

**ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION  
FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MS TEAMS Online  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**February 10, 2021  
3:00 PM**

Those in attendance were:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Joe Michel	ATA
Steve Ribuffo	Port of Alaska
Dan Smith	MSC/ADOT&PF
Doug Thompson	Holland America-Princess
Richard Heath	UPS
Teri Lindseth	TSAIA
Mike Thrasher	TOTE/OCEAN
Brian Lindamood	ARC
Robert Sherrill	USAF, DLA

Excused: Jimmy Doyle, Weaver Bros.

Absent: Darren Prokop, UAA

Other Participants:

Eric Taylor, DOT&PF

Wende Wilbur, Kittelson & Associates

Michelle McNulty, Planning Department

Dave Whitfield, Current Planning

Craig Lyon, AMATS

Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS

Christine Schuette, AMATS

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR MICHEL called the online meeting being conducted via MS Teams to order at 3:00 PM. A quorum was established.

**2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.** Mr. Lyon read the public involvement message. Ms. Schuette monitored the attendance of any members of the public so that they could comment via MS Teams. There

were no comments provided by the public. A recording will be available of the meeting along with a sign in sheet.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approval moved for agenda by MR RIBUFFO; seconded by MR. LINDAMOOD. *Agenda approved unanimously.*

**4. MINUTES** – MR. MICHEL moved to approve, and MR. SMITH seconded a motion to approve the November 4, 2020 meeting minutes. **Minutes approved unanimously.**

**5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. **Expected Actions of Freight Advisory Committee for 2021** – MR. MICHEL raised this issue last November. Since that time he has reviewed projects. Opened it up to floor about committee expectations, goals and objectives. MR. RIBUFFO indicated nothing new that hasn't already been discussed about Port. MR. MICHEL noted that the road study by Kinney Engineering is still underway at the port and he will check back with Kinney Engineering. MR. SMITH offered comment about freight corridor. Asked for an update on the Third Avenue ROW reconstruction project. Mr. Lyon said that as far as he knows that project is still on-going but he will double check and get back to committee. MR. MICHEL offered to remain on top of these types of issues and work closely with committee members.
- b. **Committee Chair and Vice Chair Elections** – MR. MICHEL asked for nominations. MR. SMITH asked about the term "eligibility" in Bylaws. Mr. Lyon checked and did not see a limit on the number of terms or how long a member can serve. MR. SMITH nominated MR. Michel to continue to serve as chair. MR. THOMPSON seconded the motion. There were no public comments. MR. SHERRIL nominated MR. THOMPSON as Vice Chair. **Motion to approve new officer positions without objection.**

**6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES**

- a. **Michelle McNulty: Development Update** – Ms. McNulty introduced Dave Whitfield who is the Current Planning manager to discuss the Contest Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

Process administered by the Planning Department. Mr. Whitfield noted that CSS Process is a Muni process that gives public and the Municipality opportunity for input on major reconstruction projects (DOT and Municipal ROW – major reconstruction of collector and arterial roadways). It's a three-step process. Reviewed by Planning and Zoning as a consent agenda item. At the concept phase which is typically at 35% design. At the 35% design phase the design study report goes back to PZC for their approval. At the plans in hands stage the draft design study report then goes to the Urban Design Commission. The question is how to enhance involvement by FAC about these projects. Suggestion that working through the FAC is a great way to get early input. Once projects are routed to AMATS then they could be provided to FAC to be able to make comments to PZC and Design Commission. Mr. Whitfield asked Mr. Lyon about procedure to get comments from FAC via AMATS. Mr. Lyon responded that AMATS is happy to bring forward road projects at an early stage to get input from FAC. Will forward those cases or projects to get more involved. Mr. MICHEL asked for clarification on the meaning of "forward the project." "How formal is this?" Mr. Whitfield replied that the intent is to involve major stakeholders who could then comment on design that is then approved by PZC and Urban Design Commission. Ms. McNulty clarified that it would be the applicant's application that would be forwarded. Mr. Lyon further clarified that AMATS is a planning agency, not a design entity. AMATS can consider the purpose and need for a project but would not provide design level comments. MR. MICHEL wants to get out in front on the design phase of a project so that there are no surprises. Mr. Lyon noted that individual stakeholders can make individual comments besides the FAC. Ms. McNulty asked if it would be appropriate for FAC to provide feedback about the location of a project and what design elements would have an impact. Mr. Lyon said that was fine. For example, a major reconstruction road project is on a freight route. MR. SMITH noted Freight Mobility Study identified certain pinch points. Mr. Whitfield noted the example of the comments received from FAC about the Third Avenue project and appreciated input. Mr. Lyon noted that the Third Ave. project was a good example because there were competing comments from

two of AMATS's advisory committees. Mr. Whitfield suggested that taking project design back to respective stakeholders to gain comments would be good approach. MR. THOMPSON asked if this is a primary avenue for the public to get involved in the project that was part of the process previously such as community council input? Mr. Lyon noted AMATS Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) is made up of public members. Mr. Whitfield noted that public is involved at two different levels. On SOA/MOA road projects there is a a lot of public involvement on the front end prior to submittal of a CSS project. Secondly, the PD sends out notice about the project to the larger community for review and comment. MR. MICHEL thanked Ms. McNulty and Mr. Whitfield for their presentation and looks forward to seeing material in the future. Ms. McNulty replied that the Planning Department is happy to work with FAC.

- b. **Statewide Freight Committee** – Mr. Eric Taylor with DOT&PF introduced himself as the project manager for the Statewide Transportation Plan and Freight Plan. DOTPF has signed a contract with Kittelson & Associates who have subcontractors from local Alaska firms. The Team has been collecting vast amounts of data that will be used for a systemwide assessment. Mr. Taylor introduced Ms. Wende Wilber who is the consultant project manager. The project is underway and is slated for completion by August 2022. Ms. Wilber delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee. Ms. Wilber described the Alaska Moves 2050 LRTP and Freight Plan. Overall goals of the update includes: a) complying with most current federal transportation requirements, b) developing a statewide vision that will inform future transportation plans and programming (family of plans) that shape transportation investments across the state, b) using performance based planning, c) placing greater emphasis on connectivity across disciplines, modes, and intermodal connections. Looking at current conditions for each mode, their strengths and weakness, trends, threats and risks. Waiting to see what happens with a new federal transportation bill. A core component is PPP, or performance-based planning process, which is data driven. Its required, and it's a good business strategy to focus on transportation investments. Another key

component is stakeholder engagement. DOTPF will create a statewide freight advisory committee and statewide long-range advisory committee and will conduct technical focus groups, work with MPOs like AMATS and FAST Planning (formerly FMATS) in Fairbanks. Right now, the team is wrapping up the transportation assessment, will do a financial assessment in June, draft freight plan will be in August, and in Sept will do scenario planning, Dec. will have performance measures. Ms. Wilber noted the consultant team met in January 2021 with MARAD (US Maritime Administration) and they reviewed the last statewide freight plan and gave it good marks, it scored very high. Want to improve on that for future plan. MR. MICHEL thanked Ms. Wilber for her presentation. MR. MICHEL asked who is making final call on things? Ms. Wilber replied the consultants and SOA would look at the data and figure out what the challenges and opportunities are. Goal is to balance all the modes but rely on the data that tells the story. May need industry experts to help fill in the gaps. MR. LINDAMOOD noted he served on a previous effort like this one and he gave an example of statewide projects that lacked a definition of land use. It was difficult to provide meaningful input because of a lack of information about the ultimate land uses. Ms. Wilber noted that LRTP will rest on higher level policies although freight plan will include specific projects. Mr. MICHEL asked if there is any difficulty acquiring certain data, he offered to help with obtaining data. MR. SMITH asked whether they will look at legacy projects? Ms. Wilber replied “Yes, the freight plan will recommend projects.” If there any other questions, please forward to MR. MICHEL or Mr. Lyon. DOTPF intends to invite all members of FAC to serve on the statewide freight planning committee.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT.** There were no public comments.
8. **COMMITTEE COMMENTS.** There were no comments from committee members.
9. **UPCOMING MEETINGS.** Mr. Lyon reminded the Committee about the upcoming AMATS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 11th and AMATS Policy Committee (PC)

meeting scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 25th.

10. **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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