



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2022

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

Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 891-8859-4046

1. Call to Order

Jackson Fox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendee

The following were present:

Name

*Jackson Fox, Chair
*Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair
**Andrew Ackerman
**Bob Pristash
**Steven Hoke
**Kate Dueber
**Judy Chapman
**Sarah Schacher
**Kellen Spillman
**Michelle Denton
**David Sanches
**Alan Hoza for Justin Burgess
**Jakob Theurich
**Lt. Mike Roberts (absent)
**RJ Stumpf
*Deborah Todd
*Randi Bailey
Don Galligan
Peter Stern
John Netardus
Ivet Hall
Pamela Golden
Kathryn Wenger
Michael Lukshin
Brett Johnson

Representing

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

* FAST PLANNING Staff members

** FAST PLANNING Technical Committee members

3. Approval of the March 2, 2022 Agenda

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

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the February 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the February 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented.
(Denton/Sanches).

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 unanimously passed five motions:
 - Approved TIP Amendment #5 utilizing Option A to delay the Chena River Walk Project construction funding from FFY23 to FFY24 to pay for Cushman Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project.
 - Approved MTP Goals & Objectives.
 - Authorized release of the Draft Public Participation Plan for 45-day public review and comment period.
 - Approved the revision to FAST Planning Fiscal Policy related to designated versus undesignated funds.
 - Approved FAST Planning Office Budget Amendment.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comment.

7. Old Business

a. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

Mr. Fox noted that the Virtual Open House Event for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update was open February 1-22, 2022. Mr. Fox explained that data was gathered from a short survey and interactive map as well as a comment box on the website. Mr. Fox explained that the public comments would be summarized by the Consultant who is currently working on a Existing Conditions Report which will be presented to Technical Committee in April.

b. Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update

Mr. Fox explained that the 45-day public comment period for the Draft Public Participation Plan Update (PPP) was advertised from February 27 to April 15, 2022. The PPP was advertised in the newspaper, on social media, flyers were at various locations, and posted on the FAST Planning website. To date, only a few comments have been received.

8. New Business

a. Minnie Street Upgrade – Project Update

• **Presentation by City of Fairbanks**

Mr. Fox introduced Bob Pristash and Andrew Ackerman with the City of Fairbanks to provide a presentation about the Minnie Street Upgrade project.

b. Chena Pump Road/Chena Small Tracts Intersection Roundabout

• **Presentation by Alaska DOT&PF**

Mr. Fox introduced Sarah Schacher and Pam Golden of DOT&PF who provided a presentation and answered questions about the Chena Pump Road/Chena Small Tracts Intersection Roundabout. The project is located at the intersection of Chena Pump, Chena Small Tracts, and Old Chena Ridge Road. The project is slated for construction in 2025. Further information is available on the website:

<https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/smalltracts>.

c. Resolution of Support for Development of a Trail Connecting Birch Hill Recreation Area to Creamer's Field Trail System (Action Item)

Mr. Fox explained that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was proposing to build a Visitor Center at the northwest corner of the intersection of the Steese Highway and Johansen Expressway. Mr. Fox explained that at that location, DOT planned a major reconstruction with an interchange. Mr. Fox explained that residents have expressed interest in development of a new trail connecting the Creamer's Field Trail System to the Birch Hill Recreation Area. Mr. Fox explained that a Resolution of Support was passed by the Borough Assembly in October 2021. Mr. Fox explained that Mayor Ward had requested that a similar Resolution of Support be drafted by FAST Planning, the City of Fairbanks, and the City of North Pole. Mr. Fox stated that he drafted a Resolution for approval by the Technical Committee and Policy Board. Mr. Fox explained the proposed trail plan had a possible future connection to Ft. Wainwright.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve the Resolution of Support for development of a trail connecting Birch Hill Recreation Area to Creamer's Field trail system. (Schacher/Pristash).

Discussion: Ms. Schacher stated that DOT was well aware of the trail groups desire fell right in the middle of their plan at the Steese and Johansen.

Ms. Schacher stated that they were coordinating with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding that proposed trail connection.

Mr. Ackerman asked Mr. Fox if there was any analysis in the Non-Motorized Plan that looked at the expansion of trail networks.

Mr. Fox explained that the simple answer to that was "no." Mr. Fox stated that previously recreational trails were not eligible for planning or project funding but with the new Transportation Infrastructure Bill it was an eligible activity. Asphalt paths primarily to get people to and from specific destinations. Mr. Fox stated that in the Non-Motorized Plan there is a project that was discussed connecting Farmers Loop Extension over to Birch Hill that begins at TRAX providing a safe connection for non-motorized users. Mr. Fox stated that he thought there was a lot of discussion that needed to occur about the best location for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross at that intersection and there were a lot of details still to be hashed out.

Mr. Ackerman stated that his main concern was that it was not inconsistent with some of the plans that had been made for connecting the paved pathway.

Mr. Fox explained that this proposed trail connection was consistent with our Non-Motorized Plan. Mr. Fox stated that knew that the trail group applied for American Rescue Plan funds the Borough had received. Mr. Fox explained that the project had not been nominated to FAST Planning for funding at this time, so the funding details were still to be determined.

Mr. Pristash explained that about three months ago, a group came to describe the project to the City Council. Mr. Pristash explained that he thought the City of Fairbanks was for it, he did not see anything wrong with it, and he was glad it was moving forward.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Informational Items

a. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Update

Mr. Fox provided an update on the IIJA funding available to Alaska.

b. Obligations and Offsets

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

11. Technical Committee Member Comments

- Mr. Hoza noted that on a couple projects, particularly on the Minnie Street and Chena Pump Roundabout project, the City and State DOT communication and outreach to the community, specifically the affected landowners, was worthy of comment. Mr. Hoza thought that outreach was really important. Mr. Hoza stated that he knew there were a lot of folks out there that did not understand about some of these things that were going on. Mr. Hoza explained the 397 comments was pretty amazing outreach and response. Mr. Hoza stated that there had been a lot of that in projects as of late. Mr. Hoza stated that he thought everybody was doing a really good job of trying to reach out and thought that was going to be huge. Mr. Hoza stated that on the other side of that, they were helping people understand what they were trying to accomplish and how it was really going to affect them.
- Ms. Chapman commented that it was going to be a fairly busy year for DOT with the IIJA. Ms. Chapman stated that they also had a project nomination period coming up. Ms. Chapman stated that they were going to be working on a new STIP for the next four years that hopefully would get kicked off later this summer. Ms. Chapman stated that they would be doing some public meetings and working with local communities on questions on the STIP process and also some of the programs coming out of the IIJA. Ms. Chapman stated that they were going to have a CTP Call for Projects toward the end of the year that would be paired with a TAP call, so she just wanted to put that in their brains that there was going to be several funding opportunities out there.
- Mr. Sanches wanted to let everyone know that there was a major exercise that kicked off on March 1 at Ft. Greely in the DTA (Donnelly Training Area) that would go through the whole month.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Sanches/Ackerman). The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

Approved: 

Jackson Fox, Chair
FAST Planning Technical Committee

Date: 4/6/2022