



Recommendations for the Matanuska-Susitna Area MPO

MatSu Monthly Mayors & Manager Meeting

June 20, 2019

Presented by: Jackson Fox, FAST Planning
(Fairbanks Area MPO)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough MPO Self Assessment



A Blueprint Preparing the Borough for a Metropolitan Planning Organization

January 2016

Overview

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
 - Who we are & What we do
 - Required Plans
 - Project Funding
 - DOT&PF Relationship
- FMATS Transition to FAST Planning
- Recommendations for MatSu MPO
 - Short Term & Long Term

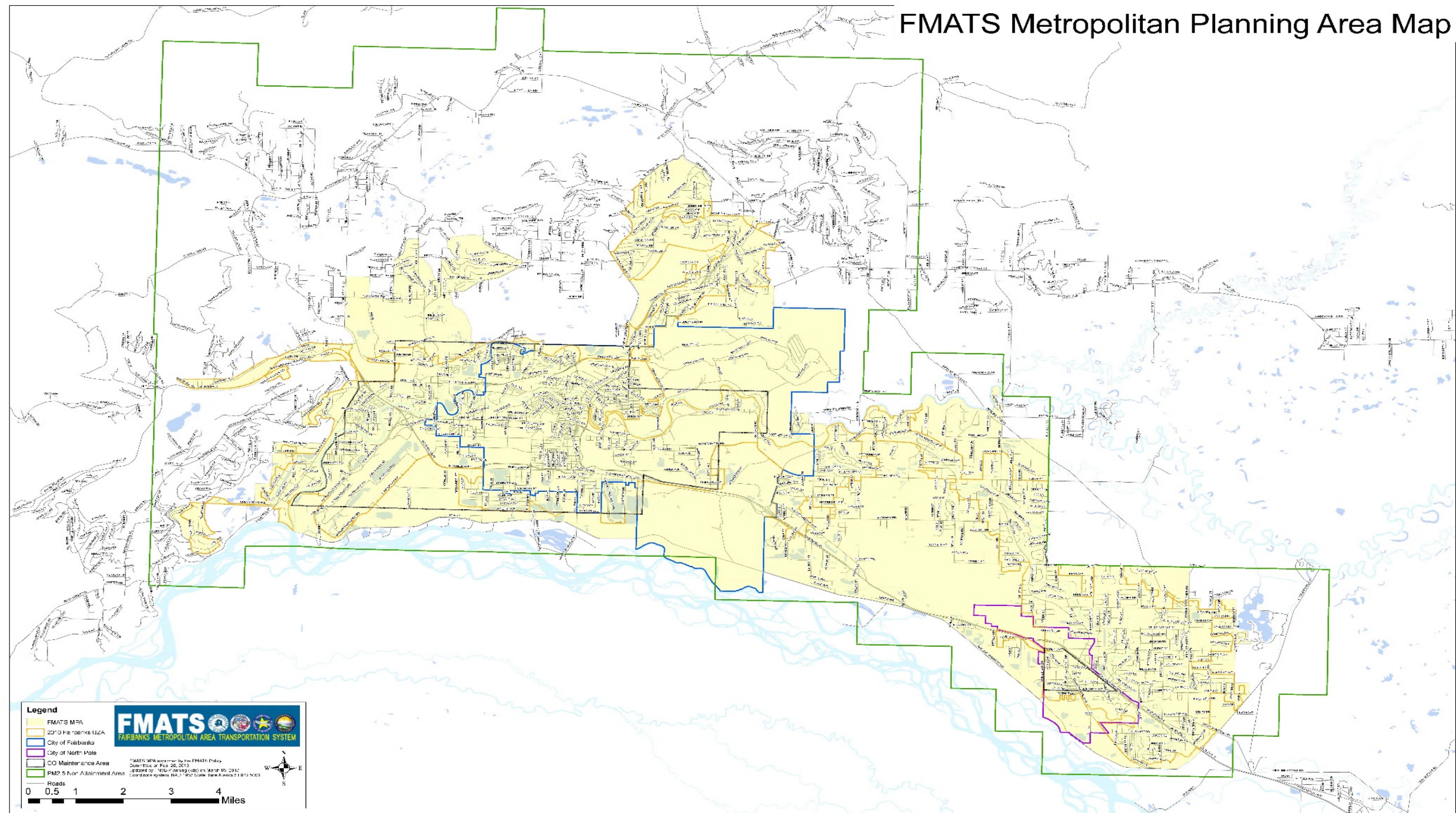


Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

- Urbanized Areas with 50,000+ population
 - In Alaska → Anchorage & Fairbanks → ...soon MatSu Region
- Federally mandated
- Federally funded → Fairbanks MPO receives \$9.5 million annually
- Responsible for regional transportation planning and agency coordination
- Empowers local governments in the transportation decision-making process
- Engages the public in transportation planning and projects



FMATS Metropolitan Planning Area Map



Legend

- FMATS MPA
- 2010 Fairbanks UGA
- City of Fairbanks
- City of North Pole
- CO Maintenance Area
- PM2.5 Non-Attainment Area
- Roads



FMATS MPA was prepared by the FMATS Policy Data Office on Feb. 26, 2013.
Sourced by: 2010 Fairbanks UGA on March 10, 2010.
Coordinate system: NAD 83, 4327 scale, Fairbanks 211813 NAD83



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Our Office

- Federally-funded with Planning Funds (~\$400k annually)
- Staff
 - Executive Director
 - Transportation Planner
 - Administrative Assistant (part-time)
- Support Staff
 - DOT&PF Planner
 - FNSB Transportation Planner
- Operates under Intergovernmental Agreement delineating agency responsibilities



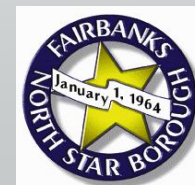
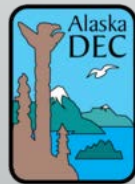
Policy Board

- City of Fairbanks Mayor
- City of North Pole Mayor
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor
- City Council Member
- Borough Assembly Member
- DOT&PF Northern Region Director
- ADEC Air Quality Director



Technical Committee

- DOT&PF Planning
- DOT&PF Preconstruction
- ADEC Air Quality
- City of Fairbanks Engineering
- City of North Pole
- University of Alaska
- Borough Planning
- Borough Transit
- Alaska Railroad
- Fort Wainwright
- Tribal Representative
- Freight Representative



Other Committees

- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
 - Agency, Local Interest Groups, & Public members
- Freight Advisory Committee
 - Agency & Freight Industry representatives
- Seasonal Mobility Task Force
 - DOT&PF Maintenance, City Public Works, FNSB Rural Services, FNSB Parks & Recreation, MACS Transit, UAF Operations, School District, Access Alaska



