



POLICY BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 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: 899-5224-0505

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 (absent) | 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 (absent) | FAST Planning |
| **Deborah Todd | FAST Planning |
| **Don Galligan | FNSB Community Planning |
| Adam Moser | DOT&PF |
| Jack Barnwell | Fairbanks Daily News-Miner |
| Taylor Asher | Alaska Energy Authority |

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

3. Approval of the May 18, 2022 Agenda

Motion: To approve the May 18, 2022 Agenda. (Edwards/Fletcher).

Discussion: Mayor Ward requested that Item 8.a under New Business “Alaska Electric Vehicle Program – Guest Presentation by Alaska Energy Authority” be moved up in the Agenda to after the first public comment period.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes. (Fletcher/Gibson).

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

- FAST Planning filed their Biennial Report with the State Division of Corporations.
- FAST Planning renewed their General Liability, Directors & Officers, and Commercial Auto Insurance policies.
- The Technical Committee held a Work Session on the proposed revisions and additions to the FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Scoring Criteria.
- A joint meeting of the Seasonal Mobility Task Force and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee was held to discuss the 2021/22 winter maintenance of sidewalks and paths.
- An Asphalt Art Initiative meeting was held with Project Enhancement Committee members, City of Fairbanks staff, and Fairbanks Art Association staff to determine the results of the public poll and make the final artwork selections.
- FAST Planning hired a temporary employee to assist with existing transportation programs and special projects during the Transportation Planner's leave of absence.
- FAST Planning submitted the letter to Alaska DOT&PF regarding the proposed scope of work for the traffic study for the Kinross ore transportation trucking plan to the Advisory Committee for a larger corridor study.
- FAST Planning reapplied for the Cowles Street Reconstruction Project funding under the 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. Two years of funding is available under the program. Prior to his passing, we received a letter of full support from Representative Don Young.
- The Technical Committee recommended that the Policy Board adopt the updated FAST Planning Public Participation Plan (PPP) prepared in-house by Olivia Lunsford.
- The Technical Committee unanimously recommended approval of the revised TIP Scoring Criteria.
- The Technical Committee approved \$150,000 of additional funds for the Right-of-Way Phase of the Yankovich/Miller Hill Road Project. They have expended the money available to them through the TIP and additional funds are needed for some further negotiation work with property owners.
- The Technical Committee recommended approval of a letter to Mayor Ward's office requesting a \$20,000 Community Service Grant to provide regional transportation planning services.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee took the two groups of non-motorized projects that were nominated for the FFY23-27 TIP, scored all 26 projects, and put them in priority order.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comment.

***Agenda Item 8.a. Alaska Electric Vehicle Program – Guest Presentation by Alaska Energy Authority**

Mr. Fox introduced Taylor Asher of the Alaska Energy Authority who provided an update about their work on designation of alternative fuel corridors in Alaska and the electric vehicle infrastructure deployment program.

7. Old Business

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

• Consideration of Adopting Updated PPP

Mr. Fox explained that the Draft PPP was an in-house effort by Olivia Lunsford. Mr. Fox explained that the document was released by the Policy Board for a 45-day public comment period from February 27 to April 15, 2022. Mr. Fox explained that a small number of minor comments were received and addressed. Mr. Fox explained that the updated version of the PPP was included in the meeting packet.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To adopt the Public Participation Plan. (Gibson/Fletcher).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

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

• Consideration of Adopting Revisions to Project Scoring Criteria and Nomination Form for FFY23-27 TIP

Mr. Fox explained that we are developing the new FFY2023-27 TIP document which is the FAST Planning 4-year short-range funding document for the federal funds that are allocated to the MPO. Mr. Fox explained that he was proposing two separate calls for project nominations this year. The first call for project nominations would be for traditional motorized, nonmotorized, and multi-modal projects and those projects would be subject to the scoring criteria revisions. Mr. Fox explained that later this year, we intend to issue a separate call for project nominations for transportation projects that specifically focus on improvements to air quality. Mr. Fox noted that this would be with combined funds from the CMAQ Program for the PM^{2.5} Non-Attainment area as well as the new Carbon Reduction Program funds. Mr. Fox explained that there will be separate scoring criteria for scoring the air quality projects. Mr. Fox explained that the meeting packet contained a two page summary of the updated project eligibility scoring criteria.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To approve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Scoring Criteria as presented. (Edwards/Gibson).

Discussion: Ms. Fletcher asked for clarification from Mr. Fox about whether this new scoring criteria would be used for the second round of project nomination scoring or it was just for the first one.

Mr. Fox explained that the revised scoring criteria was just for the first round of project scoring and there was a separate two-page scoring form for scoring the air quality projects.

Ms. Fletcher stated that it looked great to her.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

8. New Business

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

*Note: This presentation was moved up in the meeting Agenda to after the first Public Comment Period, Item 6.

b. 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 the letter on Page 104 of the meeting packet was the result of discussions with Mayor Ward about the possibility of expanding FAST Planning providing regional transportation planning services for the rural communities that are outside the FAST Planning boundaries. Mr. Fox explained that the Federal funding FAST planning received did not cover areas outside the MPO boundaries. Mr. Fox explained that there was no dedicated funding for this, so it would require funding outside of the normal funding sources. Mr. Fox explained that the letter was a request to the Borough to provide a Community Purpose Grant for FAST Planning to put together an implementation plan for those regional transportation planning services. Mr. Fox explained that two page fact sheet was included that explained how the regional transportation planning organization would work and a map that illustrated where the rural communities were located outside the FAST Planning boundaries.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To request from the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) a Community Purpose Grant for \$20,000 to develop an implementation plan for Borough-wide Regional Transportation Planning Services. (Fletcher/Edwards)

Amendment to the Motion: To postpone to the next regularly scheduled FAST Planning meeting (Gibson/Edwards).

Discussion: Mr. Gibson stated that he thought this was probably a good idea and he liked the idea but felt that they were short Mayor Mike Welch and Mayor Jim Matherly. Mr. Gibson stated that those were two crucial leaders within the community and also the region so they should have an option to speak to this as well before we go forward with it.

Ms. Edwards asked if there was any time sensitivity to moving this forward at this time.

Mayor Ward explained that there was some time sensitivity to the request. Mayor Ward explained that he operated on a fiscal year, so they were hoping to have this request come in under the existing fiscal year. Mayor Ward explained that if they delayed it, it might cut it too short for him to be able to make that payment within this fiscal year. Mayor Ward stated that if there was intent for the Policy Board to move forward with this, he thought that in order for him to make the check out for the current fiscal year, he would need it preferably at this meeting.

Mr. Kemp asked Mayor Ward what his thoughts were on this since it came out of his budget.

Mayor Ward stated that they did not get into discussion before the motion was made to postpone so he would be happy to provide his comments when it was

appropriate. Mayor Ward stated that at this point they needed to discuss whether or not it was appropriate to postpone this to the next meeting.

Mr. Gibson asked Mayor Ward if in regard to the time sensitivity and being able to get this into the budget if he would be able to also accomplish this through a budget amendment.

Mayor Ward stated that he would have to go back to the Borough Assembly to ask for authorization out of the next year fiscal budget which was just approved. Mayor Ward explained that it was about a six week process to him go back and ask for reauthorization from the Assembly. Mayor Ward stated that it delayed this several months. Mayor Ward stated that would ask that they be able to discuss this and take up the issue today. Mayor Ward stated that both Mayor Matherly and Mayor Welch were provided the opportunity to be engaged in this meeting and he did not think this was anything that was life altering for the MPO and thought it was good work and served a good purpose so he would rather they be able to take this up item today.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: One in favor. (Gibson). Four opposed. (Edwards, Fletcher, Kemp, Ward). Motion Failed.

Discussion: Mayor Ward commented that he thought this was a really great idea for the MPO to consider a RTPO. Mayor Ward stated he worked with Mr. Fox to put together the letter that came before them to request funding in order to do that work, to look at the feasibility of what that would look like for the MPO. Mayor Ward stated that our previous Northern Region Director, who is now the Commissioner of DOT, Mr. Anderson, has been talking about RTPOs across the state. Mayor Ward stated that this was originally put that into the DOT budget last year as intent language to look at implementation and development of RTPOs. Mayor Ward stated that he has spoken with Mr. Anderson several times about this. Mayor Ward stated that the Commissioner is interested in development of RTPOs. Mayor Ward stated that he thought when we look at the benefits that FAST Planning provides for our urbanized area through a TIP development process and a community engagement process; this provides just a phenomenal opportunity for communities to be engaged in transportation planning in their area, not limited to the MPO. Mayor Ward stated that he thought that with the skillset we have here, with the team and the staff, and the connections with the Northern Region and the State; would provide a critical opportunity for us to do that long-range planning that is needed to help integrate our transportation system in the areas outside of our urban core. Mayor Ward stated that he sees this request as one that not just provides, as Mr. Fox mentioned, the funding that is necessary to be able to look at how we would do this implementation, but that ultimately the next step is for the MPO to look at that work that is done and see if this is something that we want to take on and recognize that there are a couple of key components for the MPO to consider. Mayor Ward stated one is that MPO dollars cannot be spent in the regional area. Mayor Ward stated that if we do have an RTPO, we would have to have a separate funding source. Mayor Ward stated that he anticipated that would be made up of the State of Alaska and the FNSB as the primary areas that are providing governance in here and would not be a cost to the Cities of North Pole or Fairbanks. Mayor Ward stated that it provides the opportunity for us to do a greater job, a better job of transportation

planning for our community. Mayor Ward stated that he was very much in favor of this and thought this was a great first step. Mayor Ward stated that he was very curious to see what kind of a plan the team can put together. Mayor Ward stated that he thought ultimately his goal in this is that he would like us to be the first RTPPO in the State because he thought it is such a beneficial program. Mayor Ward stated that he thought every member of our Policy Board can speak to the benefits that it has provided for the Fairbanks community, in our urban core. Mayor Ward stated that he would love for that to be made available, from a planning and public engagement perspective, for the areas outside of those urban centers.

Vote on Original Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Informational Items

a. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Update

Mr. Fox provided the monthly update of the various funding opportunities available to Alaska in the IIJA Bill.

b. Obligations and Offsets


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

11. Policy Board Member Comments

- Mayor Ward commented that Memorial Day weekend was coming up and he was looking forward to it. Mayor Ward commented "Be safe out there." Mayor Ward commented that many of us are going to be traveling and there is lots of construction happening so be careful of those orange suits. We want to be sure that everyone gets home to their families safely.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

Approved: 

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FAST Planning Policy Board

Date: 6-15-22