



## POLICY BOARD MEETING

### Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021 • 12:00 – 2:30 P.M.

FAST Planning Office, 100 Cushman Street, Suite 205, Fairbanks, AK

Web Conference at: <https://fastplanning.us/keepup/zoom/>

Zoom Meeting Phone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 841 2613 6919

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Representative Organization</b>
*Ryan Anderson, Chair	Director, DOT&PF Northern Region
*Jim Matherly, Vice Chair	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*Bryce Ward	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Michael Welch	Mayor, City of North Pole
*Aaron Gibson	Fairbanks City Council
*Alice Edwards	Director, DEC Air Quality
*Frank Tomaszewski	FNSB Assembly
**Jackson Fox	FAST Planning
**Olivia Lunsford	FAST Planning
**Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
**Randi Bailey	DOT&PF Planning
**Don Galligan	FNSB Community Planning
+Kellen Spillman	FNSB Community Planning
+Steven Hoke	DEC Air Quality
+Judy Chapman	DOT&PF Planning
+Sarah Schacher	DOT&PF
• Carl Heim	DOT&PF
Brian Lindamood	Alaska Railroad Corporation
Phoebe Bredlie	Kinney Engineering
Jeannie Bowie	Kinney Engineering
Andrew Ooms	Kittelson & Associates
Matthew Stone	HDR Engineering
Jewelz Barker	Catalyst Communication

*\*FAST Planning Policy Board Members, \*\* FAST Planning Staff Members, + FAST Planning Technical Committee Members, • Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Members*

### 3. Approval of the May 19, 2021 Agenda

**Motion:** To approve the May 19, 2021 Agenda. (Matherly/Edwards).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**Vote on Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**4. Approval of the April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the April 21 Meeting Minutes. (Matherly/Gibson).

**Discussion:** No 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 noted the following updates:

- Two Project Enhancement Committee Work Group meetings were held to help DOT and the City of Fairbanks decide the final fence panel design for the Cushman Street Bridge project.
- The Scope of Work being defined, and Fee Negotiations were underway with Kittelson & Associates for the MTP Update.
- Mr. Fox transmitted the letter regarding the Chena Riverwalk Project to the Alaska Railroad and are hoping for a response by the end of June.
- We received approval letter from the Governor's Office for the boundary adjustments to include the Chena and Tanana Lakes Recreation Areas.
- Renewed the General Liability, Directors & Officers, and Commercial Auto Insurance policies for FAST Planning.
- Issued a call for volunteers for the Annual Bike & Pedestrian Count on May 25, 26, and 27, 2021.
- Submitted the Asphalt Art Initiative Grant Application for artwork on Lacey Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Bloomberg Philanthropies.
- Received the final revised Non-Motorized Plan from Kittelson & Associates.
- Received the initial draft of the Road/Railroad Crossing Reduction/Realignment Plan from Kinney Engineering for consideration of release for public comment.
- Received confirmation from Representative Young's Office that he had submitted the Cowles Street project to the Transportation Committee as an earmark to the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.
- Mr. Fox prepared Administrative Modification to the TIP and anticipated bringing it forward during the June Technical Committee and Policy Board meetings.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Non-Motorized Plan as presented.
- The Technical Committee recommended approval of the Non-Motorized Plan with two minor revisions that were completed by the Consultant.
- The Technical Committee recommended that the Road/Rail Crossing Reduction/Realignment Plan be approved for release for 30-day public comment period.

**6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)**

No public comment.

**7. Old Business**

**a. Non-Motorized Plan Update (Action Item)**

- ***Review of public comment responses and consideration of adoption of revised Plan***

Mr. Fox explained that the meeting packet included a summary of public comments received with the responses to each comment. Mr. Fox explained

that the Non-Motorized Plan was advertised for public comment from February 19-March 19, 2021.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Motion:** To accept the Non-Motorized Plan as presented (Matherly/Welch).

**Discussion:** Mayor Ward stated that he wondered if the College Road Safety Improvements Project description was potentially too narrow. Mayor Ward explained that he could understand the need to make safety and access improvements to the road and understood the three-lane component of the road. Mayor Ward stated that he was on the Policy Board when they had this discussion and there were concerns about access on College Road.

Mayor Ward commented that he understood the need for safety improvements and wanted to explore those options but not necessarily be tied to the three-lane option and would like to make sure the project description was as broad as possible with done with a robust and transparent public process. Mayor Ward stated that the project was previously contentious and wanted to make sure that did not happen.

Mr. Anderson stated that he supported Mayor Ward's comments and was part of the DOT comments about College Road and they had received letters from legislators regarding that project as well.

**Amendment to the Motion:** To replace the phrase "...with "three vehicle lanes..." with "...to address safety and access management..." in the College Road project description. (Ward/Tomaszewski).