What We Do → Key Plans

Required Plans

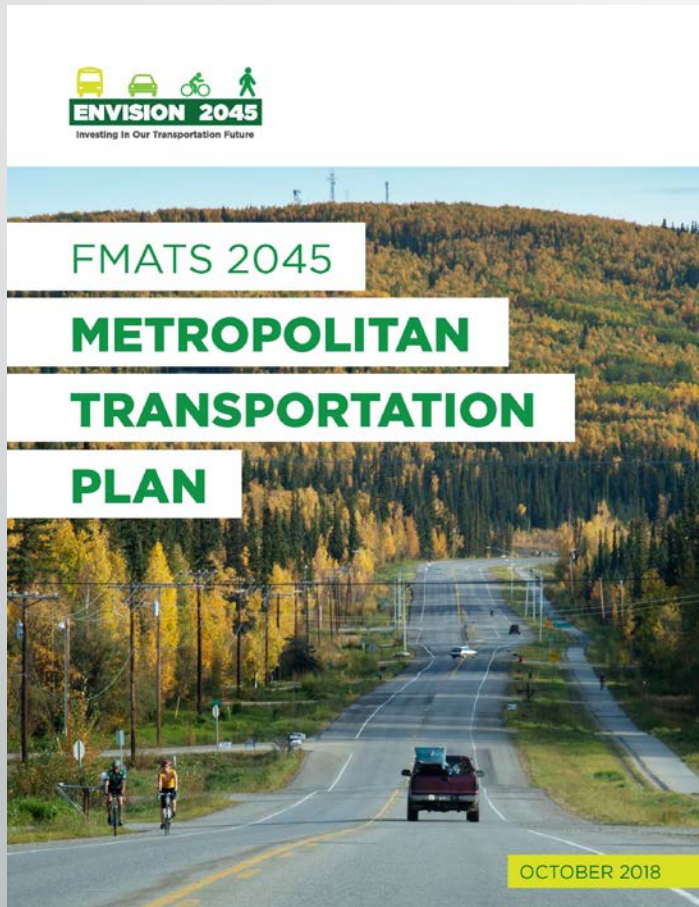
- **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**
 - 20+ year Long Range Plan
- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
 - 4-year Short Range Funding Plan
- **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**
 - 2-year Staff Work Plan
- **Public Participation Plan (PPP)**
 - Title VI Compliance

Supplemental Plans

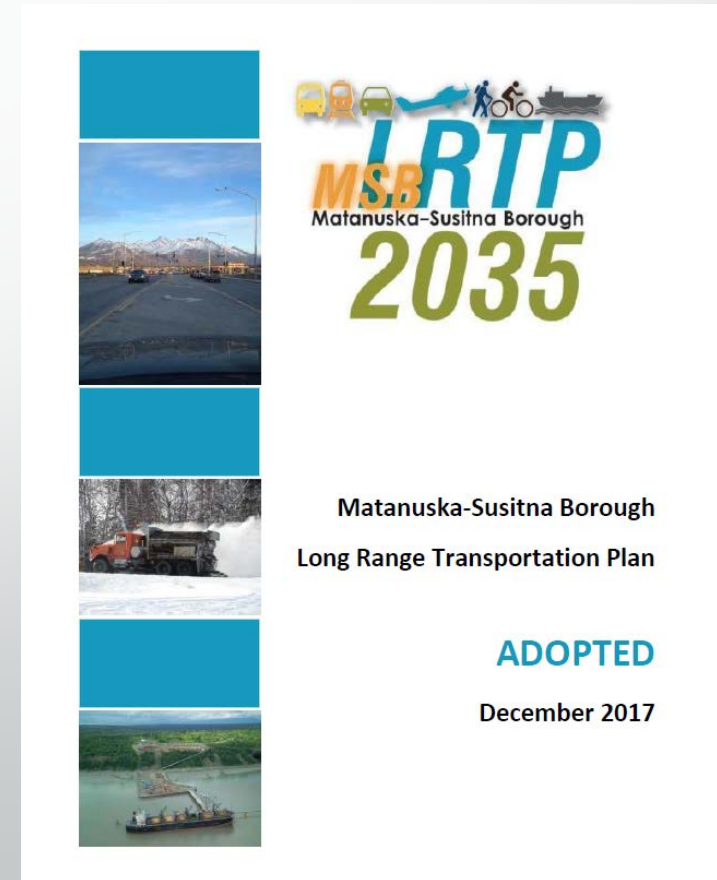
- **Non-motorized Plan**
- **Freight Mobility Plan**
- **Safe Routes to School Plans**
- **Green Streets Plan**
- **Road Service Area Expansion Plan**
- **Road/Rail Crossing Reduction Plan**
- **Corridor Studies**

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) [Long Range Plan]

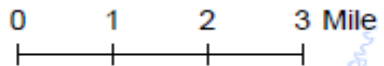
Fairbanks



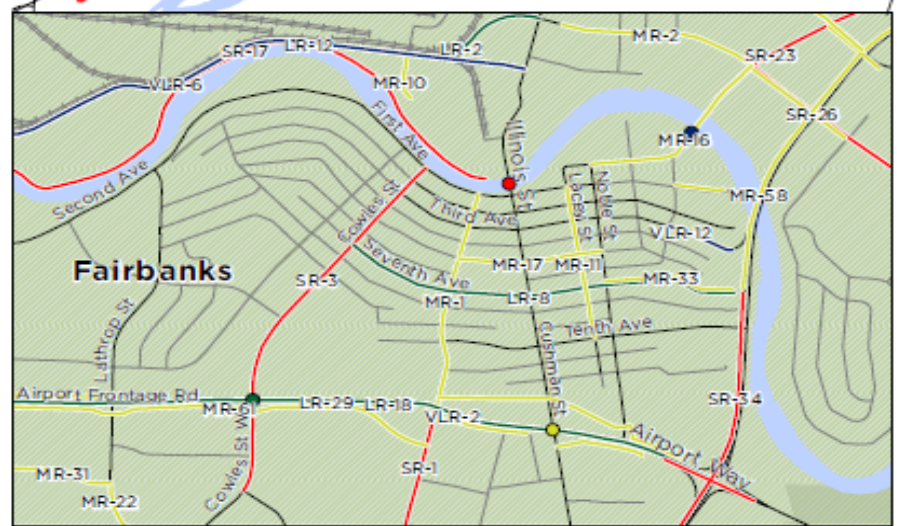
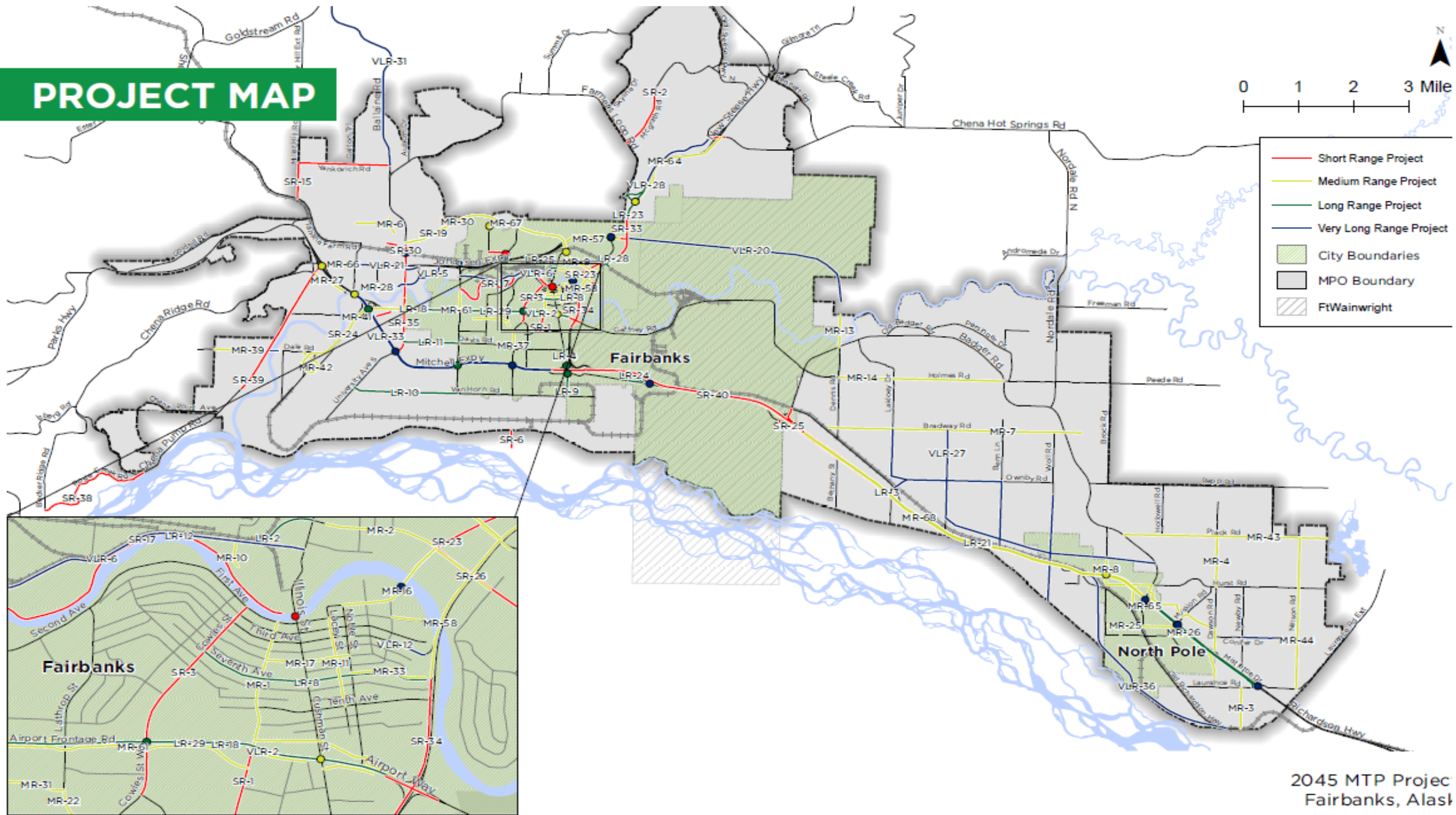
MatSu



