

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Transportation Advisory Board
AGENDA

Edna DeVries, Mayor

Terri Lyons
Randy Durham
Donna McBride
Jillian Morrissey
Jennifer Busch
Charles van Ravenswaay
Joshua Cross - Chair

Kim Sollien – Staff Support



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director
Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager
Jason Ortiz, Development Services Manager
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

Location:
MSB DSJ BLDG.
Lower Level Conference Room (LLCR)
350 E. Dahlia Ave. Palmer, AK

JUNE 23rd 2023
SPECIAL MEETING
10:00 a.m.

Alternate Ways to Participate in the Transportation Advisory Board Meetings:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 235 740 543 691

Passcode: CmLsk8

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Or call in (audio only)

[+1 907-290-7880,,553230253#](#) United States, Anchorage

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. May 19th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)

VI. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP) Update
Maija DiSalvo, MSB Planner II

2023 Matanuska-Susitna Borough Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
Kelsey Anderson, MSB Planner III

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 23-05 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHTSP) Update

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE MATANUSKA-
SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTION OF THE 2023 COORDINATED
HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE.

B. Resolution 23-06 Matanuska-Susitna Borough Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE MATANUSKA-
SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTION OF THE 2023 MATANUSKA-
SUSITNA BOROUGH BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN.

IX. MEMBER COMMENTS

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

August 18th 2023 10 A.M.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

PACKET ATTACHMENTS:

Pg. 3-6	May 19th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Pg. 7-9	Reso. 23-05 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHTSP) Update DRAFT
Pg. 10-14	CHSTP Executive Summary
Pg. 15-16	Reso. 23-06 Matanuska-Susitna Borough Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan DRAFT

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)
Minutes

Edna DeVries, Mayor

- ✓ Terri Lyons
- ✓ Randy Durham
- ✓ Donna (DJ) McBride
- ✓ Jillian Morrissey
- ✓ Jennifer Busch 10:12 Online
- Charles van Ravenswaay
- ✓ Joshua Cross - Chair

Kim Sollien – Staff Support



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director
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Location:
MSB DSJ BLDG.
Lower Level Conference Room (LLCR)
350 E. Dahlia Ave. Palmer, AK

Included TEAMS option at board request

May 19th 2023
Regular MEETING Minutes
10:00 a.m.

Additional Attendees:

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL – *QUORUM MET*

Board: Terri, Randy, Donna (DJ), Jillian, Joshua (Josh)

Planning Staff: Rick Antonio, Maija DiSalvo, Eileen Pickett, Gerritt Verbeek

Public Works Staff: Mike Campfield, Cole Branham, Tom Adams

ADOT&PF – Adam Bradway (Online)

Guests: Steven Edwards – LRSAAB, Charles Crim – RSA 16, Shawn McBride

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DJ Moved, Randy 2nd, No Opposition, Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 31, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes

Randy Moved, Jillian 2nd, No Opposition, Approved

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Adam Bradway (Online) – Discussed the CTP and TAP scoring scheduled for the end of May. Nine MSB projects are on the list. MSB will have representation at the scoring meeting.

Steven Edwards – Discussed the Local RSA Advisory Board (LRSAAB) request for TAB support of two issues, sand storage lots and the need for a 4th Road Maintenance Superintendent (RMS).

Sand storage issue- RSA contractors store sand with salt at their yards. Certain RSAs requested an MSB-owned lot be developed for central storage of sand. Contractors have issues with dedicating equipment to off-site storage and logistics.

4th RMS due to an increase in mileage and population. More oversight is needed on maintenance and upgrade projects.

Tom Adams stated that Public Works has reorganized and filled vacant positions.

Josh Cross stated that maintenance-related issues weren't exactly in the scope of TAB.

Steve stated that they would revisit the need for additional RMS in the fall.

VI. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. MPO 101 Presentation and Update – Gerritt Verbeek, MSB Planner II

Gerritt filled in for Kim Sollien on the MPO presentation.

Terri stated that we could always say no. Josh stated that the requirements are still there and you would be turning down funding.

Charles asked if an entity doesn't want to participate.

Gerritt stated that they would still be within the boundary but they wouldn't have a seat at the table and wouldn't have a say over how the allocated funds are distributed.

Terri asked about the structure of the staff, and if MVP staff can be fired.

Gerritt stated that the policy board would provide oversight.

Steve asked if the funding could be used outside the MPO in the RSA.

Gerritt stated that ideally, boundaries would align but in short no.

Steve asked if match funding could accumulate year after year.

Eileen stated that there are additional funding sources.

Adam stated that we need to think about the match structure.

B. Safe Walking Routes Committee Presentation – Rick Antonio

Adam stated that the dedicated safe routes funding is gone but there is still HSIP funding and TAP funding. Once MPO is operational there is some formula funding.

Tom suggested that we work with Public Works to identify the overlap in current projects and identified needs. Recently awarded the contract for Safe Routes.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 23-04 Transportation Infrastructure Program 2021 (TIP21)
support for continued funding of underfunded projects

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD REQUESTING THE MSB ASSEMBLY
CONTINUE TO FUND AND CONSTRUCT PROJECTS FROM THE
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FROM 2021 (TIP21)
THAT WERE NOT FUNDED DUE TO FUNDING SHORTFALLS

Jillian Moved, Randy 2nd, No Opposition, Approved

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. TAB nomination for MPO Steering and future Technical Committee TAB
representative.

Move to unfinished business at the next regular meeting

Discussion regarding filling the vacant steering committee seat in the interim.

Josh nominated Jillian for MPO Steering Committee, DJ 2nd, None Opposed

- B. Request for a special meeting in June for MSB Bike & Pedestrian Plan and Coordinated
Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP) support.

*Maija stated that the public comment periods for both plans just ended. Planning
Commission introduction June 19th and public hearing July 17th. This is prior to the
next regular meeting. Request TAB support prior to action.*

Terri proposed a special meeting June 23rd at 10 am, Jillian 2nd, None Opposed

- C. Discussion on TIP scoring and request for presentation by MSB Public Works and
ADOT MSB Region Transportation Planner, Adam Bradway.

*TAB requests a staff report at the next regular meeting including Public Works Pre-
Design and ADOT&PF Mat-Su.*

IX. MEMBER COMMENTS

Terri- Would like to take some time to get educated on topics

Randy- No Comment

DJ-No Comment

Jillian- Thanks for the staff work on presentations

Josh- Thanks everyone and I appreciate the service

X. NEXT MEETING DATES

Special Meeting June 23rd 10 am

August 18, 2023

XI. ADJOURNMENT *11:35 am*

Terri Moved to adjourn, Randy 2nd, None Opposed

PACKET ATTACHMENTS:

A. March 31, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes *Approved and Signed*

B. TAB Resolution 23-04 Transportation Infrastructure Program 2021 (TIP21)
support for continued funding of underfunded projects *Passed and Signed*

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. TAB 23-05**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTION OF THE 2023 COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Transportation Advisory Board advises the Assembly on transportation-related issues; and

WHEREAS, the primary focus of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP) Update is to evaluate and improve transportation options and access to services for priority populations such as older adults, youth, indigenous populations, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals living in poverty, and individuals with limited English proficiency; and

WHEREAS, historically, research indicates that priority populations have higher rates of transit dependency and lower access to vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 U.S. Census identified a higher rate of priority populations in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) when compared to other coordinated planning regions, underscoring the need for improved transportation services and provider coordination; and

WHEREAS, the most recent update to the MSB's CHSTP was adopted in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 5310 funding through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and Alaska Mental Health Trust (AMHT) funding through the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) Alaska Community Transit office focus on the transportation needs of disadvantaged persons and those with special transportation needs that cannot be met through traditional personal automobile or public transportation means; and

WHEREAS, in order for local providers to be eligible for FTA 5310 or AMHT funding, projects must be derived from a locally developed, coordinated plan that is updated at least every five years; and

WHEREAS, the ADOT&PF must certify to FTA that a CHSTP includes all of the following requirements:

1. Be locally developed, evidenced by public participation that must include seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private, nonprofit, and human services transportation providers, and other members of the public.
2. Include information on the community background, an inventory of local resources and services, a needs assessment, gaps in service, strategies, priority of projects, and a signature page of participating agencies.

3. A resolution from the local governing body adopting the plan.

4. Must be updated every five years.

WHEREAS, the CHSTP Update gathered feedback from interviews, advisory committee meetings, and a workshop, all involving transit providers, human service organizations, and local, regional, and state agencies and organizations, and also included a 30 day public comment period; and

WHEREAS, the CHSTP Update includes a list of prioritized goals and strategy recommendations to implement future improvements that effectively meet the transportation needs of priority populations throughout the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Transportation Advisory Board recommends Assembly adoption of the 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Transportation Advisory Board this 23rd day of June 2023.

