

APPENDIX A – EXCERPT FROM THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL OPERATING AGREEMENT

**Fairbanks North Star Borough,
City of Fairbanks,
City of North Pole,
and
State of Alaska**

FAIRBANKS AREA SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

**INTER-GOVERNMENTAL OPERATING AGREEMENT
and
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
for
TRANSPORTATION AND AIR QUALITY PLANNING**

**In the
Metropolitan Area
of the
Fairbanks Metropolitan Planning Organization**

audit of all revenues and expenditures, as well as participate in a state and/or federal single audit as requested. All Parties and/or their subcontractors under this Agreement shall maintain all records and accounts relating to their costs and expenditures for the work during any fiscal year for a minimum of three (3) years following receipt of the final payment and shall make them available for audit by representatives of ADOT&PF, FHWA, and FTA at reasonable times. All Parties shall maintain records in a form approved by ADOT&PF. Final payment is defined as the final voucher paid by FHWA to ADOT&PF based on an audit. A request to close out a fiscal year or project account does not constitute final payment.

- 13.5 Any review, which does not meet Federal requirements, will be resolved between ADOT&PF and the other party. The financial records relating to a UPWP year may be closed out once FHWA accepts the audit and final payment adjustments have been made.

SECTION 14 – COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI, CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

All Parties hereby agree as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from USDOT, to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49 CFR, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the USDOT, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

SECTION 15 – DBE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

15.1 Compliance

The Parties, their agents and employees shall comply with the provisions of 49 CFR 26 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. 49 CFR 26 requires that all parties shall agree to abide by the statements in paragraphs 15.2 and 15.3 and shall include these statements in all Parties' USDOT financial assistance agreements and in all subsequent agreements between any party and any sub-grantees and any contractor.

15.2 Policy

It is the policy of the USDOT that DBEs, as defined in 49 CFR 26.5, shall have an equal opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or part with Federal funds under this Agreement. Consequently, the DBE requirements of 49 CFR 26 apply to this Agreement.

15.3 DBE Obligation

The Parties to this Agreement agree to ensure that DBEs, as defined in 49 CFR 26.5, have an equal opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts and sub-contracts financed in whole or part with Federal funds provided under this Agreement. In this regard the Parties to this Agreement and/or their contractors shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or in the award and performance of USDOT assisted contracts.

SECTION 16 - AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be amended only in writing and must be done prior to undertaking changes or work resulting therefrom or incurring additional costs or any extension of time. Said amendments are subject to approval by the MPO and the State.

SECTION 17 – LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

No liability shall be attached to any party to this Agreement by reason of entering into this Agreement, except as expressly provided herein.

SECTION 18 – COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

In addition to the laws, statutes, regulations and requirements stated herein, all Parties to this Agreement shall be knowledgeable of and comply with all Federal, State and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work to be done under this Agreement.

SECTION 19 – TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement will continue in force until or unless the Parties terminate the Agreement in writing.

SECTION 20 – NON-APPROPRIATION CLAUSE

Nothing in this agreement shall obligate any party to expend monies if there are insufficient or other lack of funds lawfully appropriated by their respective legislative bodies for performance under this Agreement.

APPENDIX B – TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM

FAST Planning Discrimination Complaint Form

The purpose of this form is to assist you in filing a complaint of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex (gender) arising with any FMATS plan, program, or activity.

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name	
Phone Number	
Address	
COMPLAINT INFORMATION	
If different from the information above, please provide the name of the person or group that was discriminated against. Name: Phone Number: Address:	
Indicate the base(s) on which you believe the discrimination was conducted.	<input type="checkbox"/> Race/Color <input type="checkbox"/> National Origin <input type="checkbox"/> Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Disability

COMPLAINT

Please explain as clearly as possible what happened, why you believe it happened, and how you believe you were discriminated against. Please indicate who was involved. Be sure to include how other persons were treated differently from you.

Do you have any other information that you think may be relevant to the investigation of your allegations of discrimination? Please indicate if you have filed a complaint with another organization.

Please sign and date below:

(Signature)

(Date)

Please mail this completed, signed Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form to:

Title VI Coordinator
FAST Planning
100 Cushman Street, Suite 205
Fairbanks, AK 99701

APPENDIX C - LIST OF TITLE VI INVESTIGATIONS, COMPLAINTS, AND LAWSUITS

As of December 2023, FAST Planning has received no complaints or lawsuits, and therefore is not under investigation.

APPENDIX D - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

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II. UNDERSTANDING THE MPO

All Urbanized Areas over 50,000 in population must have a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to carry out a 3C transportation planning process, as stipulated in the Federal Highway Act of 1962. On May 1, 2002, the U.S. Census Bureau published a notice in the Federal Register identifying an area surrounding Fairbanks and North Pole as a Qualifying Urbanized Area under the 2000 Census. The Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary (See Appendix A) was adjusted and finalized in December 2002, and the Fairbanks MPO was subsequently established in April 2003.

The following is a list of acronyms that are used throughout this document:

Common Acronyms in Transportation Planning	
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MPA	Metropolitan Planning Area
PPP	Public Participation Plan
FAST Planning	Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation Planning
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FNSB	Fairbanks North Star Borough
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
Alaska DOT&PF	Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
PL	Metropolitan Planning funds

PB	Policy Board
TC	Technical Committee
BPAC	Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
PEC	Project Enhancement Committee
SMTF	Seasonal Mobility Task Force
FWW	Fort Wainwright Military Base
UAF	University of Alaska Fairbanks
FAI	Fairbanks International Airport
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
TIP	(Metropolitan) Transportation Improvement Program
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program
MACS Transit	Metropolitan Area Commuter System Transit
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
FDNM	Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

ARRC	Alaska Railroad Corporation
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PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

This Public Participation Plan (PPP) aims to serve as a procedural document for engaging residents in Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning processes for the MPA. By providing this plan, FAST Planning will comply with the federal public participation requirements that are listed in Section V of this document. In addition to compliance with these federal requirements, FAST Planning strives to incorporate consistent efforts for public participation that are outlined in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Regional Comprehensive Plan.

FAST PLANNING HISTORY

The MPO was originally operated in-house by Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (Alaska DOT&PF) and FNSB staff from 2003 to 2008. In 2008, the MPO hired a coordinator and opened an office in Fairbanks City Hall with continued planning support from Alaska DOT&PF and FNSB staff. The MPO was hosted by the City of Fairbanks from 2008 to 2018, at which time the MPO transitioned to an independent, non-profit organization. The MPO's new organization, FAST Planning, opened a new office in downtown Fairbanks on May 1, 2019, and currently has two full-time and one part-time staff members. FAST Planning continues to be supported by Alaska DOT&PF and FNSB staff and shares its allocation of Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds with these agencies for their respective planning activities.

CORE FUNCTIONS

As the MPO, FAST Planning is responsible for the development and implementation of federally required short and long-range plans. Each of these required plans are highlighted in *Section IV. Participating with the MPO* of this PPP. In brief, FAST Planning is primarily responsible for the planning and programming of transportation infrastructure projects within the MPA. Regular meetings and decision-making opportunities are key for the MPO to achieve such a level of coordination between community partners, stakeholders, and the public. Given the importance of said opportunities, the MPO relies heavily on both its required and supplemental plans and other documents to maintain strength in organization and function.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

As mentioned above, FAST Planning relies on what is required of it as an MPO which includes a balanced decision-making and planning process, that is open for the public to participate and engage in. FAST Planning hosts several recurring meetings throughout the year to meet the federally mandated goals and objectives of transparency, community awareness, and opportunity for public testimony. Three of the meetings, which include the Policy Board (PB), Technical Committee (TC), and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meetings, are held monthly. The Project Enhancement Committee (PEC) meetings are held quarterly. In addition to these regularly scheduled meetings, FAST Planning hosts a suite of subcommittee, working group, special, and project-specific meetings throughout the year.

