



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2022

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

Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 857-4462-2181

1. Call to Order

Jackson Fox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendee

The following were present:

Name	Representing
*Jackson Fox, Chair	FAST Planning
*Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair	FAST Planning
**Andrew Ackerman	City of Fairbanks Engineering
**Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks Engineering
**Bill Butler	City of North Pole
**Steven Hoke	ADEC Air Quality
**Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation
**Judy Chapman	DOT&PF Planning
**Sarah Schacher	DOT&PF Preconstruction
**Jason McComas-Roe (absent)	FNSB Planning Commission
**Don Galligan for Kellen Spillman	FNSB Community Planning
**Michelle Denton	FNSB Transportation
**David Sanches	Fort Wainwright Planning
**Justin Burgess	AES Transportation
**Jakob Theurich	UAF
**Lt. Mike Roberts	AK State Troopers
**RJ Stumpf	Fairbanks International Airport
*Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
*Randi Bailey	DOT&PF Planning
Jack Barnwell	Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Peter Stern	Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
John Netardus	DOT&PF
Adam Moser	DOT&PF
Andrew Ooms	Kittelson & Associates
Kathryn Wenger	FHWA
Alex Gagne-Hawes	Citizen
* FAST PLANNING Staff members	
** FAST PLANNING Technical Committee members	

3. Approval of the February 2, 2022 Agenda

Motion: To approve the February 2, 2022 Technical Committee Agenda.
(Sanches/Denton).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the January 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the January 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes. (Sanches/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 approved the \$1.3M increase for the Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project using FY2023 funds as the funding source.
- An official "Call for Artists" was issued for the \$25,000 Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Initiative Grant for on the ground murals on 5th Avenue and Lacey Street this summer. The artists were asked to submit their qualifications and examples of past work by 2/15/22.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

Alex Gagne-Hawes, a Fairbanks resident, commented that he was happy to participate again and wrote down some notes so he could talk about things a little quicker. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that first, the stenographer was getting used to him and they were not listening as closely to him. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that he was reading the general minutes noticing a lot of summary and clarification. A lot of explanation of what the person said rather than the specific minutes. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that one point he could make was this; they were literally spending about a dollar a minute to have a coordination office, and could that person do accurate stenography? You know accurate? Like, how much does that cost? It was like a \$50 dollar-an-hour thing. Whatever! Everyone was in agreement, and everyone was in agreement because you're all representing the status quo. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that he did not feel they were representing him or the many people he knew who have problems with that status quo. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that many of us think we're airing concerns when we participate in these plans and these meetings, and it just seems to wash away and you say, "Well we'll delay this plan for 20 years to build a riverwalk." Whatever! We'll delay it! Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that he noticed the State Troopers were already voting. No abstentions on your first meeting or whatever. Welcome to the Committee, but you're part of the status quo sir. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that he did not know that the State Troopers really had a votable interest in the spending of the money. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that he thought they were supposed to be like public safety liaisons. Why are you spending priorities? Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated it starts to come around to that sense of King George and the Declaration of Independence. You take the people's land and make it the King's land, and these roads and things like that, they seem to be the King's Land. They're not accessible to the people anymore. For example, this asphalt art. A blight on the environment. I thought you all didn't like graffiti. I thought you didn't like worn and fading paint. But I guess if somebody gives you some money, we'll paint it up and what an ugly thing to do to the streets downtown. But I'll probably try and get it. You know. It's not like they're paying artists anywhere else. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that his final point was, the Railroad is a cancer in Fairbanks right now. You guys block all our egress. Your squat in the middle. What private organization could survive with this terrible egress, this terrible community relations, just right there in the middle of everything? Every road has to go around the Railroad right now. How long is that going to be subsidized by the status quo? We can't even walk along the river. Thank you. That's what I had to say today.

7. Old Business

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

- ***Consideration of Options for Funding Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Increase, and Recommendation to Policy Board for Adoption of TIP Amendment #5***

Mr. Fox stated that TIP Amendment #5 went out for 30-day public comment. Mr. Fox explained that he had created four funding options for the Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project increase to keep the TIP fiscally constrained.

Public Comment: Alex Gagne-Hawes commented that, from his perspective, Yankovich Road seemed like it was a real easy target here. He commented that he was looking at it on the map and it was basically a dead end road to the Large Animal Research Center. Mr. Gagne-Hawes asked if it was just those high (inaudible) people in the hills who wanted to get some return on their investment? He added: Well, who cares about them? They're the easiest ones to kick down the road, and he just did not see any Yankovich justification. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that it was sort of funny to him that North Pole was leading the pull that it's such a great project. Mr. Gagne-Hawes added that you could just delay, delay, delay and never actually build anything. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that was always an option too because it turns out there's no penalty for it. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that he would encourage them to build things that they had actually promised to build for 20 decades or more. Mr. Gagne-Hawes concluded that would be a good place to start.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to support Option A, delaying construction of the Chena Riverwalk for one year from FFY23 to FFY24. (Chapman/Ackerman).

Discussion: Mr. Sanches stated that the Chena Riverwalk Project had already been delayed until 2023 and asked how long that project had been on the books.

Mr. Fox explained that he did not know but Ms. Schacher, Ms. Chapman, or Mr. Pristash would be able to answer that question more accurately.

Ms. Schacher explained that the Chena Riverwalk project had been discussed since the early 80's and had only been a FAST-funded project since 2017.

Mr. Pristash explained that in support of delaying the Chena Riverwalk Project one more year, there was still a lot of work that needed to be done with the elevated structure portion across the floodplain. Mr. Pristash stated that, again, they were talking about delaying the construction of it. Mr. Pristash stated that other options were like Option D, where they were delaying the design portion and that had a snowball effect because they had to drop the design and pick it back up again. Mr. Pristash added that here, with the Chena Riverwalk project, they needed the time to finish the design and focus on the elevated walkway. Mr. Pristash stated that he supported delaying the project for one year and thought it was the best option.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to adopt TIP Amendment #5, as amended with the Chena Riverwalk project from FFY23 to FFY24 and change in

scope language for the North Pole Streetlights Standardization project. (Denton/Chapman).

Discussion: Mr. Pristash asked Mr. Fox to provide more information about the North Pole Streetlight portion of the change in the TIP.

Mr. Fox stated there was a change in scope to the North Pole Streetlight Standardization Project. Mr. Fox explained that both the Technical Committee and Policy Board received a presentation by Ethan Graetz of DOT during their January meetings which provided an update on the latest cost estimate for this project as a whole. Mr. Fox stated that included four neighborhood areas within North Pole city limits, the four areas of the City core, Highway Park Subdivision, Ford Subdivision, and Morning Star Subdivision. Mr. Fox stated based on the latest cost estimates, they only had enough funding to construct Phase I of this project this summer which would be the City core. Mr. Fox explained that he wanted to clarify that what would be built this summer would only be Phase I of that project which was the City core.

Ms. Schacher commented that this would change again, and they were still waiting on information from the new Infrastructure Bill. Ms. Schacher explained that the decision they made at this meeting was subject to change because they were making the best decision with the information currently available.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

8. New Business

- a. **2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update (Action Item)**
- ***Consideration of Approving Draft Goals & Objectives for 2045 MTP Update and Notification of Open House #1 for Public Input on the Plan***

Mr. Fox explained the meeting packet contained the highlighted revisions to the updated Goals and Objectives in the 2045 MTP. Mr. Fox noted that Virtual Open House #1 was live, and a link was provided to that event on the front of the Agenda. Mr. Fox stated that they were accepting input on the transportation network during the event. Mr. Fox explained that there was a short survey and interactive map for identifying transportation issues and needs in the community.

Public Comment: Alex Gagne-Hawes commented that this would be his last public comment for the meeting because he had to go away soon.

Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that, in general, you know, he kind of liked the Kittelson materials. How it was always nice and clean and there was not a lot of typographical errors, and clearly someone's thought about it. Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that in terms of realizable construction, he didn't know. Was he going to focus his energy on it here? It doesn't seem very necessary. It seems as if the energy focused there would be wasted energy that could be spent yelling at a Policy Board, which is the only way to really, you know like, be actionable.

