

MVP for Transportation MPO Technical Committee Meeting

MEMBERS

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



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Agenda

Tuesday, July 9th, 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 at 2:01pm.
- 2. Introduction of MPO Technical Committee Members and other Attendees**

Members Present

Brian Lindamood, ARRC
Lawerence Smith, Trucking Industry Advocate
Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Native Village
Crystal Smith, MSBSD
Clint Adler, Alaska DOT&PF
Alex Strawn, MSB
Jude Bilafer, City of Palmer
Dan Tucker, RSA Representative
Stuart Leidner, Mobility Advocate
Erich Schaal, City of Wasilla
Ben White, Alaska DOT&PF
Adeyemi Alimi, ADEC

Members Absent

Bob Charles, Knik Tribe
Jennifer Busch, Public Transit
Randy Durham, MSB TAB
Tom Adams, MSB

Visitors Present

Adam Bradway, Alaska DOT&PF
Maija DiSalvo, MSB
Kim Sollien, MPO Coordinator

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Elise Blocker, RESPEC
Megan Flory, RESPEC
Donna Gardino, Gardino Consulting Services
Sharon Johnson, Alaska State Senate
Sean Holland, Alaska DOT&PF
Jackson Fox, FAST Planning
Marie Heideman, FHWA
Brad Sworts, MSB
James Starzec, Alaska DOT&PF
Judy Chapman, Alaska DOT&PF
Randi Bailey, Alaska DOT&PF

3. **Approval of the July 9th, 2024, Agenda – (Action Item)**
*Motion to approve July 9th, 2024, Agenda (**Lindamood**), seconded. None opposed.*
4. **Approval of the June 11th, 2024, Minutes – (Action Item)**
*Motion to approve June 11th, 2024, Minutes (**Winnestaffer**), seconded. None opposed.*
5. **Committee/Working Group Reports (Including the Staff Report)**
 - a. **Staff Report**
Kim Sollien provided a staff report. A detailed staff report is located in the meeting packet.
6. **Voices of the Visitors (Non-Action Items)**
None
7. **Old Business**
 - a. **MVP for Transportation Title VI Plan (Action Item)**
*Motion to recommend to the Policy Board approval of the Title VI Plan (**Winnestaffer**) seconded. None opposed.*

Kim Sollien provided a staff report.

No discussion.
 - b. **Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Update**

Kim Sollien and Ben White provided a staff report. The draft STIP Amendment 1 has been released for public comment. White explained the logistics of amending the STIP in the future and how to submit comments on Draft Amendment 1. The public comment period will close on August 2nd, 2024. White also provided an overview of the STIP website and the STIP Amendment 1 documents. MVP staff developed an initial list of comments for the Technical Committee to review.

Adam Bradway pulled a list of projects relevant to MVP from the STIP Amendment 1 documents to discuss with the Technical Committee. Bradway noted that not all the projects submitted by MVP are included in the STIP project list.

Clint Adler asked if the Technical Committee was a good entity to comment on fiscal constraint of the STIP. He pointed out that some of the projects in the Air Tables go beyond 2027 and that Alaska DOT&PF has programmed \$6.6 billion past 2027, not including Advance Construction. Adler asked for clarification on when Advance Construction funds are “paid back.” Bradway clarified for the group that Advance Construction is a tool that Alaska DOT&PF uses to bring more money into current years that needs to be paid back later, like a credit card. He said he did not have an answer to the question that was asked.

Brian Lindamood said that for other MPOs, Technical Committees tend to write extensive comments that are then sent to the Policy Board for approval. Sollien reminded the Technical

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Committee that MVP requested that Alaska DOT&PF send MVP any changes to projects in advance to ensure MVP has sufficient time to review, but that did not occur so there is limited time for review and a special meeting may be needed. Lindamood asked if MVP was going to enter an MOU with Alaska DOT&PF, as AMATS and FAST Planning are going to do, to formalize coordination between the entities. The railroad is also experiencing challenges with communication and coordination with Alaska DOT&PF. Bradway said that White is planning on discussing coordination between Alaska DOT&PF and MVP later in the meeting. Donna Gardino said that MVP's comments need to be sent to Alaska DOT&PF as soon as possible so Alaska DOT&PF has sufficient time to implement the changes. Gardino recommended that the Technical Committee review MVP's comments and the list of projects of significance from Bradway immediately. Bradway clarified that the list he developed is only MVP-funded projects, not all projects within the MPA. Gardino and Sollien confirmed that the priority is projects included in the Program of Projects.

Sollien clarified that there is an updated Program of Projects in the meeting packet and that the version that was included in the STIP Amendment 1 was not the approved version. Ben White suggested the Technical Committee review the comments developed by staff and that if there are additional comments from the Technical Committee, the members should direct staff to develop those detailed comments and bring them to the attention of the Policy Board. Sollien gave an overview of the MVP comment letter.

Jude Bilafer expressed frustration that Alaska DOT&PF did not include the correct projects in the draft STIP amendment and that the projects that he nominated to add to the MVP Program of Projects were very small, simple, and shovel ready. Bradway clarified that those projects were not included because the STIP team used an old version of the Program of Projects, not because they specifically rejected City of Palmer projects. Bilafer recommended that staff should include in comment 1 of the letter who received the Program of Projects and when. Stuart Leidner agreed.

Sollien, Bradway, and Gardino continued walking the Technical Committee through the comment letter. Bradway said that the ledger is not clear, and he does not have an explanation for the numbers shown.