FAST Planning operates under hierarchical leadership through the direction of boards and committees. The top tier decision-makers are those who serve on the PB. This board is made up of the FNSB Mayor, the City of Fairbanks Mayor, and the City of North Pole Mayor, the Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region Director, the Director of the Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Air Quality Division, and representatives from the FNSB Assembly and Fairbanks City Council. Policy Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise posted.

The second-tier decision-makers are those who make up the TC. This large committee is advisory to the Policy Board and enacts on matters related to policies, plans, and programs. It is made up of engineers, planners and other specialists from the Cities of Fairbanks and North Pole, the FNSB, ADEC Air Quality Division, Alaska DOT&PF, Fort Wainwright Military Base (FWW), University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), MACS (Metropolitan Area Commuter System) Transit,



Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC), Fairbanks International Airport (FAI), Alaska Department of Public Safety, the local freight industry, and local tribal entities.

The third-tier decision-makers are those who make up the BPAC and PEC. These committees are advisory to the TC and have minimal decision-making power, but strong opportunity for influence over planning efforts and scenarios thanks to their popularity with the public and “boots on the ground” knowledge. Both committees seat citizen representatives for the Cities of Fairbanks and North Pole, the FNSB, the State of Alaska, and FAST Planning. The Seasonal Mobility Task Force is another committee that advises the Technical Committee, and it is made up of area maintenance managers who represent the Cities of Fairbanks and North Pole, the FNSB, the State of Alaska, UAF, and an organization for accessibility (i.e., Access Alaska). How and when each of these important decision-making bodies meet is discussed in *Section III. Public Involvement* of this document.

PLANNING AREA

The MPA designates the boundary within which FAST Planning can spend its federal funds. This boundary encompasses the cities of Fairbanks and North Pole, as well as the urbanized center of the FNSB. The MPA was updated recently to include the boundaries of two FNSB parks, and it is up for readjustment again sometime in 2022 with the 2020 Census (See Appendix A).

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION

As a recipient of funding from surface transportation programs, FAST Planning is subject to both the legislation and regulations outlined in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. 114-94, FAST) and 23 United States Code (USC) Section 134, 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 450, 49 U.S.C. Section 5303, and 49 CFR Part 613. To meet the requirements of these regulations, FAST Planning, like other MPOs, must develop this participation plan to define a process for providing the public, agencies, organizations, and other interested parties with the opportunity to be involved in its planning process.

FAST Planning will continue engage with the following stakeholders/stakeholder groups as a part of this effort for fair involvement opportunities, in no order:

- ▶ public agencies

- public transportation agencies
- freight shippers and transportation service providers
- private transportation providers
- public transportation users
- bicycle and pedestrian facility users
- disability community
- individuals and other parties

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FAST Planning works to maintain a constructive and cooperative relationship with federal, state, and local agencies, as shown in *Section I. Understanding the MPO* of this PPP. FAST Planning coordinates with these community partners using various methods of communication including, but not limited to, email, conference calls, and virtual or in-person meetings. In addition, FAST Planning distributes information and materials related to its plans, programs, and activities to these community partners, as well as consultation agencies, digitally and by mail or hand-delivered promotional materials (i.e., flyers).

Federal Agencies

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are responsible for providing oversight to Alaska DOT&PF and FAST Planning processes. Particularly, FHWA provides oversight to all areas that relate to the financial integrity and project delivery of the MPO. FHWA also regularly reviews FAST Planning processes, programs, activities, and plans to ensure its compliance with the applicable federal laws and regulations. FAST Planning also coordinates with the United States Army (as Fort Wainwright is within our planning area) and the Western Federal Lands Division of the Office of Federal Lands.

State Agencies

Alaska DOT&PF and ADEC's Air Quality Division are responsible for providing oversight, technical assistance, and supporting the development and maintenance of FAST Planning's plans, programs, and activities.

FAST Planning will continue to involve and coordinate with these agencies in the development of its plans and programs. The input, feedback, and guidance FAST Planning receives from these agencies will be considered and implemented when and where appropriate.

Local Agencies

As previously mentioned, FAST Planning works closely with the many local agencies that operate within the MPA boundary. These agencies include the Cities of Fairbanks and North Pole, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the FNSB. The FNSB provides many services to the community as it operates local transit, parks and recreation, the school district, and planning and zoning. The Alaska Native Cultural Coalition of the Interior (who represents Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon, Ltd., and Denakkanaaga, Inc.) is the organization that FAST Planning coordinates with to maintain open dialogue with the Alaska Native community. All these local agencies and community partners work to provide insight on infrastructure needs or desires and participate in the development of FAST Planning's required and supplemental plans and programs.

III. EVALUATING FORMER AND CURRENT METHODS

The PPP is updated on an as needed basis. FAST Planning staff take the time to evaluate existing outreach strategies for effectiveness and research new strategies that could maintain or enhance an inclusive and transparent metropolitan planning process. For the update of this plan, FAST Planning staff conducted a peer review of other PPPs across the country, focusing on smaller communities with similarities to Fairbanks, analyzed past and current meeting activity, and consulted with the various community partners outlined in the previous section.

WHAT WE KNOW

In July 2021, FAST Planning provided a Title VI Program Review to Alaska DOT&PF Civil Rights Office upon request. In the process of putting the materials together that were necessary for the review, FAST Planning staff identified where some improvements could be made to garner stronger public input, but that participation from community partners remains strong and is increasing, even in the times of Covid-19 and the challenges presented to MPO's nationwide. Since implementing the PPP that was updated and approved in May 2022, the community's awareness of FAST Planning has grown significantly. As of October 2023, the PPP is due for an update to highlight new community programs, additional strategies for reaching the public, and more.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Since the May 2022 PPP update, FAST Planning has continued to boost the public participation process with data visualization tactics such as graphics and mapping, as well as virtual engagement opportunities like hybridized meetings, reels on social media, and tutorial videos for comment periods. In this PPP update, FAST Planning looks to identify the goals from May 2022 that have been met, determine new goals, and continue the search for best practices for outreach and public involvement in our community. In the previous PPP, FAST Planning identified a series of *Strategies to Implement*. This list has been updated to reflect new strategies the MPO hopes to implement, and remove/relocate the strategies that are now fully implemented. To summarize, FAST Planning intended to re-launch a quarterly newsletter utilizing MailChimp. As of January 2023, FAST Planning has been publishing semi-quarterly newsletters, and gaining new subscribers almost daily, thanks to the widget that is hosted on the website. The newsletter content contains announcements for planning efforts, projects, and

upcoming meetings/events, as well as promotes open public comment periods and funnels the reader to any respective web links for additional information.

Since May 2022, FAST Planning has also implemented “tabling” as a key strategy for outreach. In the previous plan, this was cited as “public booths” in the *Strategies to Implement* section, and we have now renamed it to “tabling”. FAST Planning tabled at the Interior Alaska Builder’s Association Home Show in March 2023 for 3-days and had great success. Upon launching its Bike Friendly Businesses Program, FAST Planning has also been seen tabling at multiple businesses and events throughout the year. Now that expectations are more defined for the MPO’s approach to tabling, staff will develop a schedule to implement this strategy further.

In addition to the implementation of the above strategies, FAST Planning has also met the goal of bolstering its database of photographs for documentation and promotion of the MPO across all platforms. The engagement on social media posts has increased significantly with this effort, and FAST Planning will continue to incorporate local images in its outreach practices to keep locals engaged.

FAST Planning has modified the digital sign-in sheet to include “how did you hear about this meeting?” It will update the in-person sign-in sheet to reflect the same inquiry, in addition to all Title VI related questions.

Goals and Objectives

As shown in Section III of this plan, FAST Planning has updated its goals and objectives to reflect advances in technology, and changes in expectations from the public in terms of materials and meeting access, brand representation, and any regulations since the previous PPP update of May 2022.

Strategies

The types of public engagement tools that currently or possibly will help accomplish the goals and objectives that drive FAST Planning’s outreach efforts are also updated in Section III this plan.

Socio-Demographic Analysis

As an MPO, FAST Planning is required by law to do its best to involve anyone and everyone in its planning processes. The socio-demographic analysis in the FAST Planning Title VI Plan (October 2023) outlines the demographics within the MPO's Draft Updated planning area. The Title VI plan analyzes these findings and highlights who the MPO reaches inherently, and who/where needs additional targeting and accommodation for lively public participation opportunities. The Draft, Amended Title VI Plan is shown in Appendix B.

Measures of Effectiveness

The MPO should assess and evaluate public outreach efforts to ensure they not only meet federal and state requirements, but that they are also successful. The measures of effectiveness that are paired with the objectives outlined in *Section III. Public Involvement* of this PPP aim to provide a starting point for determining whether the MPO is succeeding at outreach and public involvement.

PLAN REVIEW & APPROVAL MILESTONES

Like the other required plans of the MPO, this PPP has undergone a robust process of review and comment. Comments have been documented and the plan revised accordingly. From review to adoption, the PPP approval process has adhered to the following key steps:

- Draft provided to FAST Planning decision-makers including the TC and PB
- Draft provided to the public for a 45-day review and public comment period
- Final revised plan scheduled for approval by the TC and adoption by the PB
- Plan to be updated on the FAST Planning website and forwarded to FHWA and FTA for their records.

IV. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION AND MEETINGS

This section highlights the crucial role that FAST Planning’s open public meetings play in the planning process and overall success of the MPO. FAST Planning makes every effort to host open public meetings virtually and at convenient, accessible locations, taking into consideration the availability of ADA compliant facilities, relation to transit routes or bus stops, and proximity to general neighborhoods/areas within the MPA.

Regular Meetings

FAST Planning hosts several regular meetings throughout the year and builds on those meetings with additional working group, subcommittee, and other open public meetings. These meetings are held for the MPO’s timely implementation of the goals and objectives outlined in this chapter to meet the federal requirements for public participation and accomplish effective work for the community.

FAST Planning holds its regularly scheduled, open-public meetings to high standards that aim to ensure consistency, opportunity, and efficiency for public participation. The MPO’s regularly scheduled BPAC, TC, and PB meetings are held monthly, and the regularly scheduled PEC meetings are held quarterly. The following details show the times that these meetings are reliably held, unless otherwise posted:

- BPAC | Fourth Thursday, 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- TC | First Wednesday, 12:00 – 2:00 PM
- PB | Third Wednesday, 12:00 – 2:00 PM
- PEC | First Thursday of January, April, July, and October, 11:00-1:00 PM

Non-regular Meetings

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, FAST Planning will oftentimes host working group meetings to familiarize any committee or board members with information-heavy agenda topics. Subcommittee meetings are also a regular occurrence for the MPO, as each of the committees works through a substantial amount of material monthly and sometimes needs the additional opportunity to digest it and determine solutions to then bring back to the whole committee.

FAST Planning also holds stakeholder group meetings for projects within the MPA that have yet to be designed. Some past examples of these stakeholder group meetings include those held for the Turner Street Upgrade and the. The stakeholders who are present at these meetings vary by project. Otherwise, there is consistency in the stakeholder group process which ultimately results in providing engineers with the priorities of those directly impacted by or invested in a potential project. Stakeholder group style meetings are further described in the *Strategies* portion of this section.

Advertisement of Meetings

For all the above meetings (both regular and non-regular), FAST Planning utilizes the same outreach practices to both meet the federal requirements of the MPO and provide ample opportunity for the public to engage in the planning and programming processes.

To advertise the meetings, FAST Planning adheres to (at minimum) the following routine:

- ▶ post ads in the local newspaper with zoom and/or in-person meeting information for the Sunday-before and day-of papers for the meeting(s)
- ▶ request DOT&PF to post an online public notice to their website at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices>
- ▶ request the FNSB to post an online public notice to their website at <https://www.fnsb.gov/calendar>
- ▶ post the event with zoom and/or in-person meeting information on the FAST Planning online calendar at <https://fastplanning.us/calendar/>
- ▶ make (at minimum) two social media posts prior to the meeting time on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter that contain engaging dialogue, with zoom and/or in-person meeting information, and a link to the meeting agenda and packet
- ▶ post meeting information to the local newspaper's online event calendar which is then featured on local television channels
- ▶ circulate calendar cards that feature regularly scheduled meeting dates and times, as well as how to access meeting materials and the meetings, for the whole calendar year

Refer to Appendix C for an example of a Title VI Report that is generated after every regularly scheduled meeting. It shows examples of social media posts, newspaper ads, online public notices, and calendar posts that are created for one meeting.

Public Process at Meetings

At each of the meetings outlined in this section, a variety of strategies are implemented to ensure that public participation is straightforward and easy. At in-person meetings, the physical arrangement of committee/board members will make it clear to the public who is representing what agency and if they are a member of said committee or board. When in a virtual meeting space, committee or board members are renamed by the virtual meeting host to reflect that they are in a decision-maker position (i.e., “PB | Bryce Ward” or “BPAC | Nathan Belz”). The public is encouraged to sign-in to any meeting using the MPO’s sign-in sheet/form, which is made available at both in-person and virtual meetings.

Each of the regularly scheduled meetings follow the Robert’s Rules of Order structure. Therefore, each of these meetings operates within the following guidelines to allow for optimum public involvement opportunity:

- ▶ A public comment period for items not listed on the agenda as an action item will occur at the beginning of every meeting. The length of the comment period, per speaker, may be determined at the discretion of the Chair at the beginning of any public meeting. Members of the public shall not use this limited time forum to initiate debate or discussion with Committee/Board members, but rather to just provide public comment and subsequently, Committee/Board members can ask follow-up questions.
- ▶ Members of the public will also have secondary opportunity to provide concise comments during the meeting regarding specific agenda items listed as “Action Item” as they are introduced to the Committee/Board.
- ▶ Any groups or organizations that wish to address a Committee/Board should select a representative to present the group’s comments or position.
- ▶ Members of the public who wish to submit written comments for any of the public comment periods on the agenda are allowed to do so and should provide these to the Executive Director of the MPO prior to the meeting date to be read aloud into the record.

VALUES, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Values

Since transitioning to a non-profit MPO model in 2018, the outreach and planning of FAST Planning has shifted to be even more transparent, engaging, and enthusiastic about garnering public input and stakeholder involvement. As shown through the successes of implementing the most recent PPP (May 2022), FAST Planning is proving how quickly some projects can come to fruition with the aid of meaningful input from the public, stakeholders, and industry professionals. The MPO's updated outreach process focuses heavily on doing *more* than the bare minimum by engaging as many individuals as possible. With the overarching goal to "become a household name" as the Fairbanks MPO, FAST Planning's values have evolved to comprise of *transparency, creativity, and efficiency*. Keeping these values in mind, FAST Planning has identified the following goals and objectives to serve as an outline for all public involvement processes.

Goal 1

Provide the public and other interested parties with the opportunity to review and comment on the development of all MPO plans, programs, and activities.

Objective 1.1

Prioritize a transparency-based approach by providing stakeholders and the public with consistent opportunity for meaningful review, comment, and consideration at key decision points throughout plan and program development.

Objective 1.2

Provide timely, repetitive notice of, and well-rounded access to information regarding MPO issues, initiatives, projects, and programs.

Objective 1.3

Ensure accessibility of information for all interested, or potentially interested, parties in the community with special consideration for populations who are traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems including, but not limited to, low-income, minority, and limited English proficient households.

Objective 1.4

Hold in-person meetings at convenient and accessible locations for members of the public. Tailor the locations of project-specific meetings to venues that are central to the residents most impacted by said project. Re-evaluate regularly scheduled meeting locations annually and regularly scheduled meeting times bi-annually.

Objective 1.5

Provide a virtual/call-in option for all open, public meetings by utilizing Zoom.

Goal 2

Develop and implement outreach strategies that are effective for the whole community both within the MPA and beyond, including those who have been historically disenfranchised.

Objective 2.1

Circulate information to any interested, or potentially interested, party by utilizing various communication platforms including both digital and print media.

Objective 2.2

Use data visualization techniques (i.e., GIS, GIFs, Reels, etc.) where possible to describe project plans and transportation or MPO-related information.

Objective 2.3

Evaluate outreach strategy effectiveness per effort, at the time of the Title VI Annual Report, and during periodic review of the procedures and strategies contained in the PPP. Document outreach efforts, public comments, and MPO responses in all required MPO plans (see Section IV).

Goal 3

Coordinate public involvement efforts and consultation processes with federal, state, and local agencies where applicable.

Objective 3.1

Integrate other agency performance-based transportation plans and processes into the metropolitan planning process and coordinate with the statewide transportation planning public participation process.

Objective 3.2

Maintain compliance with federal and state regulations that pertain to public involvement.

Objective 3.3

Continue the promotion of all MPO open, public meetings and other significant public outreach efforts to the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

STRATEGIES

The strategies that are already implemented into the MPO's usual workings are broken into the two categories of "standard" and "robust" in this section. The idea behind separating these outreach efforts out is to show that the baseline efforts that go into the routine promotion of FAST Planning meetings, how to get in contact with the organization, and generally what the MPO does are strong and heavily relied upon. The more robust and costly outreach strategies apply to planning initiatives, project processes, and anything else that is longer-range and will directly impact the community. These efforts are executed in tandem with the standard practices to approach the public with opportunities for engagement from all angles. More information regarding these strategies is defined in this section.

Standard

The following strategies are implemented on a regular basis across various outreach efforts pertaining to routine MPO processes, including regularly scheduled, subcommittee, and working group meetings. These strategies serve as the baseline for outreach efforts of the MPO and are deployed on a near-weekly basis.

- ▶ logo and branding



- FAST Planning has worked to develop a recognizable and consistent brand identity to increase awareness of the MPO and its plans and processes. The longer the brand identity is maintained, the more the community will recognize the MPO as an organization that is involved in a myriad of local transportation-related projects.
- public meetings
 - As addressed in *Section III. Public Involvement*, open, public meetings are crucial to the transparency and success of the MPO. While public meetings are advertised by way of the outreach strategies listed here, they also act as an advertisement on their own. Between all of the notices, ads, and general time that the MPO puts into facilitating these meetings, the meeting space itself serves as a place where the curious individual can attend to not only answer questions but determine questions they might not know they had about the transportation infrastructure planning process in their community.
- other community meetings
 - Given that FAST Planning works closely with so many local, state, and federal agencies, there is always a meeting to attend, should the need arise for clarification on a program, project, or general MPO process.
- online public notices
 - For every regularly scheduled meeting or additional open, public meeting, FAST Planning posts online public notices to local and state agency website the week before the meeting occurs (See Appendix C).
- newspaper advertisements
 - For every regularly scheduled meeting or additional open, public meeting, FAST Planning posts two advertisements on the Sunday before the meeting, and the day of the meeting, in the local newspaper. These advertisements are distributed to thousands of subscribers by means of print or digital copies of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. These advertisements contain all the necessary information for an individual to understand what the meeting is about, how to access the meeting in-person or virtually, and how to access important meeting materials (See Appendix C).
- online calendars and calendar cards

- For every regularly scheduled meeting or additional open, public meeting, FAST Planning schedules calendar events on the local news community events calendar, as well as the FNSB events calendar and the MPO’s own calendar. For each of these calendar events, the details list how to access the meeting in-person and virtually, and who to contact if there is any additional information needed. On the FAST Planning calendar, a link directly to the digital meeting materials is posted, as well as a link to the recurring Facebook event.
- Each year, FAST Planning prints 4X6 color, double-sided cards that show the regularly scheduled meeting calendar for the year, broken down by committee or board (See Appendix G). These calendar cards are distributed throughout town at popular locations and taken to all the local, state, and federal agencies that the MPO works with for distribution as well.

➤ social media

- Social media is a critical component to any outreach process. FAST Planning utilizes LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (coupled with Linktr.ee) to keep the public who is on social media informed about regularly scheduled meetings (See Appendix C), as well as any additional projects, programs, or general MPO happenings.
- For any prolonged outreach event such as a survey period, public comment period, or planning effort, FAST Planning will create an event and invite all its “followers” and encourage community partners and local agencies to do the same, to the event page for more information. Staff will post event milestones in the discussion section and create engaging content for those interested in the event. These events provide a reference option to other agencies or groups for when they are hoping to share content about the planning event.
- On Facebook, at the start of each calendar year, FAST Planning creates a “recurring event” for each of the regularly scheduled meetings on the calendar. This allows Facebook users to keep tabs on when a meeting is coming up, or when one has passed. FAST Planning will post the meeting materials specific to each meeting date within the event page, to provide another easy way for the public to access meeting materials.
- When FAST Planning staff are distributing flyers for a specific planning effort or project, they will spend a portion of time on their route posting images and



tagging businesses to the FAST Planning Instagram Story and sharing that story to Facebook. This heightens local business' awareness of the MPO and lets the users on Instagram see that the MPO is familiar with ways to reach those who are not on social media. It also promotes local businesses.

▶ data visualization and mapping

- FAST Planning utilizes several tools to help translate messages from technical to digestible for the public. Such tools include the likes of Adobe Illustrator, NounProject.com, CapCut, and Esri GIS software such as ArcGIS Pro, StoryMaps, Experience Builder, and Dashboards for various efforts. These tools help FAST Planning to maintain its brand and create concise, articulate maps, dashboards, and more for the outreach process. By employing tools and visuals like these, the public begins to rely on this level of transparency, which has been shown to lead to maintained engagement throughout a planning process as a result.



▶ website

- FAST Planning maintains a simple, aesthetic website that aims to reduce information overload, increase navigability, and serve as a primary mode of communication with the public. The goal with the website is to promote FAST



Planning's efforts and processes in a way that is digestible. The website is updated for every meeting, as all meeting materials including agendas/packets, minutes, and signed action items are stored there for public consumption. The website also houses all the web pages, or links to websites, for project and program efforts. The FAST Planning website is an integral part of all continuous outreach efforts for the MPO. Since the May 2022 PPP update, FAST Planning has added a rotating banner to the Home Page in order to increase engagement. This banner cycles through content that is relevant to FAST Planning efforts "in the moment", as opposed to the more stagnant pages found throughout the site.

▶ meeting-in-a-box (per request only)

- To serve *any* member of the public, FAST Planning always notes in its advertisements that if someone does not have a phone, computer, or a way to digitally access a meeting or meeting materials, they can come by the office, and we can work to provide them with anything they might need to participate. All

advertisements have the office address, so that anyone who does not have the means to call can still get in touch with the MPO.

➤ sandwich boards

- FAST Planning has four sandwich boards that are placed around the downtown core for large events like public open houses, the Annual Winter Maintenance Forum, and the Free Bike Valet, and occasionally regularly scheduled meetings, if there is staff capacity to do so. (See Appendix F).

➤ quarterly newsletter

- FAST Planning sends out a quarterly newsletter to any agency affiliates, community partners, stakeholders (both current and previous), and any other interested parties. The quarterly newsletter typically includes the following information:
 - Upcoming meeting dates
 - Status of various projects
 - Committee status and current vacancies
 - Exciting transportation/planning news (local, statewide, or national level)
 - Opportunity for some form of action (i.e., “sign up now!”)
 - Links to all social media content
 - Interesting graphics or a map
- Route to specific contacts at large employers in the MPA such as Costco, Wal-Mart, and the military bases.

