission

Also in attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Craig Lyon	AMATS Coordinator
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Christine Schuette	AMATS Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK called the meeting to order at 2:32 S.J Klein was absence at roll. Steve Horn had an excused absence. Debbie Rinckey and Kelcie Ralph were absent. A quorum was reached. S.J. KLEIN joined the meeting at 3:05 pm.

2. PUBLIC INVOLEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

CRAIG LYON encouraged public involvement in this meeting of the AMATS Citizens Advisory Committee. He reminded the committee that the meeting was being recorded and the logistics of the Microsoft Teams meeting environment.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK stated that he would like to amend the agenda to add a spot under General Information for an item, Committee member, S.J. Klein corresponded about earlier.

MR. WINCHESTER moved to amend the agenda. MR. FRENCH seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved as amended.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MR. FENSTER moved to approve the minutes. MR. SCUDDER seconded.

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

There were no business items at this meeting.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

a. Glenn Highway Artillery & Hiland Road PEL

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK stated that he had heard that the PEL (Planning and Environmental Linkages) study for both Artillery & Hiland Road had been canceled, but that there was \$6 million appropriated for traffic mitigation in Eagle River and that they were going to use a portion of that mitigation funding for the design phase of Artillery Road. He also stated that he believed that Hiland Road was still part of the MTP, but that he did not know if DOT was actively pursuing the project at this point, but that they are moving forward with the Artillery Road reconfiguration of the overpass.

MR. STARZEC confirmed that the Glenn Highway Artillery & Hiland Road PEL are both being closed. He stated that he believed that there was an active HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Project) to address the Hiland Road on ramp to southbound Glenn, but that he did not have any updated information on it at this time. Mr. Starzec confirmed that he would investigate that and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

MR. FRENCH stated that they just finished reconstructing the Artillery Road overpass and that it might be premature to go back and do everything again.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK stated that they did add a lane so as far as the traffic merging onto the highway, Mr. French's statement was correct. But traffic still backs up and project would deal with how to handle the traffic going through Eagle River.

MR. FRENCH stated that he agreed that traffic was congested and that it seemed strange that they did not do something with the southbound lane on ramp.

b. Non-motorized Plan – Public Review Draft & Virtual Open House

MS. SCHUETTE briefed the Committee noting that the Non-motorized Plan is out for public comment through March 5 and that an Open House was scheduled for February 18th where Ms. Wilm will present the plan and take public comments and questions.

There were no comments.

c. 2040 LRTP

MR. LYON explained the difference between the municipal LRTP (Long-range Transportation Plan) and the AMATS MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan). He stated that the MTP covers all transportation

projects in the AMATS area and uses a variety of funding sources whether it be federal funds, municipal bonds, or state funds. He explained that the two documents usually get approved at the same time, first getting approval through Planning & Zoning and then the Assembly and finally acquiring approval from the Policy Committee. He further explained that this time the federal deadline for the MTP was in a time crunch and there was not time to go the normal course of action. He stated that if the MTP was not approved in time it goes into what is called a conformity lapse and you can't spend any more money until you get out of the conformity lapse. He stated that to avoid this, the decision was made to split the two documents up and the MTP was approved in December and the LRTP is still being approved. He confirmed that the LRTP has gone to Planning & Zoning and next will go to the Assembly. He stated that the LRTP is out for review right now and that the date to go to the Assembly has not been set yet.

MR. LYON further explained that the LRTP is essentially the MTP at this time. Mr. Lyon explained that the LRTP is not an AMATS plan, so it is hard to spend AMATS funds on it. Mr. Lyon stated that the LRTP is the municipality of Anchorage's Long-range Transportation Plan.

MR. FRENCH asked if the LRTP is not an AMATS plan then who is responsible for doing that.

MR. LYON stated that the planning department is responsible for doing that. Mr. Lyon further reiterated that normally the two plans are combined and approved at the same time.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK asked for confirmation as to whether this committee would weigh into the development of the LRTP since it is not an AMATS plan.

MR. LYON confirmed that the LRTP would not come to this Committee for review because it is a municipal plan. He stated that it is the same document that the CAC saw when it was the MTP, but that the LRTP has a different process and is part of Title 21.

d. 2050 MTP

MR. LYON stated that with the federal update cycle, staff is already working on the 2050 MTP and that the RFP (Request for Proposal) for that plan is in the purchasing department.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK reminded the Committee that the CAC participated in a work session for the 2040 MTP and asked Mr. Lyon if the committee would have a chance to do that again for the 2050 MTP.

