



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2022

Key Bank Building, 100 Cushman Street, Suite 205

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

Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 825-2628-0496

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	Representing
*Jackson Fox, Chair	FAST Planning
*Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair	FAST Planning
**Bill Rogers	City of Fairbanks Engineering
**Justin Burgess	AES Transportation
**Randi Bailey for Judy Chapman	DOT&PF Planning
**Michelle Denton	FNSB Transportation
**Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation
**Adeyemi Alimi for Nick Czarnecki	ADEC Air Quality
**Kevin McKinley	FNSB Borough Planning Commission
**Robert Pristash	City of Fairbanks Engineering
**Lt. Mike Roberts (absent)	Alaska State Troopers
**John Netardus for Sarah Schacher	DOT&PF Preconstruction
**Kellen Spillman	FNSB Community Planning
**RJ Stumpf	Fairbanks International Airport
**Jakob Theurich	UAF
**Danny Wallace (absent)	City of North Pole
**John Weinberger	Fort Wainwright
*Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
*Don Galligan (absent)	FNSB Community Planning
Kathryn Wenger	FHWA
Ivet Hall	DOT&PF Preconstruction
Peter Stern	Bike/Ped Advisory Committee
Bryant Wright	FNSB Parks & Recreation
Kimberly Diamond	FNSB Parks & Recreation
Trisha Levasseur	FNSB Parks & Recreation

* FAST PLANNING Staff members

** FAST PLANNING Technical Committee members

3. Approval of the September 7, 2022 Agenda

Motion: To approve the September 7, 2022 Technical Committee Agenda.
(Spillman/Denton).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the August 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the August 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. (Alimi/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 approved the FFY23-24 Unified Planning Work Program which included FAST Planning taking on the Transit Planning for the Borough.
- The Policy Board chose to support the State's 2023 Safety Performance Measure Targets.
- The Policy Board approved the FFY23 FAST Planning Office Budget.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comment.

7. Old Business

a. FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

• Review of TIP Project Nominations, Letters of Support, and Next Steps for Project Scoring and Advanced TIP Development

Mr. Fox explained that he put together a list of all the new projects nominations, letters of support, and other pertinent documents. The Technical Committee was tasked with scoring the project list included in the meeting packet and the scores are due by September 27, 2022.

8. New Business

a. FFY19-23 TIP Administrative Modification #7 (Action Item)

• Consideration of Using Remaining FFY22 Offset Funding Towards FFY23 Advance Construction Payback

Mr. Fox explained that this would likely be the last modification for this TIP document. Mr. Fox explained that the purpose of this modification was to program the remainder of the FFY22 Offset funds towards payback of FFY23 Advance Construction dollars. The second modification was that we found out recently with STIP Amendment #4, that we had programmed more Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds than we actually received, so that correction was made to the TIP. Mr. Fox continued that there were two recent project phase increases in July and August that were approved by the Technical Committee and Policy Board. Mr. Fox explained he updated all the project cost estimates he had received in the FFY23-24 TIP so the new numbers would be carried forward.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve FFY19-23 Transportation Improvement Program Administration Modification #7. (Weinberger/Denton).

Discussion: Mr. Spillman commented that he thought it all made sense.

Mr. Spillman stated that he was disappointed to see the Cowles Street project split into two phases but looked forward to both of those phases being shown in the new TIP.

Mr. Pristash agreed that it was unfortunate, but the cost of the total project required the phasing.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. **Resolution to Form a Regional Planning Organization (RPO) for the Fairbanks North Star under a Cooperative Agreement with the State of Alaska (Action Item)**

• **Review of Draft Implementation Plan and Consideration of Adopting Resolution as an Intent to Form an RPO with FAST Planning Serving as the Administrative/Fiscal Agent**

Mr. Fox provided a slide presentation and explained that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor's office is interested in the possibility of having FAST Planning provide regional transportation planning services for the rural communities in the Borough outside the urban MPO boundary. Mr. Fox explained that to explore this idea of how these services would be provided and funded, FAST Planning submitted a request for a \$20,000 Community Purpose Grant to the Borough Mayor's office from the Policy Board in May 2022. Mr. Fox explained that included in that letter was documentation of the 16 rural communities outside the MPO boundaries that do not have a framework for transportation planning services at the local level. Mr. Fox explained that these communities do not have an adequate voice at the table to assist them in seeking funds for improvements in their communities. Mr. Fox explained that over the past few months using the funds from that Community Purpose Grant, a Draft Implementation Plan was put together with recommendations for forming a combined Rural and Urban Transportation Planning Organization. Mr. Fox explained that a copy of that document was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Fox stated that the Plan was still in draft form and subject to change.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to support the Resolution to form a Regional Planning Organization (RPO) for the Fairbanks North Star Borough under a Cooperative Agreement with the State of Alaska. (Spillman/Netardus).

Discussion: Mr. Netardus suggested a couple administrative corrections.

Mr. Spillman commented that he did not see anything negative at this point and it was reaching out to DOT to see what came of it. Mr. Spillman commented that maybe some amendments might be made to the Plan after discussions with the State. Mr. Spillman commented that this was getting a potentially different way of advocating for projects to be included in, or a different funding source in the STIP and is a benefit in theory.

Mr. Netardus asked if the Borough funded this effort.

Mr. Netardus stated that it seemed like there was thought of expanding the Borough boundaries.

Mr. Fox explained that in his discussions with Borough staff, there was thought that the boundaries might need to be expanded going down to Delta Junction or Tok and maybe further up north. Mr. Fox explained that there were different alternatives included in the Implementation Plan, but the State could encourage them to go bigger than that.

Mr. Weinberger commented that we should make it the size of Texas.

Mr. Fox stated that a section on air quality was included in the Implementation Plan. Mr. Fox explained that when FAST Planning did their Air Quality Conformity it considered the full PM^{2.5} area. Mr. Fox explained that the current Air Quality Conformity process would remain unchanged and would not be an added effort.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. **Letter of Support for FNSB Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan (Action Item)**

• **Plans, Maps, and Appendices can be viewed at**

<https://www.fnsbtrailsplan.com/>

Bryant Wright, FNSB Trails Coordinator, provided a presentation of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To approve the Letter of Support for the FNSB Comprehensive Trails Plan from the Technical Committee. (Spillman/Theurich).

Discussion: Ms. Dueber stated that she would have to vote against it just because of the existence of a trail in the Railroad right-of-way. Ms. Dueber explained that the Railroad was supportive of the vision and goals of this, but with that trail in the Plan they felt strongly that it was encouraging or misleading the public that they could trespass on the right-of-way using that trail.

Mr. Spillman added that he had seen this process in the works for about ten years and actually getting these trails through the subdivision process.

Mr. Spillman explained that the proper planning term for it was “exaction.”

Mr. Spillman explained that when a large subdivision was going through the subdividing process, there were certain public amenities that were required in our Borough Code. Mr. Spillman explained that those were: utility easements, roads, and trail easements, if it was located in an area the trail plan covered.

Mr. Spillman explained that we were a relatively small MPO and absolutely could not afford to pay for all the road and trail improvements associated with every development happening in this community. Mr. Spillman explained that this was one way that we could keep the protection of that trail system by asking these developers to dedicate a trail easement without requiring any monetary contribution from a public agency. Mr. Spillman explained that he thought that really helped preserve our trail system. Mr. Spillman stated that he was going to support this and seeing the process in motion really supports the development of this trail plan.

Vote on Motion: Nine in favor. Two opposed. (Dueber, McKinley). One abstention. (Weinberger). Approved.

Motion: To extend the Technical Committee Meeting for ten minutes. (Spillman/McKinley).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

d. **Technical Committee October Meeting Date Change (Action Item)**

Mr. Fox explained that he would be on vacation that week and unable to facilitate the October 5, 2022 meeting and proposed moving the meeting to October 12, 2022.

Public Comment: No public comment

Motion: To approve the Technical Committee meeting date change from October 5 to October 12. (McKinley/Netardus).

Discussion: No discussion

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Informational Items

a. STIP Amendment #4 – Approved September 1, 2022

Mr. Fox provided information about STIP Amendment #4 and specific projects of interest to our area.

b. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Update

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

c. Obligations and Offsets


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

11. Technical Committee Member Comments

- Mr. Pristash commented that he thought that for Lacey Street, one of the big questions that should be asked and answered was whether the power lines and other aerial utilities should go underground or not. Mr. Pristash explained that it would do more for that street than anything else we could do. Mr. Pristash commented that to get that done, he thought that they should involve the utility companies more and let them contribute to the funding of it. Mr. Pristash explained that this was going on right now on Barnette Street. Mr. Pristash explained that Barnette Street was closed, and the City was replacing the sewer from 2nd up to 4th with laterals and services for probably one-fifth of what it was going to cost with the Federal and DOT process later on. Mr. Pristash commented that it was just something to consider, and he thought they were kind of working toward that more to get the utility companies involved with the DOT Utility Engineer to try to figure out something on Lacey Street.
- Ms. Bailey commented that Phase 1 of the CTP Transportation Alternatives Program or the TAP was on the State of Alaska DOT website and the draft criteria was open to comments until October 3, 2022.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Spillman/McKinley). The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, October 12, 2022.

Approved:  Date: 10/12/2022
Jackson Fox, Chair
FAST Planning Technical Committee