POLICY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2025 • 12:00 – 2:00 P.M.

FAST Planning Office, KeyBank Building, 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: 859-0190-3444

1. Call to Order

Mayor Hopkins called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee	Representative Organization
*Scott Crass	FNSB Assembly
*Grier Hopkins, **Chair**	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Lauren Little, **Vice Chair**	DOT&PF
*Nick Czarnecki	DEC Air Quality
*Mindy O'Neall	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
*Larry Terch	Mayor, City of North Pole
*Crystal Tidwell	Fairbanks City Council
**Corey DiRutigliano (absent)	FAST Planning
**Jackson Fox	FAST Planning
**Olivia Lunsford	FAST Planning
**Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
**Randi Bailey	DOT&PF Planning
**Don Galligan	FNSB Community Planning
+Kellen Spillman	FNSB Community Planning
+Brett Nelson	DOT&PF Planning
+Robert Pristash	City of Fairbanks Engineering
+Kate Dueber	Alaska Railroad Corporation
Brian Lindamood	Alaska Railroad Corporation
Al Beck	DOT&PF Preconstruction
Ivet Hall	DOT&PF Preconstruction
Ethan Graetz	DOT&PF Preconstruction
Brian Roberts	DOT&PF Right-of-Way
Emily Haynes	FHWA
Randy Warden	FHWA

Jack Barnwell	Fairbanks News Miner
Anduin McElroy	FNSB Community Planning
James Marks	HDR

FAST Planning Policy Board Members, ** FAST Planning Staff Members, +FAST Planning Technical Committee Members

3. **Approval of the December 17, 2025 Agenda**
   Motion: To approve the December 17, 2025 Agenda. (O'Neall/Terch).
   Discussion: No discussion.
   Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.
4. **Approval of the November 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
   Motion: To approve the November 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes. (O'Neall/Terch).
   Discussion: No discussion.
   Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.
5. **Staff/Working Group/Chair Reports (including mid-year Operating Budget review)**
   - The Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station project nominations closed on November 21, 2025. Ten applications were received and presented to DOT&PF and the Technical Committee for review. Upon further review, questions came up. Some of the applications were for charging stations on private property or were submitted by companies that were not the property owner which posed the question of whether they qualify for Federal funding. The other question that came up was what level charging station would be installed due to the different needs and costs at the different locations.
   - On December 11, 2025, an Interagency Consultation was held with our Federal partners to go over changes in Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2. There were no concerns raised at that consultation meeting so TIP Amendment #2 will may go out for public review and comment.
   - The FFY2025 audit is continuing with Alliance CPAs.
   - The Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool, Inc. (AMLIP) documents have been prepared, and a Resolution was drafted for approval by the Policy Board.
   - The State of Alaska Business License for FAST Planning was renewed.
   - Olivia Lunsford created a dashboard to present all the data collected from public surveys conducted for the Bike Lane Signing & Striping Pilot project.
   - TIP Amendment #2 containing new funding adjustments is on the agenda for review and approval by the Policy Board to release for public comment.
   - Mr. Fox met with DOT&PF staff regarding FFY2026 funding suballocation and carryforward amounts that were unspent last year and carried forward to 2026.
   - At the **December 3, 2025** meeting, the Technical Committee:
     - Recommended adding funding for the Old Steese Highway Reconstruction project construction in the amount of $31 million dollars.

- Recommended approval of two funding increases for projects included in the FAST Improvement Program.

6. **Public Comment Period (Non-Action Items)**
   No public comment.
7. **Old Business**
   a. **Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool (AMLIP) Banking (Action Item)**
   Authorization of Membership, Execution of Common Investment Agreement, and Designee(s) for Fund Transfers
   Mr. Fox explained that he had drafted a Resolution for signature authorization on the Investment Agreement, documentation for membership, and signature cards for designees/check signers for fund transfers in a AMLIP Series I investment account that will be set up for FAST Planning.
   Public Comment:
   No public comment.
   Motion: To approve the Resolution to become a member of the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool, Inc. [AMLIP] and execute a Common Investment Agreement among political subdivisions of the State of Alaska. (Crass/O'Neall).
   Discussion:
   No further discussion.
   Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.
   Motion: To authorize Jackson Fox, Grier Hopkins, Lauren Little, Mindy O'Neall, and Larry Terch as signers to the AMLIP Series I signature card. (Terch/O'Neall).
   Public Comment:
   No public comment.
   Discussion:
   No further discussion.
   Vote on Motion: Six in favor. One opposed. (Crass). Approved.
   b. **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Call for Project Nominations**
   Review of Project Nominations, Evaluation Criteria, and Discussion of Technical Committee's Next Step for Recommendation to Policy Board
   Mr. Fox explained that the Call for Project Nominations ran from October 6-November 21, 2025. Applications were received for 13 different sites. It was indicated on the application that public property would be given priority over private property site hosts, but consideration would be given to private property site host applications. Questions arose as to whether DOT&PF would have to acquire the parcels for the proposed application sites located on private property. The Technical Committee discussed which level of charging station would be best to acquire and install in different areas. DOT&PF agreed to prepare planning level