**Discussion:** Mr. Tomaszewski stated that he did not want to hide that if that was going to be the push for that project and certainly would not want people to be aware if that was what they were looking for. Mr. Tomaszewski stated that he thought it was good for them to make it a little broader but would not want to hide that if that was the main intention of this project.

Mayor Ward stated that his intent was to make sure that all options were on the table and we were not limiting ourselves to a three-lane option when the project moved forward through its scoping and planning process.

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Anderson stated that one thing that DOT discussed extensively in this Plan was the maintenance piece and that was something that the DOT would like to continue discussions on. Mr. Anderson stated that they were grateful that in this Plan they were talking about it beforehand, but with their current maintenance budget they did not have funds to do all the maintenance for these projects. Mr. Anderson stated that DOT appreciated the comments on maintenance and wanted to continue discussions and what was possible to address some of the concerns brought up in this Plan.

**Amended Motion:** To accept the Non-Motorized Plan Update as presented and replace the phrase "...with three vehicle lanes..." with "...to address safety and access management..." in the College Road project description.

**Vote on Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

## 8. New Business

### a. Fairbanks Road/Rail Crossing Reduction/Realignment Plan (Action Item)

- **Consideration of Releasing Document for 30-Day Public Comment Period**

Mr. Fox introduced Phoebe Bredlie of Kinney Engineering who provided a presentation of the Fairbanks Road/Rail Crossing Reduction/Realignment Plan for consideration of approval to release the document for a 30-day public comment period.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Motion:** To accept the Fairbanks Road/Rail Crossing Reduction/Realignment Plan as presented and release for public comment. (Matherly/Edwards).

**Discussion:** Mr. Matherly thanked Ms. Bredlie for her presentation and stated that he appreciated the detail of the Plan.

Mayor Welch stated that he concerned and not sure that a 30-day public comment period was adequate for a report of this magnitude that would impact the community for quite some time and would feel more comfortable if that period could be extended to the end of June. Mayor Welch stated that he had an interest and thought a lot of his constituents had an interest and he would make an amendment if it was needed to make that happen. Mayor Welch stated that he would propose a 45-day public comment period.

Mr. Fox stated that extending it an extra two weeks was not a problem and changing the date did not necessarily need a motion.

Mayor Ward stated that this project had been in the works for over three years and there was lots of discussion on what things would look like. Mayor Ward stated that he appreciated work of the team putting together options for them to consider. Mayor Ward stated that he would have loved to dive into a broader holistic review of the realignment plan but thought that looking at what the projects were that they could realistically look at in the next twenty years or so was really a good idea.

**Amendment to the Motion:** To amend the public comment period to 45 days. (Ward/Welch).

**Discussion:** Mayor Ward stated that his intention with the motion was to have at least a 45-day comments period and if it needed to be a little more than that his intention was that the Director worked with the Contractor and determined the review period.

Mr. Anderson stated that 45 days sounded good.

Mayor Welch stated that he thought that would extend it to July 6<sup>th</sup> since July 5<sup>th</sup> was considered a holiday.

Mayor Ward stated that he thought that 45 days was a standard number that they used and if they wanted to go to the end of the week, he was fine with that but thought at least 45 days would be good.

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

**Amended Motion:** To accept the Fairbanks Road/Rail Crossing Reduction/Realignment Plan as presented and release for public comment and amend the comment period to 45 days.

**Vote on Amended Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**b. Gaffney/Airport/Richardson/Steese Intersection Project Update**

Mr. Anderson introduced Carl Heim, Engineering Manager of DOT, and Matthew Stone of HDR Engineering who provided an update for the Gaffney/Airport/Richardson/Steese Intersection Project.

**9. Other Issues**

No other issues.

**10. Informational Items**

**a. Obligations and Offsets**

Mr. Fox explained the obligations and offsets included in the meeting packet.

**11. Policy Board Member Comments**

- Mayor Welch cited a joke by comedian Red Skelton about how he if he were going to come visit us, he would say that we were going to have a really great city when it was finished.
- Mr. Tomaszewski thanked them for all the presentations and thought they were really good and detailed.
- Mayor Matherly commented that it was a really good meeting with lots of great information. Mayor Matherly wanted to let everyone know about the vaccination pods that were happening around town for folks that wanted to get them. Mayor Matherly thanked Mr. Anderson for all his efforts taking all his messages about people complaining about Hamilton Acres and wanted to let them know that the City was looking at a possible stop sign on C Street coming out of Hamilton Acres.
- Mr. Anderson stated that they were definitely paying attention to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Mr. Anderson stated that they were starting to hear about prices going up which could affect prices on things like lumber and concrete for culverts and those types of things, so they were watching it closely.

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn.** (Tomaszewski/Edwards). The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

Approved:   
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Ryan Anderson, Chair  
FAST Planning Policy Board

Date: 6/16/2021