

UACC MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2021

- 1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by President Paul Stang at 7:00 pm. Al Milspaugh acted as host for the Zoom meeting. Al Milspaugh announced that the meeting will be recorded. These will be available via Zoom and Facebook apps, and as such no privacy should be expected. Al asked that people raise their hand if they wish to make comment. He also noted that closed captions are available for persons with hearing impairment. There were 34 people present during portions of the meeting (Attachment 1).
- 2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh, with Krista Scott seconding, moved to approve the March 3, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved by vote of 9/0/0.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. Al Milspaugh moved to approve to the agenda, with Steve Callaghan seconding. The agenda was passed by vote of 9/0/0.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials

- 1. State Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson-** For details on Elvi Gray-Jackson's remark's please refer to her written report to UACC included in Attachment 2.
- 2. Representative Ivy Sponholz:-** Ivy reported on her activities with the House Finance Committee, where they are working on the State operating budget. She also described activities related to the States 10 year fiscal plan that addresses long term budget needs and revenue sources, and is being developed within the Ways and Means Sub Committee. There will be a Facebook live session to discuss the development.
- 3. State Senator Bill Wielechowski:-** Bill said that the Senate has passed a bill continuing the State Disaster Declaration, which is needed to continue Federal SNAP payments to the State. He mentioned that it is certain that the legislative session will go to the 120 days. He also said the legislature has until May 11 to decide on how to appropriate the Federal Disaster Relief Funds. He reported that selected Anchorage high school students based upon their grades may attend UAA classes under the middle college program at no cost, and can earn college credits toward degree requirements. Mark Fink asked whether there will be extra cost to the University, and will the State pay for these costs. Reply was that Anchorage School District pays a fee to the University for reimbursement of costs.

- 4. State Representative Andy Josephson:-** Andy indicated that the House is finally organized, and it is with a most narrow majority, and it took 35 days. He said he is working on the State Operating and Capital budget as part of the House Finance Committee. He discussed work on the Alaska Therapeutic Court system. He also mentioned that the Criminal Justice system is fully funded, which allows for an additional 19 prosecutors. He also discussed rescue plan for the Department of Health and Social Services, where there is currently a 52 percent annual employee turnover. Mark Fink had a question about whether the House will pass along a balanced budget to the Senate. Andy said that there is a need for this, and that the Governor’s proposed budget is balanced by taking over \$2 billion from the Earnings Reserve. He also said that the \$1.1 B in federal funds may help balance the budget in the short term, though the legislature needs to be in session to appropriate the funds otherwise the Governor can appropriate these funds.
- 5. Assembly Chair Felix Rivera-** Felix said that the Municipality will receive \$101 million in Federal Covid-19 relief funds. He said there will be meetings on March 19th and 29th to discuss how to allocate these funds. He also indicated the Assembly is continuing work on the Homeless Shelter in B3 Zoning issue. He indicated that a subcommittee will have a proposed ordinance ready by mid-May and be ready for further public engagement. Finally, he said that the Municipal Covid-19 Emergency Order is to expire on April 16th, and the Assembly will vote on a potential extension on April 13th. Marguerite Iverson had a question about how the Municipality is dealing with zoning for “tiny houses” in Anchorage. Her son and daughter had wanted to build one in Anchorage, but could not find a lot zoned for them in Anchorage, so moved to Homer where they are allowed. She saw recently that an Anchorage developer had been able to secure such approval and wondered how? Felix replied that tiny houses are allowed in Anchorage but permits are difficult to obtain. Steve Callaghan commented that the new home development was more of a unit condominium development, rather than tiny homes permitted on individual lots.
- 6. Assembly Member Pete Peterson-** Pete noted that there has been a great improvement of the 911 call service, with average wait time of 8 seconds, which is better than the 11 second national average. He said that jury trials are to start next month. Finally, he said that the \$ 841 million ASD budget was passed, with \$241 million coming from local taxes.
- 7. Assembly Member Meg Zaletel-** Meg noted the Municipality is transitioning out from the Emergency Operations Center. Covid-19 testing and vaccination responsibilities will go to the Health Department. The transition will need to determine what resources the Health Department needs

to take over these responsibilities. She also reported on the homeless situation is at a near critical level, where 959 people currently are in shelter, while the overall capacity is only 1,036. So the municipality is working on ways to move 300 persons into permanent housing. She also mentioned that development of draft policies for the newly instituted AFD Mobile Crisis Team will be completed by June 1st.

