

MVP for Transportation Pre-MPO Policy Board Meeting

Representatives:

John Binder - ADOT&PF
John Moosey, City of Palmer
Glenda Ledford, Mayor – City of Wasilla
Kaylan Wade Chickaloon Native Village
Bob Charles – Knik Tribe
Edna DeVries, Mayor - MSB
Mike Brown - MSB
Rob Yundt, Assembly Member - MSB
Jennifer Busch – Valley Transit
Vacant – Multi-Mobility Advocate



Meeting Notes

**Tuesday, June 20th, 2023
2:00-3:30pm**

- 1. Call to Order**
Meeting called to order without quorum at 2:09pm
- 2. Introduction of Pre-MPO Policy Board Members and other Attendees**

Members in attendance:

John Binder, DOT&PF
Kaylan Wade, Chickaloon Native Village
Mike Brown, MSB
Edna Devries, MSB Mayor

Members absent:

Glenda Ledford, City of Wasilla Mayor
John Moosey, City of Palmer
Jennifer Busch, Valley Transit
Bob Charles, Knik Tribe
Rob Yundt, MSB Assembly

Visitors in attendance:

Kim Sollien, MSB
Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting Services
Brian Lindamood, ARRC
Adam Bradway, DOT&PF
Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Gerrit Verbeek, MSB
Natalie Lyon, RESPEC
Ben White, DOT&PF
Maija DiSalvo, MSB
Josh Shaver, Alaska Pioneer Homes
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla
Jackson Fox, FAST Planning
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Tom Adams, MSB

- 3. Approval of the June 20, 2023, Agenda – (Action Item)**
No Quorum
- 4. Approval of the March 21, 2022, Minutes – (Action Item)**
No Quorum
- 5. Committee/Working Group Reports (Including the Staff Report)**

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a. Staff Report

MVP MPO has a line item in the budget of \$1 million. The first two signatories, the Knik Tribe and the City of Wasilla have signed their resolutions of support. The legislation for the resolution for the MSB Assembly is in development. A meeting with Chickaloon will occur likely next month. The City of Palmer invited Jackson to speak about FAST Planning and how the MPO operates. Adam Bradway was also in attendance to discuss the DOT side. The Palmer City Council moved the discussion of their MPO involvement to the following meeting which is next week.

Adam Bradway: The City of Palmer made it clear that they would like an elected official on the board who presumably would be their mayor.

Without a response from the City of Palmer, the operating agreement, bylaws, and dues structure cannot be finalized. The MPO is on a timeline and the governor's office will need time to review documents, so a decision will need to be made to keep moving forward in the MPO process.

The meetings were paused to allow time for the MPO team to review proposed boundary comments and to also address misinformation about the MPO. A new community-specific FAQ has been developed to help address some of the misinformation.

Natalie Lyon presented the new FAQ posted on mvpmmpo.com.

Donna Gardino: The Pre-MPO Policy Board covered membership over several meetings. It is up to Palmer to decide if they want to participate. The MPO will move forward due to a deadline.

Brian Winnestaffer: I encourage thwarting misinformation by talking with people directly and reaching out.

6. Voices of the Visitors (Non-Action Items)

None

7. Old Business

a. Policy Board Membership & Dues Structure discussion

The Steering Committee meeting in March selected Proposal A of the dues structure. Without a final word from the City of Palmer, this may change. The MPO will need 6 months of operating funds to cover lag time in reimbursement, which is covered by the membership fee, while the dues cover the project 9.03% match. The MOU will list the membership fees and annual dues which will cover the non-federal share of the funds. The state will help provide future scope, schedule, and estimates to be included in the MTP.

1. MPO Development Timeline

Kim Sollien provided a summary of the MVP for Transportation 2023 Adjusted Timeline. It is anticipated that the remaining resolutions of support will not be received until August with the intention that the packet be sent to the Governor's office for approval in September, 2023. The MPO needs to be formed by December 29th, 2023. It is not entirely certain what will happen if the MPO is not formed by the deadline.

Adam Bradway: At the July Policy Board meeting, an action item is expected for the boundary. Are there any other action items expected with the resolutions of support?

Donna Gardino: Depending on what Palmer decides, we may have to go back to the Steering Committee for a dues structure recommendation. If it doesn't change, the recommendation from the March meeting will be brought as an action item. Once we have the dues structure, we will bring the MOU for operations forward. If we get word from the AG's office, we can make the redlines and policy changes if there aren't significant changes. We could button up a lot in July.

b. Boundary Development Update

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Gerrit Verbeek wrote a memo that explains the methodology that went into the development of the boundary. Gerrit Verbeek presented boundary development.

Located in the packet is a table that includes all the boundary comments and responses.

Next steps would be to put all the boundary development information into a packet, including the comments. Once finalized all the information will go through the Steering Committee and Pre-Policy Board. The packet will be provided as soon as possible for review and comment. The intent is to have Policy Board members bring comments to their Steering Committee representative so it can be discussed by the Steering Committee and a recommendation can be provided to the Policy Board.

8. New Business

a. MPO Funding and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) update

All the MPOs in Alaska met in Wasilla at the new DOT office to discuss funding. A new formula needs to be determined to include funding for MVP MPO.

Adam Bradway: Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds are federal money that come to MPOs to pay for staff and operations. During the meeting in May, the determination was that MVP will receive about \$413,000 as their PL allotment while keeping the other two MPOs whole. The decision will be memorialized by a memo that is anticipated to come out July 1st and will also include the funding formula. Every year the formula will be evaluated and adjusted when necessary.

Donna Gardino: The UPWP will need to be updated as soon as we know what the capital funding will be. A priority list of projects is being developed for the \$1 million available funding. Using state funds has its benefits as federal funds may not be flexible so state funds should be coveted and spent wisely.

b. Founding Members of MVP for Transportation (signatories on the Articles of Incorporation)

Knik and the City of Wasilla have nominated their members. It is anticipated that the state signs on with the MPO and the other signatories so we will know who all the representatives are.

Natalie Lyon: We just need three, correct?

Kim Sollien: Correct but we could have more.

Donna Gardino: Can we have an in-person meeting?

Kim Sollien: I am working on setting up a meeting place for next month. Just a reminder the packet for the boundary development should be going out for comment.

9. Other Issues

10. Informational Items

11. Policy Board Comments

12. Adjournment

Next Scheduled Pre-MPO Policy Board Meeting – **July 18th**, to be held via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting