



AMATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

August 15, 2024

Project Team:

Galen Jones, Project Manager	Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Kelly Kilpatrick, Project Manager Sam Tyler, Project Engineer Morgan McCammon, Public Involvement	DOWL

Summary:

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Project Manager Galen Jones introduced the project and project team present. DOWL Project Manager Kelly Kilpatrick presented an overview of the project and area features, sharing the project's purpose and objectives, funding sources, schedule, and interchange background. She shared details of the existing traffic conditions, highlighting the issues including westbound queues on Eagle River Loop Road to merge onto the Glenn Highway during the morning peak, status of the existing bridge, and existing non-motorized and transit facilities. Kelly presented the early brainstorming ideas the project team developed to address the issues noted. The project team shared these issues and ideas with stakeholders at an interchange workshop held April 30, 2024. Feedback from workshop attendees included:

- Project is needed and overdue.
- Congestion is unacceptable during morning commute.
- Enhance and maintain bicycle/pedestrian, Park & Ride, and transit facilities.
- Consider school time change; high school starting an hour later (8:30 a.m.).
- Concerns about impacts to emergency vehicle access to correctional facility and school traffic with VFW Rd to Wolf Den Dr connection.
- Consider over-height vehicles through interchange.
- Consider roundabout at both ramp terminals.
- Consider signaling ramp node intersections.
- Avoid increasing the number of vehicle traffic lanes.



Kelly shared additional public involvement to include public meetings and meetings with stakeholder groups, such as local bicycle groups and MOA Transit. She concluded the presentation by sharing project team contact information and invited committee members to share comments and questions.

Comments:

Committee Member Daniel Volland requested clarification on how the Committee would approve an amendment to add this project to the TIP when it is already fiscally constrained. Committee Chair Sean Holland responded STIP money would be used, however there is a delay on when funds are received. Galen further commented the project was previously programmed into the STIP but removed to comply with the TIP. Funding programmed in the STIP for projects within AMATS's boundaries is more funding for the AMATS area. Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS Coordinator, clarified the MTP must first be updated to include the project and the new \$19 million source. The TIP would need to redirect funding from another project to remain fiscally constrained. Aaron shared AMATS staff needs information from DOT&PF indicating when and the source of funding coming to update the MTP and amend the TIP.

Committee Member Graham Downey noted the approximately 25-year life left on bridge. He asked if the project was proposing temporary solutions that would later be torn down as part of a future bridge replacement project. Galen clarified the project team is looking for near-term solutions compatible with long-term solutions. Kelly added as part of interchange workshop, the project team reviewed possible long-term solutions and how each near-term project would fit with those.

Committee Chair Sean Holland commented the presentation does not show non-motorized improvements. Galen responded they were keeping the presentation to 10 minutes, and non-motorized improvement would depend on the preferred alternative, with input from MOA Transit and local bicycle organizations.