8. Margo Bellamy-Anchorage School Board (ASB)- Margo said that there will be a work governance and communication session on April 20th to discuss policies on racism and equity. She indicated there is a link on the ASD website to find out information of the previously discussed UAA attendance by high school students. She discussed that graduation this year will be an outdoor experience and currently each graduate is limited to tickets based on each High School graduating class number and the available outdoors space. Rick Phillips questioned whether more tickets will come available in the future. Margo replied that she thinks so, but doesn't know for sure. Margo also mentioned that there will be a robust summer learning program, and that student registration will be held in April. She also indicated that the lottery program to special schools is still open.

Marguerite Iverson said she was shocked by the Anchorage School Board recent decision to give a large raise in salary and benefits to the ASD Superintendent at this time of ASD budget crisis. Margo replied that the Board felt that the raise was appropriate since the Superintendent had not received any increase in compensation for over 5 years and that her salary is still smaller than other comparable school superintendent positions.

9. UAA Representative Ryan Buchholdt- Ryan reported that the UAA Chancellor search is underway. Finalists will be identified in the near future and there will be a quick turnaround for the position selection by the Regents. He also said that they are recruiting for Deans of the Schools of Engineering and the Arts and Sciences. Enrollment for the fall semester begins this Friday, and will be open for all by April 19th. He said that fall semester will be a hybrid system, with half of classes being in person. Still, he expects enrollment will decline by 5%, further exacerbating budget concerns. The University is anticipating using Covid-19 funds for student aid, with a fresh start scholarship program where students can retake a course where they previously had failed when it was offered in a virtual mode.

10. Erin Whitney-Candidate for Chugach Electric Board- Erin gave her qualifications for membership on the Board. She also mentioned how she felt our energy system could be improved. She said the election is being held on line at the Chugach Electric website, will be closed by April 16th, and election

results will be announced on May 18th. One can to the Chugach Electric website to check out candidates qualifications.

B. UACC Board Reports

1. Parks and Rec Committee- Steve Callaghan, Chair- Steve reported that work on the University Lake Park parking lot will commence soon and is planned to be completed by August. He mentioned that a \$100,000 grant for forestry related items has been received by the Parks and Rec. They are considering using the funds for invasive plant species control efforts along stream banks and riparian zones. Paul Stang questioned whether the Parks and Recreation had taken up the need for traffic control at the intersection of 42nd and Folker next to Folker Park. Barbara Garner mentioned that there is much traffic at this intersection. This need may need to be addressed in the CIP program.

2. Planning and Zoning Committee-Krista Scott- Chair:- Krista defaulted discussion on P & Z activities to those under the Old Business topic related to Tudor Road pedestrian concerns.

3. Safety Committee-Al Milspaugh:- Al Milspaugh's safety message noted that one should be extra careful driving now since students are currently back to in school session and may be walking to and from school on the edge of roadways since many side streets have not been cleared of snow.

4. UACC Board Member at Large Nomination- Currently there is one Member at Large seat open on the UACC Board. Al Milspaugh, with a Krista Scott second, nominated Mark Fink to this position. Mark agreed to be nomination. The membership will vote on this nomination at the May meeting.

C. FCC Representative -Al Milspaugh:- Al said he would skip discussion of FCC topics in the deference to time constraints.

