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: 245 018 478 106
Passcode: jq6oq2ao

Dial in by phone
+1 605-937-6140 United States, Sioux Falls
(844) 594-6237 United States (Toll-free)
Phone conference ID: 920 060 139#

Minutes
Tuesday, June 10th, 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)
Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
Chris Bentz, Alaska DOT&PF
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla (Vice Chair)
Kate Dueber, ARRC
Kaylan Wade for Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Lawerence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB

Members Absent:
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Bob Charles Jr., Knik Tribe
Crystal Smith, MSBSD
Dan Tucker, RSA Representative
Jennifer Busch, Public Transit
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate

Visitors Present:
Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF
Anjie Goulding, MVP Transportation Planning Manager
Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting Services
Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Kim Sollien, MVP Executive Director
Megan Flory, RESPEC

2. Introduction: New Staff Member Anjie Goulding

Anjie Goulding did a short introduction about her history, how she got to MVP, and talked about how excited she is to be here with MVP.

3. Consent Agenda (Action Item)

a. **Approval of the June 10th, 2025, Agenda**
b. **Approval of the May 13th, 2025, Minutes**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda ***(Charles),*** *seconded. Approved.*

4. Staff/Committee/Working Group Reports

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

Kim Sollien provided a staff report. Staff asked for guidance on meeting minutes, wanting to know if they should stay as detailed as they have been throughout the start up of MVP, or if action item minutes would be sufficient. She will bring this same question to the policy board for guidance. MVP has had 3 successful payrolls, 2 successful DOT invoices paid, and 401K for staff. Commercial insurance is still outstanding, working with a 4th provider, Combs. Obtaining commercial insurance has been hard because we are so small, and a lot of the companies that used to work with organizations of our size no longer do. Shared that the policy board approved the HISP list of projects. Shared that there is a Roads and Highway advisory board that meets quarterly, is a group of statewide technical experts to help provide support to transportation groups and processes. Explained other states have these and they are very helpful for them, and for some of the states they even set policy for processes. Kim shared that this board is set to sunset and that FAST and AMATS MPO's are writing letters asking for the board to be extended. Kim drafted a letter similar to what FAST and AMATS have written to the governor. She will send this out for your feedback and then will be putting this in the June policy board meeting packet for their review.

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

None.

6. Action Items

a. **Review and Recommend for Approval of the Public Participation Plan for 45-day Public Review (Action Item)**

Kim Sollien: Historical, pre-formation document - details were no longer current. One of the requirements of the MTP is a public participation plan (PPP). Followed the specific federal code on what is needed and looked at the old document. With these two things, we condensed the plan, and remove was no longer current, as well as adding what is required/missing. The draft was displayed on screen - some changes will be made before this goes to the Policy Board. It will then come out for 45 days of public review.

Megan Flory: Reviewed changes from the 2021 PPP to what you are seeing in the packet. Intro was shortened, added photo that shows detail of area covered, graphic showing history of MPOs. Added map for the area covered. Reformatted and changed the stakeholder section, making it more specific to MVP. Condensed the information about TC and PC boards. The administrative modification and amendments section was most reworked, combining information that was really spread out, and making it clearer. Achieving Public Participation - changed to give options for what would be tracked, giving more healthy flexible options.

Adam Bradway: For the administrative modification and amendment section, double check the MTP and TIP are in the operating agreement. Recommend being cautious about how detailed we are, to make sure we have room and can execute.

Elise Blocker: Reviewed changes from the PPP in the packet to changes made in the last few days. Moved the map to just behind the introduction. Added callout box - calling out the significant written / oral comments received. Stakeholder section was adjusted a little.

Tom Adams: Suggested to change the motion to postpone the PPP going to the policy board and bring it back to the TC board next month when it is more complete, and then they can approve that to send to the PC board.

Bob Charles: Suggested adding a story map MTP plan. Kim said that Kelsey did talk with the borough about this and GIS should be able to help with this.

*Motion to postpone and bring the PPP back to the Technical Board next meeting. Motioned **(Adams)**, seconded. No objections. Motion passes.*

b. **FFY25 Improvement Program List of Projects (Action Item)**
Kim Sollien: History - approved projects in STIP, passed policy that is referenced on page 4 of your packet. Improvement Projects are supposed to be smaller projects. Borough, Palmer and Wasilla put forward 14 projects. The subcommittee of TC board met to talk about the 14 projects - the decision was to move all 14 projects forward for design. At a future time, we will come back and prioritize the projects for construction once we know our budget. Looking for a motion to move all the projects forward for design.

