



🚲 BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN/ADVISORY COMMITTEE 🚲

Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024 • 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: 856-0756-0849

1. Call to Order

Kim Streeter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

- 👤 * Susan Bissell
- 👤 * Ron Davis
- 👤 ** Corey DiRutigliano
- 👤 ** Jackson Fox (**absent**)
- 👤 * Matt Layral
- 👤 ** Olivia Lunsford, **Vice Chair**
- 👤 * Travis Naibert
- 👤 * Jim Richardson
- 👤 * Kim Streeter, **Chair**
- 👤 ** Deborah Todd
- 👤 * Larry Zervos (**absent**)
- 👤 Nathan Belz
- 👤 Don Galligan
- 👤 Stan Justice
- 👤 Matt McDaniel
- 👤 Rebecca Siegel
- 👤 Santosh

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

3. Approval of the January 25, 2024 Agenda

Motion: To approve the January 25, 2024 Agenda. (Layral/Davis).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the November 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the November 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes. (Layral/Richardson).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Staff/Working Group/Chair Report

a. Staff Report

- At the December 6, 2023 meeting, the Technical Committee
 - Recommended approval of the Public Participation Plan and Title VI Plan Updates pending any other comments that come in.
 - Recommended that the Policy Board advance the funding request to DOT for development of a Long Range Transportation Plan for sixteen rural communities outside of FAST Planning's Metropolitan Area boundary.
 - Recommended approval of the revisions to the Roles and Responsibilities document for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
- At the December 20, 2023 meeting, the Policy Board:
 - Approved the Public Participation Plan and Title VI Plan Updates.
 - Adopted the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan Scope of Work and funding request with an amendment to delay the delivery of the document until discussion on June 1, 2024, or six months.
 - Approved the adoption of proposed revisions to the Roles and Responsibilities for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee with an 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.
- A FAST Planning "2023 Year in Review" was created to provide a comprehensive overview of the plans, programs, studies, that were developed, updated, special projects, and public outreach that took place this year as well as future goals they hope to accomplish.
- At the January 3, 2024 meeting, the Technical Committee:
 - Recommended approval of the Letter of Support for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Roads Plan.
 - Recommended approval of a project increase in the amount of \$155,676 for the 5th Avenue Reconstruction project.

6. Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)

- Rebecca Siegel, Carr Avenue, Fairbanks** provided a presentation on the current dangerous situation she has observed at the Aurora/Danby intersection.
 - The traffic light turns green, and the pedestrian signal turns to "walk" simultaneously.
 - Cars do not see pedestrians who are in the intersection.
 - Proposed solution:
 - Lagging green light: the pedestrian sign turns to walk before the light turns green.
 - Spoke to Fairbanks DOT in November 2023.

- ☰ Spoke to City of Fairbanks Public Works in December 2023.
- ☰ Wondering what to do next.
- ☰ Ms. Lunsford commented that they would work through our contacts to get an answer to that.
- ☰ Mr. Davis commented that they needed to talk to Nathan Stephen who is the Northern Region Traffic Engineer.
- ☰ Mr. DiRutigliano commented that the specific name for “lagging” is leading pedestrian interval limit.
- ☰ Ms. Lunsford commented that she felt that pedestrians were going north to Creamers Field.
- ☰ Mr. Richardson asked if right-turning was an issue.
- ☰ Ms. Rebecca commented that she had not noticed if that was a problem, but she would check that out.
- ☰ Mr. DiRutigliano commented that pedestrians had a long way to travel in that intersection.
- ☰ Mr. Galligan commented that the State DOT&PF just applied for Local Planning Authority Approval from the Fairbanks North Star Borough for an intersection improvement project. The project includes several intersections including the intersection of Danby and College Road. Ethan Graetz and Nathan Stephen are the DOT contacts for the project.

7. Old Business

a. Vulnerable Road User Assessment Comment Letter Work Session

Public Comment:

Nathan Belz commented that the document does a fairly good job of highlighting trends and major problem locations. Does not do a good job of comprehensively examining the events in which pedestrians and bike accidents involved drugs and/or alcohol. In the summaries, he did not see any mention of pedestrians/cyclists events where drugs and/or alcohol were involved listed. Fairbanks has a higher rating of crashes than the Municipality of Anchorage. Fairbanks has a much higher dark/lighted events. In events there was a much higher rate of no safety gear/helmet use in Fairbanks and Anchorage. The safety assessment could do a much better job of highlighting some of those problematic trends. Comments and concerns about Geist Road as a dangerous corridor are not reflected in the current document. Data deficiencies due to coding that is geared towards motorist accidents. We recognize the data limitations, and it should be noted. Look to use other data sources that can give us information on injuries for vulnerable road users such as Alaska Trauma Registry (SHSP). Crash data significantly underrepresented the severity of accidents involving bikes and peds.

Kim Streeter- commented that the document highlighted the Fairbanks area, but it was not clearly defined in the document whether they considered data from North Pole or just focused on the Fairbanks area.

Travis Naibert commented that the Cycle Club, City of Fairbanks Police Department, Downtown Association, and many similar groups in Fairbanks were not contacted.

Susan Bissell commented that the common theme was E-bikes were mentioned as a potential issue and there is no mention of ATVs and snow machines.

Travis Naibert—commented that extending the corridor all the way over to University Avenue there is concern that nearby high school students from West Valley may run across Geist Road.

b. Committee Membership & Term Limits

The Policy Board voted to adopt the proposed revisions to the Roles and Responsibilities for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. They also voted 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.

8. New Business

a. Stop Sign Intersection, Cushman Street & 1st Avenue

The intersection at First Avenue and Cushman Street has had several accidents. It is a challenging location due to line-of-sight issues. The stop light pole was hit by a car and damaged, so it was removed. Stop signs were installed at the four corners of the intersection. People are finding the intersection safer, traffic flow has improved, and there is less congestion at all the intersections. Traffic is moving slower in the downtown corridor due to the stop signs. It could be better for business if the traffic moves slower in the downtown corridor so people can see what is available to them. It might also force people to go around if they were just using Cushman Street as a thoroughfare.

9. Informational Items

a. Bike Racks

Mr. Richardson commented that they encouraged bicycling and they needed to have a common area that was out of the elements. Mr. Richardson commented that there were a lot of arguments about where to locate them and the design of the racks.

Mr. DiRutigliano provided a presentation of the bike rack designs with a common theme and the proposed installation locations discussed by the Project Enhancement Committee. Two types of bike infrastructure are being looked at: one would be affixed to a pole or a building, and one would be affixed to the ground or bolted to a modular metal base. The bike racks could possibly be fabricated through the Alaska Works Partnership or the Pipeline Apprenticeship Program. An app with a map could be created with the locations where the bike racks are installed. A modular system that could fit in a single parking space and easily removed for seasonal maintenance

was also considered. Covers over the bike racks was discussed to promote bike use in inclement weather conditions. Attaching the racks to light poles which are designed to breakaway might not be a viable option.

10. Other Issues

Mr. Richardson commented that the lack of traffic enforcement should be addressed by the City of Fairbanks.

11. Committee Member Comments

- ☛ Mr. Layral thanked Stan Justice for doing all the work for the ski trails over by the Golf Course.
- ☛ Mr. Richardson commented that the feedback for the overpass at Geist Road had to take priority over other projects. At the very least they should have a flashing light at University Avenue. That really concerns him. The first time somebody gets hurt or killed, the State of Alaska is going to get sued. It would pay for itself in the long run.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Richardson/Layral). The meeting was adjourned at **6:28 p.m.** The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 29, 2024.**

Approved: Kim Streeter

Kim Streeter, Chair
FAST Planning BPAC

Date: 2/29/24