

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

**April 13, 2023
2:30 PM**

*This meeting is available for viewing at
[Transportation Planning / AMATS Meetings \(muni.org\)](http://Transportation Planning / AMATS Meetings (muni.org))*

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
Brad Coy (Chair)	MOA/Traffic Engineering Department
Brian Lindamood	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
Todd Vanhove	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Anchorage Field Office
Luke Bowland	DOT&PF
Adeyemi Alimi	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Jamie Acton	MOA/Public Transportation Department (PTD)
Kristine Bunnell	MOA/Long-Range Planning Division
Steve Ribuffo	MOA/Port of Alaska
Melinda Kohlhaas	MOA/Project Management & Engineering (PM&E)
Matt Stichick	MOA/Anchorage Health Department (AHD)
Steve Rafuse	MOA/Parks & Recreation Department

Also in attendance:

Name	Representing
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Rhiannon Brown	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Jon Cecil	AMATS
Chelsea Ward-Waller	AMATS
Joni Wilm	AMATS
Chris Hughes	HDR
Stephanie Mormilo	HDL
Morgan Miller	HDR
Kate Dueber	ARRC
Wolfgang Junge*	DOT&PF
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Aaron Hunting	DOT&PF
Sean Baski	DOT&PF
Alex Read	DOT&PF
Judith Michael	
David Michael	
Leona Change	
Cheryl Richardson	
Monica Ratliff	

Marc Luiken
Trevor Strait
Emily Haynes Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
John Linnell DOT&PF
Bart Rudolph MOA/PTD
Chris Schutte
Nancy Pease

**Policy Committee Member*

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CHAIR COY called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. Kristine Bunnell represented the MOA Planning Department on behalf of Craig Lyon. A quorum was established prior to the arrivals of Mr. Vanhove at 2:32 p.m. and Mr. Lindamood at 2:43 p.m.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

AARON JONGENELEN encouraged public involvement in this meeting of the AMATS Technical Advisory 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.

Mr. Vanhove arrived at 2:32 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MS. ACTON moved to approve the agenda. MR. BOWLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – March 9, 2023

MR. ALIMI moved to approve the minutes. MR. RIBUFFO seconded.

CHAIR COY noted corrections to the meeting time convening at 2:32 p.m. and to page 6 that his comment should read, “He had also wondered where the project was for a little while, but now felt like everything is moving forward because between when they passed this and now, he could see that there had been quite a bit of action. Also, from a technical perspective, he is in agreement with the comments that have been expressed.”

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved, as corrected.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS**a. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Narrative**

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is required by federal law under Title 23 CFR 450.308. The Draft 2024-25 UPWP defines the transportation planning activities and products to be developed by AMATS and other transportation planning agencies during the federal fiscal years of 2024 and 2025 (October – September). He recommended Task 532 – Public Involvement Outreach and Task 534 – Website and Social Media be combined under Task 532 as the website and social media are considered public involvement and it makes sense to have one task for both.

There were no comments.

MR. RIBUFFO moved to approve and forward to the Policy Committee. MR. VANHOVE seconded.

MS. ACTON moved to amend to combine two tasks in the 500 Element into one public involvement task (Task 534 into Task 532). MR. RIBUFFO seconded.

AMENDMENT

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed.

MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED

Hearing no objections, the main motion, as amended, passed.

Mr. Lindamood arrived at 2:43 p.m.

b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Appointment

MS. WILM noted that the AMATS Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is the citizens' forum for bicycle and pedestrian issues affecting the AMATS area. This group serves to make recommendations about bicycle and pedestrian 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. Monica Ratliff would be filling the vacant BPAC Anchorage School District seat and replacing John Miller, who had served 6 years.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

MONICA RATLIFF

MR. ALIMI moved to approve the recommendation of Ms. Ratliff to the Policy Committee. MR. BOWLAND seconded.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

a. Mountain Air Drive Update

ALEX READ and AARON HUNTING with DOT&PF provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The committee discussed right-of-way acquisitions, land ownership types, comments supporting the project, environmental impacts, additional pedestrian facilities, and lighting types.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

JUDITH and DAVID MICHAEL

b. Safer Seward Highway Presentation

SHANNON MCCARTHY with DOT&PF and CHRIS HUGHES with HDR provided a PowerPoint presentation.

There were no comments.

c. AMATS Safety Forum

MS. WILM provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The committee discussed winter maintenance and scheduling a maintenance forum this fall.

There were no public comments.

d. Public Input Survey

MS. SCHUETTE provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The committee discussed having the safety plan comments tied into the public outreach map, which would prevent the public from having to continually submit the same comments in future Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs).

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

MR. JONGENELEN announced Mr. Vanhove's retirement.

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MR. LINDAMOOD informed the committee that the short gravel trains have already begun with the long gravel trains following soon. The passenger trains will begin shortly thereafter.

MR. BOWLAND clarified that the May 11 meeting of the TAC was rescheduled to May 18.

CHAIR COY welcomed Steve Rafuse (MOA Parks & Recreation) to the TAC and also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Vanhove's service as Vice Chair on the TAC. He added that the Traffic Engineering Department released a Request for Information (RFI) to the public to do a protected bike lane pilot project in Anchorage this summer. The Department is working with DOT&PF researching funds to stand up a demonstration project to look at future bike lanes. The public notice is for consultants to be able to reach out and provide any expertise they might have to work on that project. It goes right in line with safety for nonmotorized users and for all-traffic public. The Traffic Department has rebranded its traffic calming position to a traffic calming pedestrian/bicycle coordinator position that will be posted within the next day or two. Lastly, with the current snowfall that Anchorage has experienced, the State has moved the deadline prohibiting studded tires to May 15.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

In response to Cheryl Robinson's request for additional information on the bike safety project, CHAIR COY noted he will forward it to her.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.