➤ tabling

- FAST Planning hosts a table at large events like the Tanana Valley State Fair, the Interior Alaska Building Association’s Home Show, Music in the Garden, or any Alaska DOT&PF open houses,. Available materials at the table include various maps and digitally interactive activities such as virtual tours of completed projects, current surveys, and more. FAST Planning offers swag such as stickers and reflective gear, when available. The goal in tabling is to promote the MPO regularly scheduled meetings, get citizens to sign-up for the quarterly newsletter, and chat with folks about past, present, and future transportation planning/projects/programs. FAST Planning will have a schedule of these regularly occurring opportunities to table by FFY25, and the schedule will be made available on our website and will be included in the next PPP update. pictures

- FAST Planning continues to bolster its database of transportation network-related photographs for the promotion of the MPO across social media platforms, as engagement is higher on posts with pictures that feature local content

Robust

The following strategies are typically deployed *in addition to* those in the “standard” category. These more robust strategies apply to major projects and required plans that typically require longer public comment periods. These methods can add cost to the outreach process and therefore are not feasible as an option for baseline outreach for every effort of the MPO. The following methods are often deployed in a mix and match fashion, depending on the project, plan, or program.

- paid advertisements
 - FAST Planning will place color ads in the local paper known as the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (FDNM) that are thoughtfully designed and informative. On social media, the MPO will utilize “boosts” to reach a wider or targeted audience. These efforts typically see an increase in engagement in the form of interaction with a public comment period, a survey, or a comment section on a post. Paid advertisements could also be done across media such as TV, radio, or transit.
- television/radio
 - As of 2023, FAST Planning continues to increase its reliance on local radio as a tool for the MPO to reach a broader audience on significant planning matters and efforts. FAST Planning has purchased ad space with both KUAC Public Radio and iHeart Media. These stations are airing general ads about FAST Planning being an MPO, who we collaborate with, and how citizens can get involved with us. Local radio stations such as Magic 101.1 FM and KUAC 89.9 FM will at times host or interview MPO staff to discuss key points about a project or planning effort. Television is a less-frequently explored option as the MPO is made up of a few full-time employees and one part time employee, and utilizing valuable staff time to create commercial quality videos is not readily within the capabilities of the MPO during large scale planning efforts. Though video production is not accessible to the MPO currently, FAST Planning calendar items are shared on the local news channels with other items, which does provide a form of television-

related exposure and does not cost the MPO anything. FAST Planning has also been working with KTVF's Alex Bengal to implement a monthly "FAST Planning Updates" spot where a staff member provides information and updates about what our committees have accomplished in the month or what will be on the next month's agendas. Implementation of this concept should be underway by the next PPP update.

▶ featured stories

○ newspaper

- One of the best ways that FAST Planning can become a "household name" is through exposure. The FDNM local newspaper has become increasingly interested in running featured stories about the planning efforts of the MPO. This form of outreach is optimal as it does not cost the MPO anything and helps the public identify what the organization is about. FAST Planning maintains relationships with local media outlets and provides them with about planning efforts, important agenda items, and the likes.

○ local news stations

- Like how featured stories work with the newspaper, FAST Planning will reach out to the local news stations if there is a project or planning process that it thinks warrants television coverage. To date, FAST Planning has been featured on the local television news broadcast a handful of times and continues to work towards solidifying a relationship with broadcasters to increase mentions and story covers.

▶ surveys

- For almost all large-scale planning efforts or projects, FAST Planning will solicit feedback from the public via survey. In survey design, staff strive to be unbiased, and write for clarity and simplicity. The overall look and feel of the survey are important as well, and should be well-designed to evoke a sense of calm and understanding of where the respondent is in the surveying process. Surveys may be conducted online, in-person, or via hard copies at public facilities such as the local library. As of October 2023, FAST Planning has utilized Esri's Survey123, MetroQuest, and SurveyMonkey for various outreach efforts.

▶ direct mailings

- For projects that require the input of specific stakeholders, in addition to the public, the MPO will at times utilize direct mailings in the form of a letter or postcard. These direct mailings are typically eye-catching and provide information about a planning timeline or process and where individuals can get more information. They are dispersed based on location/proximity to a potential project.



▶ contact lists

- At times, FAST Planning will put together a contact list of relevant state, local, and federal agencies, and stakeholder groups/interested citizens for a specific plan, program, or process. This contact list is then used for email announcements such as project milestones or feedback requests.

▶ open houses

- An open house is generally an informal option for spreading the word where the MPO pairs up with other local entities for projects or other efforts warranting an open house. Typically, open house events are designed to be more passive with opportunities for the public to provide comment on a series of large post-it notes, in a comment drop box, or in person with a staff member. FAST Planning will continue to provide online opportunities for the public to engage early in any planning process, but open houses will, for all intents and purposes, be considered as “in-person” events, like they were prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Appendix D shows a Title VI Report for all of the outreach done on a recent planning effort (Non-Motorized Plan Update) and an example of an open-house web page that is hosted on the FAST Planning website.

▶ flyers/handouts or other print materials

- Flyers are used for all large planning efforts and some smaller, more routine efforts (such as meeting calendar distribution or general promotion of the MPO). FAST Planning utilizes a “flyer routes” list (See Appendix F) as a guide for distribution of materials around town and one staff member can oftentimes scatter 200+ flyers throughout Fairbanks, Fox, Ester, and North Pole in a couple of workdays. This is a more financially and energetically expensive outreach option but given that such a large portion of the Fairbanks area is still without internet, posting flyers in public places like local gas stations, grocery stores, and coffee

shops is a crucial part of the planning process for the foreseeable future. All flyer materials should contain information about who to contact if any of the listed methods of engagement are not accessible for any individual. There are some examples of flyers from previous events in Appendix F as well.

- FAST Planning will print a few copies of each of its draft plans for the public to have access to at the office, local Community Planning Department, local libraries, and more should they have no other means to access the draft for review.
- Other print materials might include banners for advertisement during large events or at booths, calendar cards, signs for the sandwich boards, printed maps for in-person interactive exercises.

▶ library packets

- There are 3 public libraries within the MPA (note: Noel Wien is under construction/inaccessible until Spring 2024). When a final draft of a plan is ready for public comment, FAST Planning will distribute a printed and bound copy to the local libraries for the public to review in person. A way for the public to comment on the plan will be made possible in conjunction with this review option as well. Information about these items will be included in all digital and print advertisements.

▶ videos

- Unlike a commercial quality video, FAST Planning does have the ability and allotted time to develop short 30-second to 1-minute videos and reels that promote [open public comment periods](#), show new users how to access zoom meetings or how to participate in MPO activities like the [Annual Bicycle and Ped Count](#). Staff utilize the CapCut and GoRecord apps on their smartphones and tablet devices to effectively articulate navigation of a website or virtual open house page, as well as educate the public on transportation-related topics like “Ride the Blue Line with Me to...”

▶ stakeholder group/steering committee meetings

- During a specific project, FAST Planning may coordinate stakeholder group meetings for decision-making efforts. Stakeholder groups and steering committees change from project to project, but typically include individuals who represent those who might be impacted by a project



or plan (business owners, homeowners, network users, etc). Schedules for these meetings are typically identified within the first meeting and are dependent on the level of commitment a project or effort requires and what stakeholder group members can contribute. To continue towards the vision of transparency, FAST Planning maintains a web page with recordings of any in-house stakeholder group meetings and accompanying materials for the public to reference at any time. Appendix E shows a Title VI Report and a screenshot of the webpage from a stakeholder group meeting/meeting process to highlight how this outreach strategy is supported.

