



## 🚲 BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN/ADVISORY COMMITTEE 🚲

### Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2023 • 5:00 - 7:00 PM

FAST Planning Office, 100 Cushman Street, Suite 215, Fairbanks, AK

Web Conference at: <https://fastplanning.us/keepup/zoom/>

Zoom Meeting Telephone Number: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 822-7310-6048

#### 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
- ✉ \*\*Corey DiRutigliano
- ✉ \*\*Jackson Fox
- ✉ \*\*Don Galligan
- ✉ Stan Justice
- ✉ Matt Layral
- ✉ \*\*Olivia Lunsford, **Vice Chair**
- ✉ \*Travis Naibert (**absent**)
- ✉ \*Jim Richardson
- ✉ \*Kim Streeter
- ✉ \*\*Deborah Todd
- ✉ \*Larry Zervos

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

#### 3. Approval of the June 29, 2023 Agenda

**Motion:** To approve the June 29, 2023 Agenda. (Zervos/Richardson).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**Vote on Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

#### 4. Approval of the May 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the May 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes. (Bissell/Zervos).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**Vote on Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

## 5. Staff/Working Group/Chair Report

### a. Staff Report

- At the June 7, 2023 meeting, the Technical Committee
  - Approved the Funding Plan for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Carbon Reduction Program funds. The final Funding Plan is included in the Meeting Packet.
- At the June 22, 2023 meeting, the Policy Board:
  - Approved the Funding Plan for the CMAQ and Carbon Reduction funds with an amendment to have the MACS Subsidized Ticketing Program for Students under 19 and Seniors removed. The project was discussed, and the consensus was that members would prefer to use that money for other projects.

## 6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

■ Stan Justice thanked the BPAC for including the Skarland Trail in the meeting with DOT and the other Managers and highlighting that issue with them. Mr. Justice commented that it was a constructive discussion. Mr. Justice commented that the other thing is that the Skarland Trail also goes past Pearl Creek School. Mr. Justice commented that with this new access to Pearl Creek School, he guessed that the Skarland Trail is going to have a new road crossing, so he hopes that is in the sign peoples' sights. Mr. Justice commented that with the new access for that Herreid Road and the Skarland Trail goes right through there too, so that is just one more thing for them to consider.

Dr. Belz commented that he recalled that in that meeting, Dan Schacher said something about how costly Carsonite markers were. Dr. Belz noted that he had not followed up with Mr. Schacher yet, but the Carsonite markers themselves were not very expensive at all so he was wondering if he meant putting some sort of mounting system in the ground and the labor involved in putting it in is the cost prohibitive thing or if they are buying some special Carsonite marker that he did not know about. Dr. Belz commented that purchased them before and you can get good Carsonite markers for \$50-75 dollars.

Mr. Fox commented that John Netardus of DOT Preconstruction was developing concepts for a more permanent structure to put out there to mark that trail and would present it to the BPAC.

Mr. Layral commented that he was showing some folks around town and were at Peger and Davis and they almost got taken out by a right turning car. Mr. Layral commented that he would encourage them to look at providing stop indicator lines in the crosswalk for vehicles to see it better. Mr. Layral commented that it seems that locally we have trained drivers to pull up partly into the crosswalk and making those sweeping right turns.

**Mr. Layral** commented that he had reached out to a couple of local sponsors about sponsoring the Bikeways Maps. Mr. Layral commented that he talked with someone who owns a screen printing business and seemed interested in helping and could offer screen printing services to them. Mr. Layral commented that he could reach out to him and see if he would be interested in helping with that.

## 7. Old Business

### a. Joint Seasonal Mobility Task Force & BPAC Meeting Recap

Mr. Fox included the list of topics that were discussed at the June 14, 2023 Joint Seasonal Mobility Task Force/Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting. The meeting was well represented by all the agencies except the City of Fairbanks. Mr. Fox noted that one of the most troubling things was that due to the current staffing and fiscal shortages, the lack of non-motorized route maintenance will continue to be a problem.

Dr. Belz added that there was discussion with both the City and State about curb ramp accessibility, pedestrian right-turn compliance, and having further setbacks.

