



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2022

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

Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 836-9802-3735

1. Call to Order

Jackson Fox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendee

The following were present:

Name

*Jackson Fox, Chair
*Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair (**absent**)
Andrew Ackerman (absent**)
**Kevin McKinley
**Bob Pristash
**Steven Hoke
**Andrew Gallagher for Kate Dueber
**Margaret Carpenter for Judy Chapman
**Sarah Schacher
**Kellen Spillman
**Michelle Denton
John Weinberger (absent**)
**Justin Burgess
Lt. Mike Roberts (absent**)
Jakob Theurich (absent**)
**RJ Stumpf
*Deborah Todd
Randi Bailey
Don Galligan
Michael Lukshin
Kathryn Wenger
Peter Stern
Sarah Durand
Ella Wetlesen
Jason Hill

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
DOT&PF Planning
FNSB Community Planning
FHWA
FHWA
BPAC
Project Enhancement Committee
IMT
DOT&PF

* FAST PLANNING Staff members

** FAST PLANNING Technical Committee members

3. Approval of the June 1, 2022 Agenda

Motion: To approve the June 1, 2022 Technical Committee Agenda.
(McKinley/Denton).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the May 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the May 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented.
(Schacher/McKinley).

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:

- FAST Planning completed the annual volunteer-based bicycle/pedestrian counts at intersections throughout town on May 24-26, 2022. There were volunteers for 25 of the 36 intersections.
- The Policy Board approved the following actions items at the May 18, 2022 meeting:
 - The updated Public Participation Plan was adopted and will be posted to the FAST Planning Website.
 - The new Transportation Improvement Program Scoring Criteria was approved as presented without any amendments. It will be posted along with the new Project Nomination Form to the FAST Planning Website.
 - FAST Planning is anticipating a Call for Project Nominations for the new FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in late June 2022 following the Scenario Planning effort for the Long-Range Transportation Plan.
 - The Policy Board approved the \$20,000 Grant request from FAST Planning to the Fairbanks North Star Borough to develop an implementation plan to consider taking on Borough-wide regional transportation planning services. A final version of the letter is included in the meeting packet and was forwarded to Mayor Ward's office.
- FAST Planning is holding the Asphalt Art Initiative Event June 4-5, 2022 on 5th Avenue and Lacey Street. A \$25,000 joint grant was awarded from both Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Rasmuson Foundation to paint murals on the roadways to demonstrate potential roadway design changes. After a call for artists was issued, four artists/artist teams were selected to work on the two separate blocks. Through artist selection and public polling, four design concepts were chosen. The streets will be cleaned, and traffic control will be set up on Friday, June 4 and then on Saturday and Sunday, June 5-6, the murals will be painted. With the street murals set up and traffic control in place, it will effectively make 5th Avenue a one-lane roadway. The full roadway width will be painted on Lacey Street to envision a different use of that roadway.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comment

7. Old Business

a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

• Scenario Planning Charrette – Late June (dates TBD)

Mr. Fox explained that Kittelson & Associates, the Consultant for the MTP will be holding a Planning Charette in the last two weeks of June. An email will be sent out with the date and time.

8. New Business

a. FFY2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification #6 (Action Item)

• Consideration of Approving Various TIP Adjustments for FFY22-23

Mr. Fox explained that the main purpose of Administrative Modification #6 was to provide necessary funding to close out the McGrath Road Upgrade Project that was constructed two years ago. Mr. Fox explained that there was also a need to add design funding for the 5th Avenue Reconstruction Project to keep the Design Phase going until construction in 2023. Mr. Fox explained that the rest of the TIP modifications were minor in nature.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve FFY19-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification #6. (Pristash/Denton).

Discussion: Mr. Spillman commented that it seemed like a minor moving the budget around to accommodate the costs of these projects and thought we should support the Modification.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. Draft FFY23-24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (Action Item)

• Consideration of Releasing Draft UPWP for 30-Day Public Comment Period

Mr. Fox explained that the UPWP was the draft work plan that outlined the work FAST Planning, DOT, and Borough support staff would do over the next two years that was directly related to running the MPO and fulfilling requirements in the CFR for required planning documents. Mr. Fox explained that the UPWP also contained the new transit planning work for our area. Mr. Fox explained that the document also contained the new planning emphasis areas for our transportation planning work as an MPO.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to release the Draft FFY23-24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for a 30-day Public Comment Period. (Schacher/Denton).

Discussion: Mr. Spillman asked Ms. Denton if she could talk about the existing transit planning function and how she envisioned that would function when it moved to the FAST Planning office.

Ms. Denton explained that over the the past 12 years, especially since COVID, her Department had not had the ability to use these funds. Ms. Denton stated that they were a small staff of three who did these office tasks that were not directly related to Operations. Ms. Denton explained that they simply did not have the capacity here to do the kind of efforts for which these funds were purposed.