- ▶ interactive mapping
 - This level of outreach and engagement is rapidly becoming an expectation for agencies like MPO's to provide. For transportation network specific planning efforts, comment maps are a standard and should be provided by the MPO or consultant for the project. Interactive mapping could be as simple as offering a space for individuals to place designated pins or categories on locations or as complex as offering a space for the public to learn about how the budget is allocated to certain projects. Interactive mapping relies on the power of GIS and FAST Planning will use Esri mapping products for in-house efforts and defer to project consultants when applicable. Maps may be posted online, used in conjunction with a survey, or printed for use at public meetings.
- ▶ project briefings
 - FAST Planning may engage social organizations, attend civic club meetings, or speak at schools as an opportunity to engage with an existing audience. Print materials such as flyers, postcards, or trifold about the project at hand should always be brought to these briefings, as well as FAST Planning business cards, calendar cards, and swag such as stickers.
- ▶ events and crowdsourcing opportunities
 - As of January 2022, the Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Count and Annual Winter Maintenance Forum are two events hosted by FAST Planning that draw a dependable crowd. For the Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, individuals volunteer to collect data at intersections that help all agencies with their transportation planning efforts. For the Winter Maintenance Forum, citizens attend to hear local and state maintenance authorities present on their winter maintenance strategies and are provided with the opportunity to have their questions about

transportation in the winter answered. Summer of 2023 saw the addition of FAST Planning's Free Bike Valet at the Midnight Sun Festival and Golden Days. See Appendix F for examples of the flyers that promote these events, as well as screenshot from a hosted Facebook event.

Strategies to Implement

There are a few strategies that are implemented by other MPOs nationwide that FAST Planning has yet to incorporate. This list will continue to grow as staff grow in their roles and obtain inspiration from trainings and other forms of education in the public outreach and involvement sector. The following strategies are ones that FAST Planning hopes to implement within 2 years of the adoption of this PPP (2022).

- ▶ PSA video(s)
 - The MPO's BPAC had begun the process of creating a PSA video about bicyclist safety back in 2019, but soon realized that the quality of content needed to be stronger to present it to the public. FAST Planning hopes to eventually resurrect this effort and create a video for local television that is valuable and useful to the community and that will promote the MPO.
- ▶ Develop a schedule for tabling around the community. This schedule needs to include events such as the Interior Alaska Builder's Association Home Show, the GO Winter! Expo, the Tanana Valley State Fair, and more. In addition to these events, it will be helpful to know which businesses in town would support tabling (i.e., REI, Black Spruce Brewing Co., Bankstown Bike & Ski, etc).
- ▶ sign-in sheet modification
 - Easily implementable, FAST Planning needs to modify the physical sign-in sheet to include questions like "how did you hear about this meeting" to help the MPO better gauge how to reach the public
- ▶ implement regular FAST Planning Updates with local television news channels as mentioned on page 23 of this PPP update
- ▶ survey the general public on preferred meeting times for open public meetings, events, and other in-person comment opportunities before the next PPP update.

MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS

It is federally required that the MPO periodically reviews its public participation process. The FAST Planning PPP will be reviewed annually to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all members of the public, and meets federal and state requirements. Should something change that needs to be addressed in the PPP, FAST Planning will execute the standard review, draft, and approval process for all major plans and programs.

FAST Planning is aware that it is important to assess and evaluate public outreach efforts not only to meet federal and state requirements, but also to ensure that these outreach efforts are successful and are meeting the needs of the public. As this PPP is implemented and the various public participation strategies are utilized over the coming years, information concerning public comment patterns and trends will be collected.

The following chart highlights baseline options for the evaluation of outreach efforts and strategies. These parameters will help the MPO during periodic reviews to identify what is being done well and where improvements could be made.

METHODS	MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS
Meetings, workshops, forums (either verbal or written)	Total number per quarter of meetings, attendance numbers and demographics, comments received, nature of comments, number of community groups who are represented, meeting-in-a-box requests
Telephone comments	Total number received per quarter of calls, nature of calls (positive or negative), follow-up required
Letters and Emails	Total number received per quarter of letters and emails, nature of letters/emails (positive or negative), number of letters/emails needing translation, follow-up required
Website	Total number of website visits per quarter, comments received through website form, number of clicks on meeting packets per quarter
Social Media	Total number per quarter of post views or interactions, posts by FAST Planning, number of shares of FAST Planning original posts, number of comments or other important social media-related engagements
Active Public Outreach	Total number per year of radio or television interviews conducted, features in the newspaper, other community meetings attended, presentations given (schools, civic groups, conferences, etc.), flyers and info cards distributed throughout town
Surveys/Maps	Total number per survey/map of clicks on the link, engagements, responses

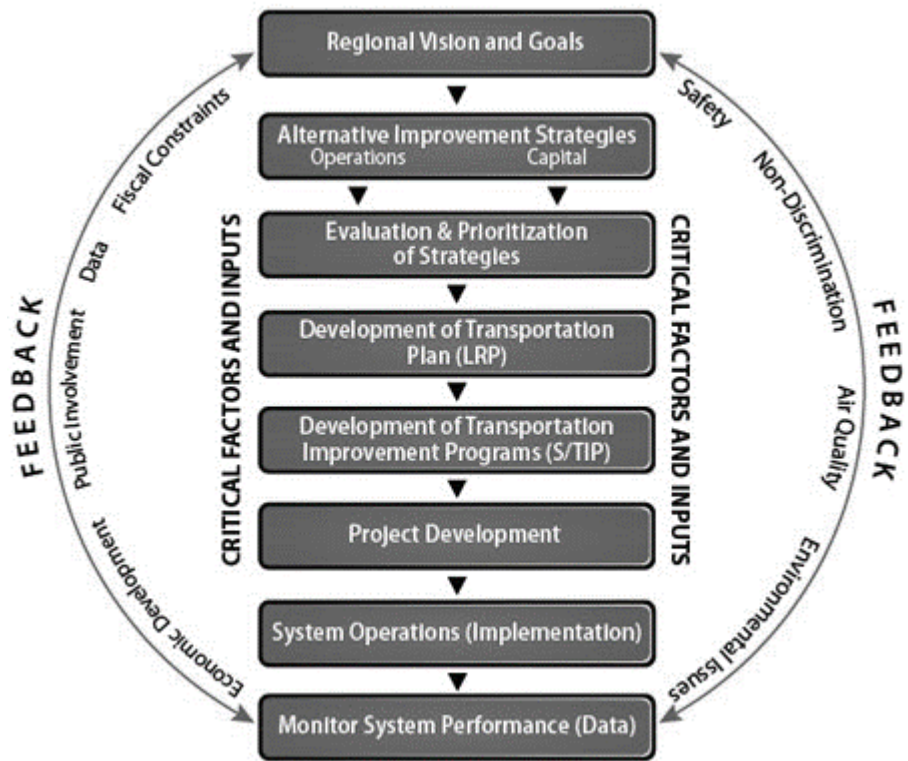


V. PARTICIPATING WITH THE MPO

FAST Planning is responsible for producing four major transportation plans and programs which are outlined in this section. In addition to these required plans, FAST Planning conducts special transportation plans and studies (i.e., supplemental plans) as they are needed, usually in support of a required plan or program. Meeting these requirements keeps the MPO busy with engaging the public, local agencies, and other community partners. This section provides information about the public involvement process behind the major plans, which can be assumed to apply to supplemental plans and other plans and programs hosted by the MPO.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

From the local level to the federal level, the transportation planning process is a complex system that relies on continuous and meaningful public engagement. Each of the plans the MPO produces, whether required or supplemental, incorporates public input from various stages of each individual planning process. The diagram featured here, courtesy of FHWA, provides a summary of the complex planning process and procedures that help FAST Planning to produce high-quality planning documents that are representative of community needs.



