



## **BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN/ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**September 28, 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: 813-4307-9015

#### **1. Call to Order**

Olivia Lunsford, Vice 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
- Iza Lepkowski
- \*\*Olivia Lunsford, **Vice Chair**
- \*Travis Naibert (**absent**)
- \*Jim Richardson
- \*Kim Streeter
- \*\*Deborah Todd
- \*Larry Zervos

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

#### **3. Approval of the September 28, 2023 Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the September 28, 2023 Agenda. (Zervos/Bissell).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

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

#### **4. Approval of the June 29 and July 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the June 29 and July 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes. (Bissell/Zervos).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

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

## **5. Staff/Working Group/Chair Report**

### **a. Staff Report**

- ✉ The comment letter drafted by Mr. Fox for the Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was approved by both the Policy Board and Technical Committee. The main issue was the lack of FAST Planning and AMATS MPO coordination and input to the draft STIP. Due to the lack of coordination, DOT's funding plan will lapse on September 30, 2023. At that time, DOT will not be able to do any new projects and can only work on projects that are already funded in the existing STIP. DOT must request an extension in order to revise the STIP and must have approvals from both AMATS and FAST Planning. AMATS has submitted their comment letter. The FAST Planning comment letter was submitted to DOT and FHWA on September 13, 2023.
- ✉ The Technical Committee and Policy Board approved the FAST Planning Office Budget for FFY24.
- ✉ The Technical Committee and Policy Board approved the new Planning (PL) Fund Distribution Formula.

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

- ✉ No public comment.

## **7. Old Business**

### **a. Bike Friendly Business Program**

Ms. Lunsford updated the BPAC about what has been happening with the new Bike Friendly Business Program. Ms. Lunsford explained that since the last meeting, she has been coordinating with Simon Rakower to provide training for all the bicycle repair kit hosts. Ms. Lunsford explained that she is also receiving training so that she is better able to instruct/assist the businesses who currently have tool kits on-site with any questions or concerns they might have. Ms. Lunsford added that a Fat Bike will be raffled at the November Winter Maintenance Forum, and you will need to be present to win.

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

Mr. Fox drafted a Bill for the Legislature to designate a path in Fairbanks as the "the Peter Stern Memorial Path" or the "Peter Stern Path." Mr. Fox noted that there are over 400 paths that have been designated through similar Bills. The next step is to get co-sponsors from our area to introduce the Bill. By Passing the Bill through the Legislature, it will mandate that DOT&PF commits to providing funding for the creation and installation of the sign for the path. The termini for the location of the sign would be east of University Avenue towards the Johansen Expressway on the north side where Mr. Stern often walked.

**c. Outsourcing Non-Motorized Route Maintenance**

Mr. Fox explained that since the last meeting, he has had conversations with people in Anchorage as well as the DOT Commissioner's Office regarding the idea of support for outsourcing winter maintenance. The Commissioner's Office is in strong support of the idea but needs a proposal for the amount of funding that would be required. Mr. Fox explained that the next step is to submit the proposal to the Commissioner's Office and then have them forward it to the Governor's Office and the Legislature. Mr. Fox explained that there also needs to be strong support from the local governments and the DOT.

**d. Winter Maintenance Forum**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Maintenance Forum will be held November 14, 2023 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center. A fat bike will be given away and participants must be present to win. For more information, go to <https://fastplanning.us/wmf23/>.

**8. New Business**

**a. Geist Road Pedestrian Overpass**

Mr. Fox explained that the Geist Road Pedestrian Overpass was dismantled by DOT after a member of the public reported damage. The decision was made for the bridge to be removed, rather than trying to repair it and keep it in place while they work on a solution. The Policy Board has officially requested that the DOT replace the bridge. There are two alternatives: The bridge could be replaced by another bridge that was ADA-compliant. The other option would be to replace it with a crosswalk and HAWK signal to stop traffic as people crossed in that location. It is a popular location for students at West Valley and Hutchison High Schools to get to various businesses across the road. The State is under penalty from FHWA for not meeting their Safety standards for vulnerable users, so DOT seems to be supportive of using some of that mandatory 15 percent set-aside which would be a sufficient amount to replace what was there. Mr. Fox explained that there will likely not be a safe crossing location in that area for a few years as DOT comes up with a design and location, holds public meetings to discuss alternatives, gets approvals, and it goes to construction.

**b. Committee Membership**

Mr. Fox explained that the two State of Alaska BPAC seats are vacant. Mr. Fox will send an email to DOT to see if he can get Mr. Layral appointed to one of those seats. The City of North Pole seat has been vacant since 2020 and Mr. Fox will approach Mayor Welch to see if he wants to appoint someone to fill that seat. Dr. Belz has termed out of the BPAC. Both Mr. Naibert and Mr. Zervos first terms are over, and they need to indicate whether or not they would like to remain in those seats.

Mr. Zervos stated that he would like to serve on the BPAC for another term.

Mr. Fox will reach out to Mr. Naibert to see if he would like to serve another term.

## 9. Informational Items

The Statewide Active Transportation Coalition or "Confluence" was held in Fairbanks this year. A lot of the comments from the participants of the meeting were about the fact that Fairbanks was really lucky to have such a nice active transportation infrastructure already in place here. The Statewide Active Transportation Coalition Meeting was set up by the Department of Health and the DOT Commissioner, Ryan Anderson, was receptive to some of the ideas presented at the meeting. The hope is to keep an open dialogue with DOT to get some of these ideas incorporated in future projects.

Ms. Lunsford commented that FAST Planning participated in Winter Biking 101 that was held on September 20, 2023 from 6-8 pm with a bike ride to Creamers Field. There were 12-15 participants in attendance.

Ms. Lunsford noted that recently there have been two different pedestrian-vehicle-related accidents with serious injuries. In each accident, the same person was driving the vehicle. One accident occurred on the Cushman Street Bridge crosswalk near the Immaculate Conception Church and the other accident occurred on Trainor Gate Road.

## 10. Other Issues

No other issues.

## 11. Committee Member Comments

Mr. Richardson commented that he sent an email to Mr. Fox and Ms. Lunsford with a link to a webinar discussion about what it takes to get bicycle routes to actually work and how to get connectivity. Mr. Richardson commented that he thought it was pretty interesting. Mr. Richardson commented that in a way when we did a bicycle route here, we kind of considered that and should always try to figure in the average bicyclists when we do projects.

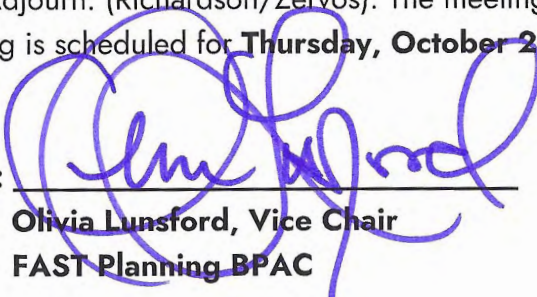
Mr. Layral commented that the pedestrian path behind Denali Elementary on Stewart Street, connecting to Wilbur Street, was recently mowed by the Borough. All of the grass has been pushed onto the path and the cold weather has made it like ice.

Mr. Layral commented that there is also broken glass on the volleyball court path.

## 12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Richardson/Zervos). The meeting was adjourned at **6:23 p.m.** The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 26, 2023.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair  
FAST Planning BPAC

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

10/26/23