



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)**
Vacant, Public Transit Advocate
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Kate Dueber, ARRC
Lawerence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Vacant, Mobility Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB

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Meeting Minutes

Technical Committee

Tuesday, January 13th, 2026
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 2:00pm.

Board Members Present:

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)
Vacant, Public Transit Advocate
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Kate Dueber, ARRC
Lawerence Smith, Trucking Industry
Advocate Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Vacant, Mobility Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB

Board Members Absent:



Dan Tucker

Visitors Present:

Adam Bradway - AK DOT&PF
LaMarr Anderson – Public Community Member
Anjie Goulding - MVP
Brain Lindamood - AKRR
Carrie Cecil - MVP
Jennifer Bush - Valley Transit
Julie Spackman – MSB
Kelsey Anderson - RESPEC
Kim Sollien – MVP
Pat Cotter - RESPEC
Rod Hanson – North Lakes Community Council

2. Consent Agenda (**Action Item**)

- a. Approval of the January 13th, 2025, Agenda
- b. Approval of the December 9th, 2025, Minutes

Chris Bentz noted a typo in the minutes where Glenda was listed as absent but is not a member.

Motion to approve the consent agenda with correction to minutes (*Winnestaffer*), seconded (*White*). No objections, no discussion. Approved.

3. Staff Report

- Staff Report
- Stakeholder outreach and special meeting schedule-
 - LRSAAB – January 15th
 - City of Wasilla Council – January 26th
 - City of Palmer Council – January 27th
 - Chickaloon Native Village – January 28th
 - MSB Assembly – February 3rd
 - MSB Transportation Advisory Board – February 13th

Kim Sollien provided a staff report:

- MVP is currently in the middle of its first audit, which is progressing well.
- Interviews for office manager/communications manager position have been conducted with strong candidates.
- Audit process is providing valuable insights on organizational structure and financial coding practices.

Carrie Cecil provided a high-level summary of the interactive comment map:

- As of meeting time, 146 comments had been received (launched December 3rd).
- Comments show high levels of engagement and detail compared to typical public comment processes.
- Key themes emerging: pedestrian and bike safety, traffic flow connections, and congestion considerations.



MatSu Valley Planning for Transportation

- Comment period closes at the end of January; MVP and RESPEC will analyze data and create summary reports.
- Interactive map accessible at MVPmpo.com.
- Survey Monkey survey has received over 90 responses.
- Committee members encouraged to review comments, as public input will be factored into project evaluation criteria.

4. Policy Board, December 19th Action Items

- a. Approval of the MTP Vision, Goals, and Objectives as presented. *Motion to approve as presented (Cooper), seconded (Winnestaffer)*.
- b. Approval of 26-29 SDOT&PF Carbon Reduction Program Consultation: 34464 Fleet Conversion. *Motion to amend movement to approve ADOT&PF usage of \$636,790 of MVP's CRP FFY25 suballocation for Fleet Conversion, provided that a written agreement that the funds be returned to MVP in the form of STBG funding in FFY27 be prepared by ADOT&PF*. Seconded (Winnestaffer). No further discussion, no objections. Approved.

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

LaMarr Anderson – Here to observe and listen.

Rod Hanson – North Lakes Community Council – Expressed appreciation for MVP's work and noted his community's engagement in the public comment period and MTP survey. North Lakes Community Council boundaries are within the MPA with approximately 10,000 residents. The council holds monthly meetings and has been focused on advocating for roads and intersections. The area is experiencing significant growth with multiple large subdivisions approved or in process. Pedestrian safety around schools is a major concern. The council has prepared a draft resolution and is continuing to refine it based on learning from MVP processes.

6. Action Items

None.

7. Old Business

- a. MTP Update
 - Formal Call for Project Nominations 1.30.2025
 - Request for review by January 20th
 - i. Existing Conditions Report for Review
 - ii. Level of Service Report for Review
 - iii. Travel Model Report for Review
 - Data-driven project list from RESPEC Presentation

Kim Sollien requested Technical Committee members review three documents and provide feedback by January 20th. Tom Adams requested MVP send a OneDrive link to centralize comments.

Pat Cotter presented RESPEC's data-driven project list.

Discussion:



MatSu Valley Planning for Transportation

- *Chris Bentz* inquired about travel demand model projects listed on page 24 and whether they had been incorporated into the model.
- *Adam Bradway* confirmed projects should be included; noted some MSB projects may be only partially funded by DOT in partnership with MSB.
- *Pat Cotter* reviewed projects across map areas, emphasizing partnerships with other governments and encouraging submissions regardless of road ownership.
- *Tom Adams* questioned why MSB TIP projects were not included in the list.
- *Kim Sollien* explained these projects were removed on assumption they already have funding.
- *Adam Bradway* noted DOT will develop their own list and MSB can submit additional projects.
- *Chris Bentz* and *Tom Adams* noted surprisingly few motorized projects in MSB list; discussed reliance on stakeholders to identify needed projects beyond existing data.
- *Pat Cotter* clarified that across the full MPA, the project split is approximately 50/50 motorized and non-motorized; the borough data included more non-motorized projects.

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

Adam Bradway provided update that it is in the works; DOT is trying to get an update out by the legislative session.

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

Adam Bradway reported no updates at this time; will provide updates as available.

8. New Business

a. MTP Scoring Subcommittee Nomination

Carrie Cecil provided overview of timeline for formal project nomination period and MTP Scoring Subcommittee expectations. MVP is seeking 2-3 volunteer committee members to assist with the process.

Expectations:

- Kick-Off Meeting – March 1 – 1HR
- Independent Project Review work March 17th – March 25th
- In-person Project Review Session (Optional but encouraged)
- Evaluation Team Workshop – April 2nd – 2-3HRS
- Present to boards in April board meetings

Tom Adams noted possibility of needing to pivot on scoring group depending on number of projects submitted. MSB likely has 2 volunteers. Crystal Smith volunteered to serve and expressed concern about her role with MSB school district. Carrie Cecil noted scoring process was built to address such concerns. Erich Schaal indicated timing would be difficult for his participation.



b. Transit

- 5307 Split Letter from ADOT&PF Commissioner Anderson
Request for MVP to provide guidance on a future policy for the 5307 split between direct recipients in small urban areas.
- ARRC Split Letter Proposal and Presentation by Brian Lindamood-
Questions to be addressed
 - i. An explanation of the split formula proposed by the ARRC
 - ii. The history of the funding split between ARRC and the Anchorage Urban Area
 - iii. A breakdown of how many commuter/non-tourist passengers are served between Wasilla and Anchorage
 - iv. Documentation of the total FTA funds the railroad received in FFY24, including: 5307 urban, 5307 statewide, 5337 urban, and 5337 statewide

Kim Sollien provided background: Transit funding changed when the area became urbanized. ARRC is requesting a split of 5307 funds. Brian Lindamood from Alaska Railroad and Jennifer Bush from Valley Transit participated to present perspectives.

Brian Lindamood presented ARRC proposal:

- ARRC has been receiving 5307 funds for 20-25 years for capital improvements.
- Railroad operates at a deficit despite clearing \$35 million annually due to capital needs.
- Three bridges need replacement this year (projected \$16 million).
- Split letter addresses apportionment between small and large MPOs based on FTA recommendations.
- 20 miles of track now within MVP MPO area previously received funds from Anchorage.
- ARRC proposes using Anchorage formula for consistency as it is the only mathematical approach that makes sense.
- FAST is supportive of the proposed split.
- 5307 funding consistently around \$14-15 million and growing.
- ARRC uses funds entirely for capital projects (cars and tracks).
- Railroad cannot receive FTA funds until split letters are finalized, making this time-sensitive.

Discussion:

- Committee members asked about commuter ridership data and whether FTA regulations address actual commuters served.
- Brian Lindamood indicated no specific FTA regulation on this; railroad is working to increase local ridership including college students.
- Tom Adams questioned whether applying AMATS formula is appropriate given different transit system models.
- Tom Adams asked if railroad could accept less temporarily while MPO adjusts to new transit funding structure.



MatSu Valley Planning for Transportation

- Brian Lindamood indicated railroad is in a financial pinch and cannot afford to wait or accept reduced funding.
- Adam Bradway noted Valley Transit's match requirements changed from 50/50 to 80/20, creating financial challenges.
- Jennifer Bush confirmed Valley Transit previously received approximately \$1.5 million plus other federal funding with varying match requirements (50/50 to 90/10) depending on expense type.
- Kim Sollien recommended waiting to finalize split to allow MSB time to determine transit program needs, noting 5307 funds have multi-year lifespan. Expressed concern about committing funds before fully understanding transit service demands and capabilities.
- Brian Lindamood noted complexity of FTA grant processes and delays but emphasized railroad's urgent need for funding.

9. Other Issues

- a. Technical Committee At-large Seat Vacancy
 - Transit Advocate
 - Mobility/Bike and Pedestrian Advocate

Kim Sollien provided update and requested assistance spreading word about open seats.

10. Informational Items

- a. Letter from ADOT&PF documenting improvements that could be made with the 3C process, STIP involvement, and usage of MPV's suballocations - Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
- b. Approval of FFY 2026 Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) Funding Plan

11. Technical Committee Comments

Alex Strawn thanked members of the public for attending and noted the need for a bigger meeting space to accommodate the group.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Technical Committee Meeting – Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, from 2:00-4:00 pm to be held via Microsoft TEAMS and at the Alaska DOT Mat-Su District Office at 500 S Seward Meridian Pkwy, Wasilla, Alaska.