



**Project Enhancement Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

April 8, 2021 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

By computer at www.fastplanning.us/keepup/zoom

By telephone at: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 819 6808 5225

1. Call to Order

Jackson Fox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

NAME	REPRESENTING
*Tim Zinza	City of Fairbanks
*Jeff Jacobson (absent)	City of Fairbanks
*Thomas Blair (absent)	City of North Pole
*Cody Lougee (absent)	City of North Pole
*David Hayden	Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Joyce DeCarufel (absent)	Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Dan Adamczak	State of Alaska
*Morgan Brown	State of Alaska
*Corey DiRutigliano	FAST Planning
*Sue Sprinkle	FAST Planning
**Jackson Fox	FAST Planning
**Olivia Lunsford	FAST Planning
**Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
**Randi Bailey	DOT&PF
Phoebe Bredlie	Kinney Engineering
Peter Stern	BPAC
Jewelz Barker	Catalyst Alaska
Carl Heim	DOT&PF
Russ Johnson	DOT&PF
Ivet Hall	DOT&PF
Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
Matt Stone	HDR Engineering
Ronald Inouye	Tanana Yukon Historical Society
Patrick Cotter	PDC Engineering
*PEC Committee Member, **FAST Planning Staff	

3. Approval of the April 8, 2021 Agenda

Motion: To approve the April 8, 2021 Agenda. (Sprinkle/Hayden).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of January 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the January 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes. (Sprinkle/Zinza)

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Public Comment Period

Ron Inouye, Tanana Yukon Historical Society

Mr. Inouye commented that he wanted to say how glad he was that they were doing this work and offering the opportunity for the public to attend. Mr. Inouye commented that he knew it got cumbersome sometimes to go through all these procedures, but he thought it was wonderful. Mr. Inouye commented that he had been thinking a lot about how the development of downtown, and particularly the Illinois Street Corridor and the downtown signage; all those things had really improved this community. Mr. Inouye stated that he really applauded all the thought that had gone into making those kinds of decisions.

Mr. Inouye stated that he knew it was tough and it required a lot of planning and involvement of a lot of people which slowed things down oftentimes, but you had deadlines and you were very creative at meeting them. Mr. Inouye stated that he happened to have worked with the Tanana Yukon Historical Society, and it was interesting that they had become heir to a street names manuscript that was done by a student at UAF. Mr. Inouye commented that it was not comprehensive, but it did talk about the major thoroughfares. Mr. Inouye commented that they kept thinking about little things like that that were little treasures that sometimes they needed ways to get that out to the public and they were in the process right now of trying to get that published so that it could become more useful to other people. Mr. Inouye commented that he got to thinking about opportunities for the history students up on campus to become involved in some of the historical aspects of the sections of downtown and in street names and in the neighborhoods and what made those places unique were the stories of those people and how they valued where they lived. Mr. Inouye stated that he really applauded them for getting at that kind of thing because that was what they explained as unique. Mr. Inouye stated that he thought there were ways that other community organizations could be involved and sometimes it was just a matter of reaching out. Mr. Inouye commented that he tended to think that we all got into our little silos and were so focused on deadlines and all the regulations that we forgot there were other ways to reach out. Mr. Inouye stated that he was more than willing to do what he could and thought there were other people who were maybe new to the community or connected to the community who would be more than willing to help, and it was just a matter of extending that invitation. Mr. Inouye stated he thought it was important to tie the community to these places because they were ours and unless somebody recorded them in history, it probably would not get done. Mr. Inouye thanked them for their work and stated that he appreciated it.

Mr. Hayden asked Mr. Inouye if there were specific things that he liked about the signage and if he could be more specific.

Mr. Inouye explained that it was just the fact that they had the signs up. Mr. Inouye stated that the vast majority of people did not read signs, but for those that did care, it was there. Mr. Inouye stated that he liked the signs, particularly in the Illinois Street area which made it very easy to walk. Mr. Inouye stated that he took that walk and was amazed at the number of people that took that walk or had other ways to get around. Mr. Inouye stated he had never intentionally taken that walk and had always driven that section. Mr. Inouye explained that in downtown you saw the little Rotary triangles that talked about the history

and some of those were hard to find. Mr. Inouye stated that he thought the style had evolved now and pulled your attention to them and you sort of started looking for them. Mr. Inouye stated that he thought that coordination factor that was going to be increasingly valuable, the unified look and feel in the various parts of town which unified it. Mr. Inouye stated that the real lynch pin was how we directed peoples' attention and then had continuity throughout the area.

