



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2022

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

Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 825-7088-5594

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 (absent)
** Andrew Ackerman
** Kevin McKinley
** Tim Zinza for Bob Pristash
** Steven Hoke
** Kate Dueber
** Randi Bailey for Judy Chapman
** John Netardus for Sarah Schacher
** Kellen Spillman
** Michelle Denton
** John Weinberger
** Justin Burgess
** Lt. Mike Roberts (absent)
** Jakob Theurich
** RJ Stumpf
* Deborah Todd
Don Galligan
Michael Lukshin
Kathryn Wenger
Jack Barnwell
Adam Moser
Peter Stern
Audrey Alstrom

Representing

FAST Planning
FAST Planning
City of Fairbanks Engineering
FNSB Borough Planning Commission
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
Alaska State Troopers
UAF
Fairbanks International Airport
FAST Planning
FNSB Community Planning
FHWA
FHWA
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
DOT&PF
BPAC
Alaska Energy Authority

* FAST PLANNING Staff members

** FAST PLANNING Technical Committee members

3. Approval of the May 4, 2022 Agenda

Motion: To approve the May 4, 2022 Technical Committee Agenda. (Ackerman/Hoke).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the April 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the April 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. (Hoke/Denton)

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 accepted the Technical Committee recommendation to redirect the letter regarding the Kinross Trucking plan traffic study to the DOT Advisory Committee for the larger corridor study. A copy of the final letter is included in the packet.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) has put the 26 non-motorized projects into priority order as shown on page 25 of the meeting packet.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comment.

7. Old Business

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

- **Consideration of Adopting Updated PPP**
- **Website:** <https://fastplanning.us/docs/plans/>

Mr. Fox explained that Ms. Lunsford drafted a new Public Participation Plan (PPP) earlier this year and the document was released by the Policy Board for a 45-day public comment period which ran from February 27 to April 18, 2022. Seven comments were received. Mr. Fox explained that revisions were made to the draft document to incorporate those comments. Mr. Fox explained that the final PPP was included in the meeting packet for recommendation of approval by the Technical Committee.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve the [Public Participation] Plan. (Bailey/McKinley).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Scoring Criteria & Nomination Form (Action Item)

- **Consideration of Adopting Revisions to Project Scoring Criteria & Nomination Forms for FFY23-27 TIP**

Mr. Fox explained that through development of the new TIP, which is the short-range funding plan for the next four years, we were receiving additional funding and new funding categories to incorporate into the document. Mr. Fox proposed that we have two separate calls for project nominations. Mr. Fox stated that this summer, likely toward the end of June, we would issue a call for project nominations from local government agencies and the public for the Surface Transportation Program funds, flexible CMAQ funds, and the Transportation Alternative Program funds. Mr. Fox explained that in the fall or early winter, FAST Planning would issue a call for transportation project nominations that would improve the air quality in our area such as Carbon Reduction funds for our area and the CMAQ funds dedicated to the PM^{2.5} non-attainment area. Mr. Fox explained that a work session was held with Technical Committee members on April 21, 2022 to go over the new project eligibility requirements for the different funding opportunities and update the scoring criteria accordingly.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve the TIP Project Scoring Criteria as presented. (Spillman/Denton).

Discussion: Mr. Spillman stated that he was on the subcommittee that looked at this. Mr. Spillman stated that he thought that all the changes were good. Mr. Spillman stated that he thought they made some nice tweaks to the old criteria. Mr. Spillman stated that he was happy with how all this turned out. Mr. Spillman stated that he was going to support it. Mr. Spillman stated that it may not be perfect in anticipating all project types, but he really liked the direction they were moving in, particularly with the different scoring criteria between motorized and non-motorized projects.

Mr. Ackerman stated that he was also in support of the changes that were made and appreciated the opportunity to work on this. Mr. Ackerman stated that one thing they talked about, and he knows that it takes time and data, because they are constantly changing, but any time they can get consistency in the data sets for crashes etc., the better. Mr. Ackerman stated that they were not going to get all the data, but the more the better and he thought we were moving in the right direction.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

8. New Business

a. Yankovich/Miller Hill Road Reconstruction – Right-of-Way Increase (Action Item)

• *Consideration of Authorizing an Increase of \$150,000*

Mr. Fox explained that he received an email from Sarah Schacher of DOT requesting a \$150K increase to the funding for the Right-of-Way phase for the Yankovich/Miller Hill Road Reconstruction project. Mr. Fox explained that the additional funds are needed for temporary construction permits for driveways that were not anticipated and complex title issues for property that needs to be acquired requiring more right-of-way agent time to work through those issues. Mr. Fox explained that as he understood it, the engineering budget for the Right-of-Way phase was already over budget. Mr. Fox explained that they were previously allocated \$123,500 to complete this work but those funds have been expended. Mr. Fox explained that some property owners that had right-of-way being acquired requested field surveys to mark out the extent of the ground that would be taken for this project so they could better visualize what the impacts would be to their property. Mr. Fox added that the appraisals and title report costs were higher than what they had originally estimated for this phase. Mr. Fox stated that there was a combination of offset funds as well as funds in the TIP for projects that had gone out to bid which amounted to over \$400K which meant that there was sufficient funding for FAST Planning to cover that increase.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To approve \$150,000 for the Right-of-Way Phase of the Yankovich/Miller Hill Road Reconstruction project. (Netardus/Zinza).

Discussion: Mr. Spillman stated that he had been working on this project with DOT since 2010. Mr. Spillman stated that he would say that this project, or the combination of these two projects, is one of the most needed in our community. Mr. Spillman stated that if you have ever been out on Yankovich and Miller Hill Road you know the extent of the situation out there. Mr. Spillman stated that it is

very narrow with huge vertical curves. Mr. Spillman stated that he had attended a number of community open houses on this, and he cannot think of more people that had ever gotten together in this community to provide input on this. Mr. Spillman stated that we as the Technical Committee, very seldom do we get a chance to actually approve these increases, but he thought this is one we need to take seriously. Mr. Spillman stated that he was going to vote to approve this because he thought we need to do everything we could to get this project to construction.

Mr. Ackerman stated that he would abstain because of a conflict of interest. Mr. Ackerman commented that he also had attended the workshops early on in this process. Mr. Ackerman stated that he would say that there could have been the ability to anticipate some of these additional costs early-on, but this is a very complex right-of-way with many properties being affected and affect in a way that is not just a minor impact. Mr. Ackerman stated that there was the ability to perceive that a lot of this was going to be complex. Mr. Ackerman stated that a lot of the property owners spoke out with their concerns. Mr. Ackerman stated that it does need to happen because it is important to the community, but it needs to happen in such a way that makes the property owners whole.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. One abstention (Ackerman). Approved.

b. Alaska Electric Vehicle Program – Guest Presentation by Alaska Energy Authority

Mr. Fox introduced Taylor Ashby from the Alaska Energy Authority who provided a presentation on their existing and upcoming efforts for designation of Alternative Fuel Corridors and deployment of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure program. Their mission is to reduce the cost of energy to Alaska.

c. Fairbanks North Star Borough Funding Request for Community Purpose Grant (Action Item)

• ***Request from FAST Planning for \$20,000 to Develop Implementation Plan to Provide Borough-Wide Regional Transportation Planning Services***

Mr. Fox explained that this is a request from FAST Planning for a \$20,000 grant from the Borough to develop an implementation plan to provide Boroughwide regional transportation planning services. Mr. Fox explained that this idea came from Mayor Ward and he would like to provide FAST Planning a grant to provide develop an implementation plan for future consideration by the Policy Board. Mr. Fox explained that the funding FAST Planning receives can only be used and spent within our boundary, so if we did any work for the Borough for work outside the boundary, we would need a separate funding source. Mr. Fox explained that the vision is that FAST Planning expand our area to serve the entire Borough including those communities outside our boundaries not currently getting transportation services at the local level. Mr. Fox explained that currently those communities' project needs have to go to DOT for inclusion in their STIP. Mr. Fox explained that the \$20K would be used for a feasibility study to have FAST Planning perform services outside the urban area.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To forward the letter to the Policy Board [requesting \$20,000 from the Fairbanks North Star Borough under a Community Purpose Grant to develop and

Implementation Plan to provide Boroughwide Regional Transportation Planning services]. (Weinberger/Netardus).

Discussion: Mr. Ackerman stated that he had some experience with RTPOs in the Lower 48. Mr. Ackerman stated that his understanding is that many of those situations with regional planning organizations require a certain percentage of contributions from those communities and representation, so they have some skin in the game and they are staying up to date on then issues related to funding sources and involved in the decision making. Mr. Ackerman stated that he was a little bit hesitant because he did not understand how some of these communities could contribute and maybe the Borough was saying that they would provide that for them.

Mr. Weinberger stated that he thought that the Borough would be contributing the funding for some of those communities.

Mr. Ackerman stated that some of communities may need more services than others, so he guessed the Borough was comfortable with that. Mr. Ackerman stated that those were some of his concerns.

Mr. Fox stated that we did not really know the answers to those questions until we delve into some of this a little further but certainly one of the alternatives would be that the Borough Assembly provide the funding for some of these services within their boundary for those unincorporated communities.

Mr. Weinberger asked Mr. Fox why this list of communities included Eielson Air Force Base because it was a Federal facility.

Mr. Fox stated that he fully acknowledged that we would not be providing planning services for anything on Base, but they were listed to acknowledge that many of the people that work or were stationed at Eielson AFB lived off base and utilized the transportation network both north and south of that installation for recreation or shopping, etc. Mr. Fox stated that he thought they were an important partner at the table. Mr. Fox stated that we would be supporting road networks outside the Base similar to what we do for Ft. Wainwright.

Mr. Ackerman asked Mr. Fox if the boundary of FAST Planning increased to take in these communities, whether that meant the federal allocation we received would increase.

Mr. Fox explained that the amount of money would stay the same. Mr. Fox explained that we were a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and could not use the funding we currently receive for any projects or services outside of the MPO boundaries. Mr. Fox stated that the amount of money would remain the same and it was just about organizing these communities and prioritizing projects. Mr. Fox stated that by doing this work, it does not come with any guarantee of any money for the services or the projects but helped the communities to obtain funding for their needs on a project-by-project basis through state and Federal grants.

Vote on Motion: Ten in favor. Three opposed. (Ackerman, Burgess, Zinza).

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

- No comments.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Denton/McKinley). The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Approved:  Date: 6/1/2022
Jackson Fox, Chair
FAST Planning Technical Committee