



POLICY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023 • 12:00 – 2:00 P.M.

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: 825-1613-3546

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee	Representative Organization
*Bryce Ward, Chair	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Jerry Cleworth	Fairbanks City Council
*Joe Kemp	Acting Director, DOT&PF Northern Region
*Jason Olds	Director, DEC Air Quality
*David Pruhs	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*Brett Rotermund (absent)	FNSB Assembly
*Michael Welch	Mayor, City of North Pole
**Jackson Fox	FAST Planning
**Olivia Lunsford	FAST Planning
**Corey DiRutigliano	FAST Planning
**Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
**Randi Bailey	DOT&PF Planning
**Don Galligan	FNSB Planning
Megan Flory	RESPEC
Sarah Schacher	Michael Baker

**FAST Planning Policy Board Members, ** FAST Planning Staff Members, + FAST Planning Technical Committee Members, • Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Members*

3. Approval of the July 19, 2023 Agenda

Motion: To approve the July 19, 2023 agenda. (Cleworth/Kemp).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the June 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the June 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes. (Welch/Kemp).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

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

a. Staff Report and Technical Committee Action Items

- ✉ Mr. Fox met with the AMATS and MATSU, the two MPOs in the State, along with DOT staff to prepare proposals for the statewide classification updates that assign functional classification designations to all roadways in the state. These designations are directly correlated with eligibility for different types of Federal funding. DOT is required to consult with the three MPOs as they go through this process and staff will be participating in a steering committee meeting as they go through this process.
- ✉ FNSB Parks & Recreation has partnered with FAST Planning to install the wayfinding and safety signage at eleven boat launches along the Chena River. The signs were funded primarily from a fundraiser held by Tanana Valley Watershed Association.
- ✉ FAST Planning staff met with DOT and the City of Fairbanks Engineering staff on the proposed Bike Lane Signing and Striping Pilot Project to go over all the recommendations that came out of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Over 90 percent of the recommendations made by the BPAC were kept in the plan set. The project is expected to be on the streets in the summer of 2024.
- ✉ FAST Planning completed the premium audit for review of the Directors & Officers, General Liability, Commercial Property, and Commercial Auto Insurance policies and all have all been renewed.
- ✉ FAST Planning hosted two bike valets — one at the Midnight Sun Street Fair and one at the Golden Days Street Fair. People had a secure location where they could check their bikes inside the Parking Garage free of charge. This was the first bike valet in Fairbanks. FAST Planning hopes to continue this program next year. There has also been interest from the Georgeson Botanical Garden to have a bike valet available at Music in the Garden.
- ✉ The 2023 Bikeways Map update has been completed and they will show the bike friendly businesses in town. If they demonstrated they were Bike Friendly Businesses they donated \$75 and their business was shown on the maps. FAST Planning collected approximately \$1700 in sponsorship revenue that will go towards the printing of the Bikeways Map.
- ✉ 15 Bike Repair Kits were purchased from Fairbanks Bike & Ski to distribute to the businesses around town that sponsored the Bike Friendly Business Program.
- ✉ FAST Planning submitted the final Funding Plan for the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) and Carbon Reduction Program funds. Funding was removed for the Subsidized Transit Ticketing Program.

- FAST Planning collaborated with DOT, MACS Transit, and the Alaska Railroad to complete the update to FAST Planning Administrative Modification #1.
- At the July 5, 2023 meeting, the Technical Committee:
 - Recommended approval of FAST Planning Administrative Modification #1. As part of this Modification, there was a request from the City of Fairbanks and DOT to provide funding for the Minnie Street final design phase to keep the project on track.
 - Recommended approval of the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan Scope of Services.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

No public comment.

7. Old Business b

a. FFY2023-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification #1 (Action Item)

Consideration of Approval of TIP Administrative Modification #1

Mr. Fox provided an overview of the revisions made to TIP Administrative Modification #1.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To approve FFY2023-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification #1. (Cleworth/Welch).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. FAST Improvement Program FFY2025

Update on Project List and Schedule for Next Subcommittee Meeting

Mr. Fox explained that the meeting packet contained an updated list of local government project priorities for local road improvements. Mr. Fox explained that the projects have no right-of-way acquisition, permits, or utility relocation. Mr. Fox explained that they will hold another subcommittee meeting to go over the projects and produce a list of project bundles they all agree on.

8. New Business

a. Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan Scope of Services (Action Item)

Consideration of Approval of Scope of Services to Issue a Request for Proposals for Planning Effort

Mr. Fox explained that the Policy Board approved moving forward with the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan funding at \$150,000. Mr. Fox explained that he drafted a Scope of Services to go in the DOT Request for Proposals to hire a consultant for the Plan.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: To approve the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan Scope of Services as presented. (Welch/Kemp).

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth commented that besides the cold climate challenges, the other item that came up was the disposal of fuel cells (batteries) if electric vehicles catch on. Mr. Cleworth commented that we need to have the consultant find out if there is any place in Alaska to dispose of those fuel cells or the vehicle owner would be responsible for disposal.

Mayor Pruhs commented that he met with the Commissioner of DEC and in their discussions, the disposal of those batteries came up and he was curious if in Mr. Fox's discussions with the EPA they could show a future need for the disposal of the fuel cells for the electric vehicles.

Mr. Olds explained that he would follow up with that but did not know specifically what that program does.

Mayor Ward explained that the Fairbanks Landfill did not accept lithium-based batteries for disposal, but they did recycle them. Mayor Ward commented that the Landfill does take disposal of heavy equipment or battery-operated forklifts and things like that. Mayor Ward explained that the disposal of electronics by the Borough costs over \$1,000 per ton. Mayor Ward commented that it might be a good idea to think about disposal of those batteries as they age out.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

9. Other Issues

No other issues.

10. Informational Items

a. Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Development Update

Ms. Lunsford updated everyone on the boundary redraw development process.

b. Obligations and Offsets

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

11. Policy Board Member Comments

Mayor Welch commented that it was quite an interesting summer. He said he did not know if they had been reading peoples' comments about the GARS intersection, but he thought once the intention of it became clear they would like it. Mayor Welch commented that it was sort of comedic what they thought was going on. Mayor Welch commented that there are a lot of activities going on in the City of North Pole. Mayor Welch commented that he knew they were not really looking forward to October, but wanted to know when the annual Winter Maintenance Forum would be held.

- Mr. Fox commented that the Winter Maintenance Forum would be held in November.
- Mayor Pruhs commented that it was a very good report and a very good process and thanked Mr. Fox and his staff for a very good meeting.
- Mr. Cleworth thanked DOT for mowing the medians. Mr. Cleworth asked what had happened to the project ideas that DOT presented to FAST Planning to pave over the grass or put stamped concrete in those medians, like they did on the Illinois Street project.
- Mayor Ward commented that his recollection was that there was discussion about paving, and he thought that the Policy Board had not approved of that idea.
- Mr. Kemp commented that it was \$40,000 a cut just on Airport Way.
- Mr. Cleworth commented that the Project Enhancement Committee should take a look at that and find out if there is something we could do in those medians.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **12:55 p.m.** The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

Approved:  Date: 9-13-23
Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FAST Planning Policy Board