



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2023

Key Bank Building, 100 Cushman Street, Suite 205

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

Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 848-2065-8412

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	Representing
*Jackson Fox, Chair	FAST Planning
*Corey DiRutigliano	FAST Planning
*Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair	FAST Planning
*Deborah Todd (absent)	FAST Planning
**Justin Burgess (absent)	AES Transportation
**Judy Chapman	DOT&PF Planning
**Nick Czarnecki	ADEC Air Quality
**Michelle Denton	FNSB Transportation
**Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation
**Kevin McKinley	FNSB Borough Planning Commission
**Tim Zinza for Robert Pristash	City of Fairbanks Engineering
**Bill Rogers	City of Fairbanks Engineering
**Lt. Mike Roberts	Alaska State Troopers
**Sarah Schacher	DOT&PF Preconstruction
**Kellen Spillman	FNSB Community Planning
**RJ Stumpf (absent)	Fairbanks International Airport
**Jakob Theurich	University of AK-Fairbanks
**Danny Wallace	City of North Pole
**John Weinberger	Fort Wainwright
Randi Bailey	DOT&PF Planning
Jack Barnwell	Fairbanks News-Miner
Don Galligan	FNSB Planning
Peter Stern	Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Megan Flory	RESPEC
Trisha Levasseur	FNSB Parks & Recreation
Kimberly Diamond	FNSB Parks & Recreation
* FAST PLANNING Staff members	
** FAST PLANNING Technical Committee members	

3. Approval of the January 4, 2023 Agenda

Motion: To approve the January 4, 2023 Technical Committee Agenda as presented. (Denton/Rogers).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the December 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the December 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented.
(Denton/Schacher).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Committee/Working Group Reports (including the Chair's Report)

Mr. Fox noted the following:

- At the December 21, 2022 meeting, the Policy Board:
 - Approved the revised scoring criteria for the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program Funds and Carbon Reduction Program Funds.
 - Adopted the State of Alaska Pavement & Bridge Condition Performance Measure Targets
 - Approved the FAST Planning 2023 Meeting Dates Calendar with one change for August so that staff can attend the Alaska APA Chapter Meeting in Anchorage.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comment.

7. Old Business

a. FFY2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Action Item)

- ***Review of Comments Received During 30-Day Public Comment Period, Corresponding Changes to TIP, and Recommendation to Policy Board on Any Further Amendments And Adoption of Final TIP Document***

Mr. Fox explained that the public comment period for the Draft TIP has closed. The Draft TIP shows the projects that are included for funding with two changes Mr. Fox noted that the Geist/Chena Pump Road Corridor Study has been moved from 2023 to 2025 so that DOT can focus on the Airport Way/Peger Road Intersection Study. Mr. Fox explained that in making that move, it freed up an additional \$300K in FFY23 that was added to the FAST Improvement Program. Mr. Fox explained that at this time, the amount of funding for the FAST Improvement Program this summer has been raised from \$1.8M to \$2.15M and the current DOT estimate is \$2.3M, which gets it closer to the estimate for funding this summer. Mr. Fox explained that in the draft funding plan we still have three illustrative projects which do not have funding at this time but could be funded if funding becomes available. Mr. Fox explained that on the interactive map online, approximately 109 public comments were received. Mr. Fox explained that the FAST Improvement Program and the College Road Crosswalk were the most popular projects.

Public Comment: Peter Stern, Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

commented that he just wanted to talk a little bit about the FAST Improvement Program because he thinks it is a really important program. Mr. Stern commented that unfortunately in this TIP, there is no funding provided for that in 2027. Mr. Stern explained that the understanding is that the money that had been there was moved over to the "black hole" Minnie Street Project instead. Mr. Stern commented that he had surveyed most of the separated paths in the FAST area, and many of them are in bad shape and need to have repairs done to them. Mr. Stern explained that the project size is relatively small on all of them, so FAST would like to bundle them together to find a large enough project that a contractor might want to bid on it. Mr. Stern commented that threshold, he

believed, was \$1M. Mr. Stern commented that if they have absolutely no money in 2027, it is not a good situation. Mr. Stern commented that he hopes that in a future TIP, money can be found to make sure that program gets funding because about 20 percent of it is supposed to be devoted to non-motorized path construction and repair. Mr. Stern stated that DOT has no money to do those repairs, so it is going to come down to FAST Planning Improvement Program to provide funding for that.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve the Draft FFY2023-27 TIP [Transportation Improvement Program]. (Schacher/Theurich).

Discussion: Mr. Spillman commented that he supported this TIP, thought it was a great TIP, and there are a lot of really good, well-needed projects in it. Mr. Spillman commented that one thing he was a little disappointed in, particularly with it roughly planned out through 2032, is that he did not see Barnette Street Reconstruction in there. Mr. Spillman commented that he thinks that is a really important project for this community. Mr. Spillman commented that it was in the TIP for over ten years, and we just did not see a lot of progress on it. Mr. Spillman stated that looking at some of these projects coming out to 2032, he really thinks that Barnette should have priority over some of these projects, but it has a big price tag attached to it. Mr. Spillman commented that he would really like some discussion, maybe at the Policy Board level, on a plan for Barnette. Mr. Spillman commented that it seems like just turning our head to it and ignoring it for another ten years is not going to do this community any favors because it is so expensive. Mr. Spillman commented that he supported every project in here, and supported the TIP, but would really like to see a plan for Barnette Street. Mr. Spillman commented that maybe that was a conversation for the City and if the City wanted to add anything to this conversation, but he could see Barnette getting a lot worse in the next ten years and getting even more expensive.

Ms. Schacher commented that she had two things. Ms. Schacher commented that she agreed with Mr. Spillman's comment that it takes a lot of hard work from FAST Planning to put this TIP together. Ms. Schacher commented that this is a lot of shuffling and shell games; so great job to the FAST Planning staff on that. Ms. Schacher reiterated that she agreed with Mr. Spillman that these are great projects, but it does not take a hard look at this to know that in one, two, or three years, it is not going to look like this. Ms. Schacher commented that she thinks some costs are going to go up. Ms. Schacher commented that these urban, heavy utility projects, are just rife for a lot of increases or overruns that we just cannot predict today. Ms. Schacher commented that kind of lines up a little bit with Barnette Street. Ms. Schacher commented that she could not remember but thought the estimate for all of Lacey Street total was \$25M. Ms. Schacher commented that we should keep Barnette on the radar. Ms. Schacher commented that the other thing we should keep on the radar is to really look within our own agencies where we can to initiate the design work on some of these projects to position them better for grants or just to have shelf-ready projects.

Ms. Schacher commented that going back to Mr. Stern's comment, she will also make a plug for the FAST Improvement Program because she thinks that has been our most consistently, reliably delivered program every year. Ms. Schacher commented that it is not the real fancy, attractive big improvement but it is great

preservation. Ms. Schacher commented that all agencies get an equal share into it, and she thinks it is a great program that can pick up a lot of funding if something were to slip. Ms. Schacher commented that all that to say that when she sees Holmes Road, Minnie Street, and Lacey Street, we have some big projects coming up on our horizon where we are putting a lot of our eggs in one basket in one year for construction funding and these are high risk projects, so she thinks we should keep our options open for other things that can plug those gaps.

Ms. Schacher stated that there was a great article in the News-Miner about the Pioneer Park Boat Launch and the Chena Riverfront Commission's approval of that. Ms. Schacher explained that there was a public comment basically suggesting that this was not the most hydraulically ideal location for a boat launch, and we would certainly want to factor that into the design, and she wanted to reassure that. Ms. Schacher stated that the suggestion is to drop a boat launch. Ms. Schacher explained that she would go back to when Borough Parks and Recreation was really pushing this project, the University Boat Launch was closed and there was a pretty huge outcry in the community over access. Ms. Schacher commented that she did not think that they could have too many in this town. Ms. Schacher commented that if you went to Graehl Park, Peger, or University when it has been open, they are packed full on a nice day in the summer. Ms. Schacher commented that she thinks a boat launch is a good idea. Ms. Schacher commented that we had encouraged Borough Parks and Recreation to include that in their proposal and they said "great". Multi-use, lots of recreational opportunities all in one stop there, so we will make sure that it is a good boat launch. Ms. Schacher explained that the alternative of finding a new launch location she just did not see as practical given the convenient parking and the access and all those other things. Ms. Schacher commented that improving any existing access where we can saves

Amendment to the Motion: To amend the main motion [by adding] with consideration on long-range plan on how to fund the Barnette Street Reconstruction project. (Spillman/Denton).

