

MVP for Transportation MPO Technical Committee Meeting

MEMBERS

Adeyemi Alimi, ADEC
Alex Strawn, MSB
Ben White, ADOT&PF
Bob Charles Jr., Knik Tribe
Brian Lindamood, ARRC
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Clint Adler, ADOT&PF
Crystal Smith, MSBSD
Dan Tucker, RSA Representative
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Lawrence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB
Vacant, Public Transit



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Minutes

Tuesday, May 14th, 2024

2:00 - 3:30pm

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 2:01 pm with quorum.

2. Introduction of MPO Technical Committee Members and other Attendees

Members Present

Adeyemi Alimi, ADEC
Alex Strawn, MSB
Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
Bob Charles Jr., Knik Tribe
Brian Lindamood, ARRC
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Clint Adler, Alaska DOT&PF
Crystal Smith, MSBSD
Dan Tucker, RSA Representative
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Lawrence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB

Members Absent

None

Visitors Present

Jackson Fox, FAST Planning
Kim Sollien, MVP MPO Coordinator
Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Natalie Lyon, RESPEC
Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting Services
Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF
John Linnell, Alaska DOT&PF
Maija DiSalvo, MSB
Kate Dueber, ARRC

MVP for Transportation Pre-MPO Steering Committee Meeting

Luke Bowland, Alaska DOT&PF
Cynthia Wentworth, Commuter Rail Committee

3. **Approval of the May 14th, 2024 Agenda – (Action Item)**

*Motion to approve the May 14th, 2024 Agenda (**Winnestaffer**), seconded. No edits. Passed unanimously*

4. **Approval of the April 9th, 2024 Minutes – (Action Item)**

*Motion to approve the April 9th, 2024 minutes (**Adler**), seconded. No edits. Passed unanimously.*

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

a. **Staff Report**

The staff report was located in the packet. Kim Sollien attended the AMPO (Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations) last week which was geared toward new MPOs. Kim Sollien provided an overview of the Topic Schedule in the packet. Kim will schedule a work session for MVP projects to propose to Alaska DOT&PF for the MVP Improvement Program.

Bob Charles: I would like to make a staff reporting request. Highlight the action items that were taken by the MPO coordination team.

Kim Sollien: I'll add that to my staff report. Thank you.

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

None

7. **Old Business**

a. **Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan Update**

Adam Bradway provided a summary of actions that Alaska DOT&PF is taking for the STIP amendment. Adam Bradway attached the 2024 STIP update in the meeting chat. Alaska DOT&PF is getting ready to submit a STIP amendment.

Kim Sollien: Adam, do you have a new timeline?

Adam Bradway: We are trying to get an amendment out for public comment on June 1st, 2024. We would love it if we could get recommendations in the next two weeks.

Donna Gardino is developing a summary of the program of projects spreadsheet.

The Technical Committee is to expect a doodle poll next week for a work session and special policy board meeting. Kim Sollien intends to have the meeting in person.

Donna Gardino: The time to bring ideas forward would be this week.

b. **DOT&PF Project Prioritization Overview – presented by Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF**

Ben White presented how the state prioritizes its projects.

Bob Charles: Does the department find itself having to reprioritize projects it has already done before?

Ben White: As things change over time, we will look back at the projects. There is a constant evaluation of projects. We try to move projects forward.

Bob Charles: Does the department have flexibility in reallocating from project to project?

MVP for Transportation

Pre-MPO Steering Committee Meeting

Ben White: We do. It depends on the funding source. STBG is the most flexible. We try to use the most restrictive or funds that will expire the fastest first and then move to the most flexible.

8. New Business

a. Technical Committee election of Chair and Vice Chair (Action Item)

The Chair will have continued support from the team. Kim Sollien the MVP MPO Coordinator, Donna Gardino with Gardino Consulting Services, Elise Blocker with RESPEC, and Natalie Lyon with RESPEC.

Bob Charles: Someone from Alaska DOT&PF and MSB could be chair and vice chair since they have more members on TC.

Motion to elect Alex Strawn as the Technical Committee Chair. (Charles), seconded. Passed unanimously.

Motion to elect Erich Schaal as Vice Chair (Schaal), seconded. Passed unanimously.

b. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Scope of Services (Action Item)

Donna Gardino provided a summary of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Scope of Services.

Tom Adams: The borough received a safe streets contract. A lot of items in this scope are similar. Maybe we need to let you see what we are working on so we aren't duplicating efforts.

Adam Bradway: For the federally funded programs, they should be shown in the MPO TIP. For discretionary funds, let the MPO and the State know so it can be put in our plans.

Bob Charles: Tribes offering their authority for funding for projects.

Motion to recommend to the Policy Board the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Scope of Services (Charles), seconded. No objections. Passed unanimously.

c. Title VI Plan draft public comment release (Action Item)

The Title VI Plan draft is in the packet. Kim Sollien provided a summary of the Title VI Plan draft.

Motion to recommend to the Policy Board the Title VI Plan draft for public comment (Leidner), seconded. No objection. Approved.

9. Other Issues

10. Informational Items

a. Articles Of Incorporation/Non-Profit Organization paperwork updates

With legal counsel, the articles have been restructured. It will be submitted to the Policy Board for approval. No questions or comments.

b. Transit Update

Maija DiSalvo provided a transit update.

Donna Gardino: I am developing the program of projects. I would really like to understand what portion the railroad is receiving.

Adam Bradway: Brian may have better information.

Brian Lindamood: We have also been calling FTA to figure that out. We are estimating 15-20%.

MVP for Transportation Pre-MPO Steering Committee Meeting

Brian Winnestaffer: What is the precedence for railroad funding when they are not providing transit?

Brian Lindamood: We do stop in Wasilla. The railroad has been receiving funds for 20 years. The funding must be distributed through an MPO.

Brian Winnestaffer: Chickaloon cannot tap into funds for services between urban and rural. Does the railroad plan to connect Wasilla and Palmer or provide a commuter rail to Anchorage? Is there an FTA rule that the railroad can avoid that the rest of us can't?

Brian Lindamood: I am not familiar with the rule, the funding just comes to us.

11. Technical Committee Comments

Tom Adams: Thank you Alex Strawn for becoming Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Technical Committee Meeting – **June 11th, 2024, from 2:00pm-3:30pm** to be held via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting