

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

Meeting ID: 245 018 478 106

Passcode: jq6oq2ao

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Phone conference ID: 920 060 139#

Minutes

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025

2:00 – 4:00pm

Meeting Location

Musk Ox Farm

12850 E Archie Road, Palmer, Alaska 99645

Hayloft / Classroom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 2 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate
Jennifer Busch, Public Transit

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Visitors:

Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Kim Sollien, MVP Executive Director
Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT & PF
Megan Flory, RESPEC
Kelsey Anderson, RESPEC
Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting Services
James Marks, HDR
Morgan Miller, HDR

2. **Consent Agenda (Action Item)**
 - a. **Approval of the May 13th, 2025, Agenda**
 - b. **Approval of the April 8th, 2025, Minutes**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda (Adams), seconded. Administrative change to add Dan Tucker as being present to the Minutes. Approved.

3. **Staff/Committee/Working Group Reports**

- Staff Report
 - a. Schedule of topics

Kim Sollien provided a staff report. Staff has been hired. Janet Hart is the Communications and Office Manager and is in the process of onboarding. Anjie Goulding has been hired as Transportation Manager and will start around the end of the month. MVP has kicked off the first payroll was submitted and went through without a problem. Members of the RESPEC team were present at the meeting. Health insurance is still to be finalized. Commercial insurance is still in progress as well. Sollien said that she had to make amendments to the policy. Sollien has been having weekly meetings with MVP's Accountant to learn QuickBooks. She participated in a transit roundtable. Sollien said that she still needs to purchase business licenses and hopes to do that soon. Elise Blocker from RESPEC is updating the Public Participation Plan and should be done with it soon. Sollien will bring it to the next meeting for review. Then, there will be a 45-day public comment phases. Sollien noted that she often gets requests for presentations and letters of support, some of which are time sensitive. She said that she needs to know what her authority is to make time sensitive decisions about fulfilling presentation requests and letters of support so that she can respond to organizations. Currently, she does not have this authority but will bring this topic up to the Policy Board at the next meeting. Sollien noted that if the topic is about our organization and funding, there would need to be a public process and meeting, but if it's just about supporting public transit, does that need to go before the Board?

Tom Adams: asked about local control for TAP funding and what is MVP's role?

Adam Bradway: This does not impact any awarded projects.

Kim Sollien: Discussions or meetings are a little premature at this point until we get our Metropolitan Transportation Map completed. We are currently in the process of working on all of those items. We are working with Alaska DOT&PF and Julius Adolfsson has a consultant who is updating local control plans. They wanted to work with us, but it's a little premature at this point.

Kim Sollien coordinated the Human Services Transportation Plan grant application. The grant has a stipulation that the Assembly has to adopt priorities for funding and be able to show what those priorities are. Kim will work with the transit providers to develop a resolution/change. We are currently leaving money on the table because the funding is not available without the resolution. Sollien will work to support getting the resolution through the Assembly, Sollien attended an Alaska Commuter Rail meeting. There is a proposal to support pilot program funding through the Assembly.

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

James Marks and Morgan Miller from HDR Alaska.

5. **Action Items:**

None

6. **Old Business**

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

Chris Bentz: We completed scope, schedule, and estimates and organized them by entities, cities and borough.

Kim Sollien: In the absence of MTP and TIP, we developed a Program of Projects. Within that program, there is an Improvement Plan that includes “shave and pave” projects and smaller maintenance projects that the borough submitted per our request. Chris and their team will look at the projects’ design work. We hope to bring it back to this body and to the Policy Board meeting in May.

Chris Bentz: When we were going through the scope piece, we had to clarify, shave and pave. There is a misunderstanding, our take was expeditious delivery. We did make decisions to move things forward. Specifically, drainage on projects we were confident in that we had depth and information on.

Tom Adams: Is there some sort of written guidance?

Kim Sollien: We do have a policy.

Adam Bradway: It’s pretty light and simple. Typically, there is no utility or right-of-way acquisition.

Dan Tucker: At what point, distilling this down to 2 steps, does this go through the prioritized and design lists?

Kim Sollien: We will formalize the call for projects next year. Previously, when we got about 15 projects that fit within the criteria, they went to Alaska DOT&PF, they were run through a scoring matrix, and then the list was developed.

Chris Bentz: We did not change the list. We just got clarification on the scope. We need to consider the scope, the timeline, utility locations or relocations, and money.

Tom Adams: As we continue, we are all going to contribute.