5. Old Business- UACC Comments Pedestrian Crossing: Tudor Rd & Wright Street Options- Krista Scott and Annie Collie-UACC Board (Attachment 3)

Krista presented the document of the draft comments received from community members that was combined and categorized based off the slide presentation presented at a March 3, 2021 UACC Board meeting. ADOT has completed Traffic Options 1 through 3. This includes removing cars, traffic, building a raised median refuge, and installing yellow signs at areas where no signals are nearby. She presented quick summary of the comments received on the additional options 4 thru 10 (see Appendix 3 for detailed comments on these options). Barbara Garner thought that Option 6 should reference the "HAWK" beacon system. HAWK is a beacon (High-Intensity Activated Cross Walk beacon) which is a traffic control device used to stop road traffic and allow pedestrians to cross safely. The purpose of

a HAWK beacon is to allow protected pedestrian crossings, stopping road traffic only as needed. Where standard traffic signal 'warrants' prevent the installation of standard three-color traffic signals, the HAWK beacon provides an alternative.

Al Milspaugh noted that the list of options is not in rank order. Mark Fink stated that since Tudor is a major community thoroughfare, he felt that 35 MPH is not appropriate or warranted.

Paul Stang, with Steve Zemke seconding, moved to approve the comments as written, with the exception of redrafted # 6 to include the HAWK language, and reconsider the bullet point on speed contained within #8. UACC approved the comments on vote of 10 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

6. New Business and Public Comment

A. Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Covid-19 Vaccine Program- Sar Medoff , Dept of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health

Sar indicated that he will discuss the science, safety, and what to expect behind the vaccine program. He said the key point is that vaccines are safe and effective. Studies have proven that vaccines can prevent 100% of mortalities and 89% of major health problems which require hospitalization. He said they are safe, with only 2 to 5 major allergic relations per 1,000,000 doses, and no one has died from an allergic reaction. He also noted that there are no long term health problems associated with the vaccines noted in the studies done to date.

He stresses that vaccines provide both individual as well as community protection. Along with the powerful vaccine tool, adhering to the other tolls such as masking, social distancing, keeping social circles small, and getting tested if having Covid-19 symptoms may still be required. This will lead to herd immunity which is the only way to end the pandemic and get life back toward normality. One can go to the State web site at covidvax.alaska.gov or call 907-646-3322 to schedule a vaccine appointment.

Al Milspaugh had question on how long the immunity lasts. Sar indicated that immunity should last at least 6 months, as data is available only for this period. He felt that could be longer, though a booster shot a one year might be required, particularly with the variants that are showing up. Krista Scott noted that her vaccine card said 2 months. Sar replied that at the time of FDA approval this was how long the data indicated, but that was several months ago.

Sar also discussed some of the side effects of the vaccines. They are arm pain at site of injection, possibility minor flu like symptoms of fever, fatigue,

headache, muscle pain, and chills. These are expected to go away in a couple of days. Al Milspaugh noted that there was a recommendation for not taking a pain reliever after the shot which could address some of these symptoms. Sar indicated that current recommendation is that a pain reliever is OK, but one should not take one before the shot as a prophylactic. Sar noted that CDC has developed a Vaccine Adverse Reporting System (VCRS) to report adverse reactions. CDC has also developed **V-safe** which is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

After March 10th all people 16 and older are eligible for the vaccines. Pfizer has been OK'd for those 16 and older, while Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines are for those 18 and older. Sar indicated that within the next couple of months research trails should come out that may allow for approval of those 12 and older. For persons younger than 12, approval may take a year or more as trials in this age cohort have just started.

Sar stressed that getting a vaccine shot is the best thing one can do to protect oneself from Covid-19, and is the way out of the pandemic, and is the way one can protect those who may not be able to receive the vaccine because of health issues. Paul Stang stressed that the chance of getting or passing along the disease is very small between individuals who have had the vaccine. Pete Peterson noted that the Senior Center is offering a walk in vaccine clinic free of an appointment. Krista Scott asked how to sign up for the V-safe tool (go to CDC website to register). Finally Paul Stang asked if one had the vaccine in early February, is it worth registering now. Sar said if no side effects probably not worth doing so. Sar left his contact information in the chat room for UACC members.

