

MVP for Transportation MPO Policy Board Meeting

Representatives:

Bob Charles – Knik Tribe
Edna DeVries, Mayor - MSB
Glenda Ledford, Mayor – City of Wasilla
Brian Winnestaffer - Chickaloon Native Village
Mike Brown - MSB
Sean Holland - ADOT&PF
Steve Carrington – Mayor, City of Palmer



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Phone Conference ID: 959 952 654#

Agenda

Tuesday, June 18th, 2024

2:00-3:30pm

A. Meeting called to order

Meeting called to order at 2:01pm.

B. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Members Present

Bob Charles, Knik Tribe
Edna DeVries, MSB
Glenda Ledford, City of Wasilla
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Mike Brown, MSB
Sean Holland, DOT&PF
Steve Carrington, City of Palmer

Members Absent

None

Guests Present

Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council
Kim Sollien, MVP Coordinator
Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting
Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Megan Flory, RESPEC
Jackson Fox, FAST Planning
Maija DiSalvo, MSB
Julie Spackman, MSB
Sharon Johnson, Senator Wilson's Office
Clint Adler, DOT&PF (Technical Committee)
Adam Bradway, DOT&PF
Rodney Fodge, guest
Ben White, DOT&PF (Technical Committee)
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla (Technical Committee)
Luke Bowland, DOT&PF

C. Approval of the June 18th, 2024, Agenda – (Action Item)

*Motion to approve the June 18, 2024, Agenda (**Charles**), seconded.*

Brown moves to amend the agenda: move Voices of the Visitors to immediately follow Item E, followed by all Action Items in the order in which they appear, and then move on to informational items to ensure all votes occur with a quorum.

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Motion approved as amended (no objections).

D. Approval of the May 21st, 2024, Minutes – (Action Item)

Motion to approve the May 21, 2024, Minutes (DeVries), seconded. Approved (no objections).

E. Approval of the May 22nd, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

Motion to approve the May 22, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes (Holland), seconded. Approved (no objections).

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

1. North Lakes Community Council Resolution for the Bogard Corridor

Rod Hanson, President of the North Lakes Community Council (NLCC), provided an overview of the makeup, purpose, and concerns of the council. NLCC hears a lot of concerns and questions about road and traffic safety. NLCC represents approximately 10,000 residents in the MVP core area. Hanson presented the "North Lakes Community Council Resolution of Recommendations to Mat-Su Borough and State of Alaska for Bogard-Seldon Road Corridor Upgrades" and noted that NLCC has received encouragement over the years from Senators Wilson and Shower, who attend NLCC meetings regularly.. Hanson summarized the resolution for the Policy Board.

Adam Bradway thanked Hanson for the presentation and said that he and a DOT&PF pre-construction project manager would attend the next NLCC meeting. Bradway clarified that there is a project coming for this section of road, which will be a combination of two HSIP projects and a community sponsored project to address the safety issues. The project is about to go out for scoping and design will likely start in the next year or two.

Rod Hanson said what Adam Bradway described sounds more comprehensive than what is shown in the Program of Projects included in the meeting packet. The project in the Program of Projects only covers roughly one-fifth of the Bogard. Bradway agreed that the presentation of information is not clear because it is a combination of three different projects, but the information will be clarified for public consumption so everyone can understand the project. Hanson thanked Bradway and said he would reach out to him for further discussion.

Edna DeVries asked about item 5 in the Resolution, which recommends planning turn lanes out of subdivisions, including Tait Road. Edna DeVries asked if the current construction on Seward Meridian would relieve the issues on Tait Road or if the issues would continue. Hanson said he believes the Seward Meridian construction will improve the situation at Tait Road, but the current state is concerning to residents, so it was included as an example. Rod Hanson said he believes that Seward Meridian may exacerbate issues on other roads, like Lakeview, which is used as a cut-through and sees a lot of traffic.

H. Old Business

3. Unified Planning Work Program (Action Item)

Motion to release the Unified Planning Work Program for a 30-day public comment period (DeVries), seconded. Approved after the staff report and discussion (none opposed).

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Kim Sollien provided a staff report for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Sollien explained that she has been working with Donna Gardino, Elise Blocker, and Adam Bradway to develop this document, which outlines the work of MVP for the next two years.

Mike Brown said he approves of the UPWP as it is. He noted that the \$1 million grant went to the borough and requested that MVP and MSB develop a spending plan for that money to clarify what portion is allocated to which projects. He noted that the surplus DOT&PF funding that will also be coming to MVP will require a 9% match and he anticipates that money will come out of the \$1 million grant, so he wants to understand how quickly that money will be used. Brown also asked what ICAP was in the UPWP. Adam Bradway clarified that it is the DOT&PF indirect cost rate to pay for DOT&PF administrative costs and that it changes every fiscal year. Sollien said that the borough does have a grant agreement with the state that outlines how the funds will be spent each year within the five-year spending window. The state membership dues and fee are included in that agreement. Sollien said she would share with the Policy Board and that MVP would be working on invoices soon for the members' match funds and one-time membership fee.

Rod Hanson requested that the public comment period be extended to 45 days as a 30-day period is not sufficient for organizations like NLCC that only meet once a month. Sollien said that the 30-day public comment window is outlined in the Public Participation Plan (PPP). The Policy Board can review the public notice times when the PPP is updated in November, but there is currently a time requirement to get the UPWP finalized before October 1.

4. Program of Projects (Action Item)

Motion to approve the Program of Projects and submit it to DOT&PF (DeVries), seconded. Approved after the staff report and discussion (none opposed).

Donna Gardino provided a staff report on the Program of Projects included in the packet. She reminded the Policy Board that there was a special meeting for the Program of Projects in May and then provided a summary of the document included in the meeting packet. MVP received new sub-allocation numbers from DOT&PF after the special meeting and the Program of Projects was updated to reflect those allocations, which were for the following programs: Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program (CMAQ).

Mike Brown asked if putting the CTP awards for design in the Program of Projects for Seldon and Bogard will get the designs started sooner than if they were not in the program. He clarified that he is wondering if the MPO taking this action is helpful for getting these projects started. Adam Bradway said that if the projects weren't in this program, DOT&PF would have to find other funding. Bradway was not sure if that would change when the projects would start but it does make it easier for DOT&PF to start the project. Brown thanked Bradway and clarified that he wanted the other Policy Board members to see that this is a good project for MVP to fund early on because it benefits the entire region.

I. New Business

1. Policy Board Proxy Voting Discussion (Action Item)

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Motion to approve the proxy voting proposal and add it to the MVP bylaws (Carrington), seconded. Approved as amended (none opposed).

Brown moves to amend the proxy voting proposal by changing Point 2 to say "The Technical Committee member of the representing organization can serve as a proxy voter for the Policy Board member if designated in writing by the Policy Board member. The Technical Committee member will count toward quorum." Seconded by Holland.

Kim Sollien provided a staff report summarizing the proxy voting proposal included in the packet.

Bob Charles said he has an alternate who can attend the Technical Committee meetings in his place.

Mike Brown said his preference would be to allow the Technical Committee proxy voter to participate in discussions rather than requiring the members to submit their votes in writing in advance of the meeting. Brown proposed an amendment.

2. Policy and Procedure: Alaska DOT&PF Comprehensive, Continuing, and Cooperative (3C) (Action Item)

Motion to forward the memo regarding "MVP's response to the 3C's document shared by ADOT&PF as a response to the STIP 2,1a Corrective Action from FHWA" to DOT&PF (DeVries), seconded. Approved (Holland abstained, all others in favor).

Kim Sollien provided a staff report explaining the context of DOT&PF's 3Cs document and summarizing the memo. A version of the memo was included in the meeting packet and a corrected version of the memo was shown to the Policy Board.

3. Improvement Program Policy (Action Item)

Motion to approve the MVP Improvement Program Policy (Holland), seconded. Approved (none opposed).

Donna Gardino provided a staff report explaining the context of the Improvement Program and summarizing the MVP Improvement Program Policy included in the meeting packet.

4. Jennifer Busch Technical Committee Application for Public Transit (Action Item)

Motion to approve the membership of Jennifer Busch as the Public Transit representative for the Technical Committee (Holland), seconded. Approved (none opposed).

Kim Sollien provided a staff report. Kim Sollien noted that the Public Transit representative is the only open seat remaining on the Technical Committee and that Jennifer Busch will be available to join in September.

F. Committee/Working Group Reports (Including the Staff Report)

1. Staff Report

Kim Sollien provided an abbreviated staff report and noted that most of the items in the report were covered in the Action Items earlier in the meeting.

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G. Voices of the Visitors

No additional voices of the visitors.

H. Old Business

1. Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Update

Adam Bradway said he did not have much to report. DOT&PF is planning to release the STIP Amendment 1 on Friday. Bradway said he would get any new info to MVP as soon as he gets it but he does not have new information at this time.

2. Social Media Policy

i. MSB Social Media Policy Review

Kim Sollien explained that the MSB social media policy was included in the meeting packet as an example of another organization's policy. Sollien also addressed the concern from a previous meeting that MVP could get in trouble for removing comments from social media pages by clarifying that MVP's social media will not be a public forum in the same way that public officials' social media pages are. The Foraker Group is reviewing the draft Social Media Policy and will provide recommendations and best practices.

5. Fiscal Policy

No update at this time. Kim Sollien is working with Foraker Group and is looking for other thought partners and will bring a revised draft to a future meeting.

J. Other Issues

None.

K. Informational Items

1. Transit Update – presented by Maija DiSalvo, Mat-Su Borough

Maija DiSalvo has met with MSB and the Cities of Wasilla and Palmer to review the current scenario with transit funding in the urbanized area and proposed options for local match support for the 5307 urban funding. DiSalvo is still working with DOT&PF to provide transitional funding to offer Valley Transit an extension of the 5311 Rural Funding through the end of June 2025. DiSalvo showed some maps of Valley Transit services. Valley Transit is serving both rural and urban areas, so there will be an ongoing conversation about how to fund the service.

2. Articles of Incorporation/Non-Profit Organization Paperwork Update

Kim Sollien informed the Policy Board that the last document has been signed and the packet should be submitted to the state in the next few days.

L. Policy Board Comments

Glenda Ledford will be out of state on July 16, the date of the next meeting.

M. Adjournment

Adjourned at 3:27pm (**Carrington**), seconded.

Next Scheduled MPO Policy Board Meeting – **July 16th**, to be held via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting