

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

**May 18, 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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Brad Coy (Chair)	MOA/Traffic Engineering Department
Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
Ben White	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)
Craig Lyon	MOA/Planning Department
Melinda Kohlhaas	MOA/Project Management & Engineering (PM&E)
Steve Rafuse	MOA/Parks & Recreation Department
Matt Stichick	MOA/Anchorage Health Department (AHD)

Also in attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Jon Cecil	AMATS
Joni Wilm	AMATS
Bart Rudolph	MOA/PTD
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Randy Brown	MOA/PTD
Zak Hartman	DOT&PF
Krista Dennison	
Morgan McCammon	DOWL
John Linnell	DOT&PF
Kevin Cross*	MOA/Municipal Assembly
Sean Baski	DOT&PF
Kristin Myers	
Dave Gamez	Lounsbury & Associates
Travis Holmes	DOT&PF

**Policy Committee Member*

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CHAIR COY called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Ms. Dueber represented the Alaska Railroad Corporation on behalf of Brian Lindamood. Steve Ribuffo with MOA, Port of Alaska was absent. A quorum was established prior to the arrivals of Mr. Rafuse at 2:32 p.m. and Mr. Stichick at 2:37 p.m.

CHAIR COY introduced Ben White with DOT&PF as Todd Vanhove's replacement.

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.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – April 13, 2023

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

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Air Quality Conformity Determination

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #1 Air Quality Conformity Determination was released for a 30-day public comment period beginning April 3, 2023. On April 11, the comment period was restarted due to an error having been discovered and corrected in TIP Amendment #1.

Mr. Stichick joined the meeting telephonically at 2:37 p.m.

The committee discussed the carbon monoxide monitoring site location.

There were no public comments.

MR. ALIMI moved to recommend the Air Quality Conformity Determination to the Policy Committee for approval. MR. LYON seconded.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

b. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1

MR. JONGENELEN noted that the 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #1 underwent the interagency consultation process and development of the Air Quality Conformity Determination and the determination was released for a public comment period. During the process, the following three errors were discovered and corrected:

Table 9 – Transit

- Update Table 9 for the following:

FFY 2023-26 TIP Amendment #1						
<i>Project</i>	Carryover	2023	2024	2025	2026	<i>Beyond 2026</i>
Track Rehab (5337)	\$0 \$500	\$100 \$750	\$0 \$700	\$500 \$700	\$320 \$750	\$1,200 \$2,900
Preventative Maintenance (5337)	\$0 \$3,900	\$500 \$1,000	\$1,700 \$150	\$3,900 \$150	\$3,900 \$150	\$9,500 \$1,450
Bridge Rehabilitation (5337)	\$0 \$360	\$0 \$11,000	\$0 \$50	\$0 \$50	\$360 \$250	\$5,640
Total	\$0 \$4,760	\$600 \$12,750	\$1,700 \$900	\$4,400 \$900	\$4,580 \$1,150	\$16,340 \$9,990

The committee discussed if the memorandum being presented to the Policy Committee would document just the current changes and if all the amendments would be collated into one document. They also discussed the Seward Highway: Bird Flats to Rabbit Creek project having been previously included as the Seward Highway: 98.5 to 118 Reconstruction project, noting that once STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) Amendment #5 was approved, an update of all TIP projects (as part of TIP Amendment #1) would reflect the current description and funding layout. The STIP only goes to 2023, so 2024 and beyond is based on estimates provided by DOT&PF to AMATS.

There were no public comments.

MS. KOHLHAAS moved to recommend the 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #1 to the Policy Committee for approval. MR. ALIMI seconded.

Hearing no objections, this motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

a. Northern Lights Boulevard Sidewalk Project Update

DAVE GAMEZ with Lounsbury & Associates provided a PowerPoint presentation.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

BART RUDOLPH with MOA/PTD questioned the process for ADA compliant bus stops where permitted by MOA Right-of-Way and how that works for those locations that Right-of-Way does not permit. He pointed out that, with federal funds, you cannot construct a non-ADA compliant bus pad. The bus stops are grandfathered, but when federal money is used, they have to become ADA compliant.