PROJECT MAP



- Short Range Project
- Medium Range Project
- Long Range Project
- Very Long Range Project
- City Boundaries
- MPO Boundary
- FtWainwright




SR-1

GILLAM WAY RECONSTRUCTION

Reconstruct Gillam Way between Airport Way and 22nd Avenue, including pedestrian and drainage improvements, utilities, and traffic calming.

Goal: 2A, 2B, 3

FMATS	2040 PRIORITY	COST
Y	Short Range	\$4.5 M
	Mid Range	
	Long Range	
N	Very Long Range	




SR-2

MCGRATH ROAD UPGRADE

Upgrade McGrath Road between Farmers Loop Road and the Old Steese Highway. Improve the existing separated bicycle/pedestrian path as needed.

Goal: 2A

FMATS	2040 PRIORITY	COST
Y	Short Range	\$5.9 M
	Mid Range	
	Long Range	
N	Very Long Range	




SR-3

COWLES ST RECONSTRUCTION (EAST COWLES—1ST AVE)

Reconstruct Cowles Street from 1st Avenue through East Cowles Street. Project work will include roadside hardware, drainage improvements, intersection improvements, ADA improvements, and utilities.


Goal: 2A, 2B



FMATS	2040 PRIORITY	COST
Y	Short Range	\$7.2 M
	Mid Range	
	Long Range	
N	Very Long Range	





Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) [Short Range Funding Plan]

NID	IRIS	Project Description	Fund Code	Phase	FFY17	FFY18	FFY19	FFY20	Beyond	
30099	NFHWY00290	College Road Bus Pullouts Install bus stop facilities at high-use locations along College Road in coordination with the MACS Transit System. Work includes utilities, pavement and drainage work as needed to construct the pullouts. <i>New pullouts may potentially increase transit ridership and reduce congestion since the enhanced facility may make transit safer for the rider. It will also reduce idling by moving the bus outside of the travel lane.</i>	STP	Design	131.0	87.3	181.9			
			SM		13.0	8.7	18.1			
			CMAQ	Right-of-Way					227.4	
			SM					22.6		
			CMAQ	Utilities					181.9	
			SM						18.1	
			STP	Construction						600.4
SM							59.6			
Project Total					144.0	96.0	200.0	450.0	660.0	
30012	NFHWY00126	Cowles Street Reconstruction Reconstruct Cowles Street from 1st Avenue to through East Cowles to include sidewalk, drainage, intersection and illumination improvements. <i>50% local match / 50% state match. Pedestrian facilities that are not exclusively recreational and reduce vehicle trips are eligible under CMAQ.</i>	STP	Design		285.1				
			SM			14.1				
			3PF			14.1				
			STP	Right-of-Way				66.8		
			SM					3.3		
			3PF					3.3		
STP						190.4				



FFY2017 – 2020
Transportation Improvement Program
Amendment #5
Approved June 20, 2018