REQUIRED PLANS

Federal regulations require that MPOs produce a set list of transportation plans and programs. The table below presents these plans and programs, all of which require public participation in their development. For each, FAST Planning has established a process by which the public can participate in meetings and provide input during public comment periods that range from 30- to 45-days. In addition to these required plans and programs, FAST Planning also develops supplemental plans that support specific transportation needs. *Supplemental plans are further detailed in the next section.

PLAN	UPDATE	PUBLIC MEETINGS	PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD	ADOPTION/ APPROVAL
Unified Planning Work Program	Every 2 Years	TC & PB	30 Days	PB, Alaska DOT, FHWA, & FTA
MPA Boundary	Every 10 Years	2 Open House Events, TC, & PB	30 Days	PB & Governor
Intergovernmental Operating Agreement	As Needed	TC, PB, & City Councils & FNSB Assembly	30 Days	PB, City Councils, FNSB Assembly, Alaska DOT, ADEC, & Governor
PPP	As Needed	TC & PB	45 Days	PB
Metropolitan Transportation Plan	Every 4 Years	2 Open House Events, TC, & PB	30 Days	PB, FHWA, & FTA
Transportation Improvement Program	Every 4 Years	1 Open House Event, TC, & PB	30 Days	PB, Governor (through DOT)

				Commissioner), FHWA, & FTA
Annual Listing of Obligated Projects	Annually	N/A (posted online when complete)	N/A	N/A
Self-Certification	Every 4 Years	N/A (done concurrently w/ TIP)	30 Days w/ TIP	PB & Alaska DOT
Supplemental Plans*	As Needed	BPAC, PEC, TC, & PB	30 Days	PB

Refer to the previous *Section III. Public Involvement* for the standard and robust strategies that are implemented for the major plans and programs shown above. As a community-oriented, non-profit organization, it is crucial to the success of the MPO that the availability of draft plans, comment periods, surveys, and more are made known to the public every step of the way. Therefore, these core documents and any supplemental plans are supported by the most rigorous outreach efforts possible for the MPO.

For all required and supplemental plans, dispositions of public comments (comments, responses, and actions/plan revisions) are prepared and shared with the MPO’s Technical Committee and Policy Board in open public meetings prior to adoption of the plans. The dispositions of public comments are then included in an appendix to the plans and/or made available for public review on the MPO website or by request from the MPO Office. If the final version of any plan differs significantly from the version made available for public comment, the plan will be re-released for a new 30/45-day public comment period.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS

As previously noted, FAST Planning will conduct other multimodal plans and studies to supplement the required plans and programs. In coordination with local, state, and federal partners, these supplementary plans follow a similar outreach process to those outlined in the previous section. Any combination of outreach methods, engagement strategies, and public

comment periods may be used in the development of these plans or studies. All of these plans or studies are hosted on the FAST Planning website and in the local office. Some examples of supplementary plans that FAST Planning has produced in the past include:

- ▶ Non-motorized Transportation Plan
- ▶ Freight Mobility Plan
- ▶ Safe Routes to School Plans
- ▶ Green Streets Plan
- ▶ Road Service Expansion Plan
- ▶ Road/Rail Reduction/Realignment Plan (FBXings)
- ▶ Corridor Studies

For more information on the MPO plans and studies, go FAST Planning's at <https://fastplanning.us/docs/plans/>.

VI. INVOLVING EVERYONE

It is the policy of FAST Planning in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d *et seq*, Non-Discrimination on Basis of Race, Color, or National Origin), and other related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations listed below, that no person shall, solely on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex (gender), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any transportation planning program or activity regardless of whether or not FAST Planning receives federal assistance from the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT), including the FHWA and the FTA.



POTENTIAL OBSTACLES TO PARTICIPATION

FAST Planning strives to consider the entire community in its outreach efforts for everything from regularly scheduled meetings to large-scale planning efforts. While accomplishing this mission with notable success can be difficult, staff are regularly attending trainings and taking advantage of other educational opportunities to remain creative and inspired to reach those they might not normally. Potential obstacles to participation in the community of Fairbanks could include factors like:

- lack of physical access to a location (non-ADA compliant, lack of a vehicle, transit operations closed, etc.)
- finding time to participate
- lack of internet or general inability to participate virtually or by telephone in pandemic-era meeting spaces
- a pre-existing level of distrust between citizens and decision-makers

These potential obstacles are just a few that have been observed by staff within the Fairbanks area MPO. Unfortunately, they do not fully describe what community members face when it comes to being involved with agencies like an MPO. This PPP has been updated to reflect the outreach strategies that as of 2023 are believed to have the most effective approach to reach citizens who might encounter obstacles like the ones listed above.

PROTECTED CLASSES & NON-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

FAST Planning is actively engaged in applying all non-discrimination legislation to its planning efforts. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbids discrimination against anyone in the United States because of race, color or national origin by any agency receiving Federal funds. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 added the requirement that there be no discrimination on the grounds of sex, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 defined the word “program” to make it clear that discrimination is prohibited through an entire agency if any part of the agency receives federal financial assistance. FAST Planning’s Title VI Plan (See Appendix B) ensures that all races, income levels, ages, abilities, and genders have equal input in, and equally benefit from, the planning and project delivery processes of FAST Planning.



For more information about how FAST Planning addresses non-discrimination in its planning efforts and practices, view the Title VI Plan in Appendix B or at www.fastplanning.us/civilrights.