estimates for the purchase and installation costs of Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations. This will come back to the Policy Board for further discussion.

c. **Chena Riverwalk Stage III Right-of-Way Acquisition Options (Action Item)**

Mr. Fox explained that the negotiations have progressed between DOT&PF and the Alaska Railroad to acquire the parcels needed for the Chena Riverwalk Stage III project. The cost cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality clauses. Mr. Fox introduced Brian Roberts, DOT&PF Right-of-Way, to explain the details of the right-of-way acquisition process.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Motion: To support the preferred right-of-way acquisition option for the Chena Riverwalk Stage III project. (Crass/Terch).

Discussion:

Ms. Little: This project has been around for a long time as Mr. Fox noted. Everyone in this room on Policy Board is new from when all of these discussions occurred. I think originally this was a $1.2M project. It's a $6M+ project now. Quite frankly, the main driver is that riverfront. Folks really wanted it on the riverfront. We can provide the exact same physical non-motorized connection away from the riverfront for under a million dollars. I just want to bring that back to the table and make sure, as we think about the total investment of this very small connection. Is that really how we want to invest, or should we be asking the project team to provide us with some lower cost alternatives that provide the same functionality? It's not the same experience. I'm not going to pretend that riding along Phillips Field Road or even Chena Landings Loop Road is the same as riding along the river but, in terms of the non-motorized connection, there are other much lower cost alternatives that have been explored over the years.

Mayor Hopkins: The way Mr. Crass worded the motion does that require approval by us after coming back from Railroad discussion and we would approve the funding if we wanted to move forward with it?

Mr. Fox: I don't think that it was part of this motion that it would come back.

Mr. Crass: No. I would just have a discussion with the representatives from the Railroad.

Mayor Hopkins: So, your intent was not to lock us into saying, "Okay, now we're going to go forward with whatever that price comes out?"

Mr. Crass: No. It seems reasonable to me for us to approve an amount when it comes back. After. Yeah.

Mayor Hopkins: Okay. So, the intent is that we would approve that amount after the Railroad meeting?

Mr. Crass: Yes. To continue on in that vein. I really do appreciate both DOT and the Railroad's work on this. This was not a solution that we had seen before and them having open minds and open ears during our previous meeting and coming up with a fiscally prudent solution that gets us to the desired outcome of having a path along the river there. It's a beautiful area and I would love to see that accessible to folks in our community for use.

Mayor O'Neall: I remember that project from the Planning Commission probably nine years ago, so I have some familiarity with it, and I guess that's just the way that projects go when you don't do them and you get the initial bid. Right? I talked a little bit with our Engineer about that alternative. I have some concerns about cyclists and non-motorized vehicles on Phillips Field Road and intersecting with that intersection. It doesn't currently have bicycle facilities that connect and there's a lot of traffic that goes through there and a lot of fast trucks that go through there. So, I'm concerned about that. I also think it matters what type of project it is. As projects go, there's a type of experience. I think if we want to provide that type of experience, we have to pay for it. If we don't, then we get a different experience. So, I'm comfortable with this motion and continuing the conversation once it's gone through the Railroad.

Mayor Hopkins: Looking at the project estimate from 2017 of $1.5M for the beyond years for construction it sounds about right. It would certainly increase four-fold and makes a lot of sense. I think seeing what the Railroad comes back at and purchasing this, we have options in the future. It gives DOT and FAST Planning an opportunity to be flexible and realistic in the future and that's a lot different than spending $6M tomorrow. I agree that having it on the river is much nicer than having it on the neighborhood road even though the whole connection on Phillips Field Road is a wonderful thing.

Ms. Little: I just wanted to clarify that if we do acquire the right-of-way with the Federal funding and we do not advance to construction; we will have to pay that money back to the federal government.

Mayor Hopkins: What is the timeline for that?