Chris Bentz: 14 projects were nominated. Two projects were from Wasilla with a cost of \$2 million, four projects were from Palmer for \$500,000, the remainder were for the Mat-Su Borough at a cost of \$10 million for a total of roughly \$13 million.

Adam Bradway: What is the design cost?

Chris Bentz: \$1.7 million

Donna Gardino: The intent of the project is to do the simple projects. If a project becomes more expensive, it doesn’t qualify as an improvement project. It would have to be scored and prioritized. If a project becomes more extensive such as needing right-of-way or utility relocations, that no longer is an improvement project and it would have to be developed and scored with the rest of the TIP projects.

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

Adam Bradway: The Technical Committee recommended approval of an extra \$100,000 for pavement management and the Policy Board approved it last month. Because we don't have TIP, the process goes through the state STIP. I put in a request for an additional \$100,000 to complete that project, and we need approval from the Policy Board. Sean Holland reviewed and approved it, but more approvals are needed. Once the approvals are in place, we will begin working with the cities and the Borough.

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

Ben White was hoping to get the Amendment out last Friday or yesterday, but we have not seen it yet. FHWA will review it for 30 days.

7. **New Business**

a. **MTP Presentation: RESPEC, LLC**

Kelsey Anderson with RESPEC gave a presentation on the MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan) which provided a summary of the plan for creating the MTP.

Adam Bradway: Is there anything that you need from the Technical Committee in terms of documents that could help with the first 1-2 pieces of your project?

Kelsey Anderson: I would love to know if there are planning documents that you would like to have reviewed. We have an extensive list so far. If there are folks that just want to be sure, I would love to see that.

Tom Adams: Encourage staff to look at borough safety action plan, and various other documents.

Kelsey Anderson: Laurie is working on some documents. Another person is looking at others.

Tom Adams: I would like to see where we go with the complete streets policy.

b. **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for SS4A Competitive Grant: Tom Adams, MSB**

Adams: I would like to increase awareness of the NOFO. Talk about projects that are in the document and collaborate to submit an application. Projects have to be listed in the TIP.

For more information:

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4Ac.Highway>

c. **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Project Nominations and Subcommittee**

Kim Sollien: Had a meeting at the Alaska DOT&PF Mat-Su to go over HSIP. The presentation is in the packet. On Friday a subcommittee meeting will be held to go over identified safety issues and incorporate SS4A.

Chris Bentz: For clarification, I don't think Anna has a list of projects. She has a list of corridors that are part of our HSIP. It's a list of routes that have safety issues and a separate list for intersections.

Adam Bradway: There are projects in the borough safety action plan.

Chris Bentz: The work is to reduce the crash types.

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Ben White: The HSIP has typically been internal to Alaska DOT&PF. Its growing and we're striving to have better transparency. This year AMATS and FAST had project that were funded into the project. A lot of this is the results of the other two MPOS. When there is a safety issue, its usually quick.

8. Other Issues:

None

9. Informational Items

a. Transit Update:

No transit update.

Tonight is the last budget deliberation and potential approval. Transit hasn't come up. If it does come up, hopefully they will approve the budget of a \$1million of match. Assuming a contractor that will be awarded. They are still in process. Borough planning has completed the grant to FTA for 5307 funding.

b. Highway Safety Improvement Program Training: May 5th, 2025 via [Teams](#),

Kim Sollien: Meeting at with Alaska DOT&PF to go over HSIP. The presentation is in the packet with results of meeting.

c. MPO Quarterly Meeting is June 3, 2025, in Anchorage.

10. Technical Committee Comments

Ben White: Here are a couple of things of interest to team, there is a wildlife mitigation corridor grant. We need to take a look at alternatives. I think the Ship Creek culvert may need to be bigger. They locked and closed it off to Moose, so they are wandering along Glenn Highway. We need to figure out a solution. Wildlife biologists are helping. It's not yet under construction. We need to get started on updating rail plan. 2016 was the last update.

Erich Schaal: Wasilla is excited about 3 projects. Need help with a presentation and Adam will be reaching out to have you come and explain the value.

Kate Dueber: We are working on the 5307 split letter and excited about rail plan. Passenger trains are starting up this week. You will see more trains through the corridor.

Tom Adams: Our TIP was approved by ballot proposition.

Alex Strawn: Wasilla Chamber of Commerce put on economic summit. We got to tour sewer and water. New appreciation for City Manager Erich and the challenges he faces.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31.

The next scheduled MPO Technical Committee Meeting – Tuesday June 10, 2025, from 2:00-4:00pm to be held at the Musk Ox Farm and Microsoft TEAMS.