

Roads and Highways Advisory Board Conference Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2019

Meeting called to order by Chair, Dan Hall at 1:03 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members:

Present: Donna Gardino, Scott Eickholt, Daniel Hall, Harry McDonald, Howard Thies, Tony Johansen, John Baker

DOT&PF: Commissioner John MacKinnon

Telephone Participants: Meadow Bailey, Frank Davis, Courtney Wendel, Jackson Fox, Maren Brantner

Approval of Agenda: Motion: Scott Eickholt moved to accept agenda, Donna Gardino second.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Howard Thies moved to accept minutes, Donna Gardino second.

Public Comments: No public comments were made.

Chair Remarks:

Mr. Hall stated that this meeting is to have a discussion on the Governor's budget, and discuss how the budget will impact the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF).

Board Discussion:

Governor's Budget Review Discussion

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Commissioner John MacKinnon, gave his remarks to the advisory board, regarding the Governor's proposed budget. There was one major impact in the proposed budget that will impact the communities in Alaska. That impact is the 75% reduction to the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). The department is not going to be funded at the level it has been funded in the past year. With this proposed budget, Commissioner MacKinnon would like to join the department's three advisory boards (Aviation, Marine Transportation, and Roads and Highways), and create one "Ad Hoc Advisory Board." The Commissioner would like the three boards to start thinking as a transportation system, and not as three separate modes. With this proposed budget, all transportation systems will be affect. The Ad Hoc Advisory Board, will focus on what projects should go forward, and how the department should advance those projects.

The Roads and Highway's response to the "Ad Hoc Board" was positive. With the upcoming changes to the department, the Roads and Highways Advisory Board is eager to start helping in any way they can. The board will send a list of volunteers to the Commissioner, on who would like to join the "Ad Hoc Board." The Commissioner will review the list of volunteers from all three boards, with the chair from each board.

Bi-Annual Budget

The board has voiced their concerns for the DOT&PF in losing federal match funds. Having a bi-annual budget will insure funds the following year, and will fill the gap of uncertainly for DOT&PF. The board is in favor of the state having a bi-annual budget, but the idea of the state starting a bi-annual budget is highly unlikely this year. The board is going to table this topic, and maintain it on their radar.

Board Comments

No board comments were made.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.