7.Public Comments/Open Dialog- None

8.Adjournment: Al Milspaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Krista Scott seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 9:00 pm.

Signed

Paul R. Stang, UACC President

- Atchs 1: Attendance Log
2: Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
3: UACC April 7, 2021 Draft Comments on the Tudor and Wright Street AMATS Options

Attachment 1- April 7, 2021 Attendance Log

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Al Milspaugh	Vice President
Steve Zemke	Secretary/Treasurer
Paul Stang	President
Steve Callaghan	P&R Chair
Joanie Nardini	Member at Large
Krista Scott	P&Z Chair
Assemblyman Felix Rivera	Visitor
Marguerite Iverson	Member
Ryan Buchholdt	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson	Visitor
Representative Andy Josephson	Visitor
Senator Bill Wielechowski	Visitor
Barbara Garner	Member
Mark Fink	Member
Annie Collie	member
Assemblywomen Meg Zaletel	Visitor
Mary Lu Harle	Member
Tom Sproski	Visitor
Sar Medoff	Visitor
Assemblyman Pete Peterson	Visitor
School Board Member Margo Bellamy	Visitor
Troy Boston	Visitor
Louis Limbrian	Member
Brenda McLaughlin	Member
Joy Boston	Visitor
Ricky Phillips	Member
Angela Alfaro	Visitor
Ivy Sponholz	Visitor
Erin Whitney	Visitor
Robert McClung	Visitor
Susan Share	Member
Dela Grey	Member
Scott Stansburg	Member

**Attachment 2- Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson's Notes
University Area Community Council
April 7, 2021**

Happy Spring!

- Today, is day 79 of the first session of the 32nd legislative session. As we approach the voter approved 90-day limit, I'm confident that we will be in session for the full 120 days required in the Constitution with the possibility of extending for the allowed 10 days.
- HB76, extending the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency, was passed in the House and is now in the Senate. It was heard in the Finance Committee on Monday and Tuesday and I am hopeful that it will pass the Senate within a week.
- The Finance Subcommittees that I serve on – Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce, Community and Economic Development are all in close-out mode which means that budget recommendations will go to the Finance Committee.
- Below is the status of my bills submitted during this session:
 - SB 1- Chokehold Ban-Ref. to STA, JUD, Awaiting a scheduled hearing.
 - SB 2- Peace Officers; De-Escalation, Misconduct-Ref. to STA, JUD, FIN. First hearing was on March 25th.
 - SB 3- Police Officers; Oral Warning/De-Escalate- Ref. to STA, JUD, FIN. Awaiting a scheduled hearing.
 - SB 4- Prohibit Peace Officers Shooting at a Moving Vehicle- Ref. to STA, JUD. Awaiting a scheduled hearing.

 - SB 5- Proclaim Juneteenth Day a Holiday- Ref. to STA. Awaiting a scheduled hearing.
 - SB 7- State Trooper Policies: Public Access-Ref. to STA, JUD. Awaiting a scheduled hearing.
 - SB 46- Law Enforcement: Registry; Use of Force- Ref. to CRA, STA, FIN. Tentative hearing April 20th in CRA.
 - SB 47- Vehicle Registration/Persons W/Disability- Ref. to STA. Heard in STA and is now in the Rules Committee awaiting to be sent for a vote on the Senate Floor.

SB 80- Public Schools: Mental Health Education- Ref. to EDC, HSS, FIN. Heard in EDC, and HSS heard the bill on April 6th.

- Please join me and my staff at a virtual Constituent meeting to be held on Saturday, April 10th at 1:00 p.m.

