

MVP for Transportation MPO Policy Board Meeting

Representatives:

Bob Charles – Knik Tribe
Edna DeVries, Mayor - MSB
Glenda Ledford, Mayor – City of Wasilla
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Mike Brown - MSB
Sean Holland - ADOT&PF
Steve Carrington, City of Palmer



Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 959 952 654#

Minutes

Tuesday, March 19th, 2024

2:00-3:30 pm

A. Meeting called to order.

The meeting called to order with quorum at 2:01 pm

B. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Members Present

Sean Holland, Alaska DOT&PF
Steve Carrington, City of Palmer
Bob Charles, Knik Tribe
Edna DeVries, MSB
Glenda Ledford, City of Wasilla
Mike Brown, MSB
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village

Members Absent

None

Visitors Present

Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting Services
Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF
Clint Adler, Alaska DOT&PF
Natalie Lyon, RESPEC
Alex Strawn, MSB
Randy Durham, Visitor
Shonda Erickson, Alaska Legislature
Luke Bowland, Alaska DOT&PF
Julie Jenkins, FHWA
John Linnell, Alaska DOT&PF
Maija DiSalvo, MSB
Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
Kate Dueber, ARRC

C. Approval of the March 19th, 2024, Agenda – (Action Item)

*Motion to approve the March 19th, 2024 agenda (DeVries), seconded. No edits.
Passed unanimously.*

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D. Approval of the February 20th, 2024, Minutes – (Action Item)

Motion to approve the February 20th, 2024 minutes (Carrington), seconded. No edits. Passed unanimously.

E. Committee/Working Group Reports (Including the Staff Report)

1. Staff Report

Kim Sollien is no longer at the Mat-Su Borough. She will be starting her new position at FAST Planning as the MVP MPO Coordinator on April 1st, 2024.

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

None

G. Old Business

a. STIP Update

Donna Gardino provided an overview summary and highlights. Located on page 6 of the meeting packet, there is a STIP discussion timeline. The allocation on page 8 of the meeting packet was presented by Deputy Commissioner Keith. On page 10 of the meeting packet, is the planning finding by FHWA. Located in that document is Appendix B which is on page 20. Page 34 of the meeting packet is a letter raising concerns about the proposal to remove projects from the STIP. On page 36, is the response to the STIP that was made in September which proposes to remove suballocations. On page 41 of the timeline, if the sub allocations are removed, it is unclear where the funding is going. Page 45 is the FHWA response. On page 57, is the proposed MVP ledger that was proposed by Alaska DOT&PF. Yesterday we received a new ledger and the dollar amounts have been reinserted where in the previous ledger they were blank. We are wondering if the Policy Board could come up with a list of projects and Alaska DOT&PF could design and construct under a categorical exclusion relatively quickly so MVP's allocation could be applied. We were hoping to have the Deputy Commissioner present to answer questions. In summary, the approved STIP does not contain sub-allocations for MVP but we were presented a ledger subsequent to the STIP submittal that includes sub-allocations.

Adam Bradway: We were also hoping that the Deputy Commissioner would be present. Alaska DOT&PF would like to hear from MVP on their projects and funding allocations. We would like to hear suggestions on what MVP would like to see. We will follow up with the staff. The STIP is a big document. I am working on breaking out projects within the boundary to make understanding easier.

Mike Brown: Is Alaska DOT&PF expecting this to go back to the Technical Committee and then to the Policy Board regarding the STIP and the funding? I like the idea of pavement preservations as quick to execute. Demonstrating some quick wins for the MPO would be helpful. My understanding is that this isn't done, and we are waiting for FHWA to allocate funding specifically in 2025, is that correct?

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Donna Gardino: We have been presented an updated ledger that contains funding for both fiscal years 24 and 25. Because those groupings were removed FHWA and FTA have said the state needs to show how those funds are being used. I don't know if that has changed. Yes, the intent is for us to come up with a response to this proposal and then go through the technical committee.

Adam Bradway: Staff would bring proposals to MVP and then provide a recommendation to Alaska DOT&PF. Our first amendment would make these changes.

Donna Gardino: We need to know if what we are proposing through the pavement preservation program is feasible or not.

Sean Holland: From a practical standpoint, if we are going to spend 2025 money, these would have to be very simple projects.

Donna Gardino: If this scenario isn't feasible, then we will see which projects are in the STIP and then we can see which projects the Policy Board would rather see funding be allocated to.

Mike Brown: So, projects that DOT&PF already has on the book depending on the stage they are in, they can bring that funding forward to design or construct earlier than expected, correct?

Donna Gardino: Correct. But not tying MVP to funding it to future years. Also, to be eligible for August Redistribution, which we will explain later in the agenda, all of the state's fiscal year funding will have to be obligated.

Mike Brown: Would lighting be a good example of a quick upgrade, like LED upgrades?

Donna Gardino: LED lighting requires different spacing. It often depends on the highway or street.

Clint Adler: That's correct.

Adam Bradway: I think Alaska DOT&PF could discuss the feasibility of putting together a quick pot of money and what projects could fall into that.

b. Letter/Invoice from DOT to MSB – Match Allocation

Adam Bradway provided an overview of the letter.

c. Project Development Authorization for MVP PL Allocation status

Adam Bradway provided a summary of allocation status.

d. Technical Committee designation reminder

A reminder that we are still looking for Technical Committee members. There are vacancies in public transit and trucking.

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H. New Business

a. Presentation to House Transportation Committee

The House Transportation Committee has requested a presentation. The Policy Board has not gone through the process of outlining our goals and priorities. This will occur during the Metropolitan Transportation Planning development process later this year.

Glenda Ledford: Are there any suggestions on how Kim Sollien should address the request of the House Transportation Committee?

Mike Brown: I think it would be helpful to be available to answer questions and be available. We don't have a TIP. At the very least be there to say thank you for the funding and their support.

Donna Gardino: I attended the House Transportation Committee last week. FAST Planning was there to provide an MPO 101, so doing that won't be necessary. But being there would be helpful.

b. Technical Committee appointment approvals (Action Item)

Located within the packet are two applications for the mobility advocate.

*Motion to approve Stuart Leidner as the mobility advocate on the Technical Committee (**Winnestaffer**), seconded. Passed unanimously.*

I. Other Issues

a. August Redistribution

Donna Gardino explained the August Redistribution. The letter within the packet is information from FHWA that funding will be available once our MTP and TIP are in place.

J. Informational Items

Mike Brown: Does Alaska DOT&PF have an update on the Seward Meridian bid?

Clint Adler: The bid is opening tomorrow at 2 pm.

K. Policy Board Comments

No comments

L. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Policy Board Meeting – **April 16th**, to be held via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting