

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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Meeting ID: 239 571 842 83

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+1 605-937-6140 (U.S. Sioux Falls)
(844) 594-6237 (toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 959 952 654#

Location

**DSJ Building
350 East Dahlia Ave. Palmer, AK 99645
Lower Level Conference Room**

Agenda

**Tuesday, February 20th, 2024
2:00-3:30pm**

A. Meeting called to order

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

B. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Members Present

Steve Carrington, Palmer
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Sean Holland, DOT
Bob Charles, Knik
Edna DeVries, MSB
Mike Brown, MSB

Meetings Absent

Glenda Ledford, Wasilla Mayor

Visitors Present

Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting Services
Kim Sollien, MSB
Ben White, DOT
Adam Bradway, DOT
Clint Adler, DOT
Jackson Fox, FAST
Alex Strawn, MSB
Shonda Erickson
Brian Lindamood, ARRC
Kelsey Anderson, MSB
Shonda Erickson, Alaska Legislature
Josh Cross, Kinney Engineering
Gerrit Verbeek, MSB

C. Approval of the February 20th, 2024, Agenda – (Action Item)

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Motion to approve the February 20th, 2024 agenda (**Winnestaffer**), seconded. Motion to edit the agenda to add Transit Update to New Business (**Brown**), seconded. Passed unanimously.

D. Approval of the January 16th, 2024, Minutes – (Action Item)

Motion to approve the January 16th, minutes (**DeVries**), seconded. No edits. Passed unanimously.

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

1. Staff Report

An MOU for the one million dollars is not needed. The Mat-SU Borough needs a letter requesting funds once MVP is its own entity. Kim Sollien is working on templates for grant agreements. The priority is to get an agreement with the State of Alaska to start planning funds.

There are several Technical Committee seats open. The bylaws require nine members to reach a quorum. Supervisor designation is required for membership. There is an application for advocates in multimodal, trucking, and public transportation.

Adam Bradway: Just some clarification regarding the one million dollars, typically MPO dues would pay match.

Kim Sollien: Until we have documentation and become official, we can't open a bank account at this time.

Donna Gardino: Once the bank account is open, MVP will invoice the entities.

Adam Bradway: Alaska DOT&PF would like an updated travel demand model. There are funds available to support MVP. Scopes of work are currently being drafted.

Donna Gardino: A Public Participation Plan is in place. It will be updated once a consultant is brought on for the MTP.

Sean Holland: Is a survey the best way to gather information?

Adam Bradway: They are the gold standard for gathering travel information for the public.

Brian Winnestaffer: Will the survey also capture commercial users?

Adam Bradway: It will be clarified in the survey, yes.

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

None

G. Old Business

a. MVP Coordinator Update

After a couple of rounds of applications, an applicant was selected. Their start date will be April 1st, 2024. Kim Sollien will be the MPO Coordinator.

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H. New Business

a. Vice Chair Election (Action Item)

Motion to nominate Edna Devries to Vice Chair (**Charles**). Edna accepts the nomination, seconded. Passed unanimously

b. Looking Forward: MPO Next steps presentation

Elise Blocker presented the next steps to forming the MPO Non-Profit.

Donna Gardino presented becoming an MPO in Good Standing.

Brian Winnestaffer: What is the trigger for when FHWA releases funding to the MPO?

Donna Gardino: Once there is an approved TIP. It is not clear which year more money would be made available but to not lose the money, the funding would be plugged into future years. We're still asking questions.

Kim Sollien: We discussed the possibility of trying to program capital funding for MVP for the next two years and save it up, but we still need to figure that out. We may not be able to do that without a TIP.

Donna Gardino: Another idea was to have a mini project evaluation board that would evaluate congestion mitigation, air quality, or carbon reduction since there is funding available. The Technical Committee would score those projects and we would develop a mini TIP but we need those projects in the MTP before they can be added to the TIP. Were still trying to figure out how to move forward.

Bob Charles: We still would like to know and understand how the state prioritizes projects and the criteria that is used.

Kim Sollien: We can have Alaska DOT&PF present on that next month.

c. Representative Welcome Packet

We are waiting for one more signature for the MOU. Once the MOU is complete, that will be added to the welcome packet and be available online and in hard copy if requested.

d. STIP Update

Ben White and Adam Bradway provided an overview of the STIP process. Alaska DOT&PF was given a 180-day extension to get the STIP approved and in place. Alaska DOT&PF is going through the 24 pages of funding from FHWA. The STIP deadline is March 31st. To give FHWA 30 days top review, the response needs to be sent back on March 1st.

Mike Brown: How did we get to this point?

Ben White: There are a lot of moving parts in STIP development. Our usual process involved a huge spreadsheet, and we started looking into how other

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states were doing their STIP. We decided to try a different process and program. We needed better communication, and we started it too late.

Adam Bradway: The good news is that the PL funds are outside of the STIP there is less of an impact to MVP as a new MPO. We are going to try to program money for MVP to set aside. That may not be accepted by FHWA. We are asking questions.

e. Transit Update

The Mat-Su Borough is transitioning from rural transit to urban transit funding. That needs to be shown in the STIP. The MSB, as the designated recipient for the MPO, needs to request that money from FTA.

Alaska DOT&PF did program funds into the STIP, it was based on an estimate from a conversation that occurred a year and a half ago. The idea was that 1.5 million would get programmed to the Mat-Su area to support transit. FTA has not certified or guaranteed that amount. FTA has not released the formula fund amount for the Mat-Su urban area. It is unknown how much funding FTA is going to program to the area so the local match discussions or grant applications can't be completed yet. Once it is determined how much money will be received, the public transit contract will go to bid. FTA does not know its annual budget yet. Once its budget is determined, then the amount of money that MVP will receive will be determined.

Brian Winnestaffer: Is Valley Transit able to request funding for areas outside the core area?

Adam Bradway: Yes, it would be based on a percentage of their service area.

I. Other Issues

None

J. Informational Items

a. Articles of Incorporation submittal

The state has been notified that MVP is submitting the Articles of Incorporation.

K. Policy Board Comments

No comments

L. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Winnestaffer), seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Policy Board Meeting – **March 19th**, to be held via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting