



MatSu Valley Planning *for* Transportation

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 Meeting

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Minutes

Technical Committee

Tuesday, December 9th, 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.

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm.

Members present:

Adeyemi Alimi - ADEC
Alex Strawn - MSB
Ben White - AK DOT&PF
Brian Winnestaffer - Chickaloon Native Village
Chris Bentz - AK DOT&PF
Crystal Smith - MSBSD
Dan Tucker - RSA Representative
Erich Schaal - City of Wasilla
Kate Dueber - ARRC
Lawrence Smith - Trucking Industry Advocate
Tom Adams - MSB

Members absent:

Bob Charles Jr., Knik Tribe
Jennifer Busch, Public Transit
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate

Visitors Present:

Adam Bradway – AK DOT&PF



Anjie Goulding – MVP
Ben White – AK DOT&PF
Carrie Cecil – MVP
Kim Sollien – MVP
Pat Cotter – RESPEC
Luke Bowland – AK DOT&PF
Kelsey Andersen – RESPEC
Laurie Cummings – HDR

- Consent Agenda (**Action Item**)
 - a. Approval of the December 9th, 2025, Agenda
 - b. Approval of the November 4th, 2025, Minutes

Motion to approve the consent agenda and minutes (*Tucker*), seconded (*White*). No objections, no discussion. Approved.

- Staff Report
 - Staff Report
 - a. Schedule of topics

Kim Sollien presents following topics:

Vacant at large seat for Bike and Pedestrian mobility representative:

- Stuart Leidner is planning on retiring next spring and has elected to step down as the Bike and Ped mobility advocate.
- Question posed to the Technical Committee – would we like to invite individuals who have previously expressed interest? Or would we like to advertise more publicly?
- The current process for applicants consists of a one page application (who are you? What is your connection to the TC? What do you bring?)
 - The by-laws are silent on the specific methods by which we advertise positions.
- The process for review has previously been to provide any applications to the Technical Committee for review, discussion, and vetting.

Tucker suggests that we outline the process in the by-laws (or outline a policy or procedure) concerning how we advertise and for how long and capture in a policy letter to the Technical Committee.

Minimum attendance requirements:

- Do we want to set a minimum number of meetings that members need to attend?
 - Intent would be to encourage attendance and ensure that interests of represented organizations and transportation user groups are appropriately represented in discussions and decision making.
- Voices of the Visitors (Non-Action Items)

None.



- Policy Board November 19th Action Items
 - a. *Officer Election Results: Mayor Cooper, Chair, Mayor DeVries, Vice Chair, Sean Holland, Treasurer, and Bob Charles, Secretary*
 - b. *December 2025-November 2026 Policy Board Meeting Dates Motion Winnestaffer, seconded, **passed unanimously***
 - c. *Personnel Policy Update to Annual COLA policy Motion-Winnestaffer, seconded, **passed unanimously***
 - d. *Personnel Policy Update to Annual Performance Evaluations Motion-Winnestaffer, seconded, **passed unanimously***
 - e. *MTP Project Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Guidebook Approval, PB edited to nomination filter (cost cap) on the form Motion-Winnestaffer, seconded, **passed unanimously***
- Action Items
 - a. MTP Vision, Goals, and Objectives **Recommended Motion: Motion to recommend that the Policy Board approve the MTP vision, Goals, and Objectives as presented**

Move to approve the Vision, Goals, and Objectives as presented (*Tucker*), seconded (*Adams*).

Adams asked a question/made a suggestion. In the future can we include a way to distinguish if the commenter is individual or organization?

No further discussion, no objections. Approved.

- Old Business
 - a. MVP Improvement Program Scope, Schedule, and Budget update Chris Bentz, Alaska DOT&PF

Chris Bentz presented updated on projects.

- This is an update on the MVP improvement program to set aside up to \$1 mil annually to work on smaller projects that might be completed more expediently. The Policy Board had previously approved a list of 14 projects, mostly repaving with some new paving. Projects were recommended by the City of Wasilla, City of Palmer, and MSB. This read out concerns the design and review of projects. This will inform the scope, schedule, and budget of the projects.
- The DOT&PF team spent the 2025 field season looking at things required by fed/ state guidelines to ensure all projects meet standards required for use of federal funds:
 - Must clear an encroachment
 - Must look at utilities to ensure appropriate height
 - Also need to bring everything up to ADA standards
- The team did identify some ramps that need to be improved to ADA but they do not conflict with the ROW so no associated additional costs.
- On all 14 roads, 40 plus locations where utilities do not meet requirements. In process now of obtaining as-builts and checking with utilities for permits to assign financial responsibility for rectifying the issues.



- Palmer has provided, MSB and Wasilla have not yet
- DOT&PF expect to do combined review of all projects in spring and early summer, which should be accompanied by better cost estimates.

Questions pertinent to the topic

- If the utility company determines it was the road fault/not utility then how does that get paid for?
 - If it is outside utility permit allowance, then utility pays for. If it is not, then project dollars can be used – but this would add work which would require increase in match dollars.
- How are encroachments handled?
 - In order to deal with encroachments (getting surveyed now), the actual enforcement is met out by the MSB and cities. DOT, can help support but will need confirmation of letter being sent and some response.
 - If the encroachment doesn't get addressed, DOT will have to remove it; however, this can be complicated depending on the nature of the encroachment.

b. MTP Update

- Interactive Project Map Update

Carrie Cecil presented a high-level summary:

- As of meeting time there were 56 point comments, and 62 line comments (inclusive of comments on hard copy maps from the Open house).
 - Survey Monkey survey has received 16 responses so far.
 - MVP will be putting a social media add and mailer out to garner more attention
 - Review Project Nomination Form, and Nomination Process
 - Existing Conditions Report 12/19/2025 Draft to MVP
 - a. Level of Service Report 12/5/2025 Draft to MVP
 - b. Travel Model Report 12/12/2025 Draft to MVP
 - c. Data-driven project list from RESPEC 12/12/2025 draft to MVP
- c. MVP FFY 24&25 Funding Allocations, Carryover, and FFY26 Funding Award
- Policy Board Request: DOT reps on the PB and TC, engage their leadership in documenting improvements that could be made with the 3C process, STIP involvement, and usage of MVP's suballocations without consultation- Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF

Ben White presented a summary of the letter, which is the outcome of Technical Committee and Policy Board meetings in October.

- The letter addresses both the past programming variances that led to MVP's funds being used without notification as well as plans for carry over funds in FY26.
- Overall result is that MVP is going to walk away with more funds in FY26 (including TIFIA funds).
- DOT&PF recommendations moving forward:
 - DOT should provide written documentation of how MVP funds are intended to be programmed in advance notice where possible.



- Add programming of carry over funds as a subject line to MPO quarterly meetings to make sure that everyone's financial programming is being addressed consistently.
 - DOT should prepare an annual report of where the funds went and how they were spent.
 - DOT has also added tags to funds to help track their movement through their system and will be preparing regular reports.
- MVP FFY 24,25,26 funding and project documentation Update - Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF

Adam Bradway provided a summary. As of right now MVP would get for FY26 \$12,841,600 STBG, \$2.7 mil of CRP, \$936k of TAP. Now, we have to figure out how to get this into the TIP for FY27.

- 26-29 SDOT&PF Carbon Reduction Program Consultation: 34464 Fleet Conversion Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF

Adam Bradway presented the project request for consultation with MPO per federal regulation. Associated documents start on page 26 of the packet. AK DOT&PF would like to program approx. \$636,000 of Carbon Reduction Program funds to support fleet conversion. To date, MVP has not used any of the CRP funds that they received; CRP funds have specific limitations on use. FHWA has requested assurances that vehicles would be used within the MPA boundaries. The DOT's Carbon Reduction Strategy specifies the type of work that CRP funds can be spent on in AK. This will also be presented to the Policy Board next week.

Discussion:

- General consensus is that the Technical Committee agrees that the expenditure of these CRP funds would be okay but would like to request formally that MVP receive in-kind funds in the future and that this be a formal agreement with the DOT.

d. FFY26-29 STIP Update Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF

No update, 3Cs process is on desk.

e. Alaska DOT&PF SAFEROADS initiative Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF

No new updates. This item is on the list of topics in response to a Policy Board request to keep MVP informed of updates.

- New Business
- Other Issues
 - a. Transit update

MSB has QR code posted on Valley Transit busses to assist in gathering data on experience, collecting rider comments and complaints, and also gathering info on ridership.



- Informational Items
 - a. Element Agency – MTP Video update

Kim Sollien provided brief summary:

- PB has asked for the edit to be made to statement about “inadequate planning”
- DOT communications will support the editing
- Not sure about timeframe or how the video will be edited to soften message
- Video is on the website but not on social media

- b. Community Outreach & Engagement Analytics Report

Anjie Goulding provided a high level report out on what we are seeing on across our social media and outreach platforms and how we are using these platforms to improve outreach to the community and track engagement.

- FB = 12k plus views, 60 followers
- Insta = 12k plus views, 104 followers

- a. Formal Call for Projects from agencies date pending mid-late January

Kim Sollien requests that you please get in touch if you would like to set up a separate meeting with your respective organization to discuss and review the MTP process.

- Looking to you to help us get in touch with the right people to make sure you everything you need to be able to submit projects.

Motion to extend by 5 min (White), seconded (Chris). Approved.

- a. Stakeholder outreach and special meeting schedule- letters sent

- Technical Committee Comments

Ben White – RFP is on the street for a Glenn Highway wildlife corridor plan.

- Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Technical Committee Meeting – Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, 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.