



**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**December 6, 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: 840-7037-6522

**1. Call to Order**

Jackson Fox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**2. Introduction of Members and Attendees**

The following were present:

| <b>Name</b>                         | <b>Representing</b>             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| *Jackson Fox, <b>Chair</b>          | FAST Planning                   |
| *Olivia Lunsford, <b>Vice Chair</b> | FAST Planning                   |
| *Corey DiRutigliano                 | FAST Planning                   |
| *Deborah Todd                       | FAST Planning                   |
| **Justin Burgess (absent)           | AES Transportation              |
| **Nick Czarnecki                    | ADEC Air Quality                |
| **Michelle Denton                   | FNSB Transportation             |
| **Kate Dueber                       | Alaska Railroad Corporation     |
| **Kevin McKinley                    | FNSB Planning Commission        |
| **Brett Nelson                      | DOT&PF Planning                 |
| **John Netardus                     | DOT&PF Preconstruction          |
| **Robert Pristash                   | City of Fairbanks Engineering   |
| **William Rogers                    | City of Fairbanks Engineering   |
| **Lt. Mike Roberts                  | Alaska State Troopers           |
| **Kellen Spillman                   | FNSB Community Planning         |
| **RJ Stumpf                         | Fairbanks International Airport |
| **Jakob Theurich                    | University of Alaska Fairbanks  |
| **Danny Wallace                     | City of North Pole              |
| **John Weinberger                   | Fort Wainwright                 |
| *Don Galligan                       | FNSB Community Planning         |
| *Randi Bailey                       | DOT&PF Planning                 |
| Megan Flory                         | RESPEC                          |
| Julie Jenkins                       | FHWA Alaska Division            |
| Michael Lukshin                     | FHWA Alaska Division            |

Patrick Gilchrist  
Sarah Schacher  
Dan Bross

KTVF  
Michael Baker International  
KUAC

**\*FAST PLANNING Staff members \*\* FAST PLANNING Technical Committee members**

**3. Approval of the November 1, 2023 Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the December 6, 2023 Technical Committee Agenda.  
(Rogers/Denton).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

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

**4. Approval of the November 1 and November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the November 1 and November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes.  
(Rogers/Denton).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

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

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

**a. Staff Report**

☞ At the November 15, 2023 meeting, the Policy Board:

☞ Voted five to two against approval of the funding and scope of work for an Amendment to FAST Planning's 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to consider adding the Steese Highway/Chena Hot Springs Road Overpass/Bridge Replacement project.

☞ Voted unanimously to approve the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary contingent upon a positive letter of support from Eielson Air Force Base.

☞ Voted five to two in favor of a Bylaws Amendment to add representatives from the FNSB Rural Services and Eielson Air Force Base to the Technical Committee.

☞ Approved the FAST Planning 2024 Meeting Calendar.

☞ At the **November 30, 2023** meeting, the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee:

☞ Recommended that the Policy Board approve the revisions to the BPAC Roles & Responsibilities document.

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

☞ No public comment.

**7. Old Business**

**a. FAST Planning Public Participation Plan (PPP) & Title VI Plan Updates (Action Item)**

☞ **Review of public comment received to date and recommendation to Policy Board on approval pending receipt of any new comments (Comment Period ends December 10, 2023)**

Mr. Fox explained that the updates to the Public Participation and Title VI Plans were released for public comment on October 25, 2023. The comment period ends on December 10, 2023.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Motion:** To recommend the Policy Board approve the Public Participation Plan and Title VI Plan Updates pending any other comments that come in. (Netardus/Theurich).

**Discussion:** Mr. Spillman commented that he reviewed the plan, and it looks good and there are a lot of good things in there. Mr. Spillman commented that he normally would not be comfortable approving a plan before the public comment period closes but, in this case, he had reviewed the plans and felt comfortable approving them.

Mr. Netardus commented that he trusted FAST Planning would use their better judgement and if a comment came in that was controversial, they could bring it back to the Technical Committee.

**Vote on Motion:** Thirteen in favor. One opposed. (Weinberger). Approved.

## **8. New Business**

### **a. Fairbanks PM2.5 Area Air Plan Partial Approval & Disapproval by U.S. EPA**

#### **Review of November 20, 2023 Federal Register Notice EPA-R10-OAR-2022-115 and ramifications to transportation conformity**

Mr. Fox updated everyone that the EPA has published their partial approval and disapproval of the Fairbanks PM2.5 Area Air Plan in the Federal Register. Mr. Fox explained that after this partial approval/disapproval by EPA is posted in the Federal Register. There is a 30-day period before this final rule becomes effective. The effective date of the final rule is January 4, 2024. At that time, a Conformity Freeze will be placed on the local transportation plans. Mr. Fox provided a breakdown and slide presentation of how the Conformity Freeze will affect FAST Planning projects and programs.

