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
Lawerence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB

Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 273 292 962 535 5
Passcode: fF9my6oM

Dial in by phone
+1 (689) 223-3510
Phone conference ID
71078

Minutes

Tuesday, July 8th, 2025
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Meeting Location
Musk Ox Farm
12850 E Archie Road, Palmer, Alaska 99645
Hayloft / Classroom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.

Members Present:
Adeyemi Alimi, ADEC
Alex Strawn, MSB (Chair)
Andrew Reynolds for Kate Dueber, ARRC
Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
Bob Charles Jr., Knik Tribe
Chris Bentz, Alaska DOT&PF
Crystal Smith, MSBSD
Dan Tucker, RSA Representative
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Lawerence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB

Members Absent:
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla (Vice Chair)
Jennifer Busch, Public Transit
Kate Dueber, ARRC
Randy Durham, MSB TAB

Visitors Present:
Andrew Raymond, AKRR
Anjie Goulding, MVP Transportation Planning Manager
Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Kelsey Anderson, RESPEC
Kim Sollien, MVP Executive Director
Laura Achee, Alaska State Legislature

Luke Bowland, DOT

2. Consent Agenda **(Action Item)**
   a. Approval of the July 8th, 2025, Agenda
   b. Approval of the June 10th, 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. Staff are conducting interviews for the office and communications manager position with 5 applicants. No questions were raised from committee members.

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

None.

5. Policy Board June 25th Action Items
   a. Motion to approve the FFY2025 MVP Improvement Program Project List, (*DeVries*), seconded. *Passed unanimously.*
   b. Motion to approve sending a letter to the Governor's office against sunset of the board, (*Brown*), seconded. Vote: Yes: 1; No: 5, Abstain: 1. *Motion Fails*
   c. Motion to approve sending a letter to the Governor's office in support of the sunset of the board, (*Brown*), seconded. Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0, Abstain: 2. *Motion passes.*
   d. Motion to approve sending a letter of support to the MSB Assembly in support of their grant application to FTA and to manage Transit Services in the Urban Area (*Charles*), seconded. *Approved unanimously.*

6. Action Items
   a. Review and Recommend to the Policy Board Approval of the Public Participation Plan Update for 45-day Public Review Period **(Action Item)**

Elise Blocker reviewed the change log from the packet showing modifications from the previous document to the new document. The updated document reflects MVP's current status and future direction.

Kim Sollien explained that the updated Public Participation Plan (PPP) ensures compliance with federal regulations while facilitating meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Tom Adams provided several recommendations:
- Revise the first sentence on the stakeholders page regarding tribal representatives
- Remove the phrase "Offering opportunities for tribal citizens to participate in the planning process, comment on projects, and provide input on planning documents"
- Check acronym consistency throughout the document
- Clarify stakeholder references to the appropriate board (technical or policy)
- Ensure timeline consistency between Table 1 and TIP paragraph
- Define "minor and major change" in Table 2 on page 30

*Motion to approve with recommended edits (**Adams**), seconded. Approved unanimously.*

   b. Review and Approve Scoping Comments Engstrom Road North Extension to Tex-Al Drive **(Action Item)**

Kim Sollien explained that scoping comments were requested and those received are represented in the packet.

Tom Adams described the project intent: to extend Engstrom Road from Beach Craft to Tex-Al Drive to address current traffic challenges. This is a straightforward project.

Crystal Smith noted that this access is imperative for bus access during winter conditions.

*Motion to approve with edit to correct the year on the letter date (**Tucker**), seconded (Smith). Approved unanimously.*

c. Review and Recommend to the Policy Board Approval of the Pavement, Sign, Lighting, and Intersection Asset Management Plan Match Request of $99,330 from the Legislative Grant for non-federal match **(Action Item)**

Kim Sollien explained that discussions with MSB and the cities revealed difficulty in providing match funding for these projects. MVP is requesting to use its Legislative Grant to support the match since the project benefits MSB, the cities, and MVP. Future discussion will address project management responsibilities.

Tom Adams noted that MSB cannot spend area-wide money without voter approval and must use individual RSA funds, making this a lengthy process. MVP assistance with match funding would simplify the process.

