

Adopted: 09/06/22

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 22-078**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH IN SUPPORT OF THE DESIGNATION OF MATSU VALLEY PLANNING FOR TRANSPORTATION AS THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE BOROUGH; AND ALLOCATING \$1 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING FOR THE FORMATION, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION OF MATSU VALLEY PLANNING FOR TRANSPORTATION.

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WHEREAS, 49 U.S.C. § 5303 as amended by the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act, which section is identical to 23 U.S.C. § 134 of the Federal Aid Highway Act, requires the designation of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for each urbanized area within the country of at least 50,000 population; and

WHEREAS, USC § 104(f), 23 USC § 134 and 49 USC § 5303 - 5306 are the Federal transportation planning statutes that require the designation of an MPO for urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or greater to carry out a transportation planning process to receive federal funding; and

WHEREAS, those statutes require the state and the local governments to coordinate the planning and construction of all transportation facilities within the urbanized area with a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, an MPO is generally comprised of representatives from local governments, transportation stakeholders and

governmental transportation authorities that together represent at least 75 percent of the affected population; and

WHEREAS, an MPO has the purpose of ensuring regional cooperation in the transportation planning process and for providing a conduit for the federal funding of transportation projects and programs; and

WHEREAS, designation or selection of officials or representatives to serve on the MPO Board is not set by federal law or regulation, and the state of Alaska is silent on who is to serve on small MPO (less than 200,000 persons) Boards; and

WHEREAS, a yet to be defined core area of the Borough will assuredly be included when the Census Bureau publishes a Federal Register Notice in December 2022, announcing the qualifying urban areas based on the results of the 2020 Decennial Census; and

WHEREAS, under 23 U.S.C. § 134, via an agreement with the Governor of the state of Alaska, an MPO shall be designated within one year of the release of the Federal Register Notice announcing the qualifying urban areas; and

WHEREAS, in July 2020, a consultant team was retained by the Borough to coordinate the planning for a new MPO funded by federal transportation planning funds; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020, a steering committee was established, made up of transportation stakeholders of the region, whose mission is to guide the MPO formation process as it relates

to presenting recommendations to the Pre-MPO Policy Board regarding the organizational and operational structure and the Borough is represented on this committee; and

WHEREAS, in September 2021, a Pre-MPO Policy Board was established and made up of local government officials, the Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and multimodal advocates to oversee the development of all federally required documents necessary to be designated by the Governor as the MPO of the Borough urbanized area and the Borough is represented on this board; and

WHEREAS, the planning effort for the establishment of the new MPO has progressed in earnest since July 2020, conducting monthly public meetings and developing a website, annual work plans, public participation plan, public participation plan for Pre-MPO designation efforts, MPO boundary development strategy, Metropolitan Transportation Plan scope of work, draft organizational bylaws and operating agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Pre-MPO Policy Board, in October 2021, approved the name of the new MPO to be Matsu Valley Planning for Transportation (MVP for Transportation); and

WHEREAS, the Pre-MPO Policy Board, in March 2022, unanimously voted to adopt the formation of an independent 501(c)(3) organization for MVP for Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the federal funding for planning projects will come through the state of Alaska as a reimbursable grant; and

WHEREAS, as a new nonprofit organization, MVP for Transportation will need seed funding to start up the organization and pay for expenses; and

WHEREAS, MVP for Transportation intends to submit an operating agreement to the Governor shortly after the Urbanized Area is officially designated by the United States Census; and

WHEREAS, upon designation by the Governor as the new MPO for the Mat-Su urbanized area, MVP for Transportation will need to establish its office, hire staff, open a bank account, file Articles of Incorporation with the Alaska State Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development Division of Corporations, obtain Business and Professional Licensing to become a nonprofit corporation, and negotiate intergovernmental agreements to establish participation by member agencies and associated dues, so that transportation planning work can begin on behalf of the MPO; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, with the understanding that starting a new MPO requires significant resources, the Alaska Legislature appropriated five million dollars in capital and operational funding to the Fairbanks Metropolitan Planning Organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports the designation of MVP for Transportation as the MPO of the Mat-Su metropolitan planning area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough supports the allocation of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 in capital funds from the state of Alaska to support the formation, organization, and operation of the MPO.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 6 day of September, 2022.

  
EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Hale, Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Sumner, and Bernier