

Mat-Su Pre-MPO Steering Committee Meeting
Agenda

Tuesday, August 10, 2021
2:00 - 3:30 pm

Microsoft Teams Information:
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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[+1 605-937-6140,,727333174#](#) United States, Sioux Falls

[\(844\) 594-6237,,727333174#](#) United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 727 333 174#

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Pre-MPO Steering Committee Members and other Attendees
3. Approval of the August 10, 2021 Agenda
4. Approval of the July 13, 2021 Minutes (Action Item)
5. Committee/Working Group Reports (Including the Staff Report)
 - a. Staff Report including Election of a Vice Chair (Action Item)
 - b. Public Participation Plan Subcommittee Report
6. Voices of the Visitors (Non-Action Items)
7. Old Business
 - a. Pre-MPO Policy Board Make-up (Action Item)
 - b. 2022 UPWP Draft Revised (Action Item)
 - c. Update on the Public Participation Plan
8. New Business
9. Other Issues
10. Informational Items
 - a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Draft Scope of Work
 - b. Boundary Development Strategy
11. Steering Committee Comments
12. Adjournment

Next Scheduled Pre-MPO Steering Committee Meeting – Tuesday,
September 14, 2021, 2:00 pm, via TEAMS Meeting

Mat-Su Pre-MPO Steering Committee Meeting Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

2:00 - 3:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Pre-MPO Steering Committee Members and other Attendees

*(Voting SC Members in **bold**).*

Present:

Kelsey Anderson, Mat-Su Borough

Jewelz Barker, Catalyst Alaska

Jennifer Busch, Valley Transit

Bob Charles, Knik Tribe

Patrick Cotter, PDC Engineers

Terry Dolan, Mat-Su Borough

Therese Dolan, Mat-Su Borough

Jackson Fox, FAST Planning

Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting

Services

Brad Hanson, City of Palmer

Cindy Heil, ADEC

Wes Hoskins, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation

Allen Kemplen, DOT&PF

Brian Lindamood, ARRC

Craig Lyon, AMATs

Natalie Lyon, PDC Engineers

Kim Sollien, Mat-Su Borough

James Starzec, DOT&PF AMATs Coordinator

Brad Sworts, Mat-Su Borough

Todd Vanhove, Central Region DOT&PF

Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village

Absent:

LaQuita Chmielowski, MSB Transportation Advisory Board

Archie Giddings, Wasilla Public Works Director

Jim Beck, Mat-Su Health Foundation

Mat-Su Pre-MPO Steering Committee Meeting

3. Approval of the July 13, 2021 Agenda

Brian Winnestaffer moved to approve agenda. Seconded. Agenda approved.

4. Approval of the June 8, 2021 Minutes (Placeholder)

Wes Hoskins moved to approve minutes. Seconded. Minutes approved.

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

a. Staff Report

Kim Sollien provided staff report on the Mat-Su Borough Transportation 2021 Bond Package. An original list of \$173M worth of projects was developed by the Mat-Su Borough (MSB) Planning and Public Works Departments. A work session was held with the Assembly to begin prioritizing projects from this list, and staff recommendations were made. **Kim Sollien** discussed the community outreach effort using an online interactive map (included in meeting packet) that was posted on the MSB webpage to prioritize and identify key projects from the original list. About 9,000 people participated in the mapping effort by liking various projects and 131 detailed comments were provided by the community on project priorities. The Assembly then reviewed the public feedback and integrated this information into their project recommendations list. A final list was developed, which will be moving to the Assembly for public hearing on August 3rd, 2021. Check the Assembly agenda for more information.

Todd VanHove asked whether the list of projects discussed above is final.

Kim Sollien responded that the list is not final and could still be changed based on public feedback from the August 3rd Assembly public hearing. The Assembly may choose to make more changes to the list before it is finalized. MSB Finance and Legal Departments are putting the funding mechanisms component together. If the list gets approved, the whole package will go to the ballot for the voters to vote on.

Todd VanHove provided an update about a project that ADOT&PF and City of Palmer are coordinating on and for which they have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). There is a Felton Street project MOU in which DOT&PF has agreed to contribute funds for the project. It has been determined that a signal at Palmer-Wasilla Highway and Felton is needed. This could be a pretty small, low-cost project to add to the Transportation Bond Package.

Kim Sollien stated that MSB staff will follow-up with DOT&PF about the possibility and mechanism of adding a project to the Transportation Bond Package.

Kim Sollien noted that more information about the MSB 2021 transportation bond package can be found by Googling "Mat-Su Transportation 2021." The project list and community feedback data are available online.

b. Public Participation Plan (PPP) Subcommittee Report

Jewelz Barker provided brief update about recent meetings of the PPP Subcommittee.

The PPP Subcommittee met a few times in June. The Committee is ahead of schedule on PPP development.

