

MVP for Transportation Pre-MPO Steering Committee Meeting

MEMBERS

Todd Vanhove, ADOT&PF
Brad Hanson, City of Palmer
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Jim Beck, Health and Human Services
Bob Charles, Knik Tribe
Tom Adams, MSB
Kim Sollien, MSB
Brad Sworts, MSB
Vacant, MSB TAB
Joshua Shaver, AK Pioneer Homes
Brian Lindamood, ARRC
Jennifer Busch, Valley Transit



NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Adeyemi Alimi, ADEC
Jackson Fox, FAST Planning
Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS
Josh Cross, TAB
Vacant, City of Houston
Vacant, LRSAAB
Adam Bradway, ADOT&PF

Minutes

Tuesday, April 11th, 2023
2:00 - 3:30 pm

1. Call to Order

Quorum reached at 2:03pm

2. Introduction of Pre-MPO Steering Committee Members and other Attendees

Members Present:

Kim Sollien, MSB
Adam Bradway, ADOT&PF
Todd Vanhove, ADOT&PF
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Josh Shaver, AK Pioneer Homes
Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS
Bob Charles, Knik Tribe
Josh Cross, TAB
Jackson Fox, FAST
Alimi Adeyemi, ADEC
Brad Sworts, MSB
Tom Adams, MSB

Members Absent:

Brad Hanson, City of Palmer
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla
Jim Beck, Health and Human Services
Brian Lindamood, ARRC
Jennifer Busch, Valley Transit

Visitors Present:

Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting Services
Patrick Cotter, RESPEC
Natalie Lyon, RESPEC
Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Kaylan Wade, Chickaloon Native Village
James Starzec, ADOT&PF
Maija DiSalvo, MSB
Kelsey Anderson, MSB

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3. **Approval of the April 11th, 2023 Agenda – (Action Item)**

Motion to approve the April 11th, 2023 Agenda (Winnestaffer), seconded. No edits. Passed unanimously.

4. **Approval of the March 14th, 2023 Minutes – (Action Item)**

Motion to approve the March 14th, 2023 Minutes (Vanhove), seconded. No edits. Passed unanimously.

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

a. **Staff Report**

The staff report will be included in the discussion topics later in the meeting.

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

None

7. **Old Business**

a. **Boundary Development Update**

The public meeting was hosted on March 29th with about 35 people in attendance. Several people were in attendance and the meeting was well received. The comments and questions were documented. During the May meeting, all the comments and questions from the developer meeting, the public meeting, and those received on the comment map will be tabulated and addressed. An FAQ was developed and put on the website.

Erich Schaal: Will the urbanized area affect USDA grants? Will the expansion of the metropolitan planning area (MPA) boundary affect any of that?

Kim Sollien: Agencies like USDA will use the urbanized area boundary that was determined by the Census, and the MPO will use the larger metropolitan planning area (MPA) boundary. They are two different boundaries.

When the comment map was made available to the public, the content of the comments was hidden and only the location of the comment was viewable. The comment map has since been changed so the comments are now viewable by all but none of the commenters' information can be seen publicly. Additionally, both the urbanized area boundary and the draft metropolitan planning area (MPA) boundary can be toggled on and off.

b. **Membership Dues - (Action Item)**

Research and example dues were presented to the Steering Committee in September 2022. A dues structure will need to be selected for the MPO. The population was used to determine how much each organization will be responsible for.

Patrick Cotter presented an overview of the dues structures.

Donna Gardino: We don't know how much money the MPO will receive which is why three levels are presented. The assumption during the first year is that MPO will not have a full staff. The state will be the contract manager for large procurements and will pay those bills and the MPO will not have to carry the load of these procurements as they will be the project manager.

Kim Sollien: Since the MPO will be a non-profit, the MPO will need operating reserves while waiting for reimbursements. In the event the MPO dissolves, the membership fees will be given back to the member organizations.

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Erich Schaal: In the green column, what is the difference between the State of Alaska population and the Mat-Su Borough population?

Kim Sollien: Each area has its own distinct population and some of the population is double-counted.

Erich Schaal: Where would someone be that they would not be in the borough?

Donna Gardino: The state population is not separate from the borough population; the population is double counted so we get funding from all organizations. The borough population excludes the city populations.

Jackson Fox: The state is ultimately responsible for standing up the MPO and for FAST Planning, they are responsible for approximately half of the dues.

Kim Sollien: The operating agreement and boundary development packet are being put together to be sent to the governor. The next piece is the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or a resolution between all the participating organizations that commit to pay the membership fee and the annual dues.

Tom Adams: The calculation shows per person, does that mean the \$5 per person would be paid by the population like an additional tax?

Kim Sollien: No, the borough and the tribes would have to determine how to cover their membership dues and annual fees. The MPO does not have taxing authority.

Objections to move option A forward to the Pre-Policy Board?

Brad Hanson: Object. Reluctant to make a recommendation as the pre-policy board are more in tune with their respective bodies and the recommendation should be more of a function of that board.

Kim Sollien: The Steering Committee will make a recommendation, but the Pre-Policy Board will make the decision.

Todd Vanhove: Object. The Pre-Policy Board should make this decision.

Tom Adams: It is this group's responsibility to present a recommendation.

Roll Call Vote to recommend Proposal A to the Pre-Policy Board

Yay: 6 Nay: 3 Abstain: 1

Motion Passes

Brad Sworts: Just to clarify, all three options will be presented to the Pre-Policy Board with our recommendation, and they have the choice to pick or not pick our recommendation, correct?

Donna Gardino: Correct and they could pick something else entirely.

c. **Operating Agreement Update**

February 16th, 2023 the operating agreement was sent to the State DOT&PF for review and then to the Attorney General's office for review and we have not received any comments yet. The operating agreement and the bylaws are with the DOT&PF Commissioner. They are working their way through DOT&PF.

8. **New Business**

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9. Other Issues

10. Informational Items

a. Mat-Su Borough Transit Plan Update

Maija DiSalvo provided a summary update.

Brian Lindamood summarized funding for the railroad.

Brian Winnestaffer: Chickaloon wants to be included in the conversation to determine how to report riders.

Aaron Jongenelen summarized how AMATS distributes certain funding.

Jackson Fox summarized transit funding for FAST.

Maija DiSalvo provided a summary of the Coordinated Human Services Plan.

b. Mat-Su Borough Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update

Kelsey Anderson presented the MSB Bike and Pedestrian Plan.

c. Updated MPO Development Timeline

Kim Sollien presented the Development Timeline.

Adam Bradway: The PL funding pays for staff. It was previously distributed only to FAST and AMATS. A new formula will need to be developed to figure out the allocation of funds for fair distribution among the three MPOs.

11. Steering Committee Comments

No comments

12. Adjournment

13. Motion to adjourn (**Shaver**), seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm.