
FAST Planning

POLICY BOARD

Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2019

Council Chambers, City Hall, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK

1. Call to Order

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee	Representative Organization
*Bryce Ward	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Michael Welch	Mayor, City of North Pole
*Jim Matherly, Vice Chair	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*Ryan Anderson, Chair	Director, DOT&PF Northern Region
*Shaun Tacke	FNSB Assembly
*Jerry Cleworth	COF City Council
*Alice Edwards (via telephone)	Director, DEC Division of Air Quality
** Jackson Fox	FAST Planning
**Randi Bailey	DOT&PF Planning
**Don Galligan	FNSB Planning
**Olivia Lunsford	FAST Planning
**Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
+Judy Chapman	DOT&PF Planning
+Kellen Spillman	FNSB Community Planning
+Steven Hoke	DEC Division of Air Quality
Alex Haman	Citizen
Janice Haman	Citizen
SueAnn Miller Santhavisok	Citizen
Alex Gagne-Hawes	Citizen
Theresa Thomas	Citizen

**FAST Planning Policy Board Members, ** FAST Planning Staff Members, + FAST Planning Technical Committee Members*

3. Approval of the June 19, 2019 Agenda

Motion: To approve the June 19, 2019 Agenda. (Welch/Tacke)

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the May 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the May 15, 2019 meeting minutes. (Matherly/Ward).

Discussion: No further discussion

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Committee/Working Group Reports (including the Chair's Report)

a. Staff Report and Technical Committee Action Items

Mr. Fox provided highlights of all FAST Planning activities including meetings, briefings, conferences, teleconferences, seminars, open houses, workshops,

training, presentations, forums, and field trips he or FMATS staff had attended or participated in since the last meeting. Mr. Fox explained that he had applied for a System Award Management (SAM) Account to enable FAST Planning to apply for grants now that we are a non-profit organization.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

SueAnn Miller Santhavisok and Janice Haman, neighbors and residents of Marika Road in the Aurora Subdivision who were directly in the middle of the Wembley Road Construction came forward and Ms. Santhavisok read a letter signed by residents into the record. (shown below)

To whom it may concern:

We, the residents/home owners residing adjacent to the current road construction on Wembly Road in Fairbanks Alaska, request a 'Sound Barrier' to be installed immediately in place of the natural barriers (trees) removed in order to install a bike path.

Wembly Road, as calculated by DOT, as of May/June 2019, has ***over 12,000 VEHICLES DAILY.*** The noise from the commercial and non-commercial vehicles has been unbearable. The dust and other particles airborne and sticking to our structures, gardens, screens, vehicles, and inside our residences has us gravely concerned. Most of the residents most impacted are seniors and many with medical conditions such as COPD, emphysema, asthma. Others are experiencing unusual discharge in their eyes, severe headaches, coughing, nausea and other unusual alarming symptoms. Many cannot open their windows and yet the particles are still entering our homes. The other concerns are the risk of serious fires resulting from any pedestrian tossing a cigarette as our buildings are completely exposed and only a few feet from this construction. You cannot blow off the substance nor wipe it off, but you have to literally scrub it off only to repeat the process over again within the hour.

We're concerned about the impact of having no barrier between us and the nuisance of noise, the negative environmental impacts on our health, and the potential of fires and the negative impact on our property values.

We have asked DOT for a high fence with slabs or any efficient sound barrier and have been told no. Either it's not within the budget or meets the 'criteria' yet we all struggle for the simple gasp of clean air and sound sleep.

As before mentioned, most of the residents are senior citizens who have invested into their retirement homes.

There are three reasons for sound screen or a barrier.

- 1) Reduced the amount of fugitive dust and particles impacting our property and health of seniors which have pre-existing respiratory issues.
- 2) Reduce the noise and vibration coming from the new road revision and high traffic flow.
- 3) The increased road elevation and the proximity to our property line creates unsafe conditions from passersby on the bike trail and also vehicles accidentally driving off the road could crash down into the property without guard prevention.