Ms. Denton explained that they had used the funds for training and other things over the years but that came to a halt with COVID which was a big part of the reason there were funds leftover. Ms. Denton explained that she thought that Jackson's office and staff were better suited for utilizing these funds and helping Transit Planning do things like studies and things of that nature. Ms. Denton explained that from the Borough's perspective this was a better fit and a better use of those funds.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

- c. **Funding Contribution to Graehl Park Improvements Project (Action Item)**
- **Consideration of Contributing \$30,000 of FAST Planning's Undesignated Fund Balance to the Fairbanks North Star Borough for an Athabaskan-Themed Tile Mosaic at Graehl Park**

Mr. Fox explained that funding for the project would come from built up FAST Planning "Undesignated Funds" that could be used for match, donations to other non-profits or community projects, grant writing services, and any expenses that were not eligible for reimbursement through the Federal process. Mr. Fox explained that a proposal was put forward to the Technical Committee and in February, the Policy Board approved for \$70,000 in Undesignated Funds for these uses. Mr. Fox explained that this appropriation of funds would only apply for FFY22 and would end in September 2022. Mr. Fox explained that since February he had not spent any of the funds, so he was proposing to reduce the appropriation to grant writing services by \$30,000 to provide funding for the Graehl Park Project. Mr. Fox explained that the Borough through their Capital Improvement Program, has what they call a "Park a Year Program" and for 2022 the park to receive improvements was Graehl Park. Mr. Fox explained that the improvements included upgrades to the playground, picnic area, and ADA upgrades. Mr. Fox explained that the Borough had applied for a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation to bring their total budget up to \$600,000 and asked to partner with FAST Planning to install a tile mosaic into the park facility. Mr. Fox explained that as part of the application process, the figure included in the meeting packet was provided to show where the new decorative tile mosaic would be installed. Mr. Fox explained that the vision for that tile mosaic was to match the ones installed at the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center. Mr. Fox explained that at Morris Thompson Center, five mosaics were installed in different sizes. Mr. Fox explained that the beadwork submitted for the project was put into AutoCAD and a drawing was created to install the glass set into concrete designs. Mr. Fox explained that the Borough was successful in securing the Rasmuson Grant and Denakanaaga was asked to submit beadwork for the project. Mr. Fox explained that as of May 15th, ten submissions were received from at least seven different villages that would be on display and voted on at the Denakanaaga Annual Meeting held June 7-9, 2022. Mr. Fox explained that the winning designs would be provided to the Borough. Mr. Fox explained that the original plan had become more expensive than originally anticipated and supplies were going to take longer to receive, so the project would be delayed to next summer. Mr. Fox explained that the Public Works Department installation estimate is \$90,000. Mr. Fox explained that Mayor Ward was going to request additional funding from the Borough Assembly and if FAST Planning provided \$30,000, the amount required from the Borough would be less. Mr. Fox stated that the estimate was for installation of a single 8-foot tile mosaic as the center piece to Graehl Park.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to contribute \$30,000 of FAST Planning's undesignated fund balance to the Fairbanks North Star Borough for an Athabaskan-themed Tile Mosaic at Graehl Park. (Spillman/Pristash).

Discussion: Mr. Spillman stated that he supported the motion and thought it was an interesting concept and he really liked the idea. Mr. Spillman stated he thought

it was in line with another program the State had, where one percent of the cost of the project had to go to artwork. Mr. Spillman stated that he knew it did not apply to transportation projects but, in general, he thought it did a good job of making the community more livable and making these facilities fit into the community a little bit better. Mr. Spillman stated that he thought it was a good use of these funds. Mr. Spillman stated that if they thought about the project that FAST Planning did in this park, the connection between the two bridges essentially, this would come in under one percent of the total cost of the project. Mr. Spillman stated that he thought it was important to support the Native-Alaskan heritage this community has. Mr. Spillman stated that the cost of the project was a little high and he knew these were very valuable funds and not restricted like Federal Highway money, but thought it was a good use to entertain for projects like this. Mr. Spillman stated that thinking back to the Illinois Street project that was an \$18 million dollar project, and they put under \$200,000 for the park in that triangle area and that was probably more talked about than the whole project put together. Mr. Pristash stated that he thought it was a beautiful thing, it was appropriate, and it was in a good spot. Mr. Pristash stated that if, when they were working on it, they could figure out a way to protect it from vandalism. Mr. Pristash added that he had a project that was vandalized recently that he had to deal with. Mr. Pristash stated that they just had to paint over it because they could not sandblast it. Mr. Pristash asked what they could do to prevent that and figure it out before they installed it. Mr. Pristash stated that other than that, he supported it thought it was a good idea.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Informational Items

a. Fairbanks North Star Borough Roads Plan Update

Mr. Fox introduced Kellen Spillman of the Borough Community Planning Department who provided a presentation about the Borough Roads Plan Update. The maps for the Plan are available at the following website link:
<https://fnsbroadspan.com>.

b. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Update

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

c. Obligations and Offsets

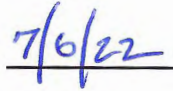
Mr. Fox explained the obligations and offsets included in the meeting packet.

11. Technical Committee Member Comments

- No comments.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Schacher/Hoke). The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

Approved:  Date: 
Jackson Fox, Chair
FAST Planning Technical Committee