Ms. Little: It's hard to say. If this Policy Board were to make a decision after that acquisition was done that we didn't need that right-of-way, when we closed out that project we would have to sort out all of that and how we deal with the fact that we purchased stuff that the federal project didn't need that had to be paid back. Just to clarify that, once we do spend those federal funds, there is a commitment that we have to pay that back.

Mayor O'Neall: In a previous conversation during the Technical Committee, has there been any discussion about extending a bicycle lane throughout the whole Phillips Field Road via connector?

Ms. Little: It's been discussed many times. Obviously, that is a railroad operational area. The right-of-way for Phillips Field Road is little bit unique and it's actually part of a permit with the Railroad. It's not necessarily the same type of right-of-way as Peger Road is. So, that has been a potential issue. I think we also should be aware that when you start talking about Phillips Field Road, you start talking about some of these major infrastructure projects like AKLNG. You've got Flowline there where they're doing a lot of that pipe work. It could become a really busy area over the next six years or so. I don't think we should lose sight of that in that Phillips Field Road conversation. Where all this connects and stuff. It's just kind of a really unique project in a really unique area in that railroad yard area.

Mayor O'Neall: That's helpful.

Mayor Hopkins: You're not wrong. If it does become a busier area, you know with the APLNG development, people are not going to stop walking along that road just because there's bigger trucks. So, maybe the need for a separated path or a safety path along there becomes even more important.

Mayor O'Neall: Or maybe they just use the riverfront path.

Ms. Little: There's a beautiful one along First Avenue.

Mayor Hopkins: I couldn't agree with you more.

Amendment to the Motion: To amend the resolution to clarify that final authorization of the acquisition would need to be granted by the Policy Board after the negotiations concluded with the Railroad. (Little/Tidwell).

Discussion:

Mr. Crass: I am hoping for input from somebody that is not on our Board. I don't know if that's allowed or not.

Mr. Roberts: I will speak with the Railroad. Depending on the outcome of your vote here, I'll speak with the Railroad and let them know that once the Railroad Board issues their approval, we would need to come back to the Policy Board and that we would need to have the discussion to approve that amount. We could do that in the Executive Session. I need to talk to (inaudible). They'll need to know that as to how they present it to the Railroad Board, so they understand the next steps. Then I would set up a meeting with Mr. Fox and (inaudible) after the meeting today.

Mayor Hopkins: So, basically, we're not writing a blank check. We're saying, "Railroad give us the offer and then we'll come back and vote yay or nay after discussions in Executive Session, if need be, and then we'll decide if we want to go forward at an upcoming Policy Board meeting."

Mayor O'Neall: I think this shows our intent to move forward and that we are largely in support of the project. We just want to see the dollar amount to be prudent.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.
Discussion: No further discussion.
Amended Motion: To support the preferred right-of-way option for the Chena Riverwalk Stage III project, and that final authorization of the acquisition would need to be granted by the Policy Board after the negotiations concluded with the Railroad.

Vote on Motion as Amended: None opposed. Approved.

d. **FFY2023-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2 *(Action Item)***

Consideration of Adjustments for FAST Improvement Program and Old Steese Reconstruction Projects Prior to Release for Public Comment
As outlined on Page 96 of the meeting packet since this went to the Policy Board in November there have been some adjustments made to the FAST Improvement Program which require approval by the Policy Board before the FFY2023-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2 can be released for public comment. An Interagency Consultation was held on December 11 for this Amendment, and no concerns were raised at that meeting.

Public Comment:
No public comment.
Motion: To approve the FAST Planning TIP [Transportation Improvement Program] Amendment #2 for a public comment period of 40 days. (Little/Crass).
Discussion:
No further discussion.
Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

e. **Alaska DOT&PF 2026 Safety Performance Measure Targets (Action Item)**
Mr. Fox explained that annually the State sets safety performance targets and once the State adopts those targets, FAST Planning has the option to either accept them or create their own. If the State fails to meet their targets, they could potentially lose flexibility with their federal funding but there would be no consequences to FAST Planning.
Public Comment:
No public comment.
Motion: To support the State of Alaska DOT&PF 2026 Safety Performance Measure Targets. (Crass/O'Neall).
Discussion:
No further discussion.
Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

8. New Business

a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (Action Item)

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Motion: To nominate Mayor Grier Hopkins as the Chair of the Policy Board. (Crass/O'Neall).