Ms. Santhavisok commented that they had removed all the good trees and left them with the "cancer of all trees", the cottonwood. Ms. Santhavisok stated that her mother was 90 years old and was coughing non-stop and could not come to the meeting. Ms. Santhavisok stated that she cleaned her house daily and the amount of dust that she had gotten from it was amazing and they had a large back deck but now with all the tree removal, they were smack dab in an industrial area. Ms. Santhavisok stated that all they were asking for was a sound barrier to eliminate the noise and when they complained they started to water to reduce the dust which helped but they still had large amounts of dust coming into their homes. Ms. Santhavisok stated that they had gone from house to house and gotten signatures from the people that were home.

Ms. Haman commented that they had lived there for over 40 years and had purchased it as their retirement home but now she wasn't sure she wanted to live there.

Ms. Santhavisok stated that she was told that they did not meet the criteria for a sound barrier because they did not make it a four-lane highway and were just inserting a bike path. Ms. Santhavisok stated that to her installing a bike path on an industrial road sounded kind of silly. Ms. Santhavisok stated that there were already bike and pedestrian paths on Marika Road with two entrances and she would not advise kids in school to leave that area to walk on a bike path near Wembley Road. Ms. Santhavisok stated that if they planted trees, her mother was 90 years old and she did not know anything about trees, but her guess was that it would take years and years for them to grow into a natural sound barrier and they needed to put something there because it was going to affect their property values not to mention the noise and dust.

Ms. Santhavisok stated that they certainly did not expect any of this and did not want to stop progress but wanted to be able to come home and enjoy their homes and be able to sleep uninterrupted. Ms. Santhavisok stated that she did not mind cleaning her house, because she had to since her mother was ill, but this was on a whole other scale. She stated that she did not have the resources to buy another property and leave theirs but if she did, she certainly would.

Ms. Santhavisok stated she did not know what the impact was on her property but was sure that it was negative and at one point, she had been told by a realtor not to sell it because it could be rented out or sold but did not think that would be the case now.

Ms. Haman stated that she just wanted them to remember that the new road was so much higher than their properties so consequently they got all exhaust and everything from that road and it came right down on their property. Ms. Haman stated that they needed a strong blocker. Ms. Haman stated that they did not just need a little fence they needed something more than that because what they had was not that big. Ms. Haman stated that if they went driving through there, they should take a look. Ms. Haman stated that she would appreciate anything they could do.

Ms. Santhavisok read another letter from neighbor Vicky Mullin into the record.

I'm not one to be given to headaches but have suffered several these past weeks. I also suffer from COPD and have had to utilize my rescue inhaler at morning and at night when usually I may need to use an inhaler maybe once or twice a month.

Mr. Cleworth asked for clarification and stated that he had recently driven down Wembley and it used to be that they would not see any of the residences on Marika at all and whether it was totally exposed now.

Ms. Santhavisok stated that Mr. Cleworth was correct and it was not that way now.

Mr. Anderson thanked them for their coming and for their comments.

Mr. Anderson stated that he would take back the dust concerns because they had contract provisions to mitigate the dust and were in discussions about the fence options, so he would be in touch with them again.

7. Old Business

a. Revised MOA Amendment for the Selection and Funding of CMAQ Projects Within the Fairbanks PM^{2.5} Non-Attainment Area (Action Item)

Mr. Fox explained that new revisions to the MOA Amendment were included in the meeting packet. Mr. Fox stated that the MOA was subsequently transmitted to DOT and the Borough for their comments and he had revised the document to include those comments.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To approve the revised MOA Amendment for the Selection and Funding of CMAQ Projects within the Fairbanks PM^{2.5} Non-Attainment Area as presented. (Ward/Welch).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

8. New Business

a. Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant (Action Item)

Mr. Fox explained that included in the meeting packet was a one-page summary he developed for the 2019 BUILD Grant and the criteria for applying. Mr. Fox stated since they were designated as a rural area, there was no match required. Mr. Fox stated that based on the criteria if felt that Cowles Street would be the best project for this grant opportunity. Mr. Fox explained that FAST Planning could also apply for this grant. Mr. Fox explained that the caveat was that they had to prepare a Benefit/Cost Analysis and he had received a quote for \$7300 to complete that so they would have to use either State Legislative funds or potentially ask the City of Fairbanks to cover that cost analysis. Mr. Fox stated that it would be best to have an economist prepare this cost analysis and, in the future, he would like to have staff trained to do that.