Chris Bentz: There may be capacity issues with 14 projects going forward and it will likely impact their 1–2-year timeline. They would likely group these 14 projects into 1-2 projects, and they could move forward, and as needed could drop a street from the project but still complete the project. If somewhere down the line, we drop one - it doesn’t put us at risk of using federal funds and needing to follow through with the construction.

Tom Adams: They are not expecting that all 14 will be done at one time. We can group the projects once we are closer to the construction stage, and we can group with whom is ready with 'match' etc.

Adam Bradway: Hopefully we will have more clarity when the next STIP amendment comes out. We won't know fully until the policy board prioritizes the TIP. There is a good likely hood that all of these will be able to be funded with the timing. We can get a semi prioritized list, so that Chris's team can prioritize the design.

Tom Adams: Jude Bilafer, Erich Schaal and he are ready to help prioritize design once the PC board has approved.

*Motion to approve: (**Adams**), seconded. No further discussion and no objections. Passed.*

7. Old Business

a. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update**

Kim Sollien: Things are going well. We have reviewed plans and the priorities there, making sure those are represented. Working on the PPP plan. Kim will send slides from RESPEC presentation about the MTP.

Adam Bradway: There is an updated schedule, will this come out publicly?

Kim Sollien: As part of how we are doing things, we will be adding some things. We will put a condensed timeline together. Anjie and I will meet with Donna on June 17th, and we will put together a much bigger timeline. Had not considered a bigger timeline for the website - but we can look at this.

Tom Adams: As part of reviewing projects - where are you building the list of projects from?

Kim Sollien: There are 5-10 plans, such as railroad, LRTP, safety action plan, community council comp plan etc. where we are taking a broad look at to make this list. By looking at what was listed as important and has not been completed. This is what will generate a list that will come back to you for review.

Tom Adams: Borough is going through a similar process and has a 5-year plan and could help generate some paving projects. He will share this with MVP.

Adam: There is a nomination process as well, where folks can nominate what they need in their areas.

8. New Business

None.

9. Other Issues

a. Thank you to our amazing consulting team, led by Donna Gardino of Gardino Consulting and Elise Blocker with RESPEC Engineering, for all their mentorship and support over the past five years as we worked to establish MVP.

10. Informational Items

a. **Safe Routes to School workshop review**

Kim Sollien: Anjie and Kim spent 2 days in Anchorage at a work session for SRTS projects using TAP and TIP funding. They will share their resources with us, and it's going to be so helpful.

b. **MPO Quarterly meeting overview, including PL Distribution amounts for FFY26**

Kim Sollien: This group got together last week, big portion of the meeting was spent talking about funding. Adam Moser shared with us the planning funds (460K anticipated, came in at 451K) came in a little lower. The transportation funds came in at 92K and this was close to what we thought it would be. Balance of unobligated PL funds in UPWP - We asked for 500K for the transit development plan. We may not use it all, but it will go back into the fund, or it will be carried forward.

Adam: We have already obligated the funding for the MTP, we will see when the household travel funds get obligated.

c. **Transit Update**

Kim Sollien: Tomorrow is our transit round table meeting. At a previous meeting the MSB didn't have a coordinated plan for the 5310 funding that was approved by the assembly. Kim will present this to them tomorrow. Prioritized fleet maintenance, outreach and voucher options for organizations that may need this for clients. This will work for DOT requirements.

Kate Dueber: ARRC is on hold, waiting on direction from the FTA.

d. **Article – *The Valley's New MVP, Mat-Su Borough gets its own Metropolitan Planning Organization*.**

Kim Sollien: Article is well written, talks about who we are, where we have come from, what we are doing and where we are going.

11. Technical Committee Comments

Kaylan Wade: Echo Kim, thanking Donna for all her work and we would be lost without her.

Alex Strawn: Corridor plan public hearing has been postponed until June 17th meeting.

Kim Sollien: Update that we are actively working on getting MVP a SAM number.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Technical Committee Meeting – Tuesday July 8th, 2025, from 2:00-4:00pm to be held at the Musk Ox Farm and Microsoft TEAMS.