Mr. Hayden asked Mr. Inouye if there were other things he did not like.

Mr. Inouye stated that probably for older people it was the tiny print and sometimes the location of the earlier signs were hard to get to. Mr. Inouye stated that some of them, for instance, by the river, were inside the fence and he had seen people trying to go over the fence to read the text but those were the exception, and most people did not even know the signs were there and did not care. Mr. Inouye stated that he thought anything they could do to enhance it by coloration and by identification really did make a difference particularly for visitors who were very curious. Mr. Inouye stated that he did not know how they planned to integrate that eventually with some kind of a walking tour that was more technologically common these days, but he thought having a physical thing there for people who were not adept at navigating the technology and when we did not have the funding to be able to upgrade that to the next platform, he thought it was very problematic. Mr. Inouye stated that he had always been one that advocated for having something real like a real book or a real sign rather than depending on technology to solve all those issues, but he understood that was very complex and expensive and you did the best you could with the circumstances you had.

6. New Business

a. **5th Avenue Reconstruction – Guest Presentation by Bob Pristash**

Mr. Fox introduced Ivet Hall of DOT&PF and Bob Pristash with the City of Fairbanks who provided an update presentation for the 5th Avenue Reconstruction project.

b. **Airport/Cushman Intersection Reconstruction–Guest Presentation by Carl Heim**

Mr. Fox introduced Carl Heim of DOT&PF who provided a presentation about the Airport/Cushman Intersection Reconstruction project.

c. **Gaffney/Airport/Richardson/Steese Interchange-Guest Presentation by Carl Heim**

Mr. Fox introduced Carl Heim again who then introduced Matt Stone with HDR Engineers who provided a presentation of the Gaffney/Airport/Richardson/Steese Interchange project.

d. **Wendell Avenue Bridge Replacement-Guest Presentation by Barbara Johnson**

Mr. Fox explained that Barbara Johnson of DOT was unable to attend the meeting, so he provided the information contained in her presentation. Mr. Fox stated that Ms. Johnson had the idea to create public art enhancement for the Wendell Street Bridge in the future to continue the theme that already existed in that area such as the Morris Thompson Center mosaics.

e. **Discussion of Work Groups/Subcommittees**

Mr. Fox stated that DOT was currently looking at incorporating fence near the Immaculate Conception Church north of the Cushman Street Bridge along the roadway that led to Illinois Street. Mr. Fox stated that ultimately it was a City of Fairbanks decision of what moved forward but PEC members were welcomed to make suggestions. Mr. Fox stated that he was looking for members to form a work group to help determine what type of fence panel design would be used. Mr. Fox

asked for volunteers to establish work groups to work on enhancements for the Airport/Cushman Intersection Reconstruction and 5th Avenue Reconstruction projects that were discussed at the meeting. A work group was not formed for the Gaffney/Airport/Richardson/Steese Interchange project.

Ms. Sprinkle suggested assessing the signage that Mr. Inouye brought up and look at what was out there and what was needed.

Mr. Fox stated that they would come up with an inventory of signs they had and present that at the next meeting.

f. Bloomberg Philanthropies “Asphalt Art Initiative 2021” Grant Opportunity

Mr. Fox explained that the meeting packet contained the information for Bloomberg Philanthropies “Asphalt Art Initiative 2021” grant opportunity of \$25,000 to paint artwork on a local roadway. Mr. Fox explained eligible applicants needed to have a partnership with a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Mr. Fox explained that a storm drain art event had been done annually since 2014 by the City of Fairbanks and the Tanana Valley Watershed Association so this would be an expansion of that. Mr. Fox explained that one of the ideas they came up with was having an art project on 5th Avenue that would come up in a year when the road was redone so it would be a good area. Mr. Fox stated that FAST Planning was submitting a grant application with assistance from the City of Fairbanks. Mr. Fox explained that the grant winners would be announced fall 2021 and the application period was open through April 30, 2021.

7. Agenda Setting for July 8, 2021 Meeting

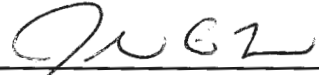
Discussed previously in the agenda.

8. Committee Member Comments

- No member comments.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. (Zinza/Hayden). The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m. The next scheduled Project Enhancement Committee Meeting is Thursday, July 8, 2021.

Approved: 
Jackson Fox, Chair
Project Enhancement Committee

Date: 7/8/2021