

## Request for 45-day Public Comment period for the Anchorage Metropolitan Transportation Plan dtd 10-27-21

paul stang paulrstang@gmail.com

Request for 45-day Public Comment period for the Anchorage Metropolitan Transportation Plan

October 27, 2021 at 12:40 PM

Craig H Lyons craig.lyon@anchorageak.gov

Meg Zaletel meg.zaletel@anchorageak.gov, John Weddleton

John.Weddleton@anchorageak.gov, Steven Callaghan

arborsurv@gmail.com, Jacob Gondek JacobGondek@gmail.com, Al

Milspaugh PridePlace@aol.com, Joanna Joanie Nardini jnardini@gci.net,

Krista Scott kleigh.scott@gmail.com, Steve Zemke KateSteve@gci.net,

Annie Collie anniercollie@gmail.com, Mark Fink fink.mark@hotmail.com,

Diane Evans galed3e3@gmail.com, Ann Rappoport annr.rccc@gmail.com

---

The University Area Community Council endorses the attached Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) request regarding the proposed public comment period for the Goals and Objectives of the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2050. The UACC believes that the proposed 15-day comment period is woefully inadequate for a meaningful public process and requests AMATS to provide a 45-day public comment period for review of the Goals & Objectives, Performance Measures & Targets of the MTP 2050.

Thank you,

Paul Stang, President, UACC

Correspondence



**RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC)**  
A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 / Anchorage, AK 99503

AMATS Policy Committee  
Attn: Craig Lyon, AMATS Coordinator  
632 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Public Comment Period on Goals and Objectives of MTP 2050

October 22, 2021

Dear AMATS Policy Committee:

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) is writing to comment on the proposed public comment period for the Goals and Objectives of the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2050. Our community believes that the proposed 15-day comment period is woefully inadequate for a meaningful public process. Therefore, the RCCC requests AMATS to provide a 45-day public comment period for review of the MTP 2050. The RCCC also notes that 45 days should be the standard public comment period for AMATS, with 35 days as the minimum comment period.

During the MTP 2040 process, the RCCC and other organizations submitted specific and substantive written criticism to AMATS regarding the previous Goals and Objectives. This included goals for reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and vehicle dependency. The AMATS staff responded during the MTP 2040 process that the looming deadlines precluded any major changes; but that the MTP 2050 planning process would include open discussion of these overarching issues.

At the October 14, 2021 Technical Meeting, members of the RCCC learned that AMATS staff proposed limiting the public comment period for Goals and Objectives to 15 days. Staff said that they intend to adopt the same Goals and Objectives from the MTP 2040, so they did not see the need for a prolonged public review. Staff also said that public comment is heaviest at the end of the long-range planning cycle, not the beginning, so that also justifies a short 15-day review opportunity.

At its regular monthly meeting on October 14, 2021, the RCC placed the issue of the shortened public comment period on the agenda. Following a discussion, the RCCC voted to send the above request to AMATS staff and Policy Committee. The vote was 34 yeas, 0 nays, and 5 abstentions.

As a result of that discussion and vote, the RCCC submits the following findings:

1. *Government agencies have an obligation to provide meaningful opportunity to participate in and comment on their processes.*

In order to submit constructive comments, citizens need time to read and discuss the complexities of transportation issues.