

MVP for Transportation MPO Policy Board Meeting

Representatives:

Bob Charles – Knik Tribe (**Secretary**)
Edna DeVries, Mayor - MSB
Glenda Ledford, Mayor – City of Wasilla (**Chair**)
Brian Winnestaffer - Chickaloon Native Village
Mike Brown - MSB
Sean Holland - DOT&PF (**Treasurer**)
Steve Carrington, Mayor – City of Palmer (**Vice Chair**)



Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 447 328 062#

Minutes

Wednesday, May 28th, 2025

1:30-3:00pm

Meeting Location

Musk Ox Farm

12850 E Archie Road, Palmer Alaska 99645

Hayloft / Classroom

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm

Members Present

Bob Charles, Knik Tribe
Edna DeVries, MSB
Mike Brown, MSB
Steve Carrington, City of Palmer
Sean Holland, Alaska DOT&PF
Kaylan Wade (in for Brian Winnestaffer)

Members Absent

Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Glenda Ledford, City of Wasilla

Visitors Present

Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF
Anjie Goulding, MVP Transportation Planning Manager
Donna Gardino
Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Kelsey Anderson, RESPEC
Kim Sollien, MVP Executive Director
Megan Flory, RESPEC

2. Consent Agenda (Action Item)

- a. Approval of the May 28th, 2025, Agenda
- b. Approval of the April 22nd, 2025, Minutes

*Motion to approve the consent agenda (**Charles**), seconded. No edits. Approved unanimously.*

3. Committee/Working Group Reports (Including the Chair's Report)

MVP for Transportation MPO Policy Board Meeting

i. Staff Report

• Schedule of Topics

Kim Sollien provided a staff report. Introduced Anjie Goulding as the new MPO Planner. Anjie Goulding is happy to be here. Drove from Breckinridge CO. Excited to work with everyone.

Kim Sollien, working since last November to get last commercial insurance. The initial quote came in over \$20,000; FAST Planning only pays \$6000. A lot of firms are struggling to put packets together for small entities. Many commercial insurers have moved out of Alaska. Combs is working on putting together a packet. If there is no progress by next month, we will opt for the expensive option. I have not been able to finalize the grant agreement with the MSB as it requires insurance. Hopefully by next month it will be settled one way or another.

Kim Sollien filed the 9-90 for tax purposes. There was no income, but MVP was in operation. This fall, once the fiscal year turns over, Kim will need a firm to file the 9-90.

Kim Sollien submitted the first reimbursement to DOT (Adam Bradway). No in person meeting in June, July, or August as the Musk Ox farm is booked. Looking into having DOT host a meeting space in Wasilla.

Kim Sollien is often asked to do presentations. Kim reaches out to the Policy Board to ask permission to present. The Commuter Rail asked for a presentation and Kim didn't ask for permission before giving the presentation. We don't fall into the right meeting cycle to ask for permission for every request. If it is ok, I would prefer to send an email to ask for permission and if no response, it will be taken as approval. The goal being to keep business going.

Sean Holland: An email check-in works for me.

Kim Sollien: For context, FAST planning works with his chair. AMATS goes through the entire board.

Edna DeVries: Go ahead and do what you're doing. But it's different between legislature and activist groups. I'd be interested in what others have to say.

Mike Brown: I don't have a problem with just updates and information. If there is advocacy, it should be checked with the board.

Kim Sollien: Are you all comfortable with the email request? Or would you rather I bring the discussion to the meeting.

Steve Carrington: I like the idea of the email.

Edna DeVries: I got the feeling they wanted to throw Alaska DOT&PF under the bus. If it was anything that would show they weren't working with us, that could be easily capsulized. Bottom line, we just need to understand what the intent of them wanting you to come is.

Kim Sollien: You mean during the friends of the commuter rail group?

Edna DeVries: Yes.

Kim Sollien: They wanted to hear about us and specifically about the MTP and how they can be involved with commuter rail options.

MVP for Transportation MPO Policy Board Meeting

Edna DeVries: When I was mayor of Plamer, the biggest problem was getting the railroad to the table.

Kim Sollien: I will continue to email if the meeting doesn't fall within our meeting cycle.

Regarding letters of support. We wrote two letters of support for the Alaska DOT&PF, wildlife mitigation study, and Knik Tribe wanted a letter for a culvert. Those letters fell within the cycle for me to bring them to you at a board meeting, and they were approved. Most recently, MSB Planning wanted a letter to match the 5307-transit funding, and Kim was not able to get the letter together for the Policy Board meeting cycle. That is when an email was sent out asking for permission. Not everyone responded. Is it ok to email and assume if there is no response, assume it is an approval? FAST works with the chair, if it can't go before the whole board. AMATS everything goes before the board. That means that whoever is asking for the letter may not get it in time. I am not going to ask you to fund something. But if it is someone else asking for a letter of support, how do you want Kim to handle this?

Sean Holland: I am ok with this. Email, if Kim doesn't hear back by such and such date, it is considered an approval.

Steve Carrington: The more political it is, the more cautious we need to be.

Mike Brown: I think the email will be helpful. I don't want to hold things up. The answer isn't necessarily no, but there needs to be more communication before something goes out. I can commit myself to responding to the emails you are sending.

Kim Sollien: I'll keep doing what I have been doing. If you want to pause or bring it to the board, please let me know.

Bob Charles: Suggestion, that when something comes up, if time is a factor, that discussions are had with the chair or the vice chair instead of the whole board.

Kim Sollien: Thank you, for now I will continue to send emails.

Bob Charles: I appreciate the staff reports. They are helpful, thank you.

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

None.

5. Action Items

a. MVP Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Project Nominations

Motion to approve MVP Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Project Nominations, (Holland), seconded. Passed unanimously.

Kim Sollien provided staff report. Alaska DOT&PF project staff reached out and offered a workshop. Criteria used project selection to reduce accidents and fatalities, making the network safer. Alaska DOT&PF internally decides which projects to move forward with the goal of upgrading whatever infrastructure to make it safer. Program staff have decided to seek more input to decide which projects to move forward. Invited MPOs to nominate their own projects. Alaska DOT&PF maintains a list of safety corridors, many of them are within the MPA. Recently SS4A projects. We decided to put all the projects that the subcommittee brought forward. The list is a meeting packet. Kim provided a summary of each of the nominated projects.

MVP for Transportation MPO Policy Board Meeting

Adam Bradway: We may take a couple of these to look in depth. There are some that may fall off the list, the scoring process.

Bob Charles: What are some of the criteria the HSIP team uses to score a particular project.

Adam Bradway: This program is based on cost benefit analysis for different types of accidents. Things that are going to improve safety and improve that crash type. We will likely come back every year to keep everyone fresh.

Sean Holland: Are these sites based on data? Are these known crash site areas?

Kim Sollien: This came from Alaska DOT&PF, SS4A, or from the school district. All of these have documented safety concerns.

Donna Gardino: When we develop our new TIP, everyone will be able to see which projects pass muster.

Kim Sollien: To clarify, this didn't go through the whole Technical Committee; it went through a subcommittee. This is a timing thing. The Alaska DOT&PF HSIP staff need the list before June 15th.

6. Old Business

a. Scope, Schedule, and Estimate for MVP Improvement Program: Alaska DOT&PF

Hopefully next month, we will have an updated program of projects. One of the projects was an improvement program, Adam calls them Shave and Pave. Set aside one million dollars. It doesn't have ROW or drainage issues. Called for a project request. The cities presented a project list. Not everyone could attend that meeting, we believe a million dollars is enough but need to prioritize other projects. Next month, we will have a prioritized project list and will meet on Friday to discuss.

Sean Holland: Is there some sort of matrix?

Donna Gardino: This program was started in 2010. The folks that are responsible for the roadways are the ones that bring the projects to us. Because the projects vary, these projects are smaller and are not scored. Projects do not require a significant design, and programs are not scored. That has worked out for Fairbanks. Not scored but prioritized by need. Everyone in the room prioritizing the projects are the experts in their world.

Adam Bradway: One of the other projects is an inventory of road pavement condition. In the future, we should have pavement conditions for all the roads within the MPA which will help.

b. Program of Projects Update - Pavement Management Plan: Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF

The last meeting approved \$100,000 to the project. Adam Bradway requested that change and added that to STIP amendment 2.

c. Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment #2 Update

Sean Holland: It has been released for review.

MVP for Transportation MPO Policy Board Meeting

7. New Business

a. Executive Director Authorities

Discussed in staff report above.

i. Presentation Requests

Discussed in staff report above.

ii. Letters of Support

Discussed in staff report above.

b. Policy Board Approvals

i. Voting by email

Discussed in staff report above.

c. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Presentation: RESPEC, LLC

Kelsey Anderson, RESPEC: presented. Kim Sollien to send out a copy of Kelsey's slides.

8. Other Issues

None.

9. Informational Items

a. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for SS4A Competitive Grant: Tom Adams, MSB <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

Grant out in early June. Tom Adams wanted to make everyone aware. It is for safety projects.

b. Transit Update

The assembly approved a match of \$750 thousand for next year. MSB is in negotiations with the provider. They applied for grant funding through FTA.

c. MPO Quarterly Meeting, June 3rd, 2025, Anchorage

Hopefully we will receive the PL. Will bring that to you next month.

d. Supporting Walking, Biking, and Safe Routes to School in Alaska, Workshop on June 4th (full day) and 5th (half day)

Anjie and Kim will be attending this workshop.

10. Policy Board Comments

Bob Charles: Good idea to explore documents that are related to timelines.

Sean Holland: We can offer a conference room at Seward Meridian for the June, July and August meetings. Seats up to 15 people.

MVP for Transportation MPO Policy Board Meeting

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43pm

Next Scheduled MPO Policy Board Meeting – **June 25th**, from 1:30pm-3:00 p.m. to be held via Microsoft TEAMS.