MR. GAMEZ explained that there are particular locations with utilities that are moving to areas that a bus stop pad can be placed. There are other locations separate from those that Right-of-Way did not allow for that expansion. The existing bus stop locations are not ADA compliant.

MS. KOHLHAAS was pleased to hear they are considering at least a 6-foot minimum sidewalk width. MOA will be kicking off a right-of-way study looking at all options that would improve maintenance throughout the year. She asked when a project deviates and goes around the outside of the utilities, will they consider smooth transitions?

MR. GAMEZ replied, yes, angled transitions will be placed behind those utilities.

b. Q2 2023 Obligation Report

MR. JONGENELEN updated the committee on the obligation report.

There were no comments.

c. Quarterly Project Update

MR. JONGENELEN briefed the committee and MR. STARZEC with DOT&PF presented the update.

There were no comments.

d. Transit Rideshare Update

MR. RUDOLPH with the MOA, Public Transportation Department provided a PowerPoint presentation.

In response to Chair Coy's question if the subsidy is also for gas, MR. RUDOLH noted that gas is not included. The riders pay for gas amongst themselves and it is above and beyond what they pay to be part of the program.

MR. LYON asked if there is a limit to the number of van pools?

MR. RUDOLPH explained that there is not a limit, other than the funding. There needs to be enough CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) money in the TIP to pay the monthly subsidy for each van pool. With the current subsidy, the Transportation Department could add a lot of van pools. We combined the TIP with the Transit Marketing Program, so it is flexible. If we increase the number of van pools, the marketing program shrinks and if the van pool numbers shrink, then the marketing program grows.

MR. JONGENELEN pointed out that AMATS and the committees all agreed to put additional funding towards the RideShare and Transit marketing. This is something we can directly show FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) and the public how we, as AMATS, are helping the system overall. He asked if there was a way to calculate the annual cost-savings to the drivers?

MR. RUDOLPH replied, yes, it can be calculated. With the additional money from AMATS we can either have more van pools or increase the subsidy from \$350.00 to help further reduce the cost to each individual driver, so we have flexibility on how we think would help the program grow.

MR. LYON asked what kind of outreach is being done to possibly include Eagle River and Girdwood?

MR. RUDOLPH noted that the contract with Enterprise recently expired and the RFP (Request for Proposal) just closed, but part of that RFP and the new contract provider (whether it continues to be Enterprise or someone else) will have to specifically do the marketing and outreach to those communities and employers more often. Currently, the contractor can do that if they want to.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

MR. JONGENELEN announced that the first ever AMATS Safety Forum will be held virtually only on Monday, May 22, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and will include statistics from our safety survey that just closed. Also, May 24 - 25 is the AMATS Certification Review and staff will be meeting with FHWA, FTA, and DOT&PF to review any certification questions. This will be an action item on the Policy Committee's May 25th agenda providing an opportunity for members of the public to weigh-in on the transportation planning process. FHWA and FTA will then offer a discussion period with the Policy Committee.

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MR. WHITE noted that STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) Amendment #6 is in the Commissioner's Office for final review and approval and will then

go to FHWA for their approval. With regard to the new STIP, DOT&PF anticipates having it available for public review in June, but that is still tentative.

MR. RAFUSE announced that the Parks & Recreation Department's multi-use trails in Anchorage have been swept and should be in nice condition. Bike to work day is tomorrow, May 19.

MR. JONGENELEN informed the Committee that Wolfgang Junge, Policy Committee Chairperson, is retiring from DOT&PF and the May 25th meeting will be his last.

CHAIR COY noted that the Traffic Engineering Department is making progress on the pilot protected bike and demonstration project. It is looking like the majority of that pilot project will happen next summer.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.