



POLICY BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2021 • 12:00 – 2:00 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: 814 4919 6412

1. Call to Order

Mr. Anderson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. For the record, Mayor Matherly, Mayor Ward, and Mayor Welch were absent from the meeting.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee

*Ryan Anderson, Chair

*Jim Matherly, Vice Chair (absent)

*Bryce Ward (absent)

*Michael Welch (absent)

*Aaron Gibson

*Alice Edwards

*Frank Tomaszewski

**Jackson Fox

**Olivia Lunsford

**Deborah Todd

**Don Galligan

+Steven Hoke

+Judy Chapman

+Robert Pristash

Adam Moser

Michael Lukshin

Phoebe Bredlie

Jeanne Bowie

Jewelz Barker

Representative Organization

Director, DOT&PF Northern Region

Mayor, City of Fairbanks

Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough

Mayor, City of North Pole

Fairbanks City Council

Director, DEC Air Quality

FNSB Assembly

FAST Planning

FAST Planning

FAST Planning

FNSB Community Planning

DEC Air Quality

DOT&PF Planning

City of Fairbanks

DOT&PF

FHWA

Kinney Engineering

Kinney Engineering

Catalyst Communications

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

3. Approval of the July 21, 2021 Agenda

Motion: To approve the July 21, 2021 Agenda. (Gibson/Edwards).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the June 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the June 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes. (Edwards/Tomaszewski).

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:

- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Work Group met three times and just finished a draft map of priority routes for winter maintenance on non-motorized facilities throughout the planning area boundary. The map would be an action item for BPAC to pass on to the Seasonal Mobility Task Force in August. The map is a GIS-based online map and looks nearly identical to the DOT priority route map for road maintenance priorities.
- FAST Planning received a letter from the Alaska Railroad Corporation Board in response to the April 2021 letter that FAST Planning sent regarding a long-term land interest for the Chena Riverwalk Project. The letter contained conditional approval for construction of the path on Railroad land contingent upon a lump sum payment and there were also several hurdles to be met for that permit. A copy of the letter will be included in the August meeting packet.
- The 45-day public comment period for the Fairbanks Road/Rail Reduction/Realignment Plan concluded on July 9, 2021. A number of social media posts were created for each of the individual crossing locations during the comment period. Few comments were received, and adoption of the final Plan is proposed for August.
- Received approval letter for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification #4 from DOT&PF Headquarters.
- Olivia Lunsford attended and completed the 2021 ESRI User Conference for GIS and is now in her 4th quarter of the UCLA GIS Certification Program.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee had concerns regarding the overall project cost of elevating the railroad over the College Road, Helmericks Avenue, the Old Steese and the New Steese. For the College Road Pedestrian Crossing Improvements in the Road/Rail Plan the BPAC asked that a full-length crossing arm be considered for installment at that location as opposed to having f two crossing arms at that location.
- The Technical Committee reviewed the motions made by the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and passed a motion related to some additional language documenting the long-term desire to relocate the railroad outside of the urban core of Fairbanks.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee made a motion that recommended that we focused on the worst sections of the Mitchell Expressway and the Phillips Field Road paths rather than the whole path.
- The Technical Committee passed a motion recommending that the Policy Board fund the South Cushman Extension project as a higher priority than the 2nd Avenue Dog Park Access Road project.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comment.

7. Old Business

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

- **Review of public comments received and consideration of Plan revisions**

Mr. Fox introduced Phoebe Bredlie of Kinney Engineering who provided a summary of the public comments received on the Fairbanks Road/Rail Crossing Reduction Realignment Plan during the 45-day public comment period.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To add the terminology “The very long-range plan, particularly if the Alaska Railroad Mainline is extended to Delta Junction and beyond, is to relocate the mainline in line with the Fairbanks North Pole Rail Realignment Project.” [to Section 1.1 of the Road Rail Crossing Reduction/Realignment Plan]. (Tomaszewski/Gibson). None opposed. Approved.

Discussion: Mr. Tomaszewski stated that it seemed to him that keeping all options on the table was better than having fewer options and that is why he made the motion.

Mr. Fox stated that the language would be added to Section 1.1 at the bottom of the second paragraph that captured the language regarding the MOU between the Borough and the Railroad.

Ms. Edwards stated that she was not sure how the addition of the sentence expanded the options that were already on the table, and it seemed that the added language could potentially restrict it more and her concern was how it could affect the planning document in the long term.

Mr. Fox explained that the language at the bottom of the second paragraph was made by a member of the Technical Committee who felt that more specific information needed to be provided beyond what he asked to be added. Mr. Fox stated that he saw it being a potential impact to the reduction of the rail line and could potentially limit the options of the Railroad but did not know whether it would strengthen or hinder the options already in the Plan.

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Fox if there was anywhere else in the Plan that the Railroad extension development was specifically addressed.

Mr. Fox explained that it was not spelled out, but it was best in the front of the Plan since the long-range vision for the rail was the larger project and thought it was appropriate for addition to the introduction if it was added.

Mr. Anderson stated that he saw one advantage and he knew that there had been discussion of about extending the Railroad to the Lower 48. Mr. Anderson stated that in those discussions he did not see how Fairbanks was incorporated into that Plan so it would be good to have it in the Plan.

8. New Business

a. FFY2022 FAST Improvement Program Priorities (Action Item)

- ***Consideration of approval of revised priorities for FFY2022 construction program***

Mr. Fox explained that the action item was to come up with a group of projects to take to construction in FFY2022 using the \$1.1 million set aside for the FAST Improvement Program.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To adopt Proposal C for the FFY2022 FAST Improvement Program. (Gibson/Tomaszewski).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

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

- Mr. Anderson thanked everyone for calling in and making it a quorum and thought that they got some good work done.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn. (Tomaszewski/Edwards). The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

Approved: 

Ryan Anderson, Chair
FAST Planning Policy Board

Date: 8/19/2021