Alex Strawn asked if the comment letter being shared on the screen was included in the meeting packet. Sollien clarified that it is not in the meeting packet, but the intent is to have the Technical Committee provide input so that an updated version can be included in the next Policy Board meeting packet. Gardino said there is nothing in the ledger that shows where Advance Construction funds are being paid back, which should be shown as ACC (Advance Construction Conversion). Gardino said that some projects were added to the STIP, but that Alaska DOT&PF needs to be transparent about showing what projects were removed. Bradway said that there are some AC Conversions in the ledger, but not everywhere they should be.

Bradway provided a summary of changes in the STIP, including that CTP and TAP projects were moved to FFY25, there are new projects and MVP projects that should be included in the STIP amendment that are not, and the Bogard Road project has a different title and scope in the STIP because it is multiple projects combined into one for clarity.

Brian Lindamood asked how the comments would be sent to the Policy Board. Sollien said the comments would be included in the meeting packet that will go to the Policy Board tomorrow. Winnestaffer and Lindamood discussed approving the comments to move forward to the Policy Board with the additional edits by staff. It was noted that transit projects and other projects of regional significance have not been reviewed.

Motion to move the comment letter forward to the Policy Board for approval, with the understanding that MVP staff will proofread and revise the document based on the conversation with the Technical Committee (Winnestaffer), seconded. None opposed.

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

Donna Gardino noted that MVP will be reviewing this document in detail and providing comments and that Technical Committee members should read the document. Alex Strawn asked if Gardino was recommending postponing this item. Gardino said she wasn't sure what the timeline was for the 3Cs document but wanted to make sure the Technical Committee has time for the Program of Projects in this meeting.

White gave an overview of the process of developing the 3Cs policy in accordance with the federal finding. He suggested that it would be better to have individual MOUs with each MPO and for Alaska DOT&PF to have an internal manual for coordination. There is not a strict timeline for this as it is an ongoing process.

- c. **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update**

One comment has been received on the UPWP to date.

- d. **Program of Projects (Action Item)**

Donna Gardino provided a summary of the changes that have been made to the Program of Projects. The edits include changes to the projects descriptions to match the state descriptions, Need IDs were changed to match the STIP, and funding was moved from FFY24 to FFY25.

Adam Bradway noted that the Bogard project scope has changed but the title is still the same. The project needs to be changed to match the new combined project in the STIP amendment.

Jude Bilafer asked where the projects the City of Palmer submitted are. Kim Sollien said they are included in the MVP Improvement Program.

Bilafer asked how the City of Palmer, MSB, and MVP are tied to the Inner and Outer Springer Loop Separated Path project and whether MVP was aware of the revised project location that the City of Palmer submitted. Bradway said he was, and that Alaska DOT&PF would be sending a draft match and maintenance agreement soon. Bilafer said that the revised project will reduce the budget. Bradway said it can be left as it is in the Program of Projects and can be revised later, since reducing money is easier than increasing.

Maija DiSalvo asked about the transit funding table and whether the 5307 funding would also be moved out to FFY25. She also noted that the Urbanized Area Formula Grant should show MSB as the direct recipient rather than Valley Transit. DiSalvo and Brian Lindamood noted that no funds are shown for the railroad in this table, which seems to be some sort of error with how the STIP allocation tables were balanced.

*Motion to extend the meeting to 3:45pm (**Winnestaffer**), seconded. Motion passed.*

Sollien said that she will update the transit funding table. She was not sure about the lifespan of FTA funds. DiSalvo said FTA told her they are available to be applied for in the allocation year plus five years, so FFY24 funds could be applied for in FFY25. Lindamood agreed that that is his understanding. Bradway said it probably is not necessary to show the funds carrying over. Lindamood advised that FTA can take six to nine months to turn a grant around. DiSalvo said that the FFY25 funds are less than the FFY24 funds and that she did not understand how the amounts were determined. Bob Charles said he thought the FFY25 funds should be more. Lindamood said that the last number he heard from DC Keith was different than the amount they had heard from FTA. Bradway said the amount in the Program of Projects is probably wrong and DC Keith was working from an estimate. Sollien clarified that she was using the numbers from the spreadsheet she was given and that these numbers need to be fact checked.

*Motion to approve the Program of Projects as amended (**Charles**), seconded. Passed unanimously.*

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8. **New Business**

a. **Bylaws Update**

Kim Sollien provided an update on the changes that were made to the bylaws.

Dan Tucker asked about Section 2 and noted that there were no details on the election process and recommended defining the process to avoid problems in the future.

9. **Other Issues**

None

10. **Informational Items**

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

The documents have been submitted to the state and we are waiting for the state to confirm. Confirmation is expected in October, 2024.

b. **Transit Update – Presented by Maija DiSalvo, Mat-Su Borough Planning**

Maija DiSalvo provided a transit update. Valley Transit will have access to 5311 funds through the end of June 2025. The Mat-Su Health Foundation will be providing transit match funding until June 2025.

c. **Safe Streets for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan workshop**

- Wednesday, July 10, 2024 (11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Meeting ID: 864 7200 9983
Passcode: 657859 [Direct Zoom Link](#)

The flyer is in the packet. All those who are interested are encouraged to attend.

11. **Technical Committee Comments**

Dan Tucker said that the meeting place is nice.

12. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting (**Tucker**). The meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm.

Next Scheduled MPO Technical Committee Meeting – **August 13th, 2024, from 2:00pm-3:30pm** to be held via Microsoft TEAMS Meeting