Joshua Cross, Chair

ATTEST:

Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager
Staff Support

Executive Summary

The primary focus of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update is improving transportation options and access to services for the following target population groups:



Older adults
(aged 65 and older)



Individuals with
Disabilities



Youth
(ages 10 to 17)



Individuals living in
poverty



Indigenous Populations



Veterans



Individuals with limited
English proficiency

Historically, all of these population groups have higher rates of transit dependency and lower access to personal vehicles.

Stakeholder Engagement

As part of the MSB Coordinated Plan's stakeholder outreach and engagement process, the project team conducted a series of stakeholder interviews between the months of July and August of 2022. Stakeholders interviewed for this task included transit providers, human service organizations, and local, regional, and state agencies and organizations. The key takeaways were themed under the following topics:

- Coordination
- COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts
- Service Needs & Gaps Planning
- Priority Populations
- Funding
- Need for more Resources

Overall Themes

guiding development of goals and strategies



Coordination and
Collaboration



Access to Key Destinations



Regional Transportation
Needs



Education and Awareness



Funding



Safety



Data Collection



Affordability

Key Findings

Public transit does not adequately serve rural populations.

Low densities, large service areas, and extensive distances between activity centers complicate the delivery of public transit in rural areas of the Mat-Su Borough. Poor connectivity to regional hubs makes it difficult for residents to get their basic needs (e.g., medical care, education, shopping, and recreation) met. Opportunities exist to improve connections between rural and urban passenger travel via improved intermodal connections.

Funding remains a key barrier for transportation improvements.

There is limited dedicated funding in place to support the transit improvements needed to address the demands of a growing and aging population. Key funding sources are restrictive and different funding types may apply only to unique services for specific populations, can be used for limited purposes, or are restricted to a defined region (urban vs rural); reimbursements for non-emergency rides through Medicaid are often delayed, impacting providers. Lack of coordination between providers can also result in duplicative services and under capacity vehicles being under funded.

ng under funded.

There is a desire to improve coordination of transportation services between transit and human service providers.

Due to limited availability of federal and state funding, it is in the best interest of transit and human service providers to coordinate transit programs and services to make the most efficient use of existing resources and to avoid duplicative efforts. The statewide long-range plan and policy references the desire to coordinate at broader scopes, stating that there is “higher demand for specialized transportation such as human service transportation, public transit, and other alternatives in various regions.” The next step is to encourage coordination at the regional level.

Several elements went into this Existing Conditions: State of the Region Report, including a demographic analysis, plan review, stakeholder interviews, a provider inventory, and a needs and gaps analysis. gaps analysis.

Lack of support to implement transportation solutions.

Several plans have been developed over the years with solutions to regional needs and growth. Transit options have yet to be implemented for various reasons, but the lack of political will is a significant factor. Nationwide, local and regional governments often support public transportation or run their own transit operations. The Mat-Su Borough has not considered this, adding additional burden to non-profit organizations working to provide affordable and reliable transportation options. Additionally, land use and development have yet to be guided in a way that plans for transit infrastructure, such as bus stops, or allows easy access to commercial or medical districts, employment, or government services.

Mat-Su Borough has a higher rate of marginalized populations than other coordinated planning regions.

The individual target demographics this plan is designed for comprise up to 29% of the local population; however, when added together, the percent of the population in the Borough that is socially or politically marginalized is much greater (for example, youth and Veterans alone make up 46% of the total population, not to mention the others). With such large numbers in need, it truly underscores the urgency for more transportation services and further coordination amongst providers.

Plan Implementation:

Goals & Strategies

Below is a comprehensive list of all six goals developed by providers throughout the engagement process. The proposed strategies offer clear and actionable steps forward in improving transportation accessibility for priority populations throughout the Borough.

After listening to feedback from both the Advisory Committee and stakeholders, the proposed strategies in this plan are prioritized by placement as Low, Medium, or High priority. Implementation timelines are associated with each strategy as well. Some strategies may be ready for immediate implementation, whether ranked high or low priority. Other strategies, while ranked “high priority” may take longer to implement. Project timelines range from short (1-2 years) to medium (3-4 years) to long (5+ years).

	Strategy	Timeline	Priority	Overall Ranking
Goal 1	Develop a Comprehensive Plan for Communication, Education, and Awareness Throughout the Borough			
1.a	Design & Develop a Travel Training Program	1-2 years	Low	7
1.b	Engagement Planning for Local Governments	1-2 years	High	2
1.c	Borough Listening Sessions/Townhalls	1-2 years	Low	5
1.d	Establish a Formal Marketing Campaign on Transportation Resources in the Mat-Su Borough	1-2 years	High	1
1.e	Develop Consistent Online Resources	3-4 years	Medium	4
1.f	Support Access to Existing Community Services by Hosting Informational Webinars, Meetings, and Providing Leave-behind Materials Informing the Community How to Use Public Transportation	1 year or less	Medium	3
1.g	Develop Educational Materials on all Mobility Options in the Region (not only public transportation)	1-2 years	Low	6

	Strategy	Timeline	Priority	Overall Ranking
Goal 2	Strengthen and Sustain Financial Opportunities			
2.a	Increase Resources for Local Match	3-4 years	High	2
2.b	Develop a System to Identify and Promote Funding Opportunities for Regional Providers and Programs	1-2 years	High	1
2.c	Grant Writing Assistance Program	3-4 years	Low	4
2.d	Continue to Support the Mat-Su Borough's Development of a Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization	3-4 years	Medium	3

	Strategy	Timeline	Priority	Overall Ranking
Goal 3	Establish a Data Collection and Management Plan to Inform Future Planning Efforts			
3.a	Expand and Utilize Current Data Sharing Plan	1-2 years	Low	3
3.b	Analyze Travel Patterns and Regional Demographics to Better Understand Gaps in Service Areas	3-4 years	High	1
3.c	Develop a Regional Data Management Plan	3-4 years	Medium	2

	Strategy	Timeline	Priority	Overall Ranking
Goal 4	Define and Address Regional Transportation Needs			
4.a	Develop a Borough-wide Transit Development Plan	1-2 years	High	1
4.b	Mat-Su Borough Leverages Agency Leadership to Emphasize Transit Needs	1-2 years	Medium	2
4.c	Identify "Need" to Determine if the Need Can be Fulfilled by Existing Service or Whether the "Need" Requires New Service Through Formula 5310 Funding	3-4 years	Medium	4
4.d	Develop Driver Training and Retention Programs	3-4 years	Low	3

	Strategy	Timeline	Priority	Overall Ranking
Goal 5	Support Ongoing Coordination and Collaboration, While Creating New Partnerships			
5.a	Implement Borough-wide Mobility Management Program	3-4 years	Medium	3
5.b	Formalize Agreements and Processes for Leveraging Funding Services and Planning	1-2 years	High	2
5.c	Develop Borough-wide Coordinating Committee	1-2 years	High	1
5.d	Develop Partnerships for Non-profit Agencies Who May Need Support with Vehicle Maintenance	5+ years	Low	5
5.e	Coordinate with Critical Health and Social Services to Better Provide Consistent Transportation for Those Who Rely on the Service	3-4 years	Low	4

	Strategy	Timeline	Priority	Overall Ranking
Goal 6	Design Safe, Accessible, and Affordable Services for Borough Residents			
6.a	Develop a Program for Discounted Fares for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities	1-2 years	High	1
6.b	Upgrade Facilities at Bus Stops and Transfer Stations	5+ years	Medium	4
6.c	Further Identify Public Transportation Infrastructure Needs in the Borough	3-4 years	High	2
6.d	Work with Alaska DOT&PF to Support the Borough's Level of Autonomy over Road Clearing During Winter Months	1-2 years	Low	3
6.e	Develop and Support Borough-wide Technology Measures for Customers and Providers	3-4 years	Unranked	-

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 23-06**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Assembly adopted the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the LRTP consists of goals and strategies to build out a better-connected and safer transportation network, including goals to increase mobility and transportation choices; and

WHEREAS, one of the strategies in the LRTP is to develop an active transportation master plan that creates a vision for the bicycle and pedestrian system and identifies recommendations to implement that vision; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Department has developed the Borough's first Bike and Pedestrian Plan to implement LRTP strategies and goals pertaining to nonmotorized transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Bike and Pedestrian Plan (BPP) was developed by understanding the existing system of sidewalks, pathways, roads, and development, and incorporates an economic analysis that shows increased transportation choices have positive impacts on the social, physical, economic, and environmental qualities of life that MSB residents enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the BPP gathered feedback from community councils, MSB advisory boards, transportation planners and engineers, local governments, bike & pedestrian advocate groups, developers and real estate agents, and the general public through steering committee meetings, public meetings and events, and a 45-day public comment period; and

WHEREAS, the public process allowed for timely comment and discussion on possible routes, neighborhood concerns, increasing safe routes to school, development standards, and other pertinent information; and

WHEREAS, public comments were incorporated into the BPP where appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the BPP provides a clear path forward for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to begin implementing the recommended policies, infrastructure, and programs outlined in the BPP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Transportation Advisory Board recommends the Assembly adopt the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Transportation Advisory Board this 23rd day of June 2023.

Josh Cross, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Kim Sollien, Planning Staff