

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**  
**Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)**  
**AGENDA**

Edna DeVries, Mayor

Terri Lyons  
Randy Durham - Chair  
Pat Daniels  
Jennifer Busch  
Charles van Ravensway  
Joshua Cross – Vice Chair  
Vacancy

Alex Strawn – Staff Support



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

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

Location:  
MSB DSJ BLDG.  
Room 203  
350 E. Dahlia Ave. Palmer, AK

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
11:00 a.m.

Ways to participate in Transportation Advisory Board meetings:

IN-PERSON: Room 203, DSJ Building

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

Join on your computer:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 261 932 144 138

Passcode: B9YW6u

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - May 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person for items not scheduled for public hearing*)

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Transit update
- Resolution 24-01

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

PACKET ATTACHMENTS:

May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)  
Meeting Minutes**



**May 17th 2024  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

- I. CALL TO ORDER - 10:00am
  
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM - Quorum Establish  
Terri Lyons  
Randy Durham  
Josh Cross  
Charles Van Ravensway  
Jennifer Busch  
Pat Daniels  
Staff in attendance - Alex Strawn, Director  
Lacie Olivieri, Admin specialist
  
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA- Pat motions to amend the agenda to add the Pledge of Allegiance, Josh seconds Motion approved
  
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Josh motions to approve minutes as written, Terri seconds. Motion approved  
August 18, 2023, Regular meeting minutes  
February 28, 2024, Regular meeting minutes
  
- VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person for items not scheduled for public hearing*)  
Crystal smith, School district Clint  
Adler AK DOT matsuo office Brian  
Winnestaffer  
Maija DiSalvo MSB

VI. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- Alex Strawn – MS4 update, waiting on Wasilla to formally ask for the exemption so we can move forward. He has been in contact with Wasilla City Council
- Julie Spackman – Safe routes to school update: Will have maps in Fall, CAMP update: public open houses in October

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Discussion about the Planning department collaborating with Public works for transportation planning - Discussed Steering Committee and who is involved in the meetings and how we are making them aware of our long range transportation plans.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS - Pat motions to approve resolution Jennifer seconds. Terri opposed. Pat Motions to postpone to June 14th at 11 am Andy seconds. Motion approved. Pat Motions to extend by 10 minutes, Josh seconds. Motion approved

- Transit update
- 24-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORT TRANSIT OPERATIONS WITHIN THE CENSUS-DESIGNATED URBAN AREA BY PROVIDING THE LOCAL MATCH CONTRIBUTION FOR THE FY24 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION 5307 URBAN TRANSIT FUNDING ALLOCATION.

IX. MEMBER COMMENTS- Alex let the board know about parliamentary procedure training for boards

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

Special Meeting June 14th 11am  
Regular meeting August 9th 11am

XI. ADJOURNMENT Andy motions to adjourn, josh seconds. Adjourned at 12:05pm

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. TAB 24-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORT CONTINUITY OF TRANSIT OPERATIONS WITHIN THE CENSUS-DESIGNATED URBAN AREA BY PROVIDING THE LOCAL MATCH CONTRIBUTION FOR THE FY24 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION 5307 URBAN TRANSIT FUNDING ALLOCATION.

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

WHEREAS, the 2017 MSB Long Range Transportation Plan and the 2005 Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan identify the need for safe and effective multi-modal transportation systems offering transportation choices and enhancing connectivity between communities; and

WHEREAS, transit reduces traffic congestion, increases community health and mobility, positively impacts the local economy, provides an equitable transportation system and is an essential service, traditionally the responsibility of local government; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan identified more than half of MSB residents falling into one or more priority population group (seniors, veterans, youth, native populations, low income households, etc.), statistically more likely to rely on transit services; and

WHEREAS, Valley Transit, a local non-profit, is currently the primary transit provider in the urban area, providing more than

60,000 rides annually through the demand response service, commuter service between the MSB and Anchorage, and local contracts and partnerships such as Youth360, ConocoPhillips, UAA, and Center for the Blind; and

WHEREAS, in May 2022, the Alaska Department of Transportation (AKDOT) study, The Economic Value of Public Transit in Alaska, identified a 1:2.73 return on investment for Valley Transit services through direct, indirect, an induced economic return; and

WHEREAS, in December 2022, a portion of the core area of the MSB was designated as urban, changing the way that urban transit providers access and receive funding; and

WHEREAS, Valley Transit has historically been eligible for FTA 5311 rural transit funding, but, due to the high percentage of services falling into the urban area, will alternatively qualify for FTA 5307 urban transit funding; and

WHEREAS, non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for FTA 5307 funding directly, instead a local government agency must apply as a Direct Recipient and has the options to utilize the funds, pass the funds to a sub-recipient, or contract for services with a transit operator through a competitive bid process; and

WHEREAS, in November 2023, the MSB was designated as a Direct Recipient of FTA 5307 funds by the Governor of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2024, FTA released the MSB FY24 allocation of 5307 urban transit funding, totaling \$1,782,752; and

WHEREAS, the 5307 urban transit funding requires a non-federal local match of one (1) to one (1) for operations expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Mat-Su Health Foundation has provided nearly \$3 million in match for FTA 5311 rural transit funding since 2017 and continues to provide match for future rural transit needs, but will not provide match for 5307 urban transit funding; and

WHEREAS, staff has proposed scenarios for local match contributions from the City of Palmer, the City of Wasilla, the MSB, and one option that includes grant and/or non-profit support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if AKDOT authorizes an extension of FTA 5311 rural transit funding for Valley Transit through June 30, 2025, corresponding local match for 5307 urban transit funding should be included in the MSB FY26 budget, and ongoing, to maintain continuity of transit services.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Transportation Advisory Board recommends the Assembly provide up to \$1.8M in local match for the FY24 FTA 5307 allocation, to support the continuity of current transit operations within the Census-designated urban area.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Transportation Advisory Board this 14th day of June, 2024.

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Randy Durham, Chair

ATTEST:

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Alex Strawn, Planning Department Director