Mr. Zervos asked Mr. Fox the reason for the lack of representation from the City of Fairbanks at the meeting.

Mr. Fox commented that the City of Fairbanks is usually present at those meetings but had informed him that they would not be able to attend.

### b. Bikeways Map/Bike Friendly Business Program

Ms. Lunsford explained that they have moved on from the survey phase of the program and selected 15 businesses to host the repair kits. Ms. Lunsford explained that no businesses in North Pole had expressed an interest in hosting a repair kit this year. Ms. Lunsford noted that she and the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation were unable to garner interest from North Pole. Ms. Lunsford explained that the map is almost complete. Ms. Lunsford commented that as a result of this survey, they have received commitments from multiple businesses to host bike racks at their business. Ms. Lunsford commented that lots of businesses are offering incentives to their business model for customers who bike to their business.

Ms. Lunsford explained that they hope to have copies of the bikeways map ready for distribution and the repair kits should be deployed by the August meeting.

### c. Annual Bicycle/Pedestrian Count Data Report

Mr. Fox explained that approximately 40 volunteers participated and there were multiple counts over the three day period for some of the intersections. Mr. Fox explained that it was a record year for getting volunteers to assist with the count.

Mr. Fox explained that the counts were higher overall this year than they have been in the past couple of years.

### d. MACS Transit Plans Updates

Mr. DiRutigliano provided an update on the status of the MACS Transit Plans Update.

Mr. DiRutigliano explained that three different groups bid on the project and R&M Consultants were chosen. Mr. DiRutigliano explained that R&M will start background research and then an aggressive public outreach in the Fall.

Mr. DiRutigliano explained that the deliverable target is a series of plans focused on how all the different transportation groups can work together. Mr. DiRutigliano explained that the other target is an overall revamp of the paratransit and mobility impaired system to see how to improve and make it operate more efficiently.

Mr. DiRutigliano explained that the project should be completed by December 2024.

**e. Eco Counters**

 **Data Report from Alaska DOT&PF**

DOT has purchased ten or twelve Eco-Counters to distribute statewide and five were dedicated to Fairbanks. Scott Vockeroth of the DOT Traffic/Safety Section has agreed to deploy the counters for FAST Planning. Mr. Vockeroth has already deployed some of the counters and sent a snapshot of the data he collected at the Chena Pump Road just north of the Chena River. The counters will be counting at a specific location for a couple of months, and then moved to another location on the list provided by the BPAC.

**f. Peter Stern Memorial Path (Johansen Path, North Side) Work Plan**

Mr. Fox explained that they heard from Dan Schacher of DOT, and he was very supportive of the idea of memorializing a path for Mr. Stern. Mr. Fox explained that they needed to contact Mr. Stern's family and see if they were okay with the idea.

Mr. Fox explained that it was decided that the northeast corner of College Road and the Johansen, in the green space, was an appropriate location for the memorial.

Mr. Fox explained that FAST Planning needs to come up with something as a tribute to Mr. Stern's involvement with the BPAC and the community. FAST Planning will work on the funding and DOT will install it.

**g. Motorized and Non-Motorized Route Prioritization**

Mr. Fox explained that Dan Schacher of DOT would like FAST Planning to revisit the idea of approaching the State Legislature about the need for dedicated maintenance funding to put out contracts with local contractors to perform maintenance on an on-call basis. Mr. Fox explained that we could point out to the State Legislature that we already have a maintenance priority route map and if we had a dedicated budget for it, that would alleviate the pressure on DOT and City maintenance crews to do the work. Mr. Fox explained that we need to work on this for the next Legislative Session and potentially get other communities in the State of Alaska on board with this idea.

## 8. New Business

### a. Bike Valet

#### *Midnight Sun Festival; Fairbanks Cycle Club*

Ms. Lunsford explained that it was an amazing event and there were over a hundred bikes parked in the Downtown Parking Garage at the Midnight Sun Festival. Ms. Lunsford explained that it was the first ever event of this type in Fairbanks. Mr. Lunsford explained that there were no mishaps or bicycles left behind. Ms. Lunsford explained that they printed tickets that they gave out and one portion was kept for a bike lock drawing. Ms. Lunsford explained that the Fairbanks Cycle Club donated 12 bike racks that they had purchased for their annual bike swap. Ms. Lunsford presented photos of the day's events.

