

MVP for Transportation MPO Technical Committee Meeting

MEMBERS

Adeyemi Alimi, ADEC
Alex Strawn, MSB
Ben White, ADOT&PF
Bob Charles Jr., Knik Tribe
Brian Lindamood, ARRC
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Clint Adler, ADOT&PF
Crystal Smith, MSBSD
Dan Tucker, RSA Representative
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla
Jennifer Busch, Public Transit
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Lawrence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB



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Conference ID: 770 038 635#

Minutes

Tuesday, August 13th, 2024

2:00 - 3:30pm

Meeting Location

Musk Ox Farm

12850 E Archie Road, Palmer Alaska 99645

Hayloft / Classroom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with quorum at 2:02 pm.

2. Introduction of MPO Technical Committee Members and other Attendees

Members Present

Adeyemi Alimi, ADEC
Alex Strawn, MSB
Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
Clint Adler, Alaska DOT&PF
Dan Tucker, RSA Representative
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla
Crystal Smith, MSBSD
Kate Dueber for Brian Lindamood, ARRC
Kaylan Wade for Brian Winnestaffer
Lawrence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Richard Martin for Bob Charles, Knik Tribe
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate
Tom Adams, MSB

Members Absent

Jennifer Busch, Public Transit
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer

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Visitors Present

Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF
Beth McKibben, R&M Consultants
Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Jackson Fox, FAST Planning
Janet McLain, MSBSD
John Linnell, Alaska DOT&PF
Joni Wilm, Michael Baker
Kim Sollien, MVP MPO Coordinator
Marie Heidemann, FHWA
Megan Flory, RESPEC
Sarah Schacher, Michael Baker

3. **Approval of the August 13th, 2024, Agenda – (Action Item)**

*Motion to approve the August 13th, 2024 Agenda (**Tucker**), seconded. Passed unanimously.*

4. **Approval of the July 9th, 2024, Minutes – (Action Item)**

*Motion to approve the July 9th, 2024 Minutes (**Tucker**), seconded. Minor grammar corrections noted. Passed unanimously.*

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

a. **Staff Report**

Kim Sollien met with the Commissioner's Office on July 30th, 2024 to discuss the Program of Projects and the comment letter from MVP. Andy Mills, Kim Sollien, Deputy Commissioner Keith, Commissioner Ryan Anderson, and Mayor Ledford were in attendance. An update has not been released yet.

The Policy and Procedures is currently being edited and an action items cheat sheet is located behind the agenda in the meeting packet.

Dan Tucker: What was your feeling in the meeting?

Kim Sollien: It was a friendly meeting. I believe all the changes were made. Later we will be talking about the 3C document. It outlines how the state should be working with the MPOs so mistakes like this won't happen again. I think it was receptive.

Dan Tucker: Was there any other method mentioned?

Adam Bradway: That is what the 3C document is supposed to be about. We are working in that direction.

Alex Strawn: I saw an error in the public notice for the Title VI Plan and UPWP. Does it mean it will not go to the Policy Board?

Kim Sollien: What we did was extend the comment period. We are on track.

Brian Winnestaffer: Can an in-kind match be used for staff time?

Kim Sollien: Yes, but it's complicated. FHWA does have a checklist. Everybody has to agree to the option. The more in kind, the less cash flow there is.

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

None

7. **Old Business**

a. **MVP for Transportation Title VI Plan (Action Item)**

- Appendices are available on the project website: www.mvmpo.com/title-vi

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Kim Sollien provided a staff report on the Title VI Plan. Title VI Plan outlines the requirements of how MVP will not discriminate and will facilitate public participation. The Alaska DOT&PF Civil Rights office approved it. There is a complaint form online if a person feels they were discriminated against.

Motion to recommend the MVP for Transportation Title VI Plan for Policy Board approval (Tucker), seconded. Passed unanimously.

b. **Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Update**

Ben White provided an update on the STIP. The Public comment period ended on August 5th, 2024. Alaska DOT&PF is hoping to get it down to FTA and FHWA as soon as possible. They can take up to 30 days to review. I'm guessing there will be an extensive review. There is still a process that needs to be completed.

Kim Sollien: Were you able to look at our Program of Projects?

Ben White: We reviewed the plan together, going through everything. We incorporated all the requested changes.

Adam Bradway: The need to deal with the MPO TIPs differently has been a topic of discussion. Moving forward, for all the projects within MPO boundaries, if changed, all the money will be moved to the MVP TIP and then programmed in.

Ben White: Not all the federal funding will be moved. Imagine our projects and priorities and put them through a process. The MPOs could score the projects. The funding won't necessarily stay within the MPO; it would be put back into the Alaska DOT&PF system. The process used to be that we would complete the STIP and reference the TIP.

Stuart Leidner: If we have a priority but Alaska DOT&PF says no, does it get kicked out?