Discussion:

Mayor O'Neall: I think you're doing a great job.
Mayor Hopkins: One and a half meetings in. Alright. I haven't dropped the gavel.
Mr. Fox: We really don't have one.
Ms. Little: It's a good pace. I'm not used to the process.
Mr. Crass: I think taking personalities out of it, functionally, having the Borough Mayor makes sense. You don't run plows, you're involved in planning, and I think that gives you a good position to overlook this in a fair and balanced manner as the Borough Mayor. I appreciate the work you've done on here the last year, and you run a good meeting.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Motion: To nominate Lauren Little of DOT&PF as Vice Chair. (Hopkins/Terch).
Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. FAST Planning Authorized Check Signers (Action Item)

Mr. Fox explained that two previous Policy Board members needed to be removed and two new members needed to be added as authorized check signers on the Mt. McKinley bank account.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Motion: To remove Jerry Cleworth and David Pruhs from the current authorized check signers and add Mayor Mindy O'Neall, City of Fairbanks and Lauren Little, DOT&PF. (Little/O'Neall)

Discussion:

Mr. Crass: This is to help clarify. I am going to vote against this. I understand, for convenience, the need for this. The financial dog in the fight is owned by the municipalities in this organization and so that's why I'm not supportive of the State of Alaska DOT being a signer.

Vote on Motion: Four in favor. Three opposed. (Crass, O'Neall, Terch). Approved.

c. **FAST Planning 2026 Meeting Calendar (Action Item)**
Mr. Fox explained that the proposed meeting calendar for 2026 was included in the meeting packet on Page 117 for Policy Board review and approval.
Public Comment: No public comment.
Motion: To approve the FAST Planning 2026 Meeting dates. (Terch/O'Neall).
Discussion: No discussion.
Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

d. **FAST Planning Office 2026 Annual Dues**
Mr. Fox explained that invoices for annual membership dues would be sent out to members in January 2026.

e. **FAST Planning Bylaws Article IX, Conflict of Interest Annual Statements**
Mr. Fox explained that Pages 123-124 of the meeting packet contained the annual Conflict of Interest Statement form that needed to be signed by each member.

9. **Informational Items**

a. **Bike Lane Signing & Striping Pilot Project Public Survey Results**
Ms. Lunsford presented the public survey data that was compiled for the Bike Lane Signing and Striping Pilot Program in the summer of 2025.

b. **FFY2026 Obligations and Offsets**
Mr. Fox explained the obligations and offsets included in the meeting packet.

10. **Other Issues**
No other issues.

11. **Policy Board Member Comments**
Mr. Crass: I'd just like to welcome our new Policy Board members. I look forward to this new organization over the next year. Welcome aboard.
Mayor O'Neall: I appreciate the loaded agenda and concluding before the time limit that was set. So, thank you for that.
Mayor Hopkins: Thanks for the faith in being Chair for the next twelve months on this. It'll be the second time I have chaired a transportation committee. The last one was when I was the Chair of the State House Transportation Committee. We did some really fantastic work for Alaska where we protected everything from Alaska Marine Highway funding to student loan funding. So, we did a lot of good for that one. I learned a lot and was able to build goodwill across the state in a lot of different regions. This committee is dedicated to trying to improve our community as well and I'm really excited about that. You can do a lot with transportation discussions and transportation funding for our whole town, and we can once again lead the way for the state as our interior region is well known to do for all our different communities. Sometimes putting down an axe, putting down a knife, can lead to a lot of ways for bridge building or relationship building that we hadn't seen or need to see going forward also. We did that down at the State House. I think

here we have an opportunity to do that again. A wise man once said, you can put out both hands and see which one fills faster with something that comes out of the back end and hope. Despite the fear of possibly getting pink eye, I'm going to put both those hands again and hope that we can turn a new leaf for our community here and for our relationship with DOT and the State. I think if we can see the good faith that we asked for at the last meeting from the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in our relationship here with them. Everything from the boundaries, to moving forward with the funding of Old Steese, and other issues of this general dialog, I think we've got a good opportunity to make some good work. So, maybe we can find that common ground when we see that good faith from the State on some of those items that we talked about and move forward with some of the discussions that they want as well with Bylaw tweaks that can help both sides. I want to see if we can move forward with that new leaf, new approach. Thank you everybody. I'll see you in the New Year.

Mayor Terch: I just wanted to say Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year. Please get out there and check on your neighbor. Especially with the darkness and the cold, get out there and check on your friends and neighbors and make sure they're doing okay.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: (Little/Terch). The meeting was adjourned at **1:46 p.m**. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 21, 2025**.

Approved: ______________________ **Date:** 1/21/26

Mayor Grier Hopkins, Chair
FAST Planning Policy Board