

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 17, 2023

1. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order, and a motion to move minutes was made to proceed. The meeting commenced with expressions of gratitude for the attendees and a recognition that the last meeting had occurred in April.

2. General Commentary:

- River Transportation System: Concerns were raised regarding the river transportation system, particularly its vital transportation corridors and issues related to dredging.

3. Public Commentary:

- Ore Haul and Highways: A council member and ice road trucker expressed concerns about the impact of Ore Haul on highways and bridges, highlighting potential dangers.
- Macroeconomics Discussion: Participants called for discussions related to the macroeconomics of the projects, with a specific focus on revenue generated from diesel taxes.

4. Commissioner Anderson Updates:

- Commissioner Anderson provided updates on various topics:
- Resolutions: Joint use of airport equipment and the utilization of contractors for snow removal.
- Funding: Abandoned vehicle removal funding was replenished. Discussion on deferred maintenance for the highway system was held.
- Construction Season Summary:
 - Contract Awards for FFY23: A summary of construction contract awards for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023, spanning from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023, was presented. The total awards for this period amounted to \$736,360,463.70. The awards were further categorized by regions.

5. Andy Mills Snow Summit:

- The Snow Summit was discussed, addressing the challenges posed by extreme weather conditions in Alaska. Topics covered during the summit included Alaska winter road maintenance, prioritizing sidewalks and paths, complete streets in northern climates, roadside weather systems, winter snow removal operations, ice and seasonal roads, snow trails, and innovations in winter operations.

6. Modern STIP - STIP Website:

- The modernization of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the STIP website was discussed.
- Creation of Modernization and Innovation Office: Announced the establishment of an office focused on technological advancements.
- Cybersecurity: Emphasized the importance of cybersecurity, especially regarding the use of AI across various software platforms.
- Introduction by DC Katherine Keith
- Process and Outreach presented by Judy Chapman, including joint legislative framework, project highlights, and new programs (one pagers)
- Outreach, corrective actions, and best practices presented by Shannon McCarthy

7. Judy Chapman/DCK STIP:

- Judy Chapman provided insights into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):

- STIP Overview: The STIP was described as a 4-year fiscally constrained document that includes federal transit and discretionary grants.
- Public Input: The importance of gathering comments from the public regarding the STIP was emphasized.
- STIP Process: Judy explained the STIP process, federal planning requirements, and fiscal constraints.

8. Shannon McCarthy:

- Shannon McCarthy discussed public engagement and feedback related to the STIP.
- Modern Platforms: The use of modern platforms for public engagement was highlighted.
- Public Participation: Over 22,000 STIP site visits were recorded, and the importance of community-centered and culturally sensitive engagement was emphasized.

9. Alaska, Richardson, Steese Highways Corridor:

- A 10-minute overview of the Alaska, Richardson, Steese Highways Corridor was provided by Commissioner Anderson. This included highlighting existing infrastructure issues and discussing the legal aspects of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF).
- An extensive 30-minute update on the Corridor Analysis and the work of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was presented by Randy Kinney. The presentation included acknowledgment of the TAC process and its ability to make recommendations outside of DOTPF.

10. Other Participants:

- Randy Kinney provided insights on various project overviews, including bus stops, pavement damage by “b trains,” and goals and objectives.
- Jason Sakalaskas discussed vegetation clearing, winter maintenance, and recruitment strategies.
- Leslie Daugherty addressed bridge inspections and introduced a monitoring program.
- Pam discussed digital alerting with school buses and the utilization of 511 data.
- Dan Smith explained Level 1 Commercial Vehicle inspections.
- Shannon McCarthy discussed education.

11. DOT&PF Alaska Safe Systems Approach:

- Commissioner Anderson introduced the DOT&PF Alaska Safe Systems Approach and shared the website launch. The four 'e's (Engineering, M&O, Bridge, DMIO, Enforcement, EMS, Education) were discussed in detail, featuring specific subtopics and speakers.

12. Closing Statements:

- Closing Remarks: The meeting concluded with the assurance that the topics covered would be further discussed and addressed in subsequent meetings.
- A resolution proposal was made and voted on, with additional details to be accessed through a provided Zoom link.

13. The meeting was adjourned, with the next meeting scheduled for the middle of January.