

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

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

**September 28, 2023
1:30 PM**

*This meeting is available for viewing at
[Transportation Planning / AMATS Meetings \(muni.org\)](https://www.muni.org/transportation-planning/amats-meetings)*

Policy Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
John Binder	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)
Kent Kohlhase	Municipal Manager, Mayor's Office
Daniel Volland	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Adeyemi Alimi*	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Air Quality

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Chelsea Ward-Waller	AMATS
Julie Jenkins	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Brandon Telford	MOA/Project Management & Engineering (PM&E)
Luke Bowland*	DOT&PF
Sean Baski	DOT&PF
Emily Weiser	Bike Anchorage and Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Brad Coy*	MOA/Traffic Engineering Dept.
Lindsey Hajduk	NeighborWorks Alaska
Phil Olmstead	Nelson/Nygaard Consulting
Zakary Hartman	MOA/Traffic Engineering Dept.
Ned Conroy	Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Lizzie Newell	
Kyle Mielke	
Katherine Wood	
George Martinez	MOA/Municipal Assembly

**AMATS Technical Advisory Committee Member*

***Designated Assembly Alternate*

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

CHAIR BINDER called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Kent Kohlhase, Municipal Manager, represented Mayor Bronson. Adeyemi Alimi represented the Department of Environmental Conservation on behalf of Emma Pokon. Assembly Member Cross was absent. A quorum was established.

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. KOHLHASE moved to approve the agenda. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

MR. JONGENELEN requested to add Resolution 2023-02 to the agenda as Item 5.d.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to amend to add Item 5.d. MR. ALIMI seconded.

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved, as amended.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 24, 2023

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

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification #2

MR. JONGENELEN noted that an administrative modification to the AMATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is needed to update Table 2 - Roadway, Table 3 - Non-motorized, and Table 4 - Plans and Studies. These changes meet the requirements outlined in the AMATS Operating Agreement Section 6.6.2 and Policies and Procedures #5.

There were no comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to approve Administrative Modification #2. MR. KOHLHASE seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

b. Destination UMED Toolkit and Study and Comment Response Summary

PHIL OLMSTEAD with Nelson/Nygaard Consultants provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining that their charge with the Destination UMED Travel Demand Management

(TDM) Study was to develop a plan and toolkit that the district and its various stakeholders can implement over time, making it easier to travel to, from, and within the district. No single roadway or infrastructure project was focused on, but rather, developing a long-term and comprehensive mobility vision for the district. The TDM is a way of saying, “Let us make our transportation system more efficient by trying to reduce vehicle traffic and improve other mobility options.” It is not about one single solution but finding the mix between physical infrastructure, communications, management, policies and programs, and pricing.

There were no comments.

MR. KOHLHASE moved to approve the Destination UMED Travel Demand Management Study Final Plan and Strategy Toolkit as recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee. ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

c. Complete Streets Policy Update

MR. JONGENELEN presented on behalf of Ms. Wilm, noting that during a recent training facilitated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), representatives reviewed and made recommended changes to the AMATS Complete Streets Policy. The training was attended by local municipal agencies, state transportation agencies, transportation engineering consultants from the private sector, and local policymakers. Basically, the changes are just updating the policy to be more in line with equity focus, updating it to cover the 2050 MTP Goals & Objectives, land use, and complete streets maintenance. The Technical Advisory Committee recommended removing Section 5 – Scope of Complete Streets Policy (last bullet point on page 7). As part of this policy, a checklist is needed to ensure projects are complying with the AMATS Complete Streets Policy. When the policy was originally developed, that checklist was not approved because more needed to be done. That checklist will be one of the first tasks staff will be working on as part of the Complete Streets Plan and Street Typology. It was recommended that the committee indicate at what point in a project stage the checklist is going to be done, and the 35% design stage was suggested. The TAC determined that this may not be the most appropriate place for the checklist because the project’s development is already in advanced stages and also involves the municipality’s CSS (Context Sensitive Solutions) process and how they integrate with each other. As a result of that discussion, the TAC recommended removing just the section that reads, “...at the 35% design stage”, but is still recommending a checklist be done only after more discussion regarding when it is done and who does it. He also recommended that Section 4: Policy 5 be updated to reflect the 2050 MTP goals.

The Committee discussed the edits and the rationale for having a specific design stage. They also discussed removing the 35% design stage language for now and amending the policy in the future.

MR. KOHLHASE concurred with Assembly Member Volland with having a specific design stage.

CHAIR BINDER opened the floor to public comments.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER GEORGE MARTINEZ

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND moved to approve the updates to the AMATS Complete Streets Policy. MR. ALIMI seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

d. Resolution 2023-02 Recognizing and Honoring Joni Wilm

MR. JONGENELEN noted that Ms. Wilm, while employed by AMATS, provided significant and extensive work for Anchorage regarding active transportation and complete streets. She advocated for the TAP funding and the allocation from the state, and getting AMATS to integrate that into our process, and the push for a Complete Streets Policy, the Non-motorized Plan, and the Complete Street Typology Plan. She is leaving AMATS next week, and this resolution is recognizing all of her good efforts towards making Anchorage and AMATS better.

MR. KOHLHASE commented that Ms. Wilm had been a strong and very articulate advocate for both the AMATS and Non-motorized programs. She will be missed.

There were no public comments.

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

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

a. 2023 Certification Report

JULIE JENKINS with FHWA and NED CONROY with FTA briefed the Committee on the certification report.

There were no comments.

b. Safety Plan Update

MR. JONGENELEN presented the Safety Plan update.

The Committee discussed how the events are publicized.

There were no public comments.

6.c. STIP and 2050 MTP Update

MR. JONGENELEN presented the updates.

The Committee discussed the lack of transparent scoring criteria for the STIP and ensuring that AMATS has scored the other projects already listed in the MTP.

There were no public comments.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION - None

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

ASSEMBLY MEMBER VOLLAND noted that the Assembly will be putting together a resolution that will include their comments on the MTP. Mr. Jongenelen had allowed them to extend a few days beyond the comment deadline of October 9, which will allow for a work session with the entire Assembly on October 6. The goal will then be to bring the resolution before the Assembly at their regular meeting on October 10.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

MR. BOWLAND congratulated Chair Binder for having been with DOT&PF for 10 years, noting that this is his last AMATS Policy Committee meeting and that, for the last 4 months Chair Binder has been acting regional director but is leaving DOT&PF. Notification has been received that Sean Holland has been selected as the new regional director beginning November 7, but he is not sure who will be representing DOT&PF for the October meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.