



POLICY BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2021 • 12:00 – 3:00 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: 850-7753-4607

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:02 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 (absent)	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
+Stephen Hoke	DEC Air Quality
+Robert Pristash	City of Fairbanks
Andrew Ooms	Kittelson & Associates
Geoff Gibson	Kittelson & Associates
Kathryn Wenger	FHWA
Adam Moser	DOT&PF
John Netardus	DOT&PF
Ethan Graetz	DOT&PF
Alex Gagne-Hawes	Citizen

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

3. Approval of the December 15, 2021 Agenda

Motion: To approve the December 15, 2021 Agenda. (Edwards/Matherly).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the November 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the November 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes.
(Matherly/Edwards).

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 is actively participating in work sessions with Borough staff for the vision, goals, and strategies of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Roads Plan.
- Mr. Fox has attending listening sessions on the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) and participated in a review with the Alaska Outdoor Alliance related to Non-Motorized Transportation and created a summary from the MPO perspective of the IIJA Act that will be presented later in the agenda.
- Mr. Fox sent copies of the letter that the Policy Board approved to law enforcement agencies regarding motorized transportation on non-motorized paths.
- Alliance CPAs completed the annual Independent Audit and Tax Return which will be presented for Policy Board approval in the agenda.
- Prepared TIP Amendment #5 that will be released for 30-day public comment after approval by the Policy Board in the Agenda.
- Olivia Lunsford officially graduated from UCLA GIS Certification Program.
- The Indirect Cost Rate (IDCR) for FFY22 changed to 143% for FFY22 from the previous rate of 136% in FFY21.
- The BPAC nominated a new section of path that was failing along Davis Road from the parking lot of the soccer fields to Lathrop Street to the FAST Improvement Program at their November 18, 2021 meeting.
- The Technical Committee unanimously recommended support of the State 2022 Safety Performance Targets that are listed as an action item under Agenda Item 8.h.
- The Technical Committee unanimously recommended release of TIP Amendment #5 for 30-day public review and comment at their December 1, 2021 meeting which will be voted on by the Policy Board under Agenda Item 8.g.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

Alex Gagne-Hawes thanked them for having the opportunity to speak on the transfer options of Fairbanks. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that if they were doing bridge landings in downtown, the Downtown Performing Arts space could use help. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that they were already going over this with Pioneer Park and they needed performing art spaces. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that currently the band shell and all that in Golden Heart Park was not delivering. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that it was hard to even turn off the fountain for the show and then you needed chairs, so there were always options to improve the performing arts spaces through the transfer work.

Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that he was glad to see an audit occurring.

Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that he felt like there were honest, great people at FAST Planning and he was glad to have them representing his City, but he was sort of tired of the City and Borough exporting all the work because they were honest over at FAST, so let's kick it over to them. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that he felt like the City and Borough had not internally fulfilled their responsibilities and that was why they had paths and sidewalks failing daily.

Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that it was not enough to just kick it over to FAST Planning and they had to take responsibility for it themselves. Mr. Gagne-Hawes

commented that his street had still not been plowed yet and here they were in the middle of December. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that they could not maintain the infrastructure they had, so they needed to focus on building a city for the people that actually lived in it.

7. Old Business

No old business.

8. New Business

a. Annual Audit-Independent Auditor's Report to Policy Board

Mr. Fox introduced Laurie Gieck with Alliance CPAs to present and explain the annual financial audit report prepared for FAST Planning for FFY21.

b. Annual Tax Return (IRS Form 990) Review (Action Item)

• **Review of Tax Return and Authorization to File with IRS**

Mr. Fox introduced Laurie Gieck to provide an overview of the annual Tax Return that needed approval by the Policy Board to file with the IRS by February 15, 2022.

Public Comment: Alex Gagne-Hawes commented that the \$8K owed from the City of Fairbanks was still on the books and they might just have to let that one go, since it was only \$8K and not much to you guys. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that back in 2012, there was that Mitt Romney lie that "corporations were people my friend" and he was thinking about that when he learned that this non-profit corporation was funded by people, including the State of Alaska Department of Transportation to the tune of \$500K. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that he was glad that they were reporting on this and it seemed like the system was functioning with great accountability but that seemed kind of dystopian to him to have this charitable organization that was actually funded by government people.

Motion: To authorize the filing of the annual Tax Return to the IRS. (Edwards/Matherly).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved,

c. FAST Planning Office Annual Dues Starting January 1, 2022

Mr. Fox explained that a summary was included in their meeting packet of the annual dues that would be collected from members starting January 1, 2022 and included the amount due from each organization for their information.

d. FAST Planning Bylaws Article XI, Conflict of Interest – Annual Statements

Mr. Fox explained that the meeting packet included an article from the Bylaws on conflicts of interest statements that each Policy Board member was required to sign annually.

e. Committee Seat Vacancies

Mr. Fox explained that the meeting packet included a roster of all the vacancies on all the committees of FAST Planning. Mr. Fox announced that RJ Stumpf, Fairbanks International Airport and Lt. Mike Roberts with the Alaska State Troopers for the Public Safety Representative would now be serving on the Technical Committee which left only one vacant seat for a Tribal Representative. Mr. Fox explained that the BPAC had two vacancies and the Project Enhancement Committee had two vacant seats for North Pole

representatives and one vacant seat for a Fairbanks North Star Borough representative. Mr. Fox explained that he would email the letters of interest from people who were interested in filling those seats. Mr. Fox explained that they were also trying to get someone from Access Alaska to fill one of those vacant seats.

f. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

- ***Kick-off for MTP Update, Including Presentation of Project Scope, Schedule, and Board's Role, and Review of Visions, Goals, & Objectives***

Mr. Fox introduced Andrew Ooms and Geoff Gibson with Kittelson & Associates to explain the MTP Update that would go over existing and adjusted Vision, Goals, Objectives, and the timelines for completion and adoption which was slated for December 2022.

g. 2022 Safety Performance Measure Targets (Action Item)

- ***Consideration of Supporting 2022 Safety Targets Adopted by DOT&PF***

Mr. Fox explained that FAST Planning received an email that DOT had adopted their 2022 Safety Performance Measure Targets and FAST Planning could choose to adopt the State targets or set their own. Mr. Fox explained that the targets were Statewide targets and not specific to our MPO. Mr. Fox explained that if the State set targets that were not met, there were penalties to the State but not to the MPOs if they supported those targets. Mr. Fox explained that the Technical Committee had recommended that the Policy Board support the State targets.

Public Comment: Alex Gagne-Hawes commented that even if we were safer than Anchorage, we should still have some internal effort to document where crashes were occurring and reduce that. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that even if institutionally it was safer to go with the State standards that were above and beyond what we would ever do, he thought that there was a lot more data that should be gathered and it seemed like they should have that data already. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that the problem with that overall was that crashes were a very end stage of system failure. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that if a guy driving a pickup truck yelled at him on the side of the road, that probably would not get into the crash data, but it made him feel unsafe when he used that road. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that it was hostile architecture and if a road was so ugly that no one used it did not mean it was safer, it was just inhospitable.

Motion: To support the 2022 Safety Performance Measure [Targets] proposed by the State. (Matherly/Edwards).

Discussion: Ms. Edwards asked what type of data was collected by the State. Mr. Kemp explained that they had crash data. Mr. Kemp explained that when they designed roads, they knew how many crashes had occurred in the past ten years or so in that area. Mr. Kemp explained that they typically kept all that data, so they knew how to redesign the road if there was an issue.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

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

• **Consideration of Releasing TIP Amendment #5 for 30-day Public Comment Period**

Mr. Fox explained that the primary purpose TIP Amendment #5 was to delay the construction of the Chena River Walk Project for one year to allow more time for the DOT and City to negotiate the right-of-way issues with the Railroad. Mr. Fox explained that gave them an opportunity to accelerate a project and they had selected the North Pole Street Lights Standardization Project for construction in 2022. Mr. Fox then provided a page by page explanation for each of the revisions that were made in TIP Amendment #5.

Public Comment: Alex Gagne-Hawes commented that he was not super enthusiastic about the overall motion for the Riverwalk even though we were not totally giving up on the riverwalk, but it sounded like a bounce back and felt like we were always the junior partner when we were advocating for a community riverwalk and then you turned around and emphasized when it was a road project projects, so how could we emphasize the peaceful. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that the streetlight discussion was still going on and he guessed there was a safety component to it in several neighborhoods, but he was just not buying that we needed to replace all the streetlights. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that they wanted everything to look the same, but they did not want to pay the price for it. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that you could call it inflation, but things were changing. Mr. Gagne-Hawes commented that as we moved forward, did we really want to have this cookie cutter look.

Motion: To release TIP Amendment #5 for a 30-day public comment period. (Edwards/Welch).

Discussion: Mr. Matherly commented that he appreciated the update.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Informational Items

a. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Overview

Mr. Fox explained that he had created a six-page summary from an MPO perspective of the apportionments that were provided in the IIJA for their information. Mr. Fox noted that there was an overall 41 percent increase in funding to the State.

b. Obligations and Offsets

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

11. Policy Board Member Comments

- Mayor Matherly wished everyone a very Merry Christmas. Mayor Matherly commented that it was really important that we thought about folks less fortunate than ourselves. Mayor Matherly commented that they had heard a lot of talk at the City about homelessness and had a Homeless Coordinator and they were trying to coordinate to take in more people. Mayor Matherly commented that he just wanted to remind folks that if they saw anyone in distress on the road or sidewalks, they should call 911 and

they would pick them up. Mayor Matherly explained to Mr. Gagne-Hawes that the City of Fairbanks had updated their snow removal list and his area would be plowed December 20 and 22. Mayor Matherly commented that he hoped everyone had a great Christmas and a very Happy Holiday.

- Ms. Fletcher thanked everyone and stated that it was her first meeting, so she was just listening and taking it in. Ms. Fletcher commented that she appreciated the thorough presentations and information from Mr. Fox and was excited to work with all of them.
- Mayor Ward wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas. Mayor Ward commented that hoped everyone stayed warm and safe out there. Mayor Ward thanked them all for a very productive year and would see everyone in 2022.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (no motion was made). The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

Approved: 

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FAST Planning Policy Board

Date: 1-20-22