TIP vs. STIP

Project							Approved Amendment 1													
Need ID: 24519 Name: Little Goldstream Creek Bridge Replacement	Ph	Fund	FFY19	FFY20	FFY21	After 2021														
<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Program</th> <th>Region</th> <th>2013 Election District</th> <th>Place Name</th> <th>Highway</th> <th>Primary Work</th> <th>Bridge #s</th> </tr> <tr> <td>CTP</td> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>Nenana</td> <td></td> <td>Bridge Replacement</td> <td>2080</td> </tr> </table>	Program	Region	2013 Election District	Place Name	Highway	Primary Work	Bridge #s	CTP	N	6	Nenana		Bridge Replacement	2080	4	AC	0	0	0	
Program	Region	2013 Election District	Place Name	Highway	Primary Work	Bridge #s														
CTP	N	6	Nenana		Bridge Replacement	2080														
	4	ACC	-1,887,920	0	0															
Description: Remove and replace the Little Goldstream Creek Bridge #2080 near Nenana. The existing timber structure at Little Goldstream Creek is experiencing abutment erosion and settlement.	4	SM	0	0	0															
	4	STP	1,887,920	0	0															
IRIS# 2635720000. (Status: CONSTRUCTION). NENANA LITTLE GOLDSTREAM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (#2080) - Mr. LITTLE, LAUREN M			Totals:	0	0	0														
Need ID: 25596 Name: Rosie Creek Road Improvements	Ph	Fund	FFY19	FFY20	FFY21	After 2021														
<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Program</th> <th>Region</th> <th>2013 Election District</th> <th>Place Name</th> <th>Highway</th> <th>Primary Work</th> <th>Bridge #s</th> </tr> <tr> <td>CTP</td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>Fairbanks</td> <td></td> <td>Reconstruction</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Program	Region	2013 Election District	Place Name	Highway	Primary Work	Bridge #s	CTP	N	5	Fairbanks		Reconstruction		2	3PF	0	0	0	
Program	Region	2013 Election District	Place Name	Highway	Primary Work	Bridge #s														
CTP	N	5	Fairbanks		Reconstruction															
	2	ACC	0	0	0															
	2	STP	0	0	0															
Description: Improve Rosie Creek Road from Chena Ridge to Becker Ridge, to include alignment, shoulder work, repair and overlay of pavement, and improving the intersection at Chena Ridge.	3	3PF	45,150	0	0															
	3	STP	454,850	0	0															
	4	3PF	0	0	546,857															
	4	STP	0	0	3,309,143															
IRIS# NFHWY00017. (Status: DESIGN). ROSIE CREEK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - Mr. ACKISS, COLLEEN M			Totals:	600,000	0	6,056,000														
Need ID: 25598 Name: Richardson Highway Mile Point 358-364 (Milepost 357-362) Bicycle/Pedestrian Path	Ph	Fund	FFY19	FFY20	FFY21	After 2021														
<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Program</th> <th>Region</th> <th>2013 Election District</th> <th>Place Name</th> <th>Highway</th> <th>Primary Work</th> <th>Bridge #s</th> </tr> <tr> <td>TRAAK</td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>Northern Region</td> <td>Richardson Highway</td> <td>New Construction</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Program	Region	2013 Election District	Place Name	Highway	Primary Work	Bridge #s	TRAAK	N	2	Northern Region	Richardson Highway	New Construction		4	AC	3,488,700	0	0	
Program	Region	2013 Election District	Place Name	Highway	Primary Work	Bridge #s														
TRAAK	N	2	Northern Region	Richardson Highway	New Construction															
	4	ACC	0	-3,488,700	0															
Description: Construct a paved bicycle/pedestrian path on the Richardson Highway starting from the Richardson Highway/Airport Way intersection, continuing along the Richardson Highway to the Badger Loop North Bound Ramp, and terminating at the Badger Road/Old Richardson Highway intersection.	4	SM	346,300	0	0															
	4	STP	0	3,488,700	0															
IRIS# 2615870000. (Status: DESIGN). RICHARDSON HWY MP 357-362 BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PATH - Mr. FANNING, ISADORA L			Totals:	3,835,000	0	0														

NID	IRIS	Project Description	Fund Code	Phase	FFY17	FFY18	FFY19	FFY20	Beyond	
30099	NFHWY00290	College Road Bus Pullouts Install bus stop facilities at high-use locations along College Road in coordination with the MACS Transit System. Work includes utilities, pavement and drainage work as needed to construct the pullouts. <i>New pullouts may potentially increase transit ridership and reduce congestion since the enhanced facility may make transit safer for the rider. It will also reduce idling by moving the bus outside of the travel lane.</i>	STP	Design	131.0	87.3	181.9			
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SM							59.6			
Project Total					144.0	96.0	200.0	450.0	660.0	
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			SM			14.1				
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			SM					3.3		
			3PF					3.3		
			STP						190.4	

FFY17-20 Projects

- Airport Way Functional Features Analysis
- Barnette Reconstruction
- Birch Hill Bicycle & Pedestrian Facility
- Chena Riverwalk Stage III
- College Road Bus Pullouts
- Cowles Street Reconstruction
- Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation
- Fairbanks Road/Rail Crossing Reduction/Realignment Plan
- FAST Surface Upgrades Program
- FAST Intersection Improvement Program
- FAST Sidewalk Improvement Program
- Gillam Way Reconstruction
- Green Streets Plan
- Lacey Street Reconstruction
- Lathrop Street Extension
- McGrath Road Upgrade
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Minnie Street Upgrade
- Noble Street Upgrade
- North Pole Streetlight Standardization
- Old Richardson Highway Intersection Improvements
- Sign Replacement Stage III
- Tanana Loop & South Chandalar Drive Intersections
- Wembley Avenue Improvements
- Yankovich/Miller Hill Road Reconstruction

Recent Projects

- Cushman Street
 - Noble Street
 - Birch Hill Bike/Ped Path
 - Yukon Drive (UAF)
-
- 80% motorized
 - 20% non-motorized



2019 Construction Projects

- Gillam Way Rehabilitation
- Wembley Avenue Improvements
- **FAST Surface Upgrades Program**
 - Various COF, CONP, UAF, and FNSB Road Service Area roads
- **FAST Sidewalk Improvement Program**
 - 5th Avenue, Bjerremark Street, Cowles Street, Homestead Drive, Loftus Road
- **FAST Intersection Improvement Program**
 - 1st Ave & Lacey Street, 10th Ave & Lathrop Street



How it works...

- Federal-aid apportioned to State (DOT) to administer projects:
“Fiscal Steward” of MPO’s federal funding allocation
 - Planning → Design → Utilities → ROW → Construction
- Funding requires match (~9%) paid by State and Local Governments
- State and Local Governments must commit to and pay for maintenance
- Often supplemented by State and Local Funding...if there’s \$\$\$

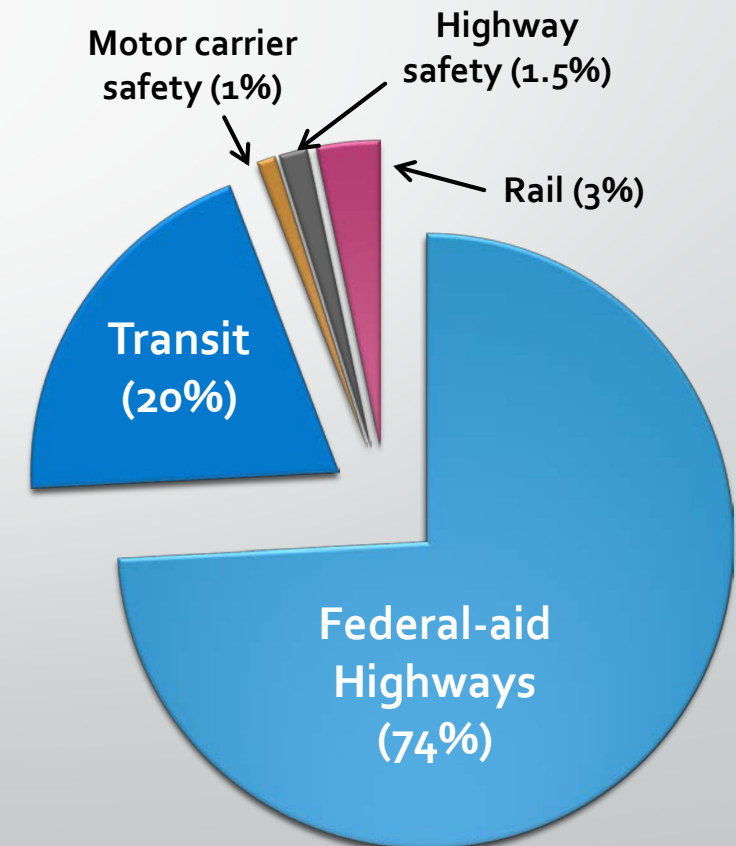
DOT&PF Match Policy

Category	DOT&PF – 100%	DOT&PF – 50%	DOT&PF – 0%
DOT&PF Road	X		
City/Borough RSA Road			
Local & Minor Collector			X
Major Collector & Arterials		X	
Planning Funds (MPO)			X