Ms. Lunsford commented that they will also have the Bike Valet at the Golden Days Street Fair in July.

### b. Pedestrian Safety Concerns at Gaffney/Airport/Richardson/Steese (GARS) Intersection

Ms. Bissell explained that at the GARS intersection, the two right-hand turn lanes on the north side of the street are completed so she has been going through them as she works at Ft. Wainwright, and they are wide. Ms. Bissell commented that there are two lanes of traffic and there is snow storage area on the shoulder, so the shoulder is almost as wide as the traffic lane. Ms. Bissell commented that the road curves, and she has already noticed that the drivers are looking in the direction of that curve, so they may not notice that there are people in that crosswalk. Ms. Bissell suggested that the BPAC write a letter to DOT encouraging them to put signals in those crosswalks.

## 9. Informational Items

### a. Bike/Ped Path Sweeping

Dr. Belz commented that he wrote to Jason Sakalaskas and Dan Schacher at DOT about sweeping and they responded that it was on their radar. Dr. Belz explained that he specifically brought up the paths on Geist Road, Sheep Creek Road Extension, Skyline Drive over to the Steese Highway on Farmers Loop.

Mr. Layral commented that there is no dedicated sweeping crew, so the quickest way to get a response is to contact Ron Davis, the head of area maintenance at DOT, when they saw an area that needed sweeping.

Mr. Richardson commented that in some places the path was higher than the road so when crews swept the road, they sometimes threw the gravel onto the bike path.

Mr. Fox noted that DOT did clean the Steese Expressway path.

Mr. DiRutigliano noted that people do not travel at 90-degree angles so they automatically take the most direct path and that might be something to consider when designing those paths.

## 10. Other Issues

- Ms. Lunsford presented a photo of a Trooper that had stopped two dirt bikes on College Road at the north side of the Johansen Expressway. Ms. Lunsford commented that she heard the Trooper getting on them about where they were planning to take their dirt bikes. Ms. Lunsford commented that the Trooper was discussing the fact that there is a sign in that location that clearly says, "No motorized vehicles on the bike path." Ms. Lunsford commented that it made her feel good that there was someone out there watching out for bikes and pedestrians.

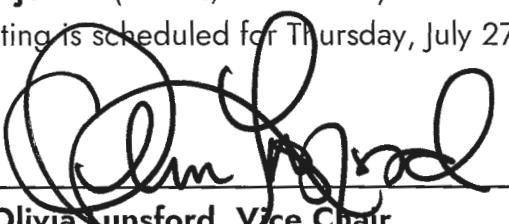
## 11. Committee Member Comments

- Ms. Streeter commented that she was walking under the Barnette Street Bridge and Golden Heart bridges and noticed that people were piling up rocks under them.
- Mr. DiRutigliano commented that on June 28, he and Mr. Fox met with Ivet Hall of DOT and Bob Pristash of the City of Fairbanks regarding the Bike Lane Signing and Striping Pilot project. Mr. DiRutigliano presented maps showing where they are going to be designing those. Mr. DiRutigliano commented that there are a few issues with specific routes, and he wanted to enlist BPAC members to help him address those. Mr. DiRutigliano commented that two roads, Gillam Way from First Avenue to Lathrop and Cowles Street, were also added to the list. Mr. DiRutigliano commented that there were maintenance concerns and the installation of gores because they are expensive to install.
- Mr. Richardson asked about the current vacancies on the BPAC, and whether they had sent a note to the Fairbanks Cycle Club to find out if there was any interest.
- Mr. Fox commented that there is lots of interest from community members but there is no interest from DOT in filling their two vacant seats right now. They are the ones who have to appoint those two seats. Mr. Fox commented that the City of North Pole has not shown interest in filling their vacant seats either.

## 12. Adjournment

**Motion to Adjourn:** (Zervos/Richardson). The meeting was adjourned at **6:54 p.m.**  
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2023.

Approved:



Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair  
FAST Planning BPAC

Date: 09/28/23