



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2022

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

Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 870-4948-7228

1. Call to Order

Jackson Fox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendee

The following were present:

Name

*Jackson Fox, Chair
*Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair
**Andrew Ackerman
**Bob Pristash
**Bill Butler
**Steven Hoke (absent)
**Kate Dueber
**Judy Chapman
**Sarah Schacher
**Jason McComas-Roe
**Kellen Spillman
**Michelle Denton (absent)
**David Sanches
**Justin Burgess (absent)
**Jakob Theurich
**Lt. Mike Roberts
**RJ Stumpf
*Deborah Todd
*Don Galligan
*Randi Bailey
Ethan Graetz
Jackie Barnwell
Peter Stern

Representing

FAST Planning
FAST Planning
City of Fairbanks Engineering
City of Fairbanks Engineering
City of North Pole
ADEC Air Quality
Alaska Railroad Corporation
DOT&PF Planning
DOT&PF Preconstruction
FNSB Planning Commission
FNSB Community Planning
FNSB Transportation
Fort Wainwright Planning
AES Transportation
UAF
AK State Troopers
Fairbanks International Airport
FAST Planning
FNSB Community Planning
DOT&PF Planning
DOT&PF
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

* FAST PLANNING Staff members

** FAST PLANNING Technical Committee members

3. Approval of the January 5, 2022 Agenda

Motion: To approve the January 5, 2022 Technical Committee Agenda.
(Sanches/Chapman).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the December 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the December 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented.
(Ackerman/Pristash).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

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

Mr. Fox noted the following updates:

- The Policy Board supported the 2022 Safety Performance Measure Targets proposed by the State at their December 2021 meeting.
- The Policy Board authorized the release of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5 for 30-day public review from December 19, 2021 to January 9, 2022. After the public review, it will be brought back for final approval in February.
- The December 30, 2021 Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting was cancelled due to weather.
- The Project Enhancement Committee Meeting will be from Thursday, January 6, 2022 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comments.

7. Old Business

a. FFY19-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5

- ***Open for Public Comment December 19, 2021 to January 21, 2022***

Mr. Fox explained that TIP Amendment #5 was out for public comment and a copy of the amended TIP with a summary of all the changes as well as the notes from the December 9, 2021 Interagency Consultation for Air Quality Conformity Meeting were included in the meeting packet.

8. New Business

a. North Pole Streetlight Standardization Project

- ***Project Update by Ethan Graetz (DOT&PF)***

Mr. Fox introduced Ethan Graetz of DOT&PF who provided a presentation about the North Pole Streetlight Standardization Project.

b. Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation – Construction Increase (Action Item)

- ***Consideration of Approving Increase of \$1,373,783 to Award Low Bid***

Mr. Fox explained that an email was included in the meeting packet from DOT Project Control explaining that the low bid amount received for the Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project came in just over \$5.3M and they had programmed \$4.2M in the TIP. Mr. Fox explained that as we put projects out to bid this year and in future years, they would see increases in bids. Mr. Fox stated that they needed to find a funding source to cover the additional \$1.3M. Mr. Fox explained that his thought was that they would pay for the increase with Advance Construction Funds and raising our Advance Construction amount in 2023 and possibly delaying projects in the TIP from 2023 to 2024. Mr. Fox explained that he and DOT had tried to find other sources of funding to use to cover that amount such as CMAQ funds for the signal interconnect portion of the project.

Ms. Schacher added that it was an unfortunate situation and might be the start of a trend. Ms. Schacher explained that the big things they missed that caused this increase were the bid for installation of polyester bridge deck, removal of the concrete bridge deck, and the highway lighting price escalation. Ms. Schacher explained that she came up with approximately \$114k that qualified for CMAQ funding for the interconnect signal installation that would somewhat alleviate the problem.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve an increase of \$1,373,873 for the Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project to award the low bid using 2023 Advance Construction Funding. (Sanches/Chapman).

Discussion: Mr. Spillman asked Mr. Fox if the motion included having it come back to the Technical Committee for approval of where the funds would come from.

Mr. Fox explained that the motion did not specifically say that, but he would work on finding some options for where the funding would come from TIP Amendment #5.

Mr. Ackerman stated that he would encourage them to revisit this in a month or so and he thought it was likely that FAST Planning would get some additional funds through the Infrastructure Bill and at that time, they could make a more informed decision. Mr. Ackerman stated that the project that was most concerning and did not meet any type of funding budget would be the Chena Riverwalk.

Mr. Ackerman explained that he would be in favor of delaying it because he thought the delay would give them time to better figure out where that project was going.

Mr. Pristash stated that with the North Pole Streetlight Project being so close and the probability of costs going up in the future, he thought it was a good idea to proceed with that. Mr. Pristash stated that they needed to move forward with that since costs were only going to go up. Mr. Pristash stated that the Cushman Street Bridge was an example of that, and he was in support of the motion.

Ms. Schacher commented that she agreed with Mr. Pristash and did not think delaying Minnie Street would be a good idea since it was in the final stages of the environmental document, and she thought they should continue that.

Ms. Schacher stated that she agreed that the Chena Riverwalk Project was an obvious target due to the supply shortages and right-of-way discussions.

Vote on Motion: Ten in favor. One opposed. (McComas-Roe). 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. Technical Committee Member Comments

- Mr. Spillman requested that for the next couple meetings under Informational Items they get updates on the Transportation Bill.
- Ms. Schacher commented that they had Old Richardson Highway should be advertising in the next couple months. Ms. Schacher commented that she also wanted to acknowledge all the hard work and fast response times from Public Works, Maintenance & Operations, Golden Valley Electric, and the first responders during the past week's snow events and wanted to say thank you.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Ackerman/Sanches). The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m. The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

Approved:  Date: 2/2/2022
Jackson Fox, Chair
FAST Planning Technical Committee