



**Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Web Conference
Meeting Minutes**

May 27, 2021 • 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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

By telephone at: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 895 5855 7880

1. Call to Order

Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

*Nathan Belz, Chair (absent)

*Jesse Coleman

*Donna Gardino

*Carl Heim

*Jim Richardson

*Peter Stern

*John Stowman

*Larry Zervos

** Jackson Fox

**Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair

**Deborah Todd

Don Galligan

Erika VanFlein

**BPAC Representative*

***FAST Planning Staff*

3. Approval of the May 27, 2021 Agenda

Motion: To approve the May 27, 2021 Agenda as presented. (Zervos/Richardson).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the April 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the April 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented.

(Zervos/Richardson).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Staff /Working Group/Chair Reports

Mr. Fox provided the following updates:

- Our counterpart in Anchorage, AMATS BPAC will be looking at our Resolution for Alaska Administrative Code changes to Bike/Pedestrian Safety at their June 21, 2021 meeting and he will make a presentation to them at that meeting.

- The Technical Committee recommended approval of the Non-Motorized Plan Update as presented with two minor revisions that were made and accepted by the Policy Board to expand the maintenance section within the plan to discuss the budgetary issues that the State and local governments were facing and renaming the College Road Complete Streets project to the College Road Safety & Access Improvements project.
- The Technical Committee recommended release of the Road/Rail Plan for public comment.
- The Policy Board made a motion to accept the Non-Motorized Plan as presented with one minor revision to the College Road project description language to provide more flexibility for the project in the future.
- The Policy Board accepted the Road/Rail Plan as presented and approved its release for an extended 45-day public comment period, so the two City Councils were afforded an opportunity to be given presentations of the Plan and provide their comments.

6. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

7. Old Business

a. Fairbanks Road/Rail Plan – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing Improvements

Mr. Fox explained that the Policy Board released the Fairbanks Road/Rail Plan for a 45-day public comment period ending July 9, 2021 and a link to the Plan at: <https://fbxings.com/> was provided. Mr. Fox explained that there was a comment box to receive public input on that site. Mr. Fox explained that each crossing location would be extensively highlighted to the public via social media. Mr. Fox then went over each crossing location and provided information about each one.

b. Annual Intersection Bicycle & Pedestrian Counts

Mr. Fox explained that volunteers counted 26 of the 36 intersections this year. Mr. Fox explained that the count was advertised extensively on social media and an instructional video was created by Ms. Lunsford and posted as well to provide volunteers with information for how to do the counts. Mr. Fox explained that the North Pole intersection locations got counted this year as there were no volunteers for those locations. Mr. Fox and Ms. Lunsford thanked all the volunteers for their participation this year.

c. Mapping of Priority Routes for Non-Motorized Facilities – Status Update

Mr. Fox explained that a work group from the BPAC was selected to put together a map showing priority routes for maintenance of non-motorized facilities. Mr. Fox explained that the goal was to have a product that was similar to the DOT winter maintenance priority map for roads. Mr. Fox explained all the different features and layers of the map.

8. New Business

a. Alaska House Bill No. 87 – An Act Relating to Electric-Assisted Bicycles

Mr. Fox explained that the meeting packet contained House Bill 87 pertaining to E-Bikes that was passed in the House and forwarded on to the Senate for approval. Mr. Fox explained that House Bill 87 defined what an electric bike was and how they were regulated. Mr. Fox stated that an E-bike was not a motorcycle

or motor-driven bicycle and they were defined using three different classifications according to top assisted speed.

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

Mr. Fox introduced Carl Heim of DOT provided an informational presentation about the Gaffney/Airport/Richardson/Steese (GARS) Intersection Project.

c. Cycling Education

Ms. Coleman explained that she had researched articles on cyclist licensing similar to what 16-year-olds did when they were getting their driver license. Ms. Coleman explained that two things emerged: the first was that there was a lot of calling "licensing" "registration" and information about why or why not you should register them; and the second thing she discovered was that there were a lot of bicyclists laws that were enforced heavily but no requirement that the cyclist take a test for acquiring those types of licenses. Ms. Coleman stated that there was a program that provided a Smart Cycling Course and that would accomplish what she was thinking about to entice people with community events and workshops to explain what the traffic laws were and would be best sponsored by the Fairbanks Cycle Club or a similar group.

Mr. Fox stated that there had been an event in 2018 and thought there would be a lot of people excited about that. Mr. Fox explained that they could ask Dr. Belz to provide more details about smart cycling and how to get a workshop.

Ms. Coleman stated that coming up with a good public engagement strategy was something that Ms. Lunsford could do.

Mr. Fox stated that it seemed like if they came up with a smart cycling curriculum to present at schools, he thought that would be something where they could go to the schools and teach the kids about smart cycling, the rules of the road, helmet use, reflective devices and why they were so important that was geared toward the younger riders around town.

Ms. Coleman thought it would be helpful going forward.

Mr. Fox stated that there was a small amount of money in the advertising budget that might be enough to get a few public service announcements on television.

Mr. Fox stated if there was an interest in doing that it might be helpful to use national examples and gear them towards Fairbanks.

d. Pedestrian Crossing Improvements

Mr. Fox inquired what the group wanted in terms of pedestrian crossing improvements.

Mr. Richardson stated that he thought crosswalks should be at the corners and the reason they were not was because it reduced the length of time that people had to cross but the problem was that people did not stop.

Mr. Zervos stated that the crossing on the University/Johansen was dangerous and you had to wait to get a break in traffic and then cross it. Mr. Zervos stated all they had to do was put the signal on the other side of the free righthand turn so vehicles could see them.

Mr. Fox stated that he thought those were things that were best explained by an engineer.

Mr. Heim commented that they had to stop all the cars and you could not stop them at a free left turn and he thought that they might be talking about a rectangular flashing beacon and wondered how they did that on the other side of the pork chop or a free right turn. Mr. Heim stated that it was a good question, and he would check into it for them.

Mr. Zervos stated that maybe having a flashing sign might be helpful.

Mr. Heim agreed and thought those were good ideas.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Committee Member Comments

- Mr. Stern commented that he spent time reading the Waterloo Study and what he came away with was the impression that it did not really pertain very well to what we were trying to do up here and wondered whether there were any other studies they could use with respect to winter maintenance priorities.
- Mr. Fox commented that he found another study that was more applicable to them and would send him the link.
- Ms. Lunsford commented that she biked the Johansen path that was resurfaced last year and thought it was nice.
- Mr. Fox stated that the idea for that started with the BPAC, so they were responsible for getting that built.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. (Stowman/Coleman). The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. The next BPAC meeting is Thursday, June 24, 2021, 5-7 pm with an in-person option.

Approved: _____


Nathan Belz, Chair
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: 06/24/21