Mr. Gagne-Hawes stated that he probably wrote 20-30 comments or more on the last Transportation Plan and he saw a spreadsheet at one of these meetings and every single one of them had "no action taken" next to it, "comment received," "no action taken." And to spend hours like that is it seemed like (inaudible) perhaps - it seems pointless, it seems useless. Mr. Gagne-Hawes noted that one final point, would be that he did support his fellow workers in China who are currently driving up the cost of finished goods and making those free federal dollars not spend as

far as they used to. Long-time lovers of FAST Planning remember how he had been saying “free federal dollars aren’t going to last forever” for the longest time, and he was starting to be right. Inflation, call it what you will. The fact is that they can’t put a gun to people’s heads in China and make them make streetlights for pennies per. So that’s great. He supports the Chinese people. But it’s going to make our current status quo really different because you don’t have the free federal money backing up all this elaborate hoo-hah. Thank you.

Motion: To support the revised Goals and objectives for the 2045 MTP Update. (Denton/Sanches).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved

b. Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update (Action Item)

• Consideration of Releasing Draft PPP Update for a 45-Day Public Comment Period

Mr. Fox explained that Ms. Lunsford drafted a complete rewrite of the Public Participation Plan to document the public process including new techniques that were instituted during the pandemic.

Ms. Lunsford explained the different elements included in the revised PPP in terms of public outreach. Ms. Lunsford explained the increased use of various media. Ms. Lunsford also noted that in the values, goals, and objectives she had listed strategies for getting the public better involved in the entire process.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to release the Draft Public Participation Plan for a 45-day public comment period. (Denton/Ackerman)

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. Proposed Revision of FAST Planning Fiscal Policy (Action Item)

• Consideration of Adding Language to Fiscal Policy Regarding Use of Designated and Undesignated Fund Balances in FAST Planning’s Bank Account

Mr. Fox explained this item was to consider adding language in the FAST Planning Fiscal Policy for how to use designated and undesignated funds. Mr. Fox explained that currently there was \$169,000 in undesignated funds which was local contributions to FAST Planning that had been saved over time. Mr. Fox explained that we hired a CPA to audit the financial records each year and after discussion with the accountant and Policy Board, it was determined that they should create a written policy for use of the undesignated funds. Mr. Fox explained that the policy stated that the minimum fund balance should not go below 20% or \$100,000. Mr. Fox explained some ideas for the proposed uses of the undesignated funds included: annual payment of match commitments for our Federal planning funds, net asset reserve when expenses exceeded revenue, charitable donations to other nonprofits in town including educational institutions, grant writing services, and attorney consultation fees for the MPO.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to revise FAST Planning's Fiscal Policy as outlined on pages 68 and 69 in the packet. (Chapman/Sanches).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

d. **FAST Planning FFY2022 Office Budget Amendment (Action Item)**

• **Consideration of Authorizing An Appropriation of Undesignated Funds**

Mr. Fox explained that there was currently an Undesignated Fund balance in excess of about \$70K. Mr. Fox explained that Page 71 of the meeting packet contained a list of proposed uses for those excess funds. Mr. Fox explained that this gave them flexibility to use those undesignated funds when the need arose.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve the FFY2022 Office Budget Amendment. (Chapman/Sanches).

Discussion: Ms. Chapman state that she supported this motion. Ms. Chapman added that she thought it was really prudent for Mr. Fox to have thought this through and be presenting this to them now with the discretionary grants that were going to be coming out. Ms. Chapman commented that they did not know what the policies, guidance, and eligibility requirements were right now but being prepared was the name of the game. Ms. Chapman stated that having some funds set aside for a Grants Writer to obtain some of the grants in the new Infrastructure Bill or for any grants they decided to pursue was really a good idea. Ms. Chapman stated that she would like to give Mr. Fox the flexibility to do that, and really supported this motion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. **Other Issues**

No other issues.

10. **Informational Items**

a. **Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Update**

Mr. Fox updated the Technical Committee on information he received about the new Infrastructure Bill. Mr. Fox noted that there was a web link that contained fact sheets for each bill funding category that explained the eligibility requirements.

b. **Obligations and Offsets**


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

11. **Technical Committee Member Comments**

- Mr. Galligan commented that it had been a real joy sitting in for Mr. Spillman. Mr. Galligan commented that Mr. Spillman regretted not being able to attend but wanted to let everyone to know that this was the first Technical Committee Meeting he had missed in ten years. Mr. Galligan commented that Mr. Spillman regretted not be able to be here but was in Maui so sent his regrets.
- Mr. Sanches commented that he thought the next Technical Committee Meeting should be in Maui.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Sanches/Chapman). The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m. The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Approved:  Date: 3/2/2022
Jackson Fox, Chair
FAST Planning Technical Committee