



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 30, 2022 • 5-7 p.m.

By computer at www.fastplanning.us/keepup/zoom

By telephone at: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 899-4061-9719

1. Call to Order

Dr. Nathan Belz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

*Nathan Belz, Chair

*Susan Bissell

**Jackson Fox

Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair (absent**)

*Travis Naibert

*Jim Richardson

*Peter Stern

*Kim Streeter

**Deborah Todd

*Larry Zervos

Don Galligan, FNSB Planning

Lauren Little, DOT&PF

Michael Lund, DOT&PF

***BPAC Representative, **FAST Planning Staff**

3. Approval of the June 30, 2022 Agenda

Motion: To approve the June 30, 2022 Agenda. (Stern/Bissell).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the April 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the April 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes. (Bissell/Stern).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Staff /Working Group/Chair Reports

- The Policy Board adopted the new FAST Planning Public Participation Plan (PPP) for all committee meetings and plan developments. The PPP is posted on the FAST Planning website.
- The Policy Board approved revised Project Scoring Criteria for the new FFY2023-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The criteria were expanded to match the new eligibilities and emphasis areas in the Infrastructure Bill. The new criteria will be used later this summer for the call for project nominations.

- FAST Planning submitted a request to the Fairbanks North Star Borough for a Community Purpose Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for FAST Planning to develop an implementation plan to provide regional transportation planning services to sixteen rural communities outside the MPO boundary.
- The Policy Board approved the release of the Draft FFY2023-24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is the staff work plan for the next two years. The UPWP was released for a 30-day public comment period beginning June 19 and ending July 19, 2022.
- FAST Planning made a \$30,000 contribution to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation Department for the installation of an Athabaskan-themed tile mosaic at Graehl Park.
- The Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative was held June 3-5, 2022 on 5th Avenue and Lacey Street in downtown Fairbanks. There were 100 volunteers who participated and assisted with the event. The pictures included in the meeting packet show the final designs that were painted on the roadways and sidewalks by four artist teams.

6. Public Comment Period:

No public comment.

7. Old Business

a. Bicycle & Pedestrian Accommodations During Summer Construction

Mr. Fox introduced Michael Lund, the DOT&PF Northern Region Construction Engineer, to provide information about bicycle/pedestrian accommodations during the summer 2022 construction season.

Mr. Lund explained that they often had interactions with the bicycle/pedestrian community that reached out when they initiated a construction project with questions and concerns. Mr. Lund explained that he and his staff really appreciate that. Mr. Lund explained that every project has a lengthy process they go through to help eliminate impacts prior to construction. Mr. Lund explained that they met a couple times in the winter prior to construction to develop plans and identify where problems might occur and how to mitigate them. Mr. Lund cited the 3rd Street project as an example where they ran into unplanned factors that affected the scope and cost of that project. Mr. Lund explained that the protocols that they used to determine those are in the MUTCD and are flexible as to the type, size, and scope of a project. Mr. Lund explained that there were some examples of constraints that DOT had to deal with and used the Cushman Street construction on the bridge as an example of trying to get vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles across the bridge safely. Mr. Lund explained that they had a vehicle bridge upstream and a pedestrian bridge as well where they could put both vehicles and pedestrians during construction. Mr. Lund explained that further upstream the Wendell Avenue Bridge was a large structure, had large water lines, and a really restricted work area to work with. In the case of Wendell Avenue, they had to build a temporary trestle, detour vehicles, and then they had to figure out a detour route to put the bikes and pedestrians on. Mr. Lund explained that in that area there were no really good options. Mr. Lund explained that on the University Avenue project they put a temporary structure in there for bikes and pedestrians, so they were accommodated and also separated safely from the work. Mr. Lund explained

that is often very complicated for contractors to know and plan ahead of time to accommodate bike and pedestrian traffic, but they are developing different types of methods to accomplish that safely.

b. Prioritization of Non-Motorized Projects

• ***Review of Project Cost and Type (Repair/Rehab/New) For Prioritized Project List***

Mr. Fox explained that in April the list of non-motorized projects was scored and prioritized. Mr. Fox explained that he then researched and obtained planning level cost estimates, project descriptions, and type of work that would be required for each of the 26 projects listed.

After discussion by the Committee members, it was decided that, as homework, the members would go over the projects they felt scored lower than they should have and reorder them for discussion at the July 28, 2022 meeting.

8. New Business

a. Annual Bicycle & Pedestrian Count – May 24-26, 2022

Mr. Fox explained that there were 25 out of 36 intersections counted and it was an average year for volunteer participation. Mr. Fox explained that the data was tabulated and included in the 2022 column included in the meeting packet. Mr. Fox explained that the numbers at some intersections that were counted was erratic and there was less volunteers in the downtown core this year. Mr. Fox noted that areas of town where there was construction had lower counts as people were probably avoiding those. Mr. Fox encouraged the Committee to help with recruiting volunteers to count next year.

b. Proposed Farmers Loop Extension Improvements

• See <https://vimeo.com/477758006>

Mr. Fox introduced Lauren Little of DOT&PF who provided information and a video about the Farmers Loop Extension Improvements Project and the temporary road being used as a bypass during construction.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Committee Member Comments

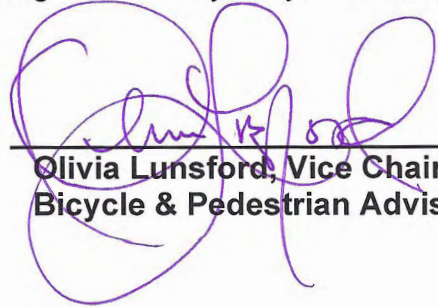
- Mr. Richardson commented that he was with a couple other people, and they got to discussing the painting of the roadways. Mr. Richardson commented that they were not clear on what it showed, or we were hoping for it to show. Mr. Richardson stated that his comment was that they were going to redo 5th Avenue so that it would be more ADA accessible. Mr. Richardson stated that the comment was that was only for five months out of the year. Mr. Richardson added that he still thinks we have a major issue to deal with on the plowing of sidewalks during the winter especially where the sidewalks cross the road to get to the other side that are extremely slick and dangerous over time because City only plows every six or eight weeks at best. Mr. Richardson stated that it was a major issue that the City, the Borough, and everybody needs to resolve. Mr. Richardson commented that he thought it really denigrates the area by not having us be able to conquer it to have access on our sidewalks all year round. Mr. Richardson commented that he knew last winter was unusual but somehow, we have to be ready for this.

- Dr. Belz stated that he agreed but was hopeful that having these continued conversations with the Seasonal Mobility Task Force we can start moving the needle a little bit on access and mobility during the winter. Dr. Belz commented that he guessed the problem is that we keep hearing it is people power and budget that tend to be the two things that prohibit some of the work that can be done but hopefully we can start moving in a more positive direction.
- Mr. Stern commented that he was looking at the construction that is going on on College Road in regard to the bus stops. Mr. Stern commented that some of the areas look like they are pouring pads which he assumed may eventually get bus shelters, but other areas are not being done. Mr. Stern asked Mr. Fox if he had any idea what the scope of this project was supposed to be as far as that was concerned.
- Mr. Fox stated that he did not know off the top of his head but he had the plan set in his office and would have to look that up. Mr. Fox explained that he thought that each of the bus stops was supposed to be getting a shelter but guessed there might right-of-way constraints in some areas and would look that up for him.
- Dr. Belz commented that a couple weekends ago, he volunteered for the Fairbanks Cycle Club Bike Swap. Dr. Belz commented that there were more people there than he had ever seen at one of those events so there are more people out there recreating and biking which is nice.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. (Richardson/Stern). The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m. The next BPAC meeting is Thursday, July 28, 2022, 5-7 p.m.

Approved: _____



**Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

Date: 07/29/22