Discussion: Mr. Spillman commented that it could just be short discussion at the Policy Board level that we do not have a plan, or it is not a priority anymore, but it with this organization already putting so many resources into that project since he was involved in 2010, it would be good to have the discussion and see where it floats on the priority level knowing it is an expensive project or even other funding opportunities associated with that.

Ms. Schacher commented that she thought that was fine. Ms. Schacher stated that she would stick with that motion, but it might be helpful if we steered that a little bit because if the question is where does this fall in the priority, that suggests that something else needs to be deprioritized so is that the question that you would ask them to consider or would you be putting forward other suggestions to try to get Barnette Street off the ground?

Mr. Spillman responded that he was not asking to prioritize. Mr. Spillman commented that it was a long-range plan on how to fund it. Mr. Spillman continued that maybe after all these years, maybe it is a third-party funding. Mr. Spillman commented that it could be a short conversation and maybe there is

not a plan through 2032, but that is kind of where we are with this TIP and this organization.

Mr. Zinza commented that he knew it fell off the radar and he agreed that it should be on the radar and on the plan for a schedule.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Discussion: No further discussion.

Amended Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve the Draft FFY2023-27 TIP [Transportation Improvement Program] with consideration on a long-range plan on how to fund the Barnette Street Reconstruction project.

Vote on Amended Motion: None opposed. Approved.

- b. **2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update (Action Item)**
• ***Review of Comments Received During 30-Day Public Comment Period, Corresponding Changes to MTP, and Recommendation to Policy Board on Any Further Amendments and Adoption of Final MTP Document***

Mr. Fox explained that pages 72-93 of the meeting packet contained all the comments received to date during the 30-day public comment period from November 20-December 20, 2022. Mr. Fox thanked both Mr. Galligan of the Borough and Ms. Bailey of DOT for providing a very thorough review of the project list. Mr. Fox explained that included in the meeting packet is the final revised project list. Mr. Fox explained that a number of comments were received from the public and documented. Mr. Fox explained the three minor comments that still needed to be resolved and revised in the document.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To recommend to the Policy Board to approve the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. (Chapman/Denton).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

- c. **Call for Project Nominations for Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) and Carbon Reduction Program**
• ***Review of Revised Scoring Criteria and Project Nomination Form and Dates for Open Call for Project Nominations and Applicant Workshop***
Mr. Fox explained that included on Page 129 of the meeting packet, he had put together an overall schedule for the new call for project nominations to the two funding programs. The Policy Board approved the revised project scoring criteria, and the project nomination form was updated. Mr. Fox stated that he intends to open the call for project nominations on January 16, 2023 to run for 30-days through February 17, 2023. Mr. Fox explained that an Applicant Workshop will be held on January 17, 2023, at the FAST Planning Office, to showcase to all prospective applicants how much funding is available, what the project eligibilities are, and what the process is for submitting applications. The due would be February 17, 2023 for those applications. At the close of project nominations, the projects would be run through an eligibility review through the Alaska Federal Highway Administration Office and all projects considered eligible for that funding would be run through the Technical Committee to be scored. Concurrently Trinity Consultants would perform air quality calculations to compare the project and determine which ones would result in the greatest emissions reductions. A draft

funding plan would be brought forth to the Technical Committee in April 2023 so that we can begin funding some of those projects.

8. New Business

a. Draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update Air Quality Conformity Analysis

• Review of Draft Analysis and Next Steps for Public Comment Period, Interagency Consultation, and Federal Determination

Mr. Fox explained there is no information included in the packet, but he wanted to provide an update that the Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis is behind schedule. Mr. Fox explained that they would like to see the modeling runs for each of the model years with the Kinross Trucking Plan. Mr. Fox explained that a partial draft is prepared that is projected to be delivered by January 13, 2023. The emission analysis will likely not be approved until February which will put us into a small lapse in conformity. During that lapse we may not be able to make any new project obligations until that lapse is resolved.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Informational Items

a. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Update

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

b. Obligations and Offsets

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

11. Technical Committee Member Comments

- Ms. Schacher commented that regarding the Peger Road boat launch there is a really nice article in the News-Miner today that she thinks highlights the need for the community to work together on all these projects. Ms. Schacher commented that she thinks that we are all better together and means that sincerely. Ms. Schacher commented that she wanted to thank the Borough for their kind words to DOT and looks forward to working with them on this project.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Denton/Spillman). The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. The next Technical Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Approved:  Date: 2/1/2023
Jackson Fox, Chair
FAST Planning Technical Committee