- For road projects, the local government or RSA pays required match
- For planning funds, MPOs pay required match with local government contributions <or> state legislative appropriations

Federal-aid Transportation Funding

- Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act FY2016-20
 - \$305 billion over 5 years for highway, safety, transit, and rail projects
 - Distributed to ALL states by formula
- Where does funding come from?
 - User-based System: Fuel Taxes
 - 18.4 ¢/gal gasoline, 24.4¢/gal diesel
 - Supplemented with General Fund transfers



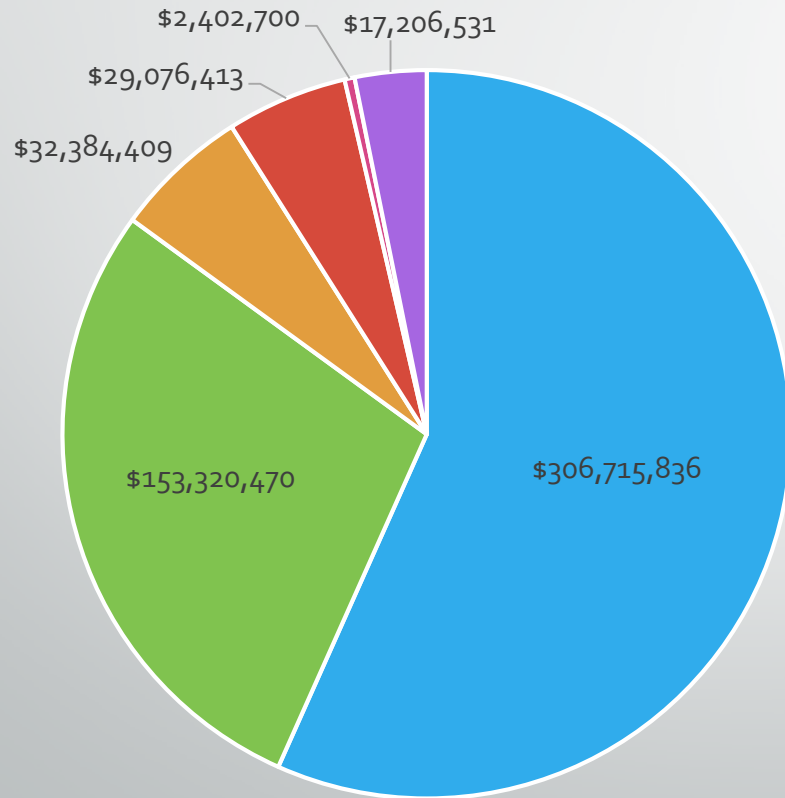
Source: FHWA

How much does Alaska get?

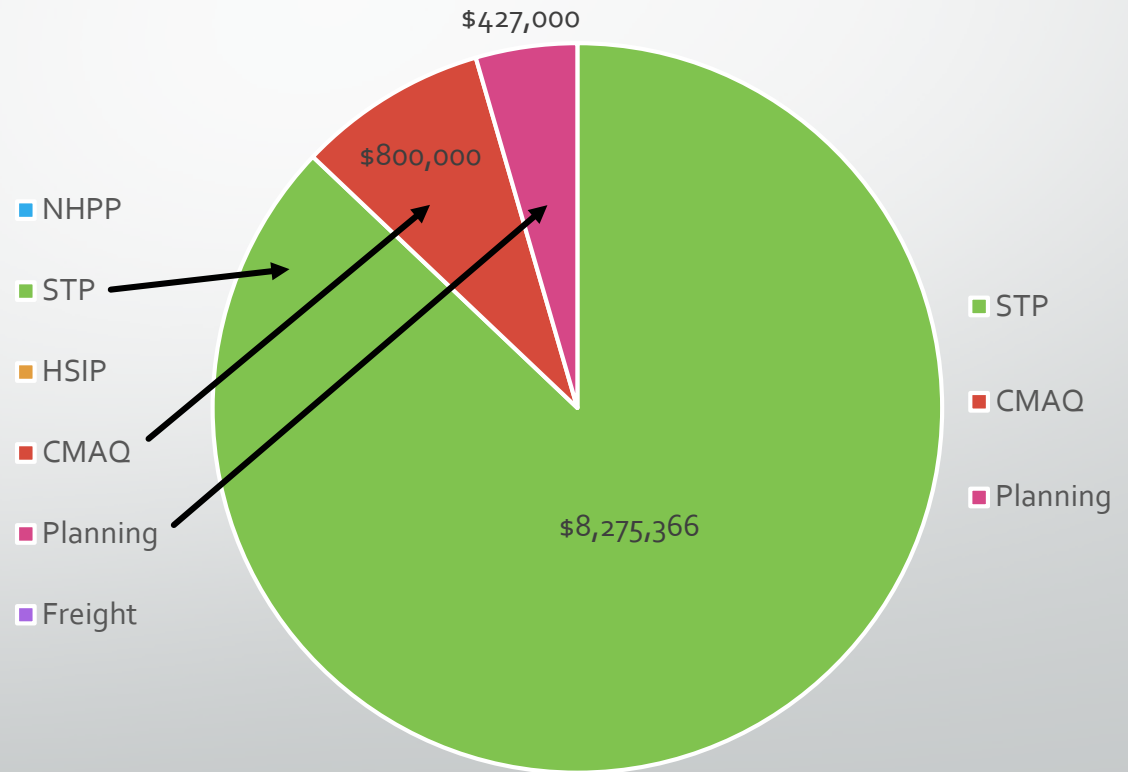
- In 2019, Alaska received \$542 million (pop. 740,000) → Fairbanks MPO receives \$9.5 million
 - States with similar apportionment (~\$500 million):
 - Oregon (pop. 4,143,000)
 - Iowa (pop. 3,146,000)
 - Mississippi (pop. 2,998,000)
 - Arkansas (pop. 3,004,000)
 - California (pop. 39,537,000): \$3.882 billion
 - Texas (pop. 28,305,000): \$3.651 billion
 - Florida (pop. 20,984,000): \$2.004 billion
- Alaska
\$732/person
- Oregon
\$128/person

How much does Fairbanks MPO get?

FFY19 FAST Act Funding for Alaska (\$542 million)

