



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2020

Zoom Meeting URL: <https://fastplanning.us/keepup/zoom/>

Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 825 5633 8312

1. Call to Order

Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair sitting in for Jackson Fox, Chair, called the Zoom meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendee

The following were present:

Name	Representing
*Jackson Fox, Chair (absent)	FAST Planning
*Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair	FAST Planning
**Andrew Ackerman	City of Fairbanks Engineering
**Bill Rogers for Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks Engineering
**Bill Butler	City of North Pole
**Steven Hoke	ADEC Air Quality
**Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation
**Judy Chapman	DOT&PF Planning
**Sarah Schacher	DOT&PF Preconstruction
**John Perreault	FNSB Planning Commission
**Kellen Spillman	FNSB Community Planning
**Michelle Denton	FNSB Transportation
**John Weinberger	Fort Wainwright Planning
**Justin Burgess	AES Transportation
**Jakob Theurich	UAF
*Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
*Randi Bailey	DOT&PF Planning
*Don Galligan	FNSB Community Planning
John Netardus	DOT&PF Preconstruction
Peter Stern	BPAC
Cindy Heil	DEC
A Pruett	Citizen
David van den Berg	BPAC/Downtown Association
Donna Gardino	BPAC/Downtown Association
Pam Golden	DOT&PF
Michael Lukshin	Citizen
Alice Edwards	DEC
Tom Carlson	Trinity Consultants

* **FAST PLANNING Staff members**

** **FAST PLANNING Technical Committee members**

3. Approval of the October 7, 2020 Agenda

Motion: To approve the October 7, 2020 Technical Committee Agenda. (Ackerman/Rogers).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the September 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the September 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes. (Hoke/Ackerman).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

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

Ms. Lunsford, sitting in for Mr. Fox, noted the following updates.

- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) did not meet in September and was scheduled to meet virtually on Thursday, October 29, 2020 from 5-7 pm.
- FAST Planning advertised on several social media platforms for volunteers to sit on the Project Enhancement Committee (PEC). To date, we have received about ten inquiries and several emails. The application period ends October 15, 2020.

6. Public Comment Period

Donna Gardino, BPAC member, commented that the 5th Avenue Reconstruction one-way scenario with two lanes was not one of the alternatives shown in the Public Survey and was not supported at the Stakeholder meetings and now the preferred alternative had changed but the preferred one-way configuration changed on every block due to the right-of-way widths so it was not a consistent corridor throughout. Ms. Gardino commented that her concern was the one-way scenario with the 12 ft lanes and 6 ft bike lane. Ms. Gardino stated that she had participated in the Stakeholder Group meetings and the bike lane was dismissed early in the process so for it to come out as the preferred alternative was very concerning. Ms. Gardino commented that her request was for DOT and the City of Fairbanks to take a step back and see what the public felt about having a one-way 12 ft. lane with a 6 ft. bike lane that was not what she thought of as a traffic-calming scenario on that street. Ms. Gardino stated that she had asked 5th Avenue project to be added to the next BPAC agenda for discussion and would be happy to share their comments from that meeting with the Technical Committee.

Bill Rogers, City of Fairbanks commented that this alternative came about in a couple ways: One was that it allowed for restriping to a two-way configuration with the least amount of construction if a two-way alternative was deemed preferable at a later date and the one-way, single bike lane configuration fit into the Borough Bike Path Plan.

Kellen Spillman, Fairbanks North Star Borough commented that he appreciated Ms. Gardino's comments and agreed with a lot of those points. Mr. Spillman stated that he thought he was pretty involved in the project and did not know about this plan so he thought it needed to go back out to the public and have them weigh in. Mr. Spillman requested that a project update be added to the next Technical Committee Meeting agenda.