Public Comment: Theresa Thomas, a resident of Raven Landing, stated that they would like to know what the project was and if they could be kept informed in the future.

Mr. Fox stated that if she left her name and telephone number he would be in contact with Raven Landing to give them a preview about what the project looked like to date.

Alex Gagne-Hawes commented that it sounded exactly like the thing that they should be doing, and they should be going out and leveraging Federal money to improve an antiquated street that was wild and narrow. Mr. Hawes commented that he definitely thought the City needed to redevelop some sort of north-south bicycle pedestrian access since it was a dangerous route and clearly an automobile corridor. Mr. Hawes stated that he wanted to make sure that the progress was focused on working with the library and the people. Mr. Gagne-Hawes thought that the project should be focused on making it a pedestrian corridor. Mr. Hawes stated that they had to have a rigor to applying for those types of grants and whether it was worth the City's money to him, but to save costs they should be training someone to do that type of thing in-house.

Motion: To authorize FAST Planning to prepare a BUILD Grant application for the Cowles Street Reconstruction Project and have the Benefit Cost Analysis expense be paid for by FAST Planning. (Cleworth/Tacke).

Discussion:

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To split the motion. (Tacke/Welch).

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth stated that he would speak against the motion to split it and if they were to be lucky enough to get the project they would be using money in the TIP that could be used for other projects. Mr. Cleworth stated that why they segregated funds for a competitive bid process was a mystery to him. Mr. Cleworth stated that the City already had a considerable match on that project.

Mr. Tacke stated that would be the reason to split the motion, so they could debate where the funds were coming from after they debated what project the funds were going towards.

Mayor Ward asked Mr. Fox where the money would come from.

Mr. Fox explained that the contributions could be used from old State Legislative funds that were appropriated to them or contributions from membership contributions but thought it was wiser to use the old State funds.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: Two opposed. (Cleworth/Matherly). Approved.

Motion, 1st Part: To authorize FAST Planning to prepare a BUILD Grant application for the Cowles Street Reconstruction Project.

Discussion: Mr. Tacke thought it was a great project and would vote in favor of it.

Mayor Ward also thought Cowles Street was a good project but asked if they were limited to a single project when they applied.

Mr. Fox stated that he thought they could apply for two, but applications were being submitted from across the State, so he thought that it would be better to focus on one project.

Mayor Ward stated that he thought the Chena River Walk was another option.

Mr. Fox stated that there were lots of scoring criteria that the Chena Riverwalk would score well on, but the one point that would fail to score well would be the accident data because there was no data for a facility that does yet exist. Mr. Fox stated that he thought that Cowles Street would do well on all the scoring criteria.

Vote on 1st Part of Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amendment to Motion 2nd Part: To split the expense of the Benefit Cost Analysis with the City of Fairbanks. (Tacke/Welch).

Vote on Amendment to Motion 2nd Part: Five Opposed. (Cleworth, Matherly, Anderson, Edwards, Ward).

Motion, 2nd Part: To have the Benefit Cost Analysis expense be paid for by FAST Planning.

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion 2nd Part: None opposed. Approved.

Approved Motion: To authorize FAST Planning to prepare a BUILD Grant application for the Cowles Street Reconstruction Project and have the Benefit Cost Analysis expense be paid for by FAST Planning.

b. National Highway Freight Program – Letter to Alaska DOT&PF (Action Item)

Mr. Fox explained that the meeting packet included a letter he had drafted to DOT regarding the National Highway Freight Program funding apportioned to the State of Alaska for statewide freight needs. Mr. Fox stated that the issue at hand was that the State received Freight Program funding and obligated all three years of freight funding (\$51 million total) for a single project on the Sterling Highway despite statewide freight project needs.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To approve and send the letter to DOT&PF regarding the National Highway Freight Program Funding. (Tacke/Ward).

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth asked if the three mayors could sign in addition to Mr. Fox to show that it was coming from the Interior of Alaska.