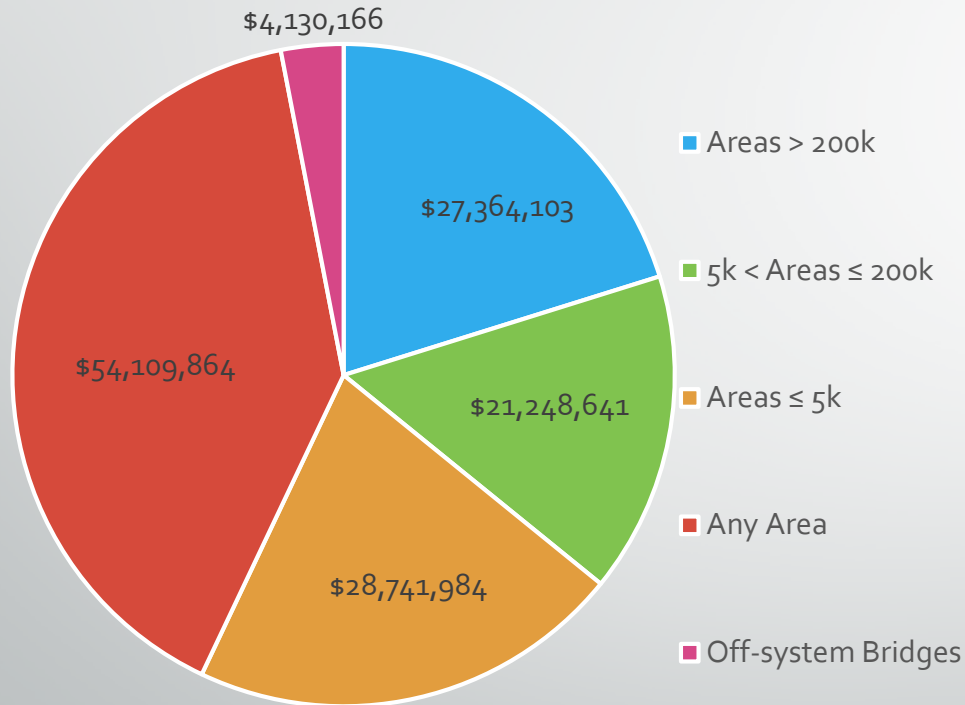


FFY19 Funding for FAST Planning (\$9.5 million)

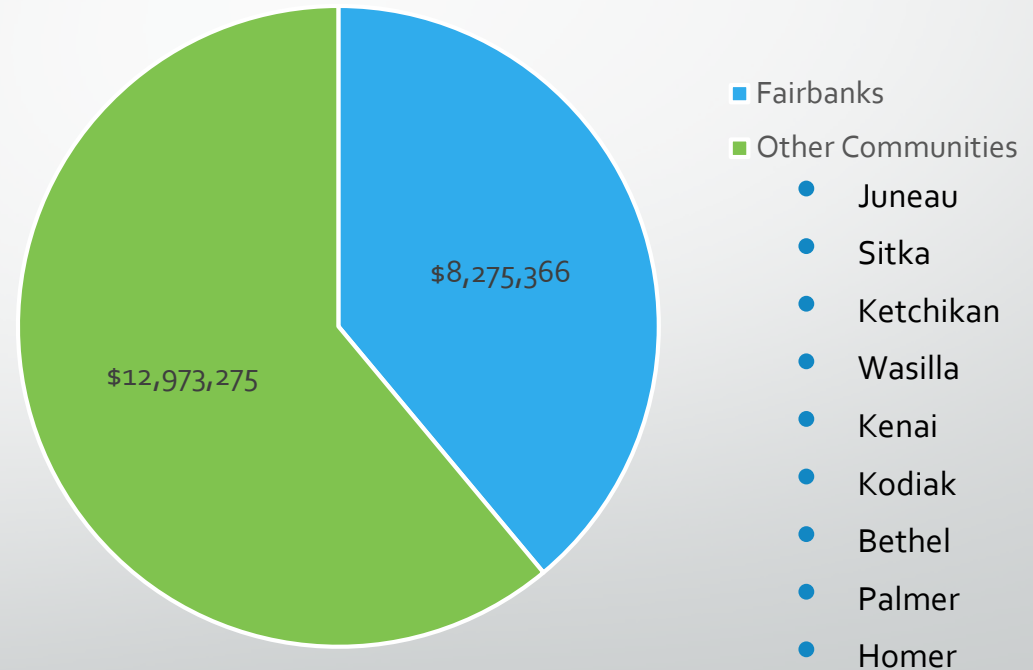


Distribution of STP Funds by Population

Alaska STP Funds Distribution by Population



5k < Areas ≤ 200k



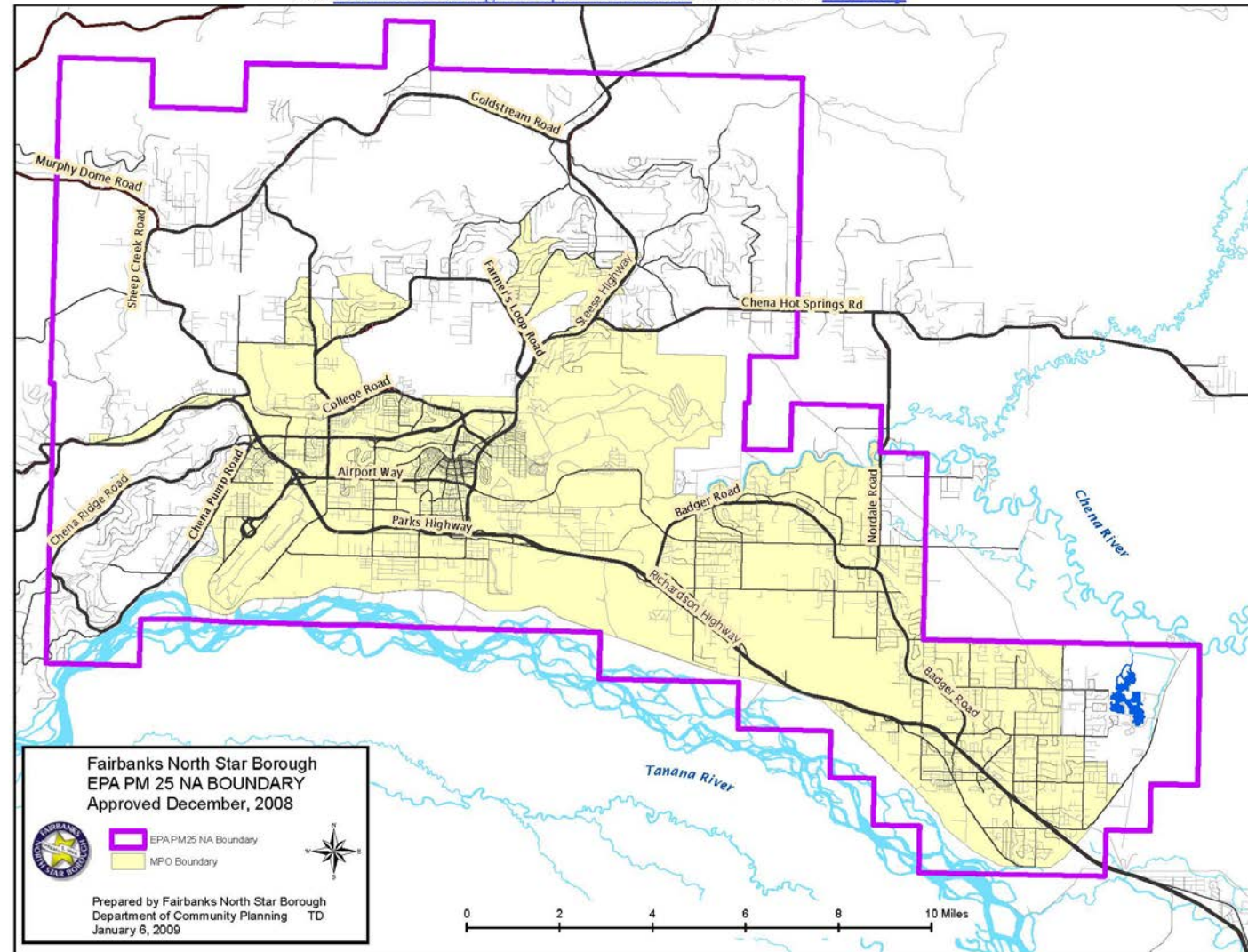
How much does Fairbanks get?

- Road Projects, Annual Average (last 4 yrs):

\$37 million per year*

*Figure excludes Highway Safety Projects

Visit burnwise.alaska.gov/requirements.htm for a detailed [web map](#).



FMATS Transition to FAST Planning

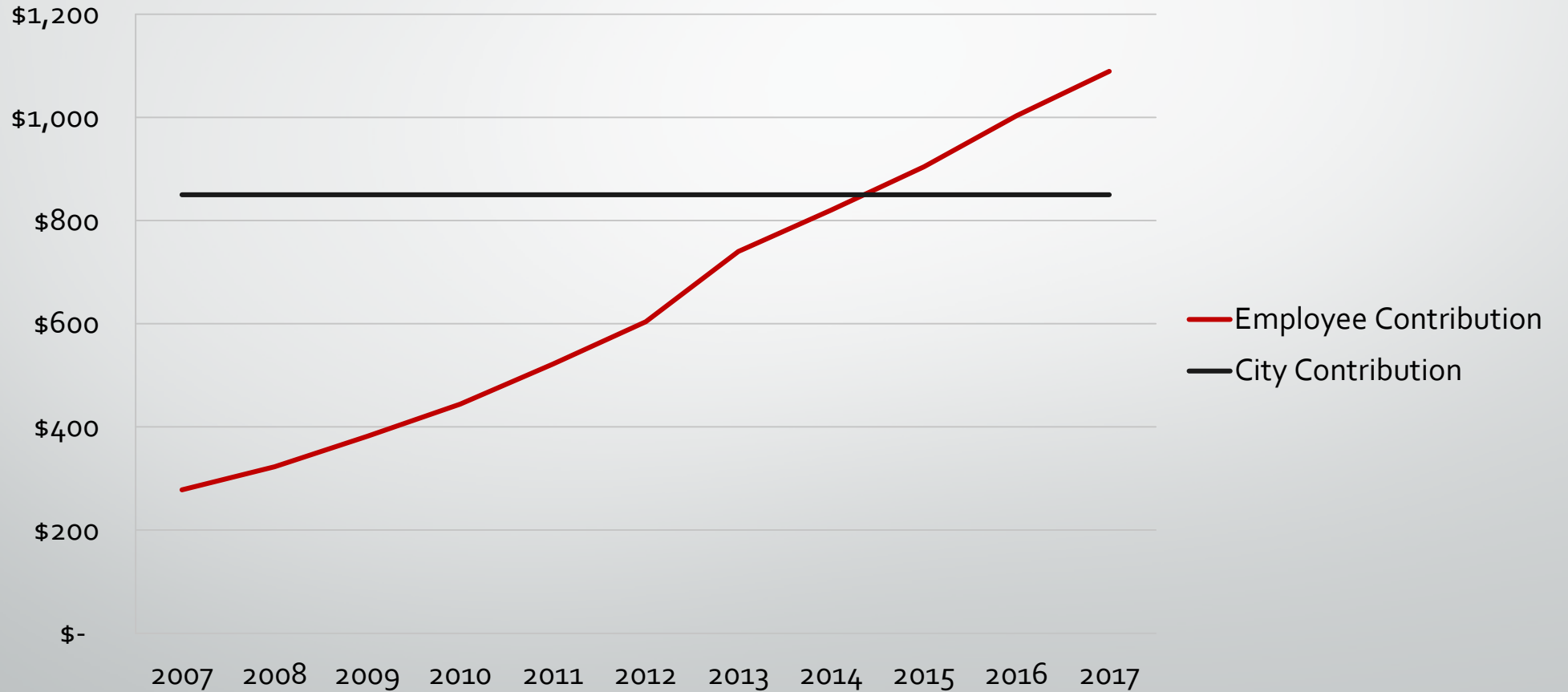
- 2003 MPO established as a result of 2000 Census
- 2003-07 FNSB and DOT&PF used existing staff to fulfill MPO functions
- 2007 Organizational Study performed, which recommended creation of MPO Coordinator's Office – City volunteered to host MPO
- 2008 MPO Coordinator's Office opened in Fairbanks City Hall
- 2017 Transition Plan completed for finding new Director and reorganizing MPO as an independent organization
- 2018 Formed 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation
- 2019 Governor approved new Intergovernmental Operating Agreement officially replacing FMATS with FAST Planning

Developing Issues 2008-2017

- City had control over MPO employees, not Policy Board
- MPO could not apply for grants unless City was applicant
 - MPO was not an entity; rather, a Department of the City
- City claimed “in-kind” expenses for housing MPO to avoid making financial contributions towards operation of MPO
- MPO employees were subject to Union negotiations with City for larger group of employees