Dan Tucker confirmed that RSAs would need to go through a formal process, and MVP paying the match simplifies this requirement.

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

7. Old Business

a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

- Goals and Objectives Overview

Kelsey Anderson (RESPEC) presented the MTP Update PowerPoint. This was the first time the Technical Committee reviewed this information, with the intent to develop the MTP collaboratively. The presentation content will return as an action item in the August Technical Committee meeting. A special work session meeting is planned to develop goals and objectives, performance measures, and TIP project evaluation criteria. Technical Committee engagement and attendance is critical due to fast-moving timelines and upcoming deadlines.

Dan Tucker questioned the absence of Emergency Response considerations in road planning, such as incorporating firebreaks with roadways.

Kelsey Anderson responded that Emergency Response would be addressed under Connectivity and Congestion categories.

Dan Tucker also questioned lighting improvements and feasibility considerations regarding system capacity to support additional lighting.

Kelsey Anderson acknowledged this concern, noting that the MTP is grounded with fiscal constraints, and feasibility must be considered when setting goals and recommendations.

Bob Charles asked if the goals and objectives would include emergency, disaster, and public safety response. Specifically, for when incidents happen, that must be incorporated into our plan on how we'll design our routes to accommodate the responses for those types of situations.

Kelsey Anderson explained that the goals and objectives presented will be refined and workshopped with the Technical Committee in the special meeting at month's end.

Chris Bentz requested access to the travel demand model prior to the work session to ensure recommendations align with land use and traffic demand. He questioned baseline information from RSG for the travel demand project, specifically regarding road capacity requirements (e.g., whether Bogard Road needs 4-lane or 2-lane capacity for projected 24,000 vehicles).

Kelsey Anderson agreed to schedule time with RSG for questions and potentially invite them to the work session.

b. STIP Amendment #2 Update and Review of the Letter to MVP from Ryan Anderson, Commissioner of DOT&PF, about MVP's Amendment #2 comments

Kim Sollien reported that following MVP's March memo with questions about STIP Amendment #2, a July 1st response letter was received from the Commissioner. The referenced online log lacks sufficient detail for MVP to understand how its funding is being utilized. Kim prepared a document comparing MVP's questions with the Commissioner's responses, identifying remaining unanswered questions for Policy Board review and follow-up to the Commissioner.

Ben White (DOT&PF) explained that the STIP is based on the Project Development Plan (PDP), and changes from Amendment #1 to Amendment #2 reflect software system evolution at the state level. Current software issues affect some displayed information. Match funding questions must wait until January, when DOT&PF will determine how to address the $90 million gap beyond the available $31.8 million.

c. Governor Veto of FFY26 Match Letter from Ryan Anderson, Commissioner of DOT&PF

No comments.

d. Transit Update

None.

8. New Business

None.

9. Other Issues

a. Title VI Training Schedule

Kim Sollien announced that MVP staff will attend Title VI Training on August 19-20, 2025, and will bring information back to the August Technical Committee meeting.

b. MTP Project Evaluation Criteria Work Session Special Meeting July 24th or 25th

Kim Sollien will send a Doodle poll to determine meeting scheduling availability.

10. Informational Items

a. Article - Dunleavy vetoes could delay $600 million in federal highway funds.
b. Letter of Support to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Assembly in Support of applying for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding to manage Transit Services in the Urban Area.
c. Letter of Support for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan Implementation.
d. Letter to the Governor agreeing with the sunset of the Roads and Highways Advisory Board
e. Draft resolution for the MSB Assembly Coordinated Transportation Plan priority list

No comments were made on any informational items.

11. Technical Committee Comments

Ben White reported receiving a federal government letter regarding safe roads coordination with MPOs. DOT&PF was given 60 days to compile a list of safe road issues to be addressed by the end of FY26. A preliminary list is due Friday, and Kim should expect an email from him today.

Dan Tucker suggested finding an alternative meeting location due to internet connectivity and acoustic issues.

12. Adjournment

*Motion to extend the meeting (**White**), seconded.*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Technical Committee Meeting – Tuesday, August 12th, 2025, from 2:00-4:00 pm to be held at the Musk Ox Farm and Microsoft TEAMS.