Ms. Gardino stated that she understood that the bike lane would provide for switching to a two-way scenario sometime in the future but she would argue that if they were not going to do that now, it probably would not happen in the foreseeable future. Ms. Gardino stated that in the meantime you had a 12 ft. wide lane with a 6 ft. wide unseparated from the lane shoulder which meant you virtually had an 18 ft. wide lane one-way downtown where you wanted to have traffic calming which was one of the benefits of a one-way scenario and that was a concern. Ms. Gardino stated that she understood they were trying to preserve and make it possible for a two way in the future but thought what they would get was big place for snow berms to live all winter long.

David van den Berg, Downtown Association of Fairbanks, added that since the Stakeholder Group meetings, the Downtown Association had gone out with tape measures working with the 45 ft. right-of-way and came up with a viable two-way alternative that used that right-of way efficiently and he did not know if the City or State had given it serious consideration.

Michelle Denton, Fairbanks North Star Borough Transportation, pointed out that a two-way alternative would be pretty problematic for the Borough Transit Center and thought that the two-way alternative had been taken off the table.

7. Old Business

a. Draft Title VI Plan (Action Item)

- **Consideration of adoption of Title VI Plan**

Ms. Lunsford explained that the 30-day public comment period for the Draft Title VI Plan will close on October 16, 2020. Ms. Lunsford explained that she had used examples from other MPOs to create the Title VI Plan and also planned to update the Public Participation Plan within this fiscal year.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board they approve the FAST Planning Title VI Plan. (Rogers/Denton)

Discussion: Mr. Ackerman inquired about the goals and plans for outreach to low income and minorities in the community.

Ms. Lunsford explained that she had researched that and found that word of mouth and flyers were the best way to reach and get information out to that segment of the population. Ms. Lunsford explained that she planned to distribute quarterly flyers around town for the meetings with meeting dates, information that was both colorful and easy to read, and the FAST Planning Office was well set up for people attending the meeting in-person so they were able to properly social distance due to COVID19.

Mr. Rogers asked if portions of the document could be revised by the Policy Board without having to send it back to the Technical Committee for review or if they had the final say on it if they revised it.

Ms. Lunsford stated that she was pretty sure that the Policy Board could make revisions and had the final say.

Mr. Rogers stated that he would like to go on record as saying that would be a crying shame.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

8. New Business

a. "New" Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Dashboard

Ms. Lunsford presented the new TIP Dashboard that she had created and explained all the different features and functions she had included in it.

Ms. Lunsford explained that she planned to create a tutorial video to explain the features and instructions for how to navigate through the maps.

b. Proposed Amendments to Fairbanks PM^{2.5} Serious State Implementation Plan (SIP)

• Guest Presentation by ADEC

Ms. Lunsford introduced Alice Edwards and Cindy Heil of ADEC and Tom Carlson of Trinity Consultants who explained the proposed amendments to the 2020 Serious State Implementation Plan for the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Ms. Edwards noted that the comment period for the Serious SIP amendments closed on October 29, 2020.

c. Crash Data for Fairbanks Metropolitan Planning Area

• Guest Presentation by FNSB & DOT&PF

Ms. Lunsford introduced Kellen Spillman of the Fairbanks North Star Borough who provided a presentation of crash data in the Fairbanks Metropolitan Planning Area. Pam Golden of DOT also clarified and explained what the data meant.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Informational Items

a. Steese/Johansen Interchange Online Open House & Draft Environmental Assessment

Ms. Lunsford explained that DOT had an online Open House and Public Survey for the Steese/Johansen Interchange and the Draft Environmental Assessment was available for public review.

b. Obligations and Offsets

Ms. Lunsford explained the obligations and offsets included in the meeting packet.

11. Technical Committee Member Comments

- Mr. Spillman commented that about two months ago the Borough received a large Grant from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment to update some of their planning documents and two of those documents had just gone out to consultants for updates: The Road Plan and the Trail Plan.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Ackerman/Hoke). The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m. The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, November 4, 2020.

Approved:  Date: 11/4/2020
Jackson Fox, Chair
FAST Planning Technical Committee