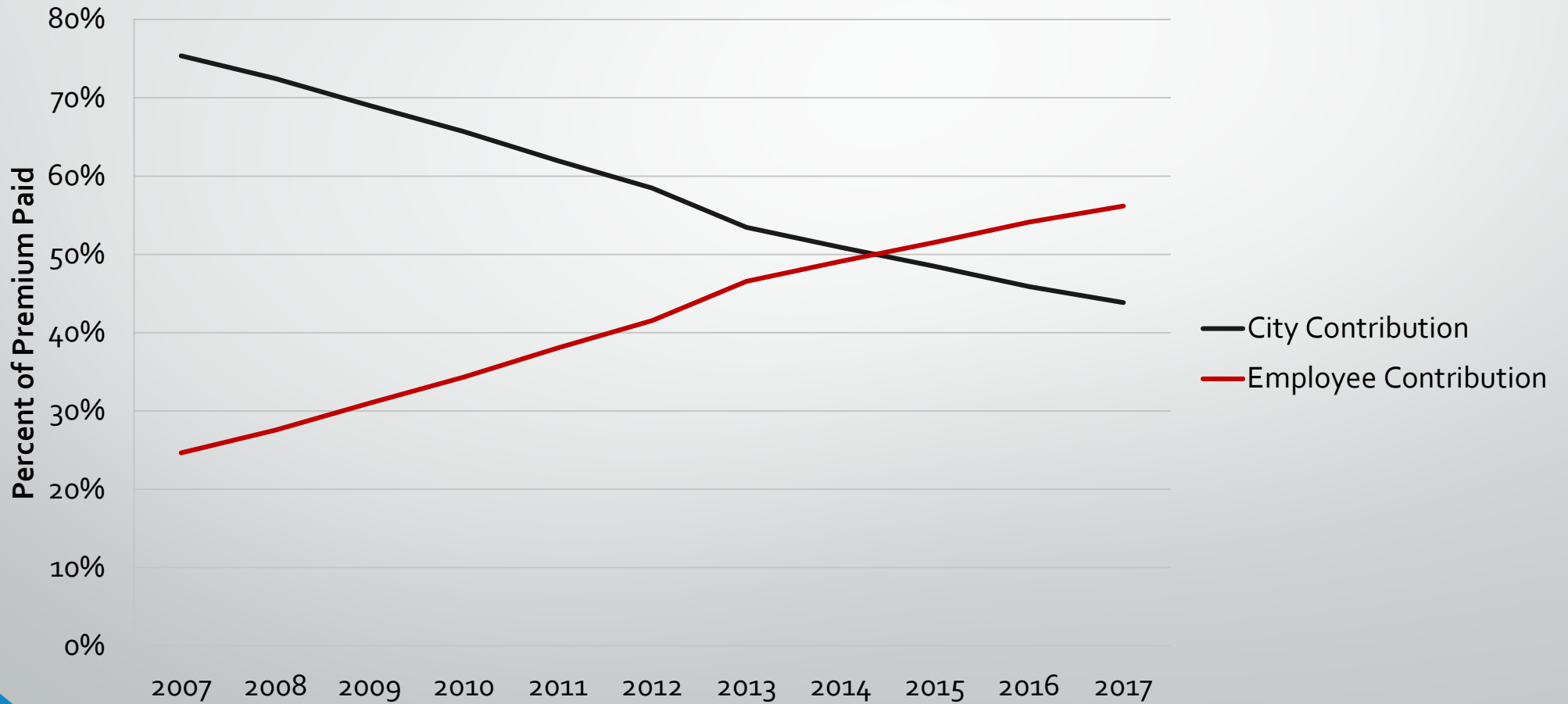
City/Union Issues

AETF Health & Welfare Plan - Monthly Premium



City/Union Issues

AETF Health & Welfare Plan - Monthly Premium Cost Share



MPO Spectrum

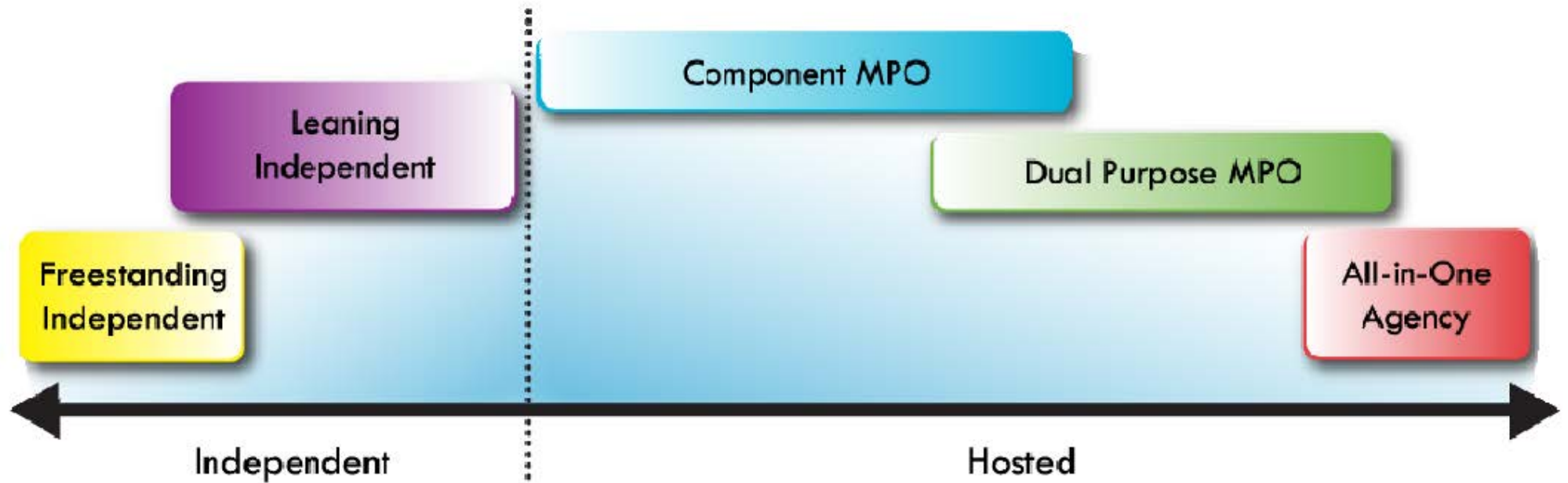


Figure 3-3 MPO Hosting Continuum

Examples of Non-profit Corporation MPOs

	Location	Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	Population Served	Nonprofit Status
1	Brewer, Maine	Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System	67,763	501C3
2	Columbus, Ohio	Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission	1,436,334	501C3
3	Denver, Colorado	Denver Regional Council of Governments	2,827,082	501C3
4	Old Saybrook, Connecticut	Lower Connecticut Rivery Valley Council of Governments	175,636	501C3
5	Phoenix, Arizona	Maricopa Association of Governments	4,055,281	501C4
6	Pittsburg, Pennsylvania	Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission	2,574,953	501C3
7	Shreveport, Louisiana	Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, Inc.	371,948	501C3
8	Springfield, Missouri	Ozarks Transportation Organization	307,781	501C3
9	Stockton, California	San Joaquin Council of Governments	685,306	501C3
10	Summersville, West Virginia	Fayette/Raleigh Metropolitan Planning Organization	124,898	501C3
11	Terre Haute, Indiana	West Central Indiana Economic Development District, Inc.	128,449	501C3
12	Tucson, Arizona	Pima Association of Governments	980,263	501C4

Becoming a Non-profit Corporation

Documents to Complete

- Resolutions by Local Government Councils & Assembly authorizing Mayors to serve as Board members of a Non-profit Corporation
- Membership Fee Agreement
- Bylaws, including Conflict of Interest Policy
- Articles of Incorporation
- Personnel & Fiscal Policies
- Resolution for Bank Account & Check Signers
- Intergovernmental Operating Agreement
- IRS Form 1023 to obtain tax-exempt status

Steps to Complete

- Determine name for Non-profit Corporation
- File Articles of Incorporation with State
- Obtain EIN & DUNS numbers
- Obtain State & City Business Licenses
- Open Bank Account
- Create a SAM Account
- Complete DOT&PF Internal Review Audit to establish an IDCR for billing (federal reimbursement)
- Obtain General Liability and Directors & Officers Insurance
- Lease office space and hire staff
- Consider outsourcing Payroll and IT Services

Membership Fees & Annual Dues

- Annual Budget for MPO Office: **\$400,000**
- Required match (9%) for Planning Funds for Office: **\$36,000**
- Population within Urbanized Area Boundary (MPA): **70,000**

Government	Population	Membership Fee	Annuals Dues
State of Alaska	70,000	\$ 198,582	\$ 17,872
MatSu Borough	57,000*	\$ 161,702	\$ 14,553
City of Wasilla	8,000	\$ 22,695	\$ 2,043
City of Palmer	6,000	\$ 17,021	\$ 1,532
		\$ 400,000	\$ 36,000
* MPA population minus City populations			

Recommendations for MatSu MPO

- Short Term
 - Start small...send joint letter from local governments to DOT&PF Headquarters requesting Planning Funds to start operation of MPO in advance of requirement
 - Letter should include a 1-year Work Plan and Budget detailed with discrete tasks
 - Hire an "MPO Coordinator" to staff MPO and consider hosting arrangement with one of the local governments
 - Avoid using existing staff for MPO where position might be a dual role working for MPO and hosting agency's interests...you will be audited!
- Long Term
 - Consider the Non-profit Corporation model to become fully independent from any one local government's influence/interests, and empowered to seek federal grants to supplement MatSu's future transportation funding allocation

Questions?

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