

MVP for Transportation MPO Policy Board Meeting

Representatives:

Bob Charles – Knik Tribe (**Secretary**)
Edna DeVries, Mayor - MSB
Glenda Ledford, Mayor – City of Wasilla (**Chair**)
Brian Winnestaffer - Chickaloon Native Village
Mike Brown - MSB
Sean Holland - DOT&PF (**Treasurer**)
Steve Carrington, Mayor – City of Palmer (**Vice Chair**)



Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 568 381 409#

Minutes

Wednesday, August 27th, 2025

1:30-3:00 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 to the south.

1. Meeting called to order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order: 1:31PM.

Members Present:

Alex Strawn, MSB for Mike Brown - MSB
Bob Charles, Knik Tribe (Secretary)
Edna DeVries, Mayor - MSB
Sean Holland, DOT&PF (Treasurer)
Steve Carrington, Mayor – City of Palmer (Vice Chair)

Members Absent:

Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Glenda Ledford, Mayor – City of Wasilla (Chair)
Mike Brown, MSB

Visitors Present:

Kim Sollien - MVP Executive Director
Anjie Goulding - MVP
Adam Bradway AK DOT&PF
Lauren Little, AK DOT&PF

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

- a. Approval of August 27th, 2025, Agenda
- b. Approval of July 23rd, 2025, Minutes

Motion to approve the consent agenda and meeting minutes (Holland), seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. Committee/Working Group Reports

- a. Staff Report
 - Schedule of Topics

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Kim Sollien gave a staff report.

- **Insurance Coverage:** The organization has successfully secured commercial insurance through Combs Insurance at an annual premium of \$13,000. While this exceeds the initial budget expectations, it represents the most competitive rate available in the current market.
- **Personnel Updates:** MVP has hired Carrie Cecil as Senior Planner, with an anticipated start date in October 2025. Additionally, recruitment continues for an administrative support position, with hiring expected in the near term.
- **Office Facilities:** Staff have engaged a commercial real estate broker to identify suitable office space that will provide improved public accessibility for community engagement.
- **Compliance Training:** Executive Director Sollien and staff member Goulding completed mandatory Title VI training and are preparing the annual Title VI compliance report.
- **Meeting Schedule Consideration:** Given the substantial agenda items resulting from Metropolitan Transportation Plan timeline adjustments, staff recommend considering cancellation of the September meeting to allow for a more comprehensive October session.

Anjie Goulding provided an overview of current work with Element Agency and anticipated project deliverables.

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

None.

5. Technical Committee Action Items of the August 12th meeting

- a. Review and recommend that the Policy Board send a memo to the Alaska DOT Commissioner's office and STIP Team outlining MVP's funding and project questions documented in STIP Amendment #2. (*Action Item*) Motion to approve by Winnestaffer, seconded, passed unanimously.

6. Action Items

- a. Letter from the MVP Policy Board about the approved STIP Amendment #2 regarding MVP's FFY24, FFY25, and FFY26 STBG, CRP, and TAP suballocations, carryover funding, FTA 5307 funding, and questions around MVP's approved Program of Projects. **Recommended Motion: Motion to approve the letter to Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Commissioner Ryan Anderson, Deputy Commissioner Katherine Keith, and the STIP Team outlining MVP's FFY24, FFY25, and FFY26 funding allocation questions documented in STIP Amendment #2.**

Kim Sollien provided a comprehensive analysis of federal funding programs and associated challenges, referencing the detailed memorandum included in the meeting materials. Each recommendation and concern outlined in the memorandum was explained to board members.

Discussion Highlights:

Adam Bradway acknowledged that current funding allocation processes lack transparency but emphasized this is a transitional period. Once the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are fully implemented, the process will become significantly more transparent and streamlined. The Alaska Department of Transportation committed to enhanced communication regarding fund utilization and ensuring MVP receives timely notification of program changes.

