



POLICY BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2022 • 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 Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 899-2478-4029

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee	Representative Organization
*Bryce Ward, Chair	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Jim Matherly, Vice Chair	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*Joe Kemp	Acting Director, DOT&PF Northern Region
*Alice Edwards	Director, DEC Air Quality
*Aaron Gibson	Fairbanks City Council
*Michael Welch	Mayor, City of North Pole
*Savannah Fletcher	FNSB Assembly
**Jackson Fox	FAST Planning
**Olivia Lunsford	FAST Planning
**Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
**Randi Bailey	DOT&PF Planning
**Don Galligan	FNSB Community Planning
+Stephen Hoke	DEC Air Quality
+Kellen Spillman	FNSB Community Planning
Ethan Graetz	DOT&PF

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

3. Approval of the January 19, 2022 Agenda

Motion: To approve the January 19, 2022 Agenda. (Fletcher/Welch).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved by consent.

4. Approval of the December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

(Fletcher/Matherly).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved by consent.

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

a. Staff Report and Technical Committee Action Items

- Mr. Fox met with Joe Kemp and Savannah Fletcher, the two new members of the Policy Board, to introduce them to FAST Planning, explain what

FAST Planning did, and what their roles and responsibilities as members would be.

- The FAST Planning annual Tax Return was filed with and accepted by the IRS.
- The annual MPO Dues invoices were submitted to all the participating agencies.
- FAST Planning renewed the System for Award Management (SAM) account that allows them to pursue grant opportunities.
- The 2022 Bikeway Maps updates were completed and being printed. The maps would be distributed as early as February.
- TIP Amendment #5 was released for a 30-day public comment period that went from December 19, 2021 to January 21, 2022. No comments were received to date.
- Mr. Fox attended the Annual Transportation Research Board Meeting in Washington, D.C.
- The Technical Committee recommended approval of a \$1.3M increase for the Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project to award the low bid using Advance Construction (AC) Funds.
- The Project Enhancement Committee nominated production and installation of the Downtown Parking Garage Wayfinding Signs as a project to the FAST Improvement Program.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comment.

7. Old Business

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

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

Mr. Fox explained that the 30-day public comment period for TIP Amendment #5 started December 19, 2021 and ended January 21, 2022. Mr. Fox explained that the primary purpose of this TIP Amendment was to delay construction of the Chena Riverwalk Project from summer 2022 to 2023 to get more time to get through the right-of-way phase of that project. Mr. Fox explained that with the funding opening created by delaying that project, the TIP Amendment proposed to accelerate the construction of Phase I of the North Pole Streetlight Standardization Project from 2023 into summer 2022. Mr. Fox explained that this Amendment also fully funded the recent project increases approved by the Policy Board for additional funding to the Chena River Walk Project right-of-way phase, the Old Richardson Highway Intersection utility phase, and the drainage improvements proposed for the 6th Avenue and Lacey Street intersection constructed under the Norther Region ADA Improvements Project. Mr. Fox explained that no public comments had been received to date. Mr. Fox explained that he would be bringing this TIP back for approval by the Policy Board and would be revising the scope of the North Pole Streetlights Project and there was a construction increase for the Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project, and a project that was slated for 2023 would likely have to be moved forward out one year to 2024 if that increase was approved. Mr. Fox noted he would be providing them options for projects that could be moved out one year at the next meeting. Mr. Fox explained that an Interagency Consultation for Air Quality Conformity Meeting

was held on December 9, 2021 for TIP Amendment #5 and no concerns were raised by the federal agencies that were invited to that meeting.

8. New Business

a. North Pole Streetlight Standardization Project

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

Mayor Ward introduced Ethan Graetz of DOT&PF who provided a presentation and answered questions 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 the bids came back for the Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project and had \$4.2M programmed in the TIP for this project, but the low bid came in at \$5.6M which meant that we were short \$1.3M to award this job to HC Contractors to do the work this summer. Mr. Fox explained that he presented this increase to the Technical Committee, and they recommended that we looked to fund this increase using 2023 money and we would be able to use AC or Advance Construction Funds. Mr. Fox stated that if that was approved, there was a list of projects that could potentially be delayed by one year to cover the cost of the increase. Mr. Fox explained that another option was to delay the final design phase of the Minnie Street Project, but the Technical Committee thought that project should stay on track and felt that the Yankovich Road and Chena River Walk Projects might be better projects to delay from 2023 to 2024 to fully fund the increase.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To increase the construction dollars for the Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project by \$1,373,873 using Advance Construction as the funding source. (Matherly/Welch).

Discussion: Mayor Matherly asked Mr. Fox if he saw problems with taking from future year projects to fund current year projects and if Mr. Fox could elaborate more on his thoughts about that.

Mr. Fox explained that when we borrowed money from a future year it had a ripple effect, so it affected other projects in that year. Mr. Fox explained that if we borrowed money from 2023, he would be looking at projects to move out of that year to 2024. Mr. Fox explained that soon FAST Planning would know what their future funding allocation would be under the new Transportation Infrastructure Bill that put us in a new population category with the MatSu area. Mr. Fox explained that the funds we received would likely be higher than they had been previously so that might take care of it, but he did not have the answer at this time.

Mr. Kemp commented that he thought the thing to remember here was that we were seeing a lot of increases in materials for the projects across the board and that increased funding might just cover what they already had planned on the DOT side and that would reflect in this program as well. Mr. Kemp commented that maybe they would get lucky, and the new projects would not be affected but he would not count on it. Mr. Kemp stated that if it went up a couple million dollars it might just fund what we were originally going to do.

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

- Mayor Matherly thanked everyone for the nice comments and emails he had received about the loss of their Chief of Staff, Mike Meeks. Mayor Matherly explained that it was extremely difficult for them right now. Mayor Matherly explained that Mr. Meeks had worked really hard for the City of Fairbanks and others. Mayor Matherly commented that he was honored to have worked with him for over five years. Mayor Matherly commented that he really missed him, and it was going to be really tough for him to get over this, but he was taking it one day at a time.
- Mayor Welch thanked Northern Region DOT for their hard work during the “snowmageddon” that was really hard on everyone. Mayor Welch commented that he fielded a lot of questions every day and he had worked to explain to his constituents what was happening. Mayor Welch stated that for the City of North Pole, Mr. Bill Butler, Director of City Services and also on the Technical Committee had about five more weeks until he retired so he was working to find a successor and hoped that the person he chose would also be able to fill Mr. Butler’s seat on the Technical Committee.
- Ms. Fletcher commented that she met with Mr. Fox and Ms. Lunsford earlier this month just for a breakdown of what being on the Policy Board entailed. Ms. Fletcher commented that even if they had been on the Board for a while and had not sat down with Jackson or Olivia, she highly encouraged that because it had helped her get much more up to speed and to feel more empowered because they voted on some pretty important things at these meetings.
- Mayor Ward commented that AML (Alaska Municipal League) Session in Juneau was planned for the week of their February Policy Board meeting and Mayors Ward, Matherly, and Welch, would be out of town so they needed to reschedule that meeting.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: No motion was made. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

Approved: 

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FAST Planning Policy Board

Date: 2-23-22