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

N/A.

7. Old Business

a. Status of the Pre-MPO Policy Board Make-up

Jewelz Barker provided a brief review of the Pre-MPO Steering Committee's work on Pre-MPO Policy Board development, including the decision to have a nine (9) member Pre-MPO Policy Board. Through a vote, the Pre-MPO Steering Committee recommended that the Pre-MPO Policy Board be made up of nine (9) total members. However, since Pre-MPO Steering Committee member organizations Chickaloon Native Village and Knik Tribe both came forward with a request to serve on the Pre-MPO Policy Board, the project team recommended increasing the Pre-MPO Policy Board to ten (10), from the original nine (9) seats. The project team does not foresee issues with an even number for the Pre-MPO Policy Board membership, since the primary role of this board will be developing and reviewing the guiding documents of the future MPO and providing recommendations on final MPO Policy Board membership. As such, the membership of the final Policy Board of the designated MPO will likely differ from that of the Pre-MPO Policy Board. The Pre-MPO Steering Committee is requested by the project team to consider increasing the number of Pre-MPO Policy Board seats from nine (9) to ten (10).

Kim Sollien informed the Steering Committee who the three (3) MSB Pre-MPO Policy Board seats will likely be: the MSB Manager, MSB Deputy Manager, and MSB Mayor.

Kim Sollien asked the Steering Committee whether anyone would like to make a motion to approve making the Pre-MPO Policy Board ten (10) persons?

Todd VanHove asked for clarification on the terminology "Pre-MPO Policy Board."

Kim Sollien explained that the Pre-MPO Policy Board is a pre-cursor to the final Policy Board of the officially designated future MPO. The Pre-MPO Policy Board's role is to develop and move documents 'up the ladder' so that elected officials and leadership can approve these final draft documents in preparation for compiling and submitting the Operating Agreement Packet to the Governor for final MPO approval.

Terry Dolan made a motion to keep the number of Pre-MPO Policy Board seats at nine (9) members.

Motion seconded.

Terry Dolan explained his rationale behind the motion to remain at nine Pre-MPO Policy Board seats, stating that when an organization is placed on this board of about ten (10), in theory they should have some representation of somewhere around 10% of the population being served by the MPO. That's the level of power we are granting to that individual or that organization. There are a million organizations who would love to be involved in this, but most of them don't rise to the level of providing a service to 10% of the population that is served or representing directly 10% of the population that is served. Carving out another piece means that we are giving 10% of the power to an organization that doesn't serve that large of a portion of the community. I think what we have done so far was very reasonable, and maybe there are other ways that we can find if those two organizations don't feel that they are represented by each other. Perhaps they can share that seat or rotate. But I don't think we should grant 10% of the

power of this organization to an organization that doesn't really have that much representation.

Wes Hoskins asked whether it is assumed that the Pre-MPO Policy Board will become the Policy Board once the organization is officially designated.

Jewelz Barker answered that no, the assumption is not that the Pre-MPO Policy Board will have the same membership or number of seats as the final designated Policy Board. Per Federal regulations, the three mandatory seats for the Mat-Su MPO Policy Board are the City of Wasilla, the Mat-Su Borough, and the AK DOT&PF. Beyond that required minimum, the Pre-MPO Policy Board will engage in similar discussions as the Pre-MPO Steering Committee to determine final Policy Board membership, which could consist of about 3-15 members depending on the recommendations of the Pre-MPO Policy Board to the Governor and the Governor's final approval.

Jewelz Barker: Would anyone like to comment on the motion to keep the number of seats on the Pre-MPO Policy Board at nine (9)?

Brian Winnestaffer: I would like to comment on the issue of combining the tribes into one seat. Chickaloon Native Village, who I am with, representatives from Knik Tribe, and Jewelz had a nice long conversation on this issue. Chickaloon and Knik are two completely different tribes with lands in two different areas of the Borough. Jewelz, would you be willing to summarize the reasons as to why there should be two (2) separate seats for the two different tribal governments in the area that consult with the other local government entities?

Jewelz Barker: Jewelz stated that in the interest of time and the existing agenda, the Steering Committee should defer this conversation to the next meeting to allow adequate time to cover the draft UPWP and comments.

Todd VanHove: Stated that it is important to reiterate once again that the Pre-MPO Steering Committee and Pre-MPO Policy Board provide their suggestions and recommendations to the Governor, and the operating agreement that is signed by the Governor will have the final say on defining how many seats there are on the Policy Board and who fills those seats.

