



🚲 BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN/ADVISORY COMMITTEE 🚲

Meeting Minutes

October 26, 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: 834-6736-6118

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
- 🚲 Jesse Coleman
- 🚲 **Corey DiRutigliano (**absent**)
- 🚲 **Jackson Fox
- 🚲 Matt Layral
- 🚲 **Olivia Lunsford, **Vice Chair**
- 🚲 *Travis Naibert
- 🚲 *Jim Richardson
- 🚲 *Kim Streeter (**absent**)
- 🚲 **Deborah Todd
- 🚲 *Larry Zervos

**BPAC Representative, **FAST Planning Staff*

3. Approval of the October 26, 2023 Agenda

Motion: To approve the October 26, 2023 Agenda. (Naibert/Zervos).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the September 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the September 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes. (Naibert/Zervos).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Staff/Working Group/Chair Report

a. Staff Report

- At the October 2023 meetings, both the Technical Committee and Policy Board approved the two project bundles for the FFY25-26 FAST Improvement Program.
- The Policy Board approved the release of the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary Update for 30-day public review and comment.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

- No public comment.

7. Old Business

a. Committee Membership

Mr. Fox explained that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is set up so that the DOT, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough each have member seats. Each BPAC member serves a one, two, or three-year term. Mr. Fox explained that the North Pole seat has been vacant for a couple of years, and he has tried to have Mayor Welch fill that seat but has not received any input from him. Mr. Fox explained that he has been in conversations with Joe Kemp, Northern Region DOT&PF Director, and Mr. Kemp appointed Ron Davis, Maintenance and Operations, to fill the DOT seat. Mr. Fox explained that he has contacted Mayor Ward to request that either Jesse Coleman or Matt Layral be appointed to the vacant Borough seat. Mr. Fox explained that he will try to get Mayor Welch to appoint Nathan Belz or Matt Layral or Jesse Coleman after receiving Mayor Ward's decision. Mr. Fox explained that Travis Naibert and Larry Zervos will both be serving their second term on the Committee.

b. 6th Annual Winter Maintenance Forum

The 6th Annual Winter Maintenance Forum will be held on November 14, 2023 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitor's Center Auditorium on Dunkel Street in Fairbanks. There will be several previous presenters and the University of Alaska Fairbanks also will be presenting this year. DOT and the City of Fairbanks will have snow removal equipment parked outside for people to look at. There will be swag items with the FAST Planning logo given away during the meetings. A Norco Fat Bike, including a class for bicycle maintenance with Simon Rakower, will also be given away this year and the winner must be present to win.

c. Transit Plans Updates

In coordination with the Borough and FAST Planning, two MACS Transit Plans are currently being updated by R & M Consultants. The first public open house was held at the Pioneer Park Centennial Center Exhibit Hall. A Ridership Survey will be sent out to the public soon.

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

Mr. Fox talked with Cherie Bowman of Representative Scott Kawasaki's office and passed along the BPAC Legislative Proposal for the Peter Stern Memorial Path.

Mr. Fox indicated that they were waiting for it to become official but are getting the nod that is most likely a "go" for this Legislative Session. Mr. Fox will keep everyone posted. A Subcommittee will meet to determine the design and location of the signs.

e. Outsourcing Non-Motorized Route Maintenance

Mr. Fox attended the first DOT&PF Snow Summit held in Anchorage and presented the idea of outsourcing the maintenance of non-motorized routes to local contractors.

8. New Business

a. FAST Improvement Program FFY25 & FFY26 Construction

A FAST Improvement Subcommittee Meeting was held to put together priority project bundles that could go to construction in FFY25 and FFY26. The policy for the FAST Improvement Program is to bundle projects and give all the member agencies an opportunity to get some of their preventative maintenance projects, both motorized and non-motorized, constructed. The project bundles were approved by the Policy Board at the October 25, 2023 meeting.

b. FAST Planning Draft Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Update and Public Comment Period

The Draft 2023 Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary Update is out for 30-day public review and comment from October 12 to November 12, 2023. To view the document online go to <https://fastplanning.us/draftmpa>.

9. Informational Items

The Title VI and Public Participation Plan Updates have been released by the Policy Board for 45-day public review and comment from October 25 – December 10, 2023. To make comments online, go to: www.fastplanning.us/plans.

Dr. Belz commented that he attended the Vulnerable Road Safety User meeting happening in concert with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan because Alaska had 15 percent or more bike/pedestrian fatalities. The focus was on the Fairbanks, Anchorage, and MatSu areas. In Fairbanks, the focus was on the Geist Road/Chena Pump Interchange and College Road.

10. Other Issues

Mr. Fox commented that regarding the two major pedestrian accidents that occurred: one was on Trainor Gate and the other was near the Cushman Street Bridge. DOT is currently looking at a HAWK pedestrian crossing signal installation at Trainor Gate using Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding.

Ms. Bissell commented on the GARS intersection and issue with the crosswalk.

11. Committee Member Comments

- ☰ Ms. Bissell commented that the transit/bus rack that will accommodate fat bikes on MACS Transit buses is coming soon.
- ☰ Mr. Naibert commented he was happy this will be his second term on the BPAC.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Richardson/Zervos). The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2023.

Approved:  _____ Date: 12/1/23

Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair
FAST Planning BPAC