MR. LYON confirmed that AMATS expects the CAC to play an active role in the development of this plan.

7. General Information

a. AMATS Quarterly Newsletter

MR. LYON brought it to the attention of the committee that AMATS staff is starting a quarterly newsletter in 2021. He further explained that the newsletter would cover current projects and plans, AMATS 101 topics, who works for AMATS and who is serving on the committees to keep members of the public in the loop on what is going on in AMATS.

MR. SCUDDER stated that he thinks the AMATS newsletter is a great idea.

b. S.J. Klein's Proposed Resolution – *amended item to the agenda*

MR. KLEIN stated that he was concerned with some of the priorities set within the MTP and how they correlate to the different plans in Anchorage; the Land-use plans, the non-motorized plan such as how the

MTP correlates to transit corridors in the land-use plan. He further stated that the models and demographics that the MTP is based on are outdated and do not reflect what has happened over the last 10 years or what is expected to happen over the next 10-20 years. He suggested that this Committee start a discussion and write a resolution highlighting that the MTP and the model should be aligned with the current state of Anchorage. He stated that this is something that members of the public have been complaining about for some time and as one of the committees for AMATS, the CAC has some responsibility to bring attention to the issue. He stated that his comments are more of guidance to staff than specific line items in the MTP at this time.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK stated that he was a proponent of discussion and asked for confirmation on S.J. Klein's intentions to draft a resolution discussing this topic. He stated that one option would be to hold a special session once the resolution is ready to be reviewed.

MR. LYON confirmed that a special session could be scheduled at any time. He stated that with the RFP for the MTP still in purchasing, the resolution is not a time sensitive issue.

MR. KLEIN stated that he would work on a resolution.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK stated that the discussion could happen at the next quarterly meeting.

MR. FRENCH stated that one thing that he thought about as Mr. Klein was presenting was that traffic patterns seem to have changed due to COVID-19 and it would be interesting to see the data on those traffic counts and if there is a need to update some of those models.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK noted a Point of Order and asked for confirmation as to whether the CAC could create subcommittees.

MR. LYON stated that he did not think there would be a problem with the CAC forming a subcommittee.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK asked if any committee members would like to be part of the effort in drafting this resolution with Mr. Klein.

MR. FENSTER stated that he would be able to help.

MR. LANG stated that depending on when the draft was ready to review, the Committee could decide about calling a special session on the topic at that time.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK asked for confirmation that Mr. Klein would like to work with Mr. Fenster.

MR. KLEIN stated that he would work with Mr. Fenster

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK stated that he would support calling a special session if that is the will of the body.

8. Committee Comments

MR. LYON brought to the committee's attention that they will need to vote on chair and vice chair at the next meeting.

MS. SCHUETTE confirmed that these elections are to take place annually for one-year terms.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK stated that he has enjoyed chairing this committee and would enjoy continuing to do so but would also welcome new leadership if there is a member of the committee who is interested.

MR. FRENCH stated that he thinks that chair Cruickshank has done a great job.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK stated that he thinks that Mr. French has been doing a great job representing the FCC.

MR. LYON brought to the committee's attention that AMATS received a letter from the municipal Ombudsman expressing a concern about the word 'citizen' in the Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Lyon further explained that this request would be going to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Policy Committee (PC).

9. Public Comments

MR. LYON read a public comment submitted in the chat box. JACK POMERANTZ's comment read: I am interested in anything that affects Gambel corridor and 4th Avenue traffic. How do I know when business that impacts that will be addressed?

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK stated that where those projects were located would determine the outreach efforts. He asked Mr. Starzec for DOT's public participation process for informing the public on ongoing DOT projects.

MR. STARZEC stated that all DOT projects have a project website.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK asked Mr. Starzec if there were public notice requirements that they must post signs for a given period before a project is to begin.

MR. STARZEC stated that he did not know what the requirements would be at project construction. He confirmed that there are many phases of a project before you get to construction that have extensive public involvement steps and that each project had a project website on Central Region's website.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK asked for confirmation that a member of the public would have to know about a project and then they could do research on it through the website.

MR. STARZEC stated that the public involvement plans for each project include mailers in the area and notifications to community councils.

CHAIR CRUICKSHANK asked Mr. Lyon about public involvement for TIP projects.

MR. LYON confirmed that most of the TIP projects are managed by DOT and would follow that same process

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.