Zoom info: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86313262702>

I look forward to seeing you on the 10th to hear your concerns and questions.

How to Stay Informed

- During the session, you can tune into the Capitol happenings by watching Gavel to Gavel, my Senator Elvi Facebook and Twitter pages and, of course, by reviewing my monthly newsletters.

If you are not receiving my monthly newsletter, please let us know.

Session: 907-465-4930 // Email: Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov or Besse.Odom@akleg.gov

Attachment 3-UACC April 7, 2021 Draft Comments on the Tudor and Wright Street AMATS Options

Notes: Comments received from community members below were combined and categorized based off the slide presentation presented at a March 3, 2021 UACC Board meeting. ADOT&PF Completed Traffic Options 1 through 3; This included removing cars, traffic, building a raised median refuge, and installing yellow signs at the unsignalized area.

The following Traffic Options have comments:

4. Double Light Levels at Night

- Should be the first priority, if it is not already finished.

5. Count Crossings & Review Design Criteria

- Should proceed as next priority to gather underlying data.
- Pedestrians and bicyclists have a strong desire to continue their intended path of travel. Do we know the natural patterns of pedestrian movement? (Bus Stop to Gas Station) Could use of a high-angle video timelapse camera to map pedestrian crossing locations.

6. Median, Crossing at Folker or Wright, with Device (or without Device)

- Toss-up in cost and effectiveness. The UACC would support whichever the Muni determines is most prudent.
- Suggestion: Ped/bike crossing signal similar to the one linked below located in Eugene, near the Oregon campus. Pedestrians/Bikers activate the signal to cross a 4-lane street. The unique traffic signal design has two sets of Red-Yellow-Green rectangular lights in a horizontal position above the streets. A set of the lights on a Median center post and at both sides above the curb at the crossing. https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17237/Ped-ActivatedRedLight_8-15-14?bidId
- It appears from the presentation that was shown by AKDOT, the U turns at Tudor Road and Wright Street might be an issue. Specifically, when a car is turning right, west-bound onto Tudor, and an east-bound car makes a U turn to go west, this appears to be a close call for the car turning onto Tudor Road. The car making the U turn usually swings wide into the northerly lane and the person turning onto Tudor Road from Wright Street thinks the person is making a left-hand turn onto Wright Street. Coupled with the meridian at the junction of Wright & Tudor, though well-intentioned (designed for a foot traffic rest spot & likely reduction of drive across issues from Holiday) makes this intersection a dangerous spot for vehicles and pedestrians.
- Put pedestrian stop signs on each side of Wright on the bike path. Most people won't attend to them, but if even a few did-it could help. Might be a cheap first step.

- Redesign meridian: The Muni should analyze the options for a Staggered Mid-Block Crossing, and if a device is necessary to stop traffic, lighting, or signals as options for the crossing. See the link below for examples.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/pedbike/05085/chapt12.cfm>

- Bicyclists and pedestrians tend to try and cross Tudor Road at Wright Street. It is convenient, but certainly not safe. A wider median, or some sort of warning or controlled pedestrian crossing might be effective, however, it would slow the traffic along Tudor Road.

7. Pedestrian Bridge

- Though a pedestrian bridge is one of the safest options for pedestrians, because of the cost there is low support from the UACC on this option. Lighting would be a better start.

8. Double fines

- Double fines between Elmore and Lake Otis. Random enforcement and diver concerns for getting a large fine could be a strong motivator in reducing speed.
- Speed should be reduced to between 35-40 mph between Lake Otis and Elmore.
- Prefer not to reduce speed if other traffic options are successful in making the intersection safer.

9. Build arterial traffic calming, narrowing, shifts

No Comments Received

10. Change Land Use

- Not much will change with this situation until we have a path of least resistance across Tudor. More neighborhoods are going to have to take up the challenges of homeless issues, though it's not the only cause of jaywalking.
- Relocate the bus stop across from the Holiday Station to a new location.