Ben White: No, there are a couple of different funding sources. That is up to the MPO. The funding that is allocated by Alaska DOT&PF and the MPO will set the priority within the MPO boundary.

- **Alaska DOT&PF Comprehensive, Continuing, and Cooperative Policy (3C)**

Ben White: All this underlines how important it is for 3C between DOT and MPOs. FHWA requested a draft 3c document. We got through 3/4 of the doc and did not make it to STIP. Staff internally worked to incorporate the comments by the MPOs. That document was sent to the Commissioner's Office on Friday afternoon. It may be released to the MPOs for additional comments.

Adam Bradway: Some of the comments from MVP were to flesh out coordination on the STIP. There is going to be a need for further discussion.

Ben White: There was a request to clarify what it means to coordinate with the MPOs. We are fleshing that out. The timing and coordination for the MVP comments were also addressed.

Dan Tucker: What is the 3C?

Kim Sollien: Comprehensive, Continuing, and Cooperative.

c. **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (Action Item)**

Kim Sollien provided a staff report. The UPWP is a two-year work plan. We have been working on it since March 2024. It provides a narrative outline of what we are and outlines our funds. It went out for public comment for 45 days. On pages 66-67 of the meeting packet, there is a comment and response log for the UPWP. There are a few grammatical errors that will be fixed before it goes to Policy Board.

Kaylan Wade: How is the hiring process going?

Kim Sollien: The job descriptions are currently being drafted. Until we finalize our fiscal policy, which will go to the PB next week, we can't file our 501(c)3. We don't want to start operations

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until after the end of the fiscal year. Hopefully, by November or October, we will be officially a non-profit, and we will post job descriptions. In the meantime, we are looking for office space.

Alex Strawn: The Mat-Su Borough will need to provide match funds for three projects lined out in the UPWP. If we want these things to happen, when will we need the money for the match?

Adam Bradway: We will talk about some of this in new business. I need the match check to set up a federal project. Staggering projects is also beneficial.

Kim Sollien: If the project takes a while to start, the funds will be available for three years. The three plans would include the cities. Both the cities and the boroughs would have priorities, and there would be a little math to do.

Tom Adams: The Mat-Su Assembly agenda for August 20th includes an award of a contract to Fugro for pavement management; I just want to make sure we are not doubling our efforts.

Clint Adler: We can look at our work plan and make sure everything is coordinated.

Tom Adams: We could have Fugro go drive this season. We need to have more conversations about what's included within and outside the MVP boundary.

Adam Bradway: It may or may not be Fugro who gets the MVP contract.

Motion to recommend the Unified Planning Work Program for Policy Board approval (Tucker), seconded. Alex Strawn suggests a change to include the cities to provide the match for projects. Administrative change. Approved unanimously.

d. **Bylaws Update (Action Item)**

Kim Sollien provided a staff report. An attorney was consulted, and several changes were made.

Motion to recommend the Bylaws for Policy Board approval (Tucker), seconded.

Dan Tucker: Did we address how elections were completed?

Kim Sollien: We will work on that and make the changes for the Policy Board.

Motion to amend the Bylaws to include the elections process (Leidner), seconded. Passed unanimously.

8. **New Business**

a. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF**

Adam Bradway provided an update. This is the highest priority.

b. **Household Travel Survey Scope of Services Update, Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF**

Adam Bradway provided an update.

c. **TransCAD Scope of Services Update, Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF**

Adam Bradway provided an update. This is a statewide contract.

Stuart Leidner: This goes back to the in-kind match being accepted. Does the program allow in-kind match?

Kim Sollien: MVP would need a service that the cash would pay for. That in-kind match would be in place of the service it would otherwise pay for.

Stuart Leidner: Would there be a cap?

Joni Wilm: AMATS would often use in-kind match. If they are not federal monies, they can submit in-kind match.

Adam Bradway: MVP does not currently have an in-kind policy.

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Kaylan Wade: We would be a good case study.

Adam Bradway: The match for these is currently coming out of the one-million-dollar legislative grant that the MSB is the recipient of on behalf of the MVP.

Motion to extend the meeting to 3:45 p.m. (Lawrence), seconded. Passed unanimously.

9. Other Issues

None

10. Informational Items

a. Articles Of Incorporation/Non-Profit Organization Paperwork Update

No update

b. Safe Streets for All Presentation - Joni Wilm, Senior Planner at Michael Baker

- [Safety survey](#) open through August 30

Joni Wilm provided a presentation.

c. West-Su Access Open House: August 15, 2024, <https://westsuaccess.com>

Encourage members to attend.

d. MVP Letter of Support – Alaska DOT&PF FHWA Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program

The letter of support is in the meeting packet.

11. Technical Committee Comments

No comments

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Tucker). The meeting adjourned at 3:48pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Technical Committee Meeting – **September 10th, 2024, from 2:00pm-3:30pm**
to be held via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting