

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

**September 14, 2023
2:30 PM**

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

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Name	Representing
Brad Coy (Chair)	MOA/Traffic Engineering Department
Brian Lindamood	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
Ben White	Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Anchorage Field Office
Luke Bowland	DOT&PF
Jamie Acton	MOA/Public Transportation Department (PTD)
Craig Lyon	MOA/Planning Department
Steve Ribuffo	MOA/Port of Alaska
Adeyemi Alimi	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Russ Oswald	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
Christine Schuette	AMATS
Jon Cecil	AMATS
Joni Wilm	AMATS
Chelsea Ward-Waller	AMATS
Randy Brown	MOA/PTD
James Starzec	DOT&PF
Sean Holland	DOWL
Sean Baski	DOT&PF
Bart Rudolph	MOA/PTD
Steve Rzepka	DOT&PF
Laurie Cummings	HDR
Emily Haynes	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
John Linnell	DOT&PF

**Policy Committee Member*

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CHAIR COY called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. Russ Oswald represented the MOA Project Management & Engineering Department on behalf of Melinda Kohlhaas. A quorum was established.

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

MR. LYON moved to approve the agenda. MR. LINDAMOOD seconded.

MR. JONGENELEN requested to add the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) and the MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan) updates as Item 6.c.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 10, 2023

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

Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Destination UMED Toolkit and Study and Comment Response Summary

MR. CECIL noted that the Destination UMED Travel Demand Management Study had been completed after 18 months of work by the consulting team, project management team, and community advisory committee, with great input from members. All its content was presented, reviewed, and shaped by a diverse cross-section of UMED stakeholders at multiple points during the study. The Final Plan and Strategy Toolkit was available on the project website for a 30-day public comment period from June 26 to July 23, 2023. A total of seven public comments were submitted to AMATS and included in the Comment Response Table (CRT). Several public comments required minor changes to be made to the Final Plan and/or Strategy Toolkit, as noted in the CRT. The Final Plan includes an overview of the study process, issues and opportunities, a summary of community and stakeholder engagement, goals and performance measures, and an overview of the

recommended strategies, implementation actions, and timeline. The Strategy Toolkit is a detailed description of each strategy that includes rationale, local or national best practices, and specific actions that individual institutions, employers, the municipality, or a combination of stakeholders can take towards plan progress goals.

There were no comments.

MR. LYON moved to recommend approval to the Policy Committee of the Destination UMED Travel Demand Management Study Final Plan and Strategy Toolkit with the suggested technical changes in the Comment Response Table. MR. ALIMI seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

b. Complete Streets Policy Update

MS. WILM noted that during a recent training facilitated by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) representatives, a review of the AMATS Complete Streets Policy was undertaken. The training was attended by local municipal agencies, state transportation agencies, transportation engineering consultants from the private sector, and local policymakers. She recommended that Section 4, Policy 5 be updated to reflect the 2050 MTP goals.

The Committee discussed implementing the Complete Streets Plan, the checklist, and that the only change made was that the goals had now been replaced with the most current MTP Goals and Objectives.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to public comments.

JAMES STARZEC, DOT&PF

In addition, the Committee discussed the Complete Streets Planning Action Item List requested by FHWA. Secondly, some of the exceptions listed were allowing maintenance departments to do their work without having to follow this in order to keep roads open, as long as it could be shown that it was an impedance to the cost and operation of the facility. They also discussed the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and the Policy Committee being responsible for reviewing the checklist for those projects at a 35% design stage.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to any additional public comments.

SEAN BASKI, DOT&PF

CHAIR COY expressed concern forwarding this to the Policy Committee without first holding a work session on implementing and incorporating the projects.

MR. LYON clarified that this is an AMATS policy currently in place. The city or the state could have their own Complete Streets Policy that relate to the projects they fund, but this applies only to AMATS funded projects. AMATS can only speak to what AMATS can fund.

MS. WILM pointed out some important points that will be crucial to the plan, such as the equity piece, integrating the land use into current plans, prioritizing winter maintenance, the two items added to the performance measures, and the safety plan. All these are crucial to have in the policy, as well as updating all the goals and objectives from the 2050 MTP that have already been workshopped.

CHAIR COY opened the floor to any final public comments. There were none.

CHAIR COY noted that after hearing Ms. Wilm's explanation, he can support moving this forward and removing the 35% design stage. If there are things DOT&PF, MOA, and AMATS can do to make the Complete Streets Plan the most successful, such as holding a workshop to discuss the CSS (Context Sensitive Solutions) process or how things are being done because that plan will be the time to address and make changes to details. Also, Mr. Oswald's concerns would be addressed.

MR. OSWALD expressed that he is still hesitant. Granted, this applies to AMATS-funded projects, but it also says it is encouraging the MOA to modify its policies and documents to follow the same requirements. The MOA will not have the funding to do that and has always looked to AMATS projects when we know we cannot fully rebuild.

MS. WILM pointed out that the original intent, when making this policy many years ago, was to create a policy for AMATS, hoping that the MOA and DOT&PF would both create their own using AMATS as an example. What is important, as a planning agency, is that we can only make recommendations. It is really up to the MOA, the Design Criteria Manual, and the engineers to implement what they think is best. This is just a recommendation, but, again, we are hoping the MOA and DOT&PF develop their own policies with what would work best for the city.

MR. OSWALD noted that the MOA policy would be developed through public groups and participation. Taking the 35% design stage would address his concern.

MR. LYON moved to recommend the Complete Streets Policy to the Policy Committee for approval with the exception of the last bullet in Section 5 striking the words, "...at the 35% design stage." MR. ALIMI seconded.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

6. PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATES

a. 2023 Certification Report

MR. JONGENELEN presented the report.

There were no comments.

b. Safety Plan Update

MS. WILM presented the update.

There were no comments.

c. STIP and MTP Update

MR. JONGENELEN briefed the Committee on the update.

There were no comments.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

MR. JONGENELEN noted that an emergency administrative modification to the TIP due to some errors relating to the fund code and Need ID having to be corrected. The modification will be before the Policy Committee on September 28. He also announced that after 14 years of working with AMATS, Ms. Wilm's last day is October 6, 2023, noting that she helped shape AMATS into what it is today with her tireless work with the active transportation community, Complete Streets, Non-motorized, and Safety Plan,

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MS. ACTON noted that the MOA Public Transportation Department is currently working on its PTAS (Public Transit Agency Safety) plan and will be bringing to the TAC and the PC in October, then forward it on to the Anchorage Assembly for approval.

MR. BOWLAND noted that, with regard to DOT&PF staffing, John Binder had provided notice that he will be leaving at the end of September. He was heavily involved with the aviation side, but has been acting director for the Central Region since Mr. Junge's retirement and will now be flying 767's for Northern Cargo. There is no new information on the backfill for either the Regional Director or the Deputy Commissioner positions.

MR. LYON thanked Ms. Wilm.

MS. WILM commented that she had worked many years for Mr. Lyon and he was amazing, and AMATS is a great group.

CHAIR COY noted that the Protective Bike Lane Pilot Project on Pine Street is now up for the month of September, and the plan is to take it down at the beginning of October, before the snow comes. That project (a joint effort between DOT&PF, MOA, Bike Anchorage, and the consultant team) is now looking at Phase 2, which will be next summer. We will be looking at a few of the downtown streets, and it will be a more robust process for the website and other things that we were not quite able to do with the quick turnaround this summer.

That section of Pine Street is on the Moose Loop, and a Moose Loop Trail Challenge is being held at the end of the month to support the Anchorage Park Foundation. Lastly, studded

tires can be mounted beginning September 30. The forecast is not predicting snow before that.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.