Kim Sollien: Stated that yes, that is correct. The leadership and elected officials on the Pre-MPO Policy Board will make recommendations on final Policy Board membership to the Governor. It makes sense to have those final conversations at the leadership rather than the Staff/Steering Committee level. Additionally, we don't know what the final MPO boundary will look like, which will also influence Policy Board make-up. That all being said, I would like to continue to build trust with this group and ask that we make the modification to ten (10) Pre-MPO Policy Board seats so that every organization and local governmental entity who wants to participate at this level right now is able to do so. I am recommending that the Pre-MPO Steering Committee vote down Terry's motion to keep the Pre-MPO Policy Board seats at nine (9), and then approve a new motion to increase the Pre-MPO Policy Board seats to ten (10).

No new motions made.

Kim Sollien: It looks like the current motion stands to keep the Pre-MPO Steering Committee seats at nine (9).

Jewelz Barker: Six (6) "Yes," four (4) "No," and two (2) voting members Absent.

The motion is adopted to keep the number of seats on the Pre-MPO Steering Committee at nine (9).

b. 2022 UPWP Draft Responses to Comments

Donna Gardino walked the steering committee through the comments that have been submitted on the UPWP by steering committee members, and the Team's responses to these with justification and explanation of each

(Refer to meeting packet for detailed comments and responses list).

Terry Dolan indicated that it was a helpful exercise to walk through the comments on the UPWP and a good idea to hire subject-matter expert consultants since it is a complicated process.

c. Update on the Public Participation Plan

Jewelz Barker provided an update on the PPP development process. Twenty-two (22) possible names for the future MPO were narrowed down to twelve (12). Pre-MPO Steering Committee members were invited to vote online on the twelve (12) names. The top three (3) names were MMATs, MAST Planning, or MVP (Mat-Su Valley Planning for Transportation). Unless the Pre-MPO Steering Committee would like to have further conversations about names at this level, the top three (3) names will be passed up to the Pre-MPO Policy Board. If the Pre-MPO Policy Board has additional questions for the Steering Committee, then they can send those questions back down. Once the name is finalized at the Pre-MPO Policy Board level, project team and Pre-MPO Policy Board can move forward on branding the MPO.

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) Subcommittee is still meeting at the same time on Monday afternoons. The Subcommittee has been looking at two (2) good examples of PPPs from Palm Beach, FL and Hillsboro County, FL that provide clean, simple, and comprehensive information. The Subcommittee is also looking at AMATs' and FAST Planning's PPPs. The Subcommittee will likely present a draft PPP at either the October

or November 2021 Steering Committee meetings. Any and all Steering Committee members are welcome to join the weekly PPP Subcommittee meetings, or reach out to Jewelz Barker at any time with questions on the process.

8. New Business

a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan draft Scope

Donna Gardino indicated that the Pre-MPO Steering Committee will receive the draft MTP scope of work in August for review and comment.

b. Boundary Development Strategy

Donna Gardino indicated that after the September Pre-MPO Steering Committee meeting, the Steering Committee will receive the draft boundary development strategy for review and comment.

9. Other Issues

N/A

10. Informational Items

Allen Kemplen stated that folks should be aware that the Census Bureau has posted in the Federal Register a Notice of Proposed Changes to the population criteria for urban areas. The Census Bureau is moving away from population and towards housing units in defining urban areas that they have used since the 1950s. Implications could be fairly significant.

The other item is that the FHWA/FTA had a final rule on MPO Organizations' Coordination and Planning Area Reform, effective in 2017. This rule states that MPOs must be up and functional 2 years after notification of their urban area qualification.

Terry Dolan asked if anyone had any additional information on the implications of the

Census Bureau moving towards a household standard as opposed to a population standard for urban areas, and whether the MSB has any information on households/dwelling units in the borough?

Kim Sollien explained that the MSB GIS Department has done some preliminary calculations on housing/dwelling units related to this question, but the data have not at this time been prepared for public release.

Allen Kemplen and **Terry Dolan** noted that this change could have implications for areas of the Mat-Su Borough with high seasonal occupancy such as Nancy Lake and Willow, which may not qualify as within the urban area by population count but could be included in the urban area if a household/dwelling unit counting method is used instead.

Donna Gardino suggested completing a household travel survey to ground-truth assumptions on household size and travel patterns in the Mat-Su.

11. Steering Committee Comments

Bob Charles asked whether the buildout scenario from 2014 is still available or not, and if this could be shared to compare with any new data collected going forward.

Brian Winnestaffer indicated that he will not be at the August 10 Pre-MPO Steering Committee meeting, but that he will send someone in his absence.

12. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 3:35pm.

Next Scheduled Pre-MPO Steering Committee Meeting – Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 2:00 pm, via TEAMS Meeting

Mat-Su Pre-MPO Steering Committee
Action Items
07.13.21

Approve the July 13, 2021 agenda. **(Winnestaffer)**. No objections.

To keep the size of the Pre-MPO Policy Board at nine (9) seats. **(Dolan)**. Six in favor. Four opposed.
Motion passed.