Mayor Ward stated that the letter was written as coming from Mr. Fox and the Policy Board.

Mayor Ward asked if they could change it to state that it was from the Board and in the language they could say that the Board had discussed it and did not want to give the wrong impression that it was the three mayors that were answering it.

Mr. Cleworth stated that they could say it was a formal action from the Board and have each of the Board members sign it.

Vote on the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To edit the last paragraph of the letter to emphasize the Policy Board is requesting a written response.
(Ward/Tacke).

Discussion: Mayor Ward stated that he thought they should emphasize that the Policy Board was requesting a written response.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amended Motion: To approve and send the letter to DOT&PF regarding the National Highway Freight Program Funding and edit the last paragraph of the letter to emphasize the Policy Board is requesting a written response.

Vote on Amended Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. Road Service Area Expansion Plan (Action Item)

Mr. Fox explained that the meeting packet included a Scope of Work for the Road Service Area Expansion Plan that was included in the TIP. Mr. Fox stated that the Plan was primarily focused on addressing roads with no maintenance authority, also known as “orphan roads.” Mr. Fox stated that currently there were approximately 188 miles of “orphan roads” within the Metropolitan Planning Area which mean 188 miles of road with no maintenance which was not just an issue for the property owners and good access to their homes, but some roads were inaccessible for emergency response vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks. Mr. Fox explained that they would like to develop a plan to reduce the number of miles of orphan roads by expanding the current road service areas. Mr. Fox explained that they could potentially accomplish that by encouraging the residents to go through the current annexation process that would be initiated by residents, or potentially government initiated, they could couple that with a grant opportunity from FAST Planning so they could apply for funds under the FAST Improvement Program to upgrade their roads if they successfully annexed themselves; and they could also look at creating a new, area-wide Road Service Area where all orphan roads would be placed through an application process and the Borough would administer the new Road Service Area.

Public Comment: Alex Gagne-Hawes commented that his thought was that universal health care was a great thing, but universal road maintenance sounded like a terrible idea since it encouraged people to build bad roads. Mr. Gagne-Hawes thought that any sort of action like that should be tailored in such a way that they could go after anyone who built new roads recognizing the environmental damage roads did and maintenance on those roads. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that he did not think they should be subsidizing just anyone who wanted to cut down the trees and drive over them.

Mr. Spillman of the Borough commented that he wanted to provide more context and explained that over the last year they had gone through an extensive rewrite of their Subdivision Ordinance with a significant public process and most comments received were regarding the need for a road construction manual. Mr. Spillman thought that it would be of great benefit to

both the Borough and FAST Planning with regards to the road system within their boundaries and would be happy to answer any questions regarding the rewrite they just went through.

Motion: To approve the Scope of Work for the Road Service Expansion Plan as presented. (Tacke/Ward).

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth asked if the Borough had the authority to force people into service areas.

Mr. Tacke stated that they did not.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he thought he could save them a lot of money because he thought he knew what the answer would be and did not think they needed a study to find out. Mr. Cleworth stated that he did not see a need to take on more roads than they already had since they could not maintain the ones they had.

Mayor Ward stated that it not only addressed the roads that were not in a service area but also the roads that were platted and not constructed within the City that affected accessibility as well. Mayor Ward stated that it fell clearly in the function of an MPO to be looking at the road network and how it connected and served the residents, but also gave them some guidelines for construction of those roads. Mayor Ward stated that the Borough Road standards were not very prescriptive and gave people lots of latitude when building those roads. Mayor Ward stated that his would be able to allow them to look at those standards and carry that along to the Assembly to get that approved into code so the roads were built to a standard that provided connectivity and accessibility.

Amendment to the Motion: To remove Task 2 (Public Survey). (Tacke/Ward).

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amended Motion: To approve the Scope of Work for the Road Service Area Expansion Plan as presented and remove Task 2 [Public Survey].

Vote on Amended Motion: None opposed. Approved.

d. Cowles Street Reconstruction – Project Increase (Action Item)

Mr. Fox explained that DOT requested a funding increase in the amount of \$358,000 for the design phase of the Cowles Street Reconstruction project due to efforts for the traffic study, new signal design, and the replacement of aging utilities within the project corridor that are at risk of damage/collapse from construction activities.

Public Comment: Alex Gagne-Hawes state that it sounded like they were planning a north-south connection for pedestrians that could really be like a boulevard instead of being a nightmare of chainlink fences. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that he wondered how the City of Fairbanks felt about building and maintaining a facility all these years to have a private company get paid to replace it.

Motion: To approve the funding increase for the Cowles Street Reconstruction in the amount of \$358,000 using FAST Planning offset funds. (Tacke/Welch).

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth stated that when they did these projects they tried to coordinate with the utilities to the best of their ability because they did not want to do damage in the construction process and come back a year later and dig it all back up, so they wanted to get it all done at the same time.

Mayor Ward asked Mr. Anderson what type of negotiations occurred with the utilities for this replacement structure and what the process was.

Mr. Anderson stated that it was typically considered either a betterment or a conflict. Mr. Anderson stated that the only place that they did not do utility relocations was on the Dalton Highway. Mr. Anderson stated that there could be a negotiation, but he did not see that happening.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the irony was that you paid for it either way because they could negotiate but the utility could also initiate a rate hike.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

e. College Road Bus Pullouts – Project Increase (Action Item)

Mr. Fox explained that the increase was due to the consultant fee proposal for the final design of project coming higher than expected.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To approve the increase for the College Road Bus Pullouts Project using up to \$50,000 of FAST Planning offset funds. (Tacke/Ward).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Informational Items

a. Obligations and Offsets

Mr. Fox explained the latest obligation and offsets included in the meeting packet.

11. Policy Board Comments

- Mr. Cleworth asked Mayor Ward if the Road/Rail Realignment Plan was still something that the Borough was still interested in. Mr. Cleworth asked if there was any vegetation left on the Danby/Wembley project. Mr. Cleworth stated that barriers worked but were a lot of money and remembered that the one of Peger Road was costly and controversial, but it did work and was an ongoing expense.
- Mayor Matherly stated that it was Solstice Week and there would be lots going on around town and there should be good participation even though there was a little bit of rain in the forecast. Mayor Matherly stated that he had talked to residents in the Wembley area and spoke with staff and engineers about what could be done on that road and was willing to talk to Carlisle. Mayor Matherly added that he empathized with those folks regarding the dust and fumes and it was not easy being that close to an

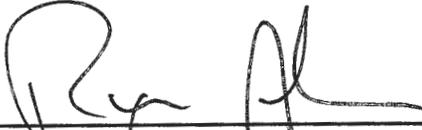
industrial/main road. Mayor Matherly stated that he could talk to Carlisle and get back with them.

- Mayor Ward stated that he wanted to thank Jackson Fox because they now had a full team on the FAST Planning Express and were well on their way to a new organization. Mayor Ward stated that he would be giving a presentation on Capital Improvement Projects and how they get selected and funded on Thursday, June 28.
- Mr. Tacke commented that he would like to see the Economic Cost Benefit Analysis when it was completed.
- Mayor Welch stated that there were corporations that made sound walls that were nice like the ones off C Street on Raspberry Road in Anchorage and that might be one of the things they looked at. Mayor Welch stated that he also appreciated the people that made public comments at the meeting.
- Ms. Edwards thanked the people that made comments. Ms. Edwards added that DEC would be hosting an Open House on June 25th from 6-8 p.m. at the Westmark Hotel and then on June 26 they had two public hearings scheduled at the Borough Assembly Chambers.
- Mr. Anderson stated that he really appreciated the public comments today and they would be working on that together and do the best they could on that one. Mr. Anderson stated that the problem was that noise barriers could not be funded with Federal funds. Mr. Anderson added that with regards to the tree clearing, they would keep working to try to get better, but they obviously missed it on this one. Mr. Anderson stated that he appreciated everyone's tolerance with all the road construction and welcomed the FAST Planning staff.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Tacke/Welch) The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2019, 12-2 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Fairbanks City Hall.

Approved: _____


Ryan Anderson, Chair
FAST Planning Policy Board

Date: _____

7/17/2019