APPENDIX E – LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PLAN

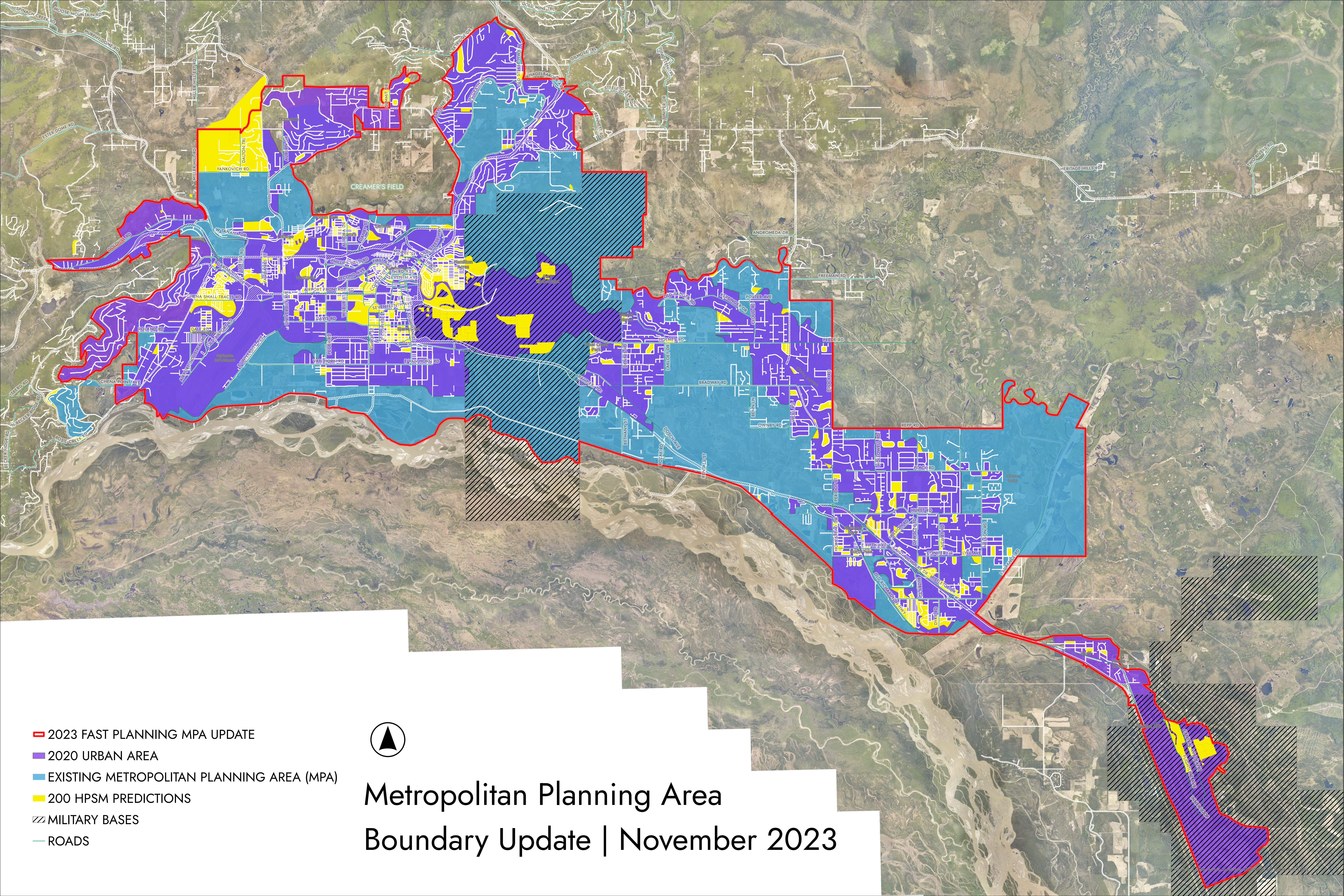
APPENDIX F – MAPS

Map 1 – FAST Planning Metropolitan Planning Area

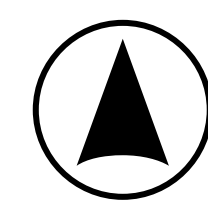
Map 2 – Minority Populations Map

Map 3 – Low Income Population Map

Map 4 - Limited English Proficiency Map



- ▬ 2023 FAST PLANNING MPA UPDATE
- ▬ 2020 URBAN AREA
- ▬ EXISTING METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA (MPA)
- ▬ 200 HPSM PREDICTIONS
- ▨ MILITARY BASES
- ROADS

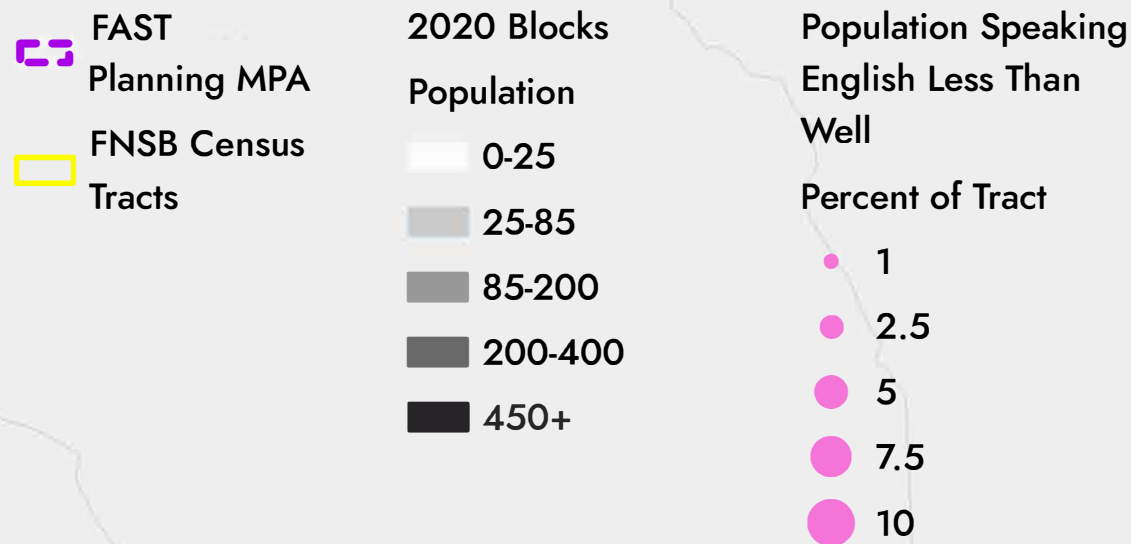


Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Update | November 2023



The 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Data shows that an estimated 2.6% of the population in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (of which nearly 85% resides within the Draft Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary), speaks English "less than very well" or is Limited in English Proficiency.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) RATIOS PER CENSUS TRACT IN THE DRAFT FAST PLANNING MPA





The 2020 Decennial Census Data shows that an estimated 25.1% of the population in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (of which nearly 85% resides within the Draft Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary), is in the racial minority.

MINORITY POPULATION IN THE DRAFT FAST PLANNING MPA

- FAST Planning Boundary
- FNSB Census Tracts

2020 Blocks

Population

- 0-25
- 25-85
- 85-200
- 200-400
- 450+

Minority Populations

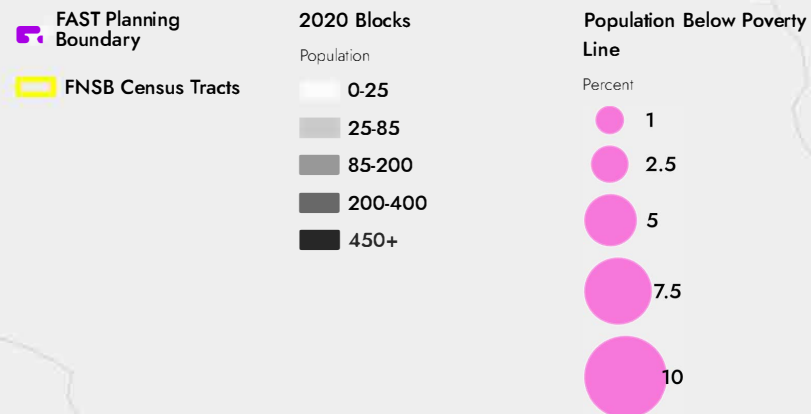
1 Dot = 10 people

- Black or African American
- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race)



The 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Data shows that an estimated 7.9% of the population in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (of which nearly 85% resides within the Draft Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary), is Low Income, or lives below the poverty line.

ESTIMATED LOW INCOME POPULATION IN THE DRAFT FAST PLANNING MPA



APPENDIX G – APPROVAL OF TITLE VI PLAN



❖ POLICY BOARD ❖

Action Items

12.20.2023

Motion: To approve the Public Participation Plan and Title VI Plan Updates (Crass/Cleworth). None opposed. Approved.

Motion: To adopt the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan scope of work and funding request (Cleworth/Crass).

Amendment: To delay the delivery of the document until discussion on June 1, 2024, or six months (Pruhs/Kemp). Four in favor. Two opposed (Crass, Ward). Approved.

Amended Motion: To adopt the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan scope of work and funding request, and delay the delivery of the document until discussion on June 1, 2024, or six months. None opposed. Approved.

Motion: To adopt the proposed revisions to the Roles & Responsibilities for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Crass/Pruhs).

Amendment: To eliminate the changes on Page 61 at the bottom and retain the changes on Page 62 (Cleworth/Pruhs). Five in favor. One opposed (Ward). Approved.

Amendment: To add language that Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the seat sponsor and can be removed with a 30-day notice from the sponsor agency. (Pruhs/Cleworth). None opposed. Approved.

Amended Motion: To adopt the proposed revisions to the Roles & Responsibilities for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, eliminate the changes on Page 61

at the bottom and retain the changes on Page 62, and add language that Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the seat sponsor and can be removed with a 30-day notice from the sponsor agency. None opposed. Approved.

Motion: To nominate Mayor Ward as Chair (Cleworth). None opposed. Approved.

Motion: To nominate Jerry Cleworth as Vice Chair (Pruhs). None opposed. Approved.

Mayor Bryce Ward
Chair, Policy Board

Date