



POLICY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes

MAY 8, 2026 | 8:30 - 9:30 A.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: 873-7959-2140

1. Call to Order

Mayor Hopkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee	Representative Organization
* Scott Crass	FNSB Assembly
* Nick Czarnecki	DEC Air Quality
* Grier Hopkins, Chair	Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
* Lauren Little, Vice Chair	DOT&PF
* Mindy O'Neill	Mayor, City of Fairbanks
* Larry Terch	Mayor, City of North Pole
* Crystal Tidwell	Fairbanks City Council
* * Corey DiRutigliano	FAST Planning
* * Jackson Fox	FAST Planning
* * Olivia Lunsford	FAST Planning
* * Deborah Todd (absent)	FAST Planning
+ John Netardus	DOT&PF Preconstruction
Ivet Hall	DOT&PF Preconstruction
*FAST Planning Policy Board Members, ** FAST Planning Staff Members, +FAST Planning Technical Committee Members	

3. Approval of the May 8, 2026 Agenda

Motion: To approve the May 8, 2026 Agenda. (Terch/Tidwell).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

5. New Business

- a. Chena Lake Recreation Area Access via Plack Road Construction Increase in the Amount of \$655,145 (Action Item)**

The project was programmed with \$3.1M using a combination of Carbon Reduction Program and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality funds. The low bid for the project plus construction engineering costs totaled \$3.8M, which was higher than the Engineer's Estimate. The amount needed to award the contract is \$655,145 which requires Policy Board approval.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Motion: To approve the construction increase for Chena Lake Recreation Area Access via Plack Road project in the amount of \$655,145. (Terch/Tidwell).

Discussion:

No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

b. Community Transportation Grant Program Awards (Action Item)

An open call for project applications was held April 1-28, 2026. The applications were received and reviewed by the Project Enhancement Committee. A special Project Enhancement Committee meeting was held to recommend which projects should receive grants.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Motion: To award the Community Transportation Grant Program applications [as recommended by the Project Enhancement Committee]. (Tidwell/O'Neill).

Discussion:

Mayor O'Neill: I wanted to thank the staff for this opportunity for our community. These are really cool projects and sometimes just \$3-5 thousand dollars makes a big difference in getting project over the line. I smiled really big when I saw 'reflective tape' and thought that was pretty cool. I just wanted to express my appreciation for your work in that. I'm excited to see these improvements in our community.

Mayor Hopkins: I will echo that.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

c. Consideration of FAST Planning Hosting an Alaska Fellow for 2026/27 (Action Item)

Twenty-three applications were received from across the country. Six applicants were interviewed and narrowed down to two well-qualified applicants. This is a financial commitment of \$25K to retain the fellow that cannot be billed to the FAST Planning grant. The money would come from the Undesignated Funds balance.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Motion: To retain an Alaska Fellow for 2026/-27. (Tidwell/O'Neill).

Discussion:

Mayor O'Neill: My comments are a vote of support. At Cold Climate Housing Research Center, when I was the Executive Director, we hosted three of these Alaska fellows in the last two years. They've been excellent. They are of high quality and it's a really great program. They are well supported by their program. We have kept two of the three of them in Fairbanks, so it is a good recruitment tool to retain residents. I'm glad that FAST is doing this. I look forward to seeing their new fellow.

Mayor Terch: What sort of tasks are you going to have this Fellow undertake?

Mr. Fox: To be clear. This is not like an intern in our office that just does busy work. They are very well educated and motivated. We want them to participate in all our committee and board meetings and at least be present to absorb how this whole process works. We also want to be able to hand off special projects to them. I have a wish list of things that I have not been able to get the time to do and so do Ms. Lunsford and Mr. DiRutigliano. We have a lot of new initiatives and programs. We want to present that to the fellow, and have them pick a program or initiative that they are passionate about and complete it. They would work collaboratively as well as independently with us. Their hours would be flexible.

Mayor Hopkins: These are college graduates. They are here from September through May. The fellow we are looking to bring on between the City and the Borough would be a public information officer type position. We are excited to expand the capacity. They are a wonderful addition to our community and hopefully they stay and add to our town.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

6. Other Issues

No other issues.

7. Policy Board Member Comments

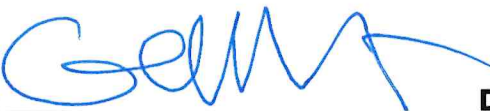
Mayor Terch: I'd like to echo Mayor O'Neill's comments about staff. Thank you for all the effort you put in to bring these to us to make this happen for our community.

Mayor Hopkins: I'll just say that international politics impacts our state whether it's the price of oil or the cost of these projects. Seeing a 20% increase for paving projects here raises a substantial amount of concerns for potential project costs going forward this summer. Hopefully, federal dollars and state match are adequate to handle those. Hopefully, we don't see an additional 20% increase in paving projects because we've got a lot of those around the state coming up really fast. On a happy note, I also want to say thank you for the work you do, proactive ideas, things to get out, and small projects because as somebody said, three to five thousand dollars is a big deal for some of these projects, especially beautifying our town. The combination of what Mayor O'Neill and the City of Fairbanks is looking

at doing on Lacey Street plus this project is going to be fantastic. I was told that one of the street signs on Lacey Street is misspelled. It was brought to my attention at the Senior Event.

8. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned by 9:08 a.m. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Approved:  Date: 5/20/26
Mayor Grier Hopkins, Chair
FAST Planning Policy Board