### **b. Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan Scope of Work (Action Item)**

#### **Consideration of approving scope of work and funding request to Alaska DOT&PF for development of a Long-Range Transportation Plan for 16 rural communities outside FAST Planning's Metropolitan Area Boundary**

Mr. Fox explained that he drafted a scope of work and funding plan for submittal to Alaska DOT&PF to develop a Long-Range Transportation Plan for 16 rural communities outside the FAST Planning Metropolitan Area Boundary. The Long-Range Plan would be used to apply for funding for projects in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Board to advance the funding request to DOT for development of a Long-Range Transportation Plan for 16 rural communities outside of FAST Planning's Metropolitan Area boundary. (Spillman/Theurich).

**Discussion:** Mr. Spillman recommended approaching Road Service Area Rural Service Area Commissioners to be on the subcommittee. Mr. Spillman's recommendation for Task 3 is to specifically have the consultant look into the Borough Subdivision Process and Subdivision Regulations in the Existing Conditions Report to show how most of the roads in these local areas are built. Mr. Spillman commented that he thought the biggest issue with this plan would be identifying the maintenance authority. Mr. Spillman commented that the maintenance in the rural areas is difficult due to the lack of maintenance authorities. Mr. Spillman recommended creating service areas to provide maintenance to those areas.

**Vote on Motion:** Eleven in favor. One opposed. (Nelson). Approved.

**c. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee Roles and Responsibilities (Action Item)**

**📄 Consideration of approving revisions to Roles & Responsibilities document**

Mr. Fox explained that the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) reviewed the Roles and Responsibilities at their November 30, 2023 meeting and proposed two revisions. One is related to term limits and the loss of members who have termed out. The other issue is that there are two vacancies on the Committee that have not been filled for several years. This revision would allow FAST Planning to appoint interested individuals to fill those vacant seats in the interim until such time as the representing agency chooses to fill them with someone they appoint.

**Public Comments:** No public comment.

**Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Board to approve the revisions to Roles and Responsibilities document for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. (Theurich/Nelson).

**Discussion:** Mr. Wallace commented that the City of North Pole has been trying to reach out to find someone to fill the vacancy but the ultimate decision rests with Mayor Welch who is out of town. Mr. Wallace commented that he would like the Technical Committee to postpone the vote until Mayor Welch can make that decision.

**Vote on Motion:** Eleven in favor. One opposed. (Wallace). Two absent for roll call. (Dueber, Roberts). Approved.

**d. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (Action Item)**

Mr. Fox explained that each year nominations are made for a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Technical Committee. Mr. Fox explained that staff members that are selected as Chair or Vice Chair do not get to vote or make motions.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Motion:** To nominate Jackson Fox as Chair. (Netardus).

**Discussion:** Mr. Netardus commented that he liked having Mr. Fox as Chair because he runs the meetings really well, is always well-prepared, and always has the meeting packets ready for them.

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

**Motion:** To nominate Corey DiRutigliano as Vice Chair. (Netardus).

**Discussion:** Ms. Lunsford commented that she was happy to serve as Vice Chair, but a break would be welcome. Ms. Lunsford commented that she is also the Vice Chair of the BPAC, and it has been a learning experience.

Mr. DiRutigliano commented that he was currently acting as Vice Chair of the Project Enhancement Committee and would be happy to serve as Vice Chair and give Ms. Lunsford a break.

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

**9. Other Issues**

No other issues.

**10. Informational Items**

**a. Obligations and Offsets**

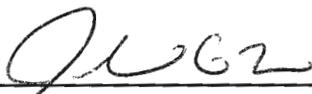
Mr. Fox explained the obligations and offsets included in the meeting packet.

**11. Committee Member Comments**

- ☞ Mr. Netardus commented that he will be absent from the January 2024 meeting, and Lauren Little will be filling in for him.
- ☞ Mr. Spillman commented that the Borough has completed a draft of the Roads Plan, and he asked Mr. Fox to put it on the January 2024 Agenda for review by the Technical Committee.

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:** (Netardus/Nelson). The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. The next Technical Committee Meeting is Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Approved:  Date: 1/3/2023  
**Jackson C. Fox, Chair**  
**FAST Planning Technical Committee**