Regarding carry-over funds from Federal Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, Adam Bradway clarified that undisbursed funds remain available and are not lost. He recommended a trilateral coordination meeting between DOT, MVP, and relevant stakeholders to establish programming priorities and fund allocation strategies.

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Lauren Little explained recent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) implementation changes affecting regional funding distribution. She noted that MVP and the Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning Organization now share consolidated funding pools, necessitating enhanced regional coordination for project execution. DOT currently lacks standardized formulas for inter-regional fund distribution, making decisions on a case-by-case basis through individual TIP processes.

In response to inquiry from **Sean Holland** regarding appropriate correspondence recipients, Lauren Little recommended directing formal communications to her office rather than the Commissioner level, with her office taking responsibility for coordinated responses. DOT reaffirmed its commitment to improved transparency and communication protocols.

*Motion to postpone action on this item until the next Policy Board meeting (**Holland**), seconded. Passed unanimously.*

7. Old Business

a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

- Existing Conditions Plan Review: Project List
- MTP Goals and Objectives Work Session September 2nd from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm location TBD.

Kim Sollien reported that board members have received approximately 70 pages of preliminary project documentation. The Technical Committee is conducting comprehensive analysis of regional transportation network performance and reviewing supporting data sets. Based on this technical analysis, engineering consultants may recommend additional projects to address identified deficiencies.

Following technical review completion, MVP will initiate public engagement to solicit community input on project priorities and identify any transportation needs not captured in the preliminary assessment. This represents the initial phase of the comprehensive planning process.

The MTP vision statement and supporting goals and objectives will be refined through Technical Committee working sessions before returning to the Policy Board for formal review and adoption.

8. New Business

a. Review and Recommend MVP's Program of Projects Update FFY24, FFY25, FFY26

- For discussion: The TC suggested staff perform an accounting of funds based on MVP Policy Board approved Program of Projects and an Accounting of Funds based on STIP Amendment #2

Kim Sollien requested board direction on continuing project tracking activities for the multi-year Program of Projects. Mayor DeVries confirmed the necessity of maintaining comprehensive project tracking, with consensus support from board members.

Bob Charles inquired about the feasibility of allocating FFY 2026 funding based on current projections and establishing placeholder amounts for anticipated carry-over funds. Kim Sollien confirmed this approach aligns with organizational planning objectives.

Sean Holland requested clarification on MVP's role in Transportation Improvement Program development. Adam Bradway confirmed that demonstration of MVP support is sufficient for project programming in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

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9. Other Issues

a. Transit Update

- 5310 funding split between Fairbanks and Mat-Su Urban Areas
- MSB update on Transit Program development and timeline

Section 5301 Rural Transit Funding: Federal funding totaling \$500,000 is available to social service providers for transportation voucher programs, fleet maintenance, or vehicle acquisition initiatives.

MSB Transit Grant Application: **Alex Strawn** reported that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has submitted a \$1.7 million transit grant application. Contract negotiations are proceeding with the sole responsive bidder. The funding acceptance and appropriation is scheduled for Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly consideration on September 16, 2025.

10. Informational Items

a. FFY 26- FFY 29 STIP Update- Lauren Little Chief Engineer, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Lauren Little provided an overview of the five-year State Transportation Improvement Program development and implementation timeline.

b. SAFE ROADS National Initiative: Presentation by Lauren Little, Chief Engineer, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Lauren Little presented information on the national SAFE ROADS initiative and potential regional participation opportunities.

11. Policy Board Comments

Sean Holland reported that the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) organization has also cancelled its September meeting.

Mayor DeVries recommended delegating the September meeting decision to Kim Sollien, with flexibility to conduct a brief virtual session if urgent matters arise or to cancel entirely if no pressing business emerges.

Bob Charles expressed concern that September meeting cancellation might impact Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Program of Projects development and approval timeline.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM

Next Scheduled MPO Policy Board Meeting – September 24th, from 1:30 pm to 3:00 p.m. to be held via Microsoft TEAMS and at the Alaska DOT MatSu District Office at 500 S Seward Meridian Pkwy, Wasilla, Alaska.