

## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

**Date:** October 7, 2022

Kittelson Project No: 25697

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**To:** Eric Taylor

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**From:** Holly Spoth-Torres

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**Subject:** Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

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## STAC MEETING SUMMARY

### **SUMMARY:**

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) held a Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. using the virtual platform Microsoft Teams. A toll-free call-in number was available for those who couldn't join virtually, and the meeting was open to the public. The purpose of the meeting was to review the highlights of the draft Long Range Transportation Plan and have an open discussion to allow for comments and feedback.

The project team gave a presentation (attached) that briefly discussed the highlights of the draft plan. After each section was summarized, the committee was encouraged to make comments on that section. Committee members also had the opportunity to make overall comments about the draft plan.

After the meeting, a recording of the meeting and the presentation were posted on the project website ([www.alaskamoves2050.com](http://www.alaskamoves2050.com)).

### **ADVERTISEMENTS:**

The STAC members were invited to the meeting with an Outlook calendar invite. A public notice (attached) was posted on September 20, 2022, on the State of Alaska's Public Notices website (<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/>) and the meeting information was posted on the project website ([www.alaskamoves2050.com](http://www.alaskamoves2050.com)).

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LRTP

The discussion focused on the highlights of the Long Range Transportation Plan, and more specifically the goals, policies and actions of each section.

1. During the planning process, over 2,500 Alaskans shared their thoughts and ideas at outreach events, committee meetings, at interviews with stakeholders, and other presentations.
2. The drivers of change in the plan include:
  - a. Workforce
  - b. Economy
  - c. Funding
  - d. Adoption of New Technologies, and
  - e. Climate Change

## SAFETY

Provide for and continuously improve the safety of the transportation system for all users.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>STAC Members</b>		
<b>Jodi Gould, AK International Airport System</b>	Under aviation safety awareness (slide 9), call out FAA Alaska Aviation Safety Initiative (FAASI) specifically.	

## MOBILITY AND ACCESS

Enhance the quality of life for all Alaskans by strategically supporting modes to improve accessibility, safety, personal mobility, and interconnectedness with the intent of moving people and goods efficiently and equitably.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>STAC Members</b>		
<b>Rebecca Douglas, Statewide Aviation</b>	EAS (essential air service) would be great to add to that last slide with bypass mail (slide 10).	
<b>Marc Luiken, MBI</b>	EAS is included in the Freight Plan	

## ECONOMIC VITALITY

Monitor and consider statewide economic trends, such as job creation, access to jobs, and workforce training, and plan for and invest in transportation infrastructure that facilitates and supports economic growth and lowers the cost of goods and services.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>STAC Members</b>		
<b>Jodi Gould, AK International Airport System</b>	Slide 12 – Access to communities, might want to add the word tribe or tribal leaders.	
<b>Robert Venables, Marine Transportation Advisory Board</b>	Consider Municipal and Tribal Connections	

## STATE OF GOOD REPAIR

Plan for full life cycle costs across the transportation system, including planning, construction, operation, and maintenance to improve funding allocation in a consistent and effective manner.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
STAC Members		
[There were no comments on this section of the plan]		

## RESILIANCY

Assess risk and invest in solutions to develop a transportation agency and system that will adapt to and recover from the effects of climate change, natural disasters, and other disruptions.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
STAC Members		
Jodi Gould, AK International Airport System	Slide 16 – Should there be a slide here for universities, tech centers, to work them in with this resiliency plan? How do we keep young residents in Alaska and develop our workforce? Should we collaborate with Department of Education, Department of Labor?	Wende Wilber: We can add a new action or add this idea to the workforce resiliency plan section. (Or consider adding this to the Stewardship Goal)

## SUSTAINABILITY

Promote a sustainable, clean, equitable transportation system to reduce costs to consumers and businesses and provide wider social and environmental benefits.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>STAC Members</b>		
<b>Kate Koester, Juneau Public Works</b>	Alternative fuel corridors don't represent the whole EV strategy that Alaska needs, for example the Southeast isn't represented. It would be helpful to reference that developing different models for different communities is important to encourage EV adoption.	Wende Wilber: This brings up a few questions. I think we can identify additional AFCs and we may need a new action that looks outside what the federal program is funding right now, because it's limited.
<b>Brian Lindamood, AKRR</b>	Trains are electric, with diesel engines. There is a lot of interest in completely electrifying fleets. There is testing on batteries, because electric is very expensive. Current batteries don't have the megawatt hours for trains yet. The tech is progressing rapidly, and the Alaska Railroad is monitoring that progress.	
<b>Jodi Gould, AK International Airport System</b>	There are electric ferries and cruise ships use hybrid fuel models. We could include the cruising industry in the AFCs. In this section, I wonder if we need something about sustainable recycling/waste management to address batteries.	Wende Wilber: Another action to add would be a sustainable waste management plan.
<b>Todd Vanhove, DOT&amp;PF</b>	Regarding the AFC, there is a statewide plan currently being developed. However, additional corridors cannot be identified and improved until the minimum required AFCs are fully built out.	Wende Wilber: Once you build out the corridors, it frees up the money to build out community-based electrification. We will rework the statewide plan and the AFCs to align better with the legislation.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of transportation services by expanding coordination and collaboration with other levels of government, industry partners, and the public.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>STAC Members</b>		
<b>Jodi Gould, AK International Airport System</b>	Potentially add the DOL, DOE, tech school partnerships to this section?	Wende Wilber: Yes this would be a good place for that.
<b>James Marks, DOT&amp;PF</b>	DNR, AKRR, Federal Land Managers, as many as early and as often as possible.	

## STEWARDSHIP OF THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Address prevailing transportation challenges using the best and most cost-effective modal, intermodal, or multimodal solutions to improve operational efficiencies and safety with careful consideration of life-cycle costs.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>STAC Members</b>		
<b>Jodi Gould, AK International Airport System</b>	On slide 22 – There is a piece around stewardship that is different than resiliency.	Wende Wilber: We'll make sure this is clarified.

## TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION

Identify and plan for national trends and local innovations that have the potential to impact the provision of transportation services, particularly as they relate to safety, efficient freight movement, and work force needs.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>STAC Members</b>		
<b>Rebecca Douglas, Statewide Aviation</b>	Calling out Drones and ACAUSI in that last technology slide (slide 25) would be great. Alaska is one of the test sites for drones, there are testing and pilot studies. Calling it out on a high level would be very supportive for Alaska.	Wende Wilber: ACAUSI is discussed in the base of the plan, but we did not call it out specifically as an investment, but we can do that.

## PERFORMANCE BASED MANAGEMENT

Invest resources to improve access to data science, analytics, and informatics to implement data-driven, evidence-based decision-making. Advocate for and establish stable, diverse, and long-term funding sources for each transportation mode and explore innovative financing.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>STAC Members</b>		
<b>Steve Ribuffo, Port of Alaska</b>	Please consider more coordination across agencies for reporting and communicating progress. This plan covers DOT&PF facilities, however the multi-modal nature of our state is critical for the movement of goods and people. For example, the Port of Alaska and the AK RR both have cybersecurity improvement efforts ongoing, but there is no way for us to share that.	
<b>Brian Lindamood</b>	The railroad has the same comment as the Port of Alaska regarding sharing information like cybersecurity improvements.	

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>Robert Venables, Marine Transportation Advisory Board</b>	<p>DOT&amp;PF doesn't have the resources to manage and maintain as much as they used to. We should include support to strengthen DOT&amp;PFs ability to maintain.</p> <p>Overall feedback, I like the approach with the family of plans. I didn't see a callout for area plans. But I would want area plans on slide 4.</p>	Wende Wilber: We will add area and local transportation plans to slide 4.
<b>Adam Moser &amp; James Marks, DOT&amp;PF</b>	We should work to strengthen coordination and communication between agencies that manage different modes.	Wende Wilber: Data integration between modes would be helpful. We can work to increase data sharing between ports, DOT&PF, and the railroad.
<b>Jodi Gould, AK International Airport System</b>	Airports and drones are also working Cybersecurity. Maybe we need a coordination goal on the Cybersecurity slide. OR. Move Cybersecurity to Safety.	Wende Wilber: On slide 28, we will add rail and port.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>STAC Members</b>		
<b>Stephen Ribuffo, Port of Alaska</b>	Slide 13 – My caution here is that a statewide Port Authority is only one of many solutions for coordination, however I don't think there is an interest in developing a Port Authority. Perhaps an alternative idea is a yearly forum to talk about commerce. i	Wende Wilber: Other communities include shipping, trucking, aviation, moving of commerce. Might be better to be more comprehensive.

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>Jodi Gould, AK International Airport System</b>	An aviation authority was established as an advisory board to the governor. Could be something like that? An advisory board could potentially be a shorter-term goal, possibly set up through executive order.	
<b>Adam Moser, DOT&amp;PF</b>	Name suggestion: Intermodal Transportation Authority	Wende Wilber: We will revise the language to Intermodal Advisory Board, reflecting this discussion.
<b>Steven Ribuffo, Port of Alaska</b>	Discussing commerce in this state as a coordinated transportation system as opposed to separate entities would be a great improvement.	
<b>Robert Venables, Marine Transportation Advisory Board</b>	Agree, that port/harbor section could be improved (I like the "ITA"), but otherwise this is an excellent framework to inform the work that flows from here - great work!	
<b>Lee Ryan, Aviation Advisory Board</b>	In public review draft, ports and waterways, the graphic with Alaska Marine Highway System was missing the Aleutian portion. We would ask that that graphic be clarified.	Wende Wilber: We will double check that and clarify, if needed add a footnote.
<b>Jodi Gould, AK International Airport System</b>	This is such a significantly improved plan from when it was first presented. Thank you for listening to us and reflecting our ideas! This plan will help Alaska Move.  Want to make sure the Ports Focus is not lost in the Intermodal Transportation Authority change. Maybe we need 2 Policy initiatives.	

Agency	Comment/Question	Answer (if applicable)
<b>James Marks, DOT&amp;PF</b>	The intent has been to get as much input as possible and make this plan a vision for all transportation modes in the state. Thank you for the input.	Wende Wilber: Thanks, and thanks to everyone. Your dialogue makes the plan better.

## ATTENDANCE

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