

MVP for Transportation Technical Committee Meeting

MEMBERS

Adeyemi Alimi, ADEC
Alex Strawn, MSB (**Chair**)
Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
Bob Charles Jr., Knik Tribe
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Chris Bentz, Alaska DOT&PF
Crystal Smith, MSBSD
Dan Tucker, RSA Representative
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla (**Vice Chair**)
Jennifer Busch, Public Transit
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Kate Dueber, ARRC
Lawrence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB



Microsoft Teams
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 273 292 962 535 5
Passcode: fF9my6oM

Dial in by phone
+1 (689) 223-3510
Phone conference ID
954 438 135#

Minutes

Tuesday, August 12th, 2025
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Meeting Location

Alaska DOT Mat Su District Office at 500 S Seward Meridian Pkwy, Wasilla, Alaska
There is limited parking at the building's main entrance; an overflow parking lot is adjacent to the south.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Members Present:

Adeyemi Alimi, ADEC
Adam Bradway for Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
Alex Strawn, MSB (Chair)
Bob Charles Jr., Knik Tribe
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Chris Bentz, Alaska DOT&PF
Crystal Smith, MSBSD
Dan Tucker, RSA Representative
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla (Vice Chair)
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Kate Dueber, ARRC
Lawrence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB

Members Absent:

Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
Jennifer Busch, Public Transit
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate

Visitors Present:

Anjie Goulding, MVP Transportation Planning Manager
Kelsey Anderson, RESPEC
Kim Sollien, MVP Executive Director
Lauren Little, DOT&PF
Rachel Greenberg, North Lake Community Council Member
Robert Wertman, RSG

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2. Consent Agenda (**Action Item**)
 - a. Approval of the August 12th, 2025, Agenda
 - b. Approval of the July 8th, 2025, Minutes

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Meeting Minutes (Tucker), seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. Staff/Committee/Working Group Reports
 - Staff Report
 - a. Schedule of topics

Kim Sollien provided a staff report.

- MTP Focus: Significant time spent working with RESPEC on MTP schedule adjustments due to model calibration challenges identified by RSG
- Staffing: Conducted interviews and reference checks for new employees; offers expected this week
- Element Agency Partnership: Working with PR firm on website updates and organizational branding; conducting interviews and planning photography/drone footage
- Political Engagement: Responding to inquiries from candidates running for office; planning to invite candidates to upcoming Policy Board meetings
- Insurance: Commercial insurance expected by end of week
- STIP Amendment #2: Substantial time spent reviewing and drafting memo regarding MVP fund allocation questions
- Public Participation Plan: Currently in 45-day public review period with digital ads in Mat-Su Frontiersman generating regular comments

No questions were raised from committee members.

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

Rachel Greenberg, member of the North Lakes Community Council Road and Traffic Committee, attended as an observer. She expressed interest in learning about the committee's work and how community councils can participate in the MPO process. Ms. Greenberg noted she was new to this type of meeting but was excited to be there and learn more. Kim Sollien acknowledged they had been trying to schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss community council engagement opportunities.

5. Policy Board July 23rd Action Items
 - a. Motion to approve the Public Participation Plan Update be released for 45-day Public Review Period (*Winnestaffer*), seconded. *Passed unanimously.*
 - b. Motion to approve \$99,330 from the Legislative Grant to cover the non-federal share of Pavement, Sign, Lighting, and Intersection Asset Management Plans (*Winnestaffer*), seconded. *Passed unanimously.*
 - c. Original motion was withdrawn. Motion to direct Kim to review STIP Amendment #2 with existing questions and bring formal comments back to the August meeting for Policy Board approval (*Ledford*), seconded. *Passed unanimously.*
 - d. Motion to approve a professional services agreement with Element Agency (motion as amended), (*Holland*); seconded. *Passed unanimously.*
 - e. Motion to approve the use of the Legislative Grant to cover the non-federal share of the MTP scope and budget update (*Charles*), seconded. *Passed unanimously.*
 - f. Motion to approve hiring additional planning staff (*Winnestaffer*), seconded. *Passed unanimously.*

Kim Sollien reported on Policy Board actions from July 23rd meeting.

6. Action Items
 - a. Memo from the MVP Policy Board about FHWA & FTA Approved STIP Amendment #2 regarding FFY24, FFY25 STBG, CRP and TAP suballocations, carryover funds, FTA 5307 funding, and questions around MVP's approved Program of Projects. **Recommended Motion: Motion to recommend that the Policy Board send a memo to the Alaska DOT**

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Commissioner's office and STIP Team outlining MVP's funding and project questions documented in STIP Amendment #2.

Kim Sollien gave a staff report, reviewing information starting on page 18 in the packet. Kim has been tracking the funding that the Technical Committee and Policy Board approved for use of MVP's funding in the STIP. Staff has asked questions about how the funding was being used and received a letter back from the commissioner. Then STIP Amendment #2 came out, which brought up many new questions outlined in the packet regarding how the approved STIP is using the funding. The request in the letter is for an accounting of all unobligated funding and to ask for it to be carried forward.

Key issues identified:

- Fund Allocation Discrepancies: 11 projects using MVP funding differently than approved or without coordination
- Carryover Questions: Unclear accounting of unobligated funds from FY24-25
- FTA 5307 Funding: Split letter between Alaska Railroad and Borough not completed
- Documentation Challenges: Lack of clear change logs making it difficult to track modifications

Discussion:

Brian Winnestaffer: When we have our own TIP, will it solve this problem?

Adam Bradway: Yes, the TIP will get the money moved to you, and DOT&PF will just be spending it on the approved MVP projects.

5307 Split Letter Discussion:

Brian Winnestaffer: What was the Alaska Railroad going to be using the money for?

Kate Dueber: It's the money that was coming to them from AMATS, just under \$300K. Now that funding comes to MVP, they are looking for that same amount.

Brian Winnestaffer: Worried about giving money to ARRC taking from transit money.

Kate Dueber: We can only use the funding for planning or capital. That would be used for rail and bridge maintenance in the MPO area.

Dan Tucker: Does this mean that there would be public commuter service?

Kate Dueber: No, cannot use the funds that way. We can only use them for capital.

Strategic Discussion:

Kim Sollien: Question is - Do we keep pushing? Or do we let it stay the way it is?

Adam Bradway: Doesn't know if we can get anything changed for FY24 and FY25 because it's too late but would be good to know what is left so that we can plan for FY26 and FY27, especially because by FY27 MVP will likely have quite a few projects by then.

Bob Charles: What is the timing on the new STIP?

Adam Bradway: The thought process is that as of December we will create a new STIP for FY26-29.

Brian Winnestaffer: Aren't we required to report on this? So how are we able to do that?

Adam Bradway: Not until it is in your MTP and TIP.

Brian Winnestaffer: So, we are not obligated until we have that?

Adam Bradway: Yes, at that point this will become a much more formal process. And remember that DOT&PF is always on the hook.

Brian Winnestaffer: Feels like legally, it's probably a requirement to send this letter and show we are tracking and paying attention.

Additional 5307 Discussion:

Kate: If we request to formally pause the 5307 funding, will that affect the MSB?

Adam Bradway: There is a split currently in place with Fairbanks and urbanized areas. Julius said that is the same document, and that is the document that would need to be addressed in order to add in ARRC for the railroad. Currently it is defined as Fairbanks Transit and MSB.

Kate: That can be a different conversation, ARRC has a different understanding.

Additional Discussion:

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Adam Bradway noted that STIP Amendment #2 is already approved, making retroactive changes difficult.

Discussion of need for better coordination and accounting of MVP funds. There is concern about accountability for MPO fund tracking and reporting.

Motion to approve (Winnestaffer), seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. Old Business

- a. MTP Update
 - RSG Travel Model Technical Memo and Presentation

Robert Wertman provided comprehensive presentation on travel demand model development:

Model Background:

- MATSU model derivative of 2013 AMATS model
- Behavioral patterns need updating for proper calibration
- Currently over-predicting trips in region

Work Completed:

- Model system review and suitability assessment (60% complete)
- 2050 Horizon land use forecast development
- Recalibration efforts began August 11, 2025

Data Sources:

- 2013 AMATS Regional Household Travel Survey (included MVP region)
- 2019 Census and American Community Survey data
- School enrollment and employment data
- Local GIS data sources

Model Applications:

- Primary focus on roadway network analysis
- Limited sensitivity for non-motorized and detailed transit analysis
- Regional/area-wide accuracy rather than link-level precision

Timeline:

- Recalibration completion: First week of September
- Systems Deficiency Report draft: End of October
- Gap analysis completion: December

Expected Deliverables:

- Baseline 2050 model run (no-build scenario)
- Build scenario with identified projects
- Analysis of VMT, VHT, and delay metrics
- RESPEC Existing Conditions Report Plan Review: Project List
- MTP Goals and Objectives work session meeting date TBD

Kelsey Anderson provided project timeline updates:

- Existing conditions report nearly complete, awaiting model calibration
- Goals and objectives special meeting: September 2nd
- Agency project nominations: November
- Public process: December

8. New Business

- a. Title VI Training
 - [Title VI video](#) and [PowerPoint](#) Review
 - Title VI Trivia

Kim Sollien conducted mandatory Title VI training including:

- Background on Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964

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- Requirements for federal transportation funding recipients
- Interactive quiz on Title VI principles and requirements
- Emphasis on ensuring equitable access to transportation planning processes

- b. Review and update MVP's updated Program of Projects FFY24, FFY25, FFY26

Discussion of approach for FY26 funding programming:

- Staff will prepare updated Program of Projects for next meeting
- Focus on FY26 allocations while accounting for FY24-25 carryover uncertainties
- Committee requested full accounting showing both approved allocations and STIP Amendment #2 actual allocations

Staff Direction: Prepare comprehensive accounting with multiple scenarios for FY26 programming.

- 9. Other Issues
 - a. Transit update

Transit roundtable meeting scheduled for August 13th at lunchtime via Teams

- 10. Informational Items
 - a. SAFE ROADS National Initiative: Presentation by Lauren Little, Chief Engineer, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Lauren Little presented on new federal initiative (Safe Arterials for Everyone through Reliable Operations and Distraction-reducing Strategies):

Initiative Overview:

- Focus on arterial roadway systems with high fatality rates
- Data-driven identification of problem locations
- State plan required within one year

Alaska's Approach - Four Categories:

1. Safety Locations: High crash locations using Highway Safety Improvement Program data, ranked by crash cost per mile
2. Bridge Restrictions: Bridges with operational limitations including:
 - Poor condition bridges
 - Narrow bridges restricting non-motorized users
 - Load-restricted bridges
 - Height-restricted bridges
 - Non-redundant steel tension member bridges
3. Freight Bottlenecks: Based on 2018 freight bottleneck report (reviewed 2021), including Parks Highway through Wasilla
4. Congestion: Intersections operating at Level of Service D for 8+ months annually using INRIX crowdsourced data

MVP Area Highlights:

- Gamble Street identified as highest crash cost per mile statewide
- Several bridges and intersections in region identified
- Parks Highway through Wasilla flagged as freight bottleneck

Next Steps:

- List submission deadline: August 29th
- Feedback requested from MPOs on missing locations
- Future prioritization and solution development phases

- b. Website Update and PPP 45-Day Public Comment Period [MVP PPP Draft](#)

Public Participation Plan in 45-day public review through September 11th. Updated document will return to Technical Committee in October for Policy Board recommendation.

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11. Technical Committee Comments

No additional comments from committee members.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Technical Committee Meeting – Tuesday, September 9th, 2025, from 2:00-4:00 pm to be held via Microsoft TEAMS and at the Alaska DOT MatSu District Office at 500 S Seward Meridian Pkwy, Wasilla, Alaska.