



# FAST Planning Update

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## Federal Actions impacting the Local Transportation Program

*AGC Spring Agency Day*

*April 11, 2024*

*Presented by: Jackson Fox, Executive Director*

# Overview



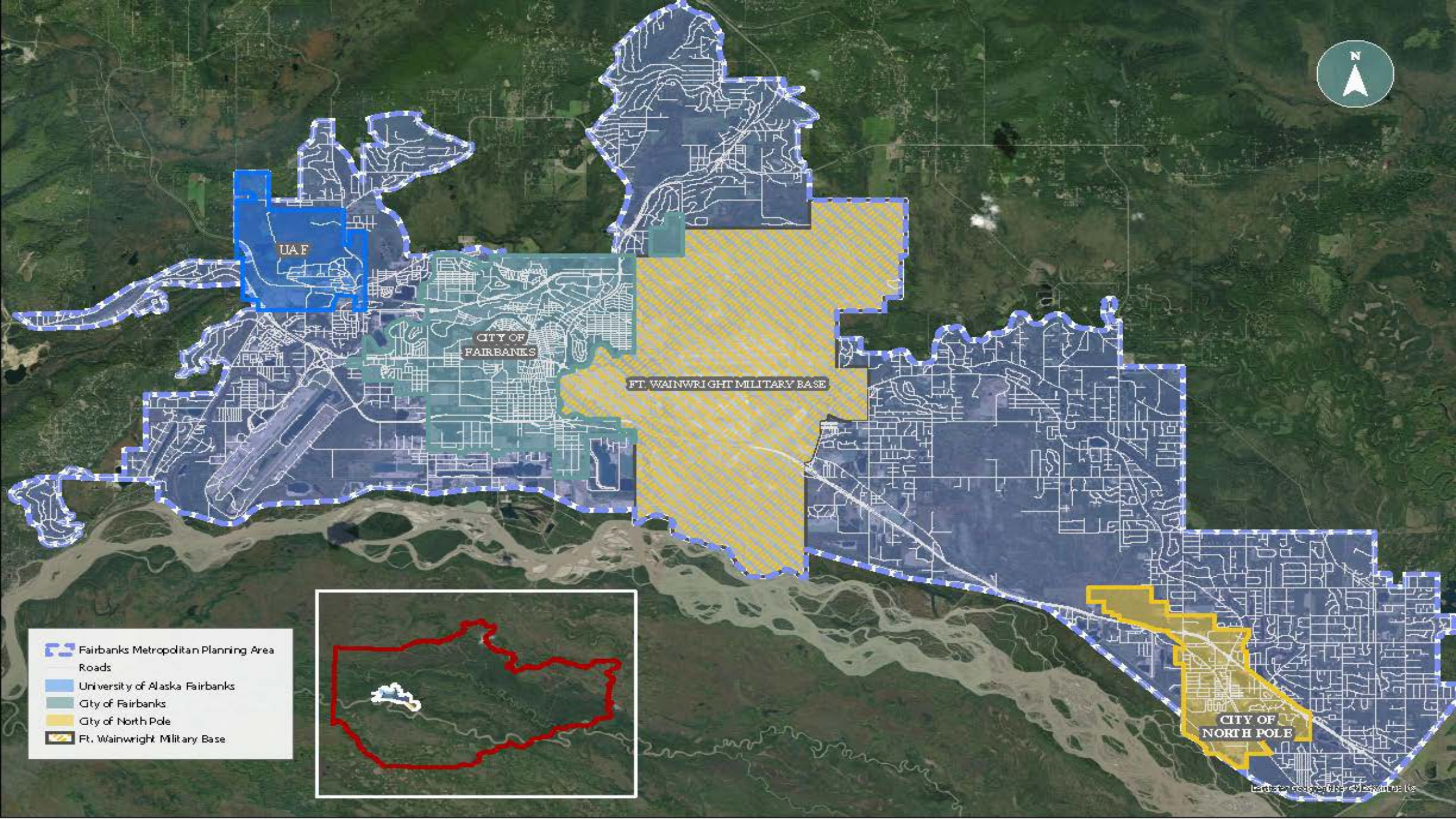
- Brief Introduction to FAST Planning
  - Who we are & what we do
- SIP Partial Approval – ADEC
  - Air Quality Conformity Freeze
- STIP Partial Approval – DOT&PF
  - Tier 1, 2 & 3 Corrective Actions
- Moving forward...



# Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

- Urbanized Areas with 50,000+ population
  - In Alaska → Anchorage, Fairbanks, & MatSu
- Federally mandated and funded
- Carries out Transportation Planning Process under 23 CFR 450, Subpart C, to develop the region's Long- and Short-Range Transportation Plans
- Empowers local governments in the transportation decision-making process
- Continuously engages the public in transportation planning and projects





UAF

CITY OF  
FAIRBANKS

FT. WAINWRIGHT MILITARY BASE

CITY OF  
NORTH POLE

-  Fairbanks Metropolitan Planning Area
-  Roads
-  University of Alaska Fairbanks
-  City of Fairbanks
-  City of North Pole
-  Ft. Wainwright Military Base



# Policy Board (MPO Decision-making Body)

→ Concurrently serves as Board of Directors for Non-profit Corporation

- City of Fairbanks Mayor
- City of North Pole Mayor
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor
- City Council Member
- Borough Assembly Member
- DOT&PF Northern Region Director
- ADEC Air Quality Director

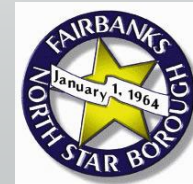
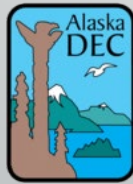


7 Board Members: (2) Borough, (3) City, (2) State

# Technical Committee (Primary Advisory Body)

## 18 Committee Members

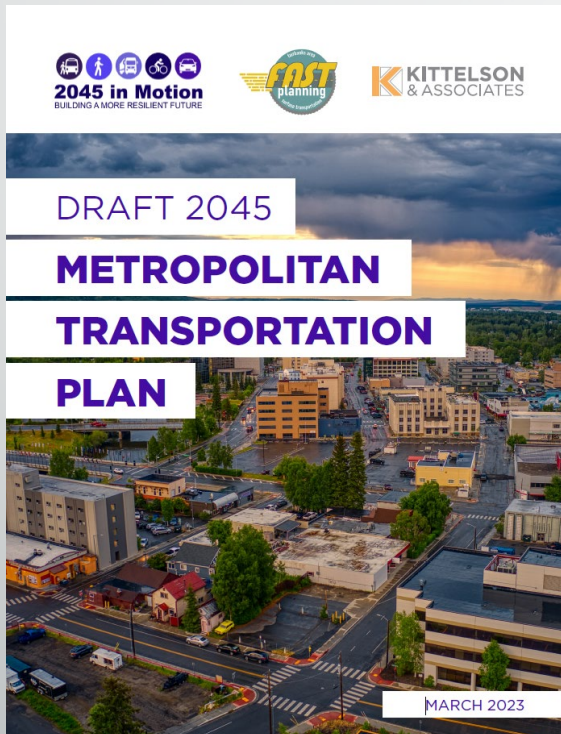
- DOT&PF Planning
- DOT&PF Preconstruction
- ADEC Air Quality
- City of Fairbanks Engineering (X2)
- City of North Pole
- University of Alaska
- Borough Community Planning
- Borough Transit
- Borough Rural Services
- Borough Planning Commission
- Alaska Railroad
- Fort Wainwright
- Eielson Air Force Base
- Fairbanks International Airport
- Public Safety Representative
- Tribal Representative
- Freight Representative



# Primary [Required] Transportation Plans

<https://fastplanning.us/plans/>

## 20-year Long Range Transportation Plan



**MTP**

March 2023

## 4-year Short Range Funding Plan

FAST Planning FFY2023-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
Approved 03.15.2023 Page 1 of 14

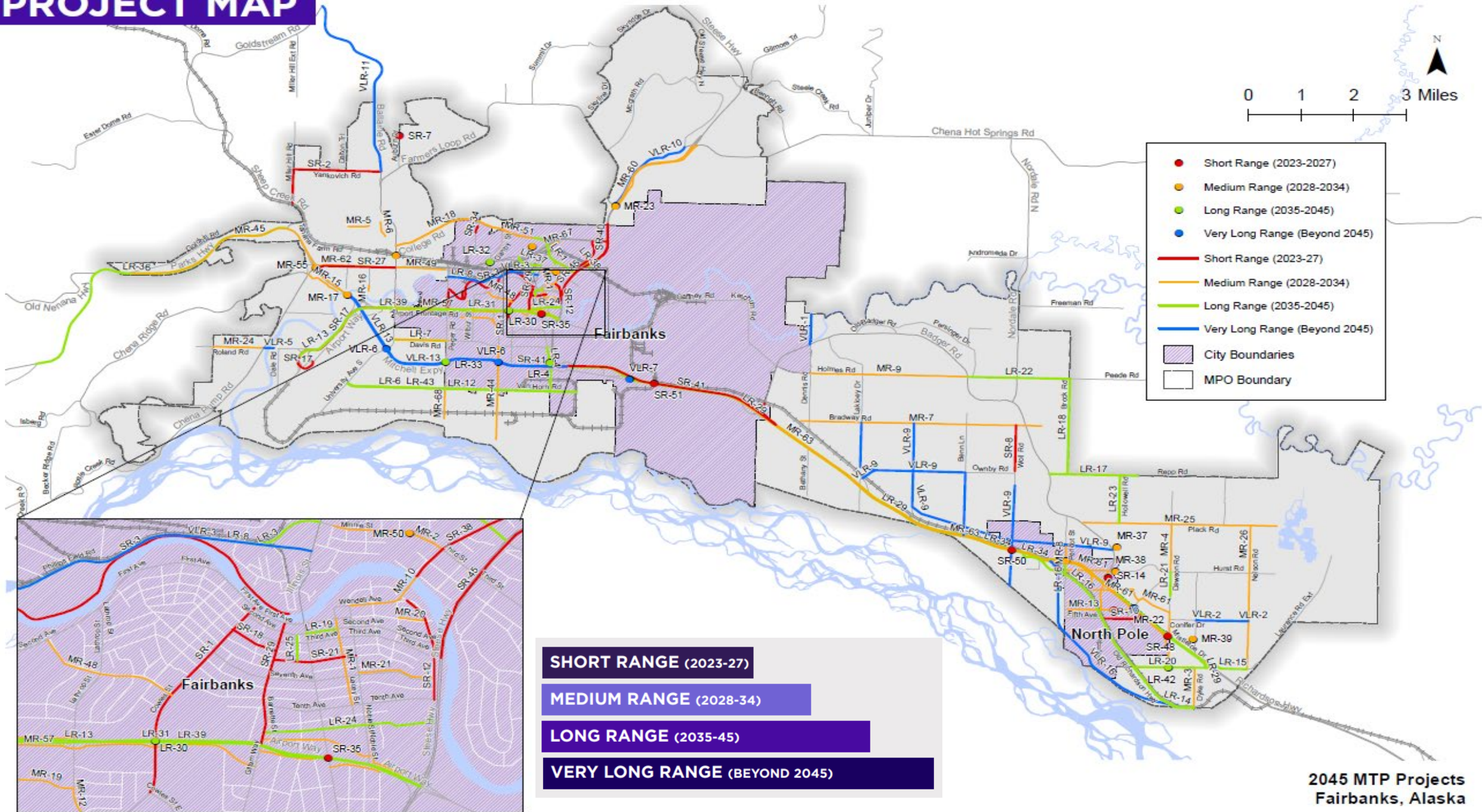
NID	IRIS	Project Description	Fund Code	Phase	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25	FFY26	FFY27	Beyond	
34141	TBD	4th Avenue Reconstruction Reconstruct 4th Avenue from Cavies to Barnette Street to provide improved facilities for all users, including ADA-compliant sidewalks, drainage improvements, and roadway resurfacing.	STP	Design			272.9	227.4			
			3PF				27.1	22.6			
			STP	Right-of-Way							
			3PF								
			STP	Utilities							159.2
			3PF								15.8
			STP	Construction							
3PF									90.3		
Project Total					0.0	0.0	300.0	250.0	0.0	1,175.0	
32110	NFHWY00445	5th Avenue Reconstruction Reconstruct 5th Avenue from Barnette to Noble Street to provide improved facilities for all users. Reconstruction includes ADA-compliant sidewalks and shoulders to accommodate bicyclists, wayfinding and bicycle route signs, and landscaping in accordance with FAST Planning's "Complete Streets" Policy.	STP	Design	159.2						
			3PF		15.8						
			STP	Right-of-Way							
			3PF								
			STP	Utilities	363.9			2,456.2			
			3PF		36.1						
			STP	Construction	454.9			2,456.2			
			AC								
			ACC								
			3PF		289.0				-2,456.2		
Project Total					3,775.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
21934	NFHWY00648	Advanced Project Definition Provide funding to the State and City to develop new estimates for TIP projects.	STP	Planning			91.0				
		FM				9.0					
Project Total					0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
30011	TBD	Barnette Street Reconstruction Reconstruct Barnette Street from 1st Avenue to Airport Way to include signal upgrades, decorative lighting, a dedicated bike lane, drainage improvements, intersections and sidewalk upgrades, utility relocation, signing and striping and landscaping. This project should be consistent with the Complete Streets concept of Goshman Street.		Design						2,500.0	
			ILLU		Right-of-Way						100.0
				Utilities							
					Construction						
Project Total						0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17,950.0
32278	TBD	Bike Lane Striping & Signing - Pilot Program Signage and striping of existing paved shoulders with Fairbanks City limits on City streets to accommodate bicyclists as designated bike lanes for seasonal use.	TAP	Design	91.0						
			3PF		9.0						
			TAP	Construction			454.9				
			3PF		45.2						
Project Total					100.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

STP - Surface Transportation Program, CMAQ - Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality, TAP - Transportation Alternatives Program, CR - Carbon Reduction Program, MPL - Metropolitan Planning, TPL - Transit Planning, OFF - FAST Planning Offset Funds, SA - State Funding Appropriation, SM - State Match, 3PF - 3rd Party Funding, FM - FAST Planning Match, ILLU - Illustrative (Funding Placeholder), AC - Advanced Construction, ACC - Advanced Construction Conversion

**TIP**

March 2023

# PROJECT MAP





## SHORT RANGE (2023-2027)

### FAST PLANNING PROJECTS

SR-1	<b>Cowles St Reconstruction (East Cowles - 1st Ave)</b>	Reconstruct Cowles Street from 1st Avenue through East Cowles Street. Project work will include roadside hardware, drainage improvements, intersection improvements, ADA improvements and utilities.
SR-2	<b>Yankovich/Miller Hill Road Reconstruction</b>	Reconstruct Miller Hill and Yankovich Road from Sheep Creek to Ballaine Road, including widened shoulders on Yankovich Road.
SR-3	<b>Chena River Walk Stage III</b>	Expand the Chena River Walk to the north side of the Chena River with approximately 2,200 linear feet of pathway from Peger Road to the existing Chena River pedestrian bridge crossing at Pioneer Park. Construct a connection of the existing pedestrian facilities along Peger Road.
SR-4	<b>FAST Coordinator's Office</b>	Funding for the Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Coordinator's office which supports delivery of the FAST Planning program.
SR-5	<b>Advance Project Definition</b>	Provide funding to the State and City to develop new estimates for TIP projects.
SR-6	<b>Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Strategies</b>	Investigate Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies in the FAST Planning area.
SR-7	<b>Pearl Creek Elementary Access Improvements</b>	Traffic circulation improvements on Auburn Drive and loop road through school parking lot to reduce conflicts between buses, student pick-up/drop-off, visitor parking, and teacher parking
SR-8	<b>Woll Road Resurfacing &amp; Widening</b>	Resurface and widen Woll Road from Bradway Road to Ownby Road.
SR-9	<b>Geist/Chena Pump Road Corridor Study</b>	Examine safety and access control issues along Geist Road and Chena Pump Road from University Avenue to Chena Small Tracts Road, including driveway density, intersection configuration, and conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users to identify projects that improve safety and address access management for all users.
SR-10	<b>8th Avenue Path Resurfacing</b>	Resurface the path on 8th Avenue in North Pole
SR-11	<b>Chena Landings Loop Path Reconstruction</b>	Repave the path between the footbridge and Chena Landings Loop.
SR-12	<b>Clay Street Bicycle Facilities</b>	Provide a bicycle connection on Clay Street to downtown Fairbanks between 10th Avenue at the Steese Highway and Wendell Avenue.
SR-13	<b>Winter Weather Event Equipment</b>	Assist public agencies in acquiring winter maintenance equipment and to manage extreme events (i.e. icebreaker attachments, two-way tow plows, sidewalk snow removal equipment, etc.)
SR-14	<b>Doughchee Avenue Improvements</b>	Reconstruct Doughchee Avenue from Badger Road to Beaver Spring bridge, including drainage improvements to reduce bridge abutment erosion.
SR-15	<b>Safe Routes to School</b>	Supporting studies of elementary, middle and high schools, bike rodeos, outreach, safety for surrounding communities and multi-modal trips
SR-16	<b>Lacey Street Reconstruction Planning Study</b>	Planning study to examine feasibility of burying overhead utilities and gain additional feedback from the public on design alternatives for reconstruction of Lacey Street from 1st to 12th Avenue
SR-17	<b>University Avenue South Bicycle &amp; Pedestrian Path</b>	Construct a facility along University Avenue South for bicycles and pedestrians between the Parks Highway and Armistead Way.
SR-18	<b>4th Avenue Reconstruction</b>	Reconstruct 4th Avenue from Cowles to Barnette Street, including installation of storm drain system, new sidewalks, and paved surface.
SR-19	<b>Pioneer Park North Parking Lot &amp; Boat Launch</b>	Develop an improved entrance and parking area at north end of park, including reconstruction of the boat ramp to the Chena River, in coordination with the Pioneer Park Mast Plan.
SR-20	<b>FNSB Parking &amp; Pathway Improvements &amp; Community Access</b>	Address access deficiencies and in-park ADA accessibility at Fifth Avenue Park (North Pole), Nussbaumer Park, South Fairbanks Park.
SR-21	<b>5th Avenue Reconstruction</b>	Reconstruct 5th Avenue from Barnette Street to Noble Street in order to provide improved facilities for all users. Reconstruction includes improved drainage, ADA-compliant pedestrian facilities, shoulders to accommodate bicyclists and temporary snow storage, utility relocates and improvements, as required, installation of wayfinding and bicycle route signs, and landscaping in accordance with City of Fairbanks' Complete Streets.
SR-22	<b>Share the Road Educational Outreach</b>	Develop a multimedia campaign to improve education about the rights and responsibilities of each transportation mode.
SR-23	<b>Bike Lane Signing and Striping</b>	Signing and striping of existing paved shoulders within City of Fairbanks to accommodate bicyclists, as designated bike lanes for seasonal use.
SR-24	<b>Driver's Education Program</b>	Provide a subsidy for driver's ed course in Fairbanks and/or introduce driver's ed course to a local high school

SR-25	<b>Peger Road Bicycle &amp; Pedestrian Path</b>	Construct a 1,400-foot bicycle/pedestrian path on the east side of Peger Road from the Chena River bridge to Airport Way through Pioneer Park with a direct connection to the Chena Riverwalk path.
SR-26	<b>Airport Way/Peger Road Intersection Study</b>	Align area planning and develop concept-level alternatives for proposed improvements to the intersection that meet the intent of current plans, improve safety, limit conflicts between users, and improve traffic flow.
SR-27	<b>Geist Road Sidewalk Safety Improvements</b>	To improve the safety of pedestrians and reduce motor vehicle conflicts on the south side of the Geist Road non-motorized path
SR-28	<b>FAST Planning Improvement Program</b>	Funding for the annual Preventative Maintenance or Rehabilitation Activities Program within the FAST Planning Area for non-NHS routes.
SR-29	<b>Barnette Street Reconstruction</b>	Reconstruct Barnette Street from 1st Avenue to Airport Way to include signal upgrades, decorative lighting, a dedicated bike lane, drainage improvements, intersection and sidewalk upgrades, utility relocation, signing and striping and landscaping to be consistent with the Complete Streets concept of Cushman Street.
SR-30	<b>FAST Carbon Reduction Program</b>	Projects that support the reduction of transportation emissions, including evaluations, plans, and the design and construction of projects in accordance with 23 USC §175, within the FAST Planning Metropolitan Planning Area.
SR-31	<b>Household Travel Survey</b>	Complete new Household Travel Survey (last completed 2013) to collect data regarding origins and destinations, trip length, time of day, mode of transportation, and other household characteristics for more up-to-date trip data for the Travel Demand Model for future MTPs.
SR-32	<b>MTP Update</b>	Update FAST Planning Metropolitan Transportation Plan as required under 23 USC 134 (occurs every 4 years).
SR-33	<b>Transit Plan Updates</b>	Update the Fairbanks North Star Borough Long & Short Range Transit Plan, Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, Fare Pricing & Integration Study, and Operational Efficiency Study.

### NON-FAST PLANNING PROJECTS

SR-34	<b>Aurora Drive Noyes Slough Bridge #0209 Replacement</b>	Replace the Noyes Slough Bridge #0209 on Aurora Drive in Fairbanks. Project work includes bridge work, roadside hardware, drainage improvements, intersection improvements, ADA improvements, and utility work.
SR-35	<b>Airport Way/Cushman Street Intersection Reconstruction</b>	Reconstruct the intersection at Airport Way and Cushman Street.
SR-36	<b>Chena Pump/Chena Small Tracts Road Roundabout</b>	Consider installing a roundabout due to increased volumes at the Chena Pump/Chena Small Tracts intersection to improve delay and safety. Construct a pedestrian/bicycle crossing along Chena Pump Road between Chena Ridge Road and Chena Small Tracts Road for safe access to the Interior Alaska Land Trust Chinook Conservation Park.
SR-37	<b>City of Fairbanks Systematic Signal Upgrades</b>	Install overhead signal head for each lane of each approach at 11 intersections around City of Fairbanks. Install retroreflective backplates on all signal heads at 11 additional locations.
SR-38	<b>Old Steese Highway Reconstruction</b>	Reconstruct the Old Steese Highway from Kutter Road to the intersection at Johansen Expressway and rehabilitate the Old Steese Highway between Kutter Road and 3rd Street.
SR-39	<b>NHS Pavement Management/Preventive Maintenance</b>	Funding for the annual DOT&PF Preventative Maintenance Program within the FAST Planning Area for NHS routes. Recommendations for pavement rehabilitation are developed under the ongoing Pavement Management System.
SR-40	<b>Steese/Johansen Expressway Interchange</b>	Construct a grade separated interchange at the intersection of Steese Expressway and Johansen Expressway. Realign adjacent access as necessary to accommodate the selected interchange configuration.
SR-41	<b>Richardson Highway MP 357-362 Bicycle/Pedestrian Path</b>	Construct a paved bicycle/pedestrian path on the Richardson Hwy starting from the Richardson Hwy/Airport Wy intersection, continuing along the Richardson Hwy to the Badger Loop Northbound Ramp, and terminating at the Badger Rd/Old Badger Hwy intersection. Improvements will include bridge work, roadside hardware, drainage improvements, ADA improvements, and utilities.
SR-42	<b>FNSB Air Quality Programs (CMAQ)</b>	Funding to support ongoing efforts and recommendations outlined under the <i>Fairbanks North Star Borough Carbon Monoxide Air Quality Maintenance Plan</i> .
SR-43	<b>FNSB Statewide Implementation Plan (SIP)</b>	Prepare a Fairbanks PM 2.5 Non-Attainment Area Statewide Implementation Plan (SIP). This project includes inventory development, data collection, analysis, modeling, identifying control measures, and components that demonstrate attainment.
SR-44	<b>TIP/LRTP Conformity Analysis</b>	Preparation of a PM 2.5 conformity determination for short- and long-term transportation plans and individual projects in the entire nonattainment area with the FNSB, consisting of FAST, the MPO for the Fairbanks urban area, and the associated "donut area" within the PM 2.5 Boundary.

**FAST Planning FFY2023-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
Administrative Modification #1, Approved 07.19.2023**

NID	IRIS	Project Description	Fund Code	Phase	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25	FFY26	FFY27	Beyond	
34122	NFHWY00815	Doughchee Avenue/Beaver Springs Bridge <small>Reconstruct Doughchee Avenue to improve drainage, resurface roadway, and maintain accessibility to the local neighborhood by addressing erosion at bridge abutments. Project is planned to be bundled with FFY25 FAST Improvement Program for bid advertisement.</small>	STP	Design	127.4	84.6					
			3PF		12.6	8.4					
			STP	Right-of-Way							
			3PF								
			STP	Utilities							
			3PF								
			STP	Construction					357.5		
			AC					357.5			
			ACC							-357.5	
3PF						35.5					
Project Total					140.0	93.0	393.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

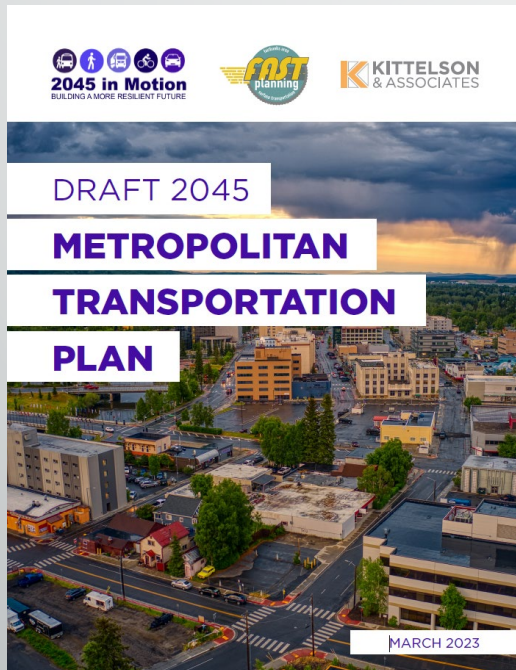
**STIP VS. TIP**

Project							Approved Amendment 1					
Program	Region	2013 Election District	Place Name	Highway	Primary Work	Bridge #s	Ph	Fund	FFY19	FFY20	FFY21	After 2021
<b>Need ID: 24519 Name: Little Goldstream Creek Bridge Replacement</b>							4	AC	0	0	0	
CTP	N	6	Nenana		Bridge Replacement	2080	4	ACC	-1,887,920	0	0	
Description: Remove and replace the Little Goldstream Creek Bridge #2080 near Nenana. The existing timber structure at Little Goldstream Creek is experiencing abutment erosion and settlement.							4	SM	0	0	0	
							4	STP	1,887,920	0	0	
IRIS# 2635770000 (Status: CONSTRUCTION), NENANA LITTLE GOLDSTREAM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (#2080) - Mer: LITTLE, LAUREN M							Totals: 0 0 0 0					
<b>Need ID: 25596 Name: Rosie Creek Road Improvements</b>							2	3PF	0	0	0	
CTP	N	3	Fairbanks		Reconstruction		2	ACC	0	0	0	
Description: Improve Rosie Creek Road from Chena Ridge to Becker Ridge, to include alignment, shoulder work, repair and overlay of pavement, and improving the intersection at Chena Ridge.							2	STP	0	0	0	
							3	3PF	45,150	0	0	
							3	STP	434,850	0	0	
							4	3PF	0	0	346,857	
							4	STP	0	0	3,309,143	
IRIS# NFHWY00017 (Status: DESIGN), ROSIE CREEK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - Mer: ACKISS, COLLEEN M							7	3PF	9,030	0	0	
							7	STP	90,970	0	0	
							Totals: 600,000 0 6,056,000 0					
<b>Need ID: 25598 Name: Richardson Highway Mile Point 358-364 (Milepost 357-362) Bicycle/Pedestrian Path</b>							4	AC	3,488,700	0	0	
TRAAK	N	2	Northern Region	Richardson Highway	New Construction		4	ACC	0	-3,488,700	0	
Description: Construct a paved bicycle/pedestrian path on the Richardson Highway starting from the Richardson Highway/Airport Way intersection, continuing along the Richardson Highway to the Badger Loop North Bound Ramp, and terminating at the Badger Road/Old Richardson Highway intersection.							4	SM	346,300	0	0	
							4	STP	0	3,488,700	0	
IRIS# 2613970000 (Status: DESIGN), RICHARDSON HWY MP 357-362 BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PATH - Mer: FANNING, ISADORA L							Totals: 3,835,000 0 0 0					

# Relationship between MTP, TIP, & STIP

[23 CFR 450.218(b),(k) and 23 USC 135(g)(5)(D)]

20-year Long Range  
Transportation Plan



Short Range Projects  
(2023-2027)

4-year Short Range  
Funding Plan (TIP)

FAST Planning FFY2023-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
Approved 03.15.2023 Page 1 of 14

NID	IRIS	Project Description	Fund Code	Phase	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25	FFY26	FFY27	Beyond			
34141	TRD	6th Avenue Reconstruction Reconstruct 6th Avenue from Center to Barrette Street to provide improved facilities for cyclists, including dedicated lanes, manage improvements, and roadway resurfacing.	STP	Design			272.9	227.4					
			SPF	Right-of-Way			27.1	22.6					
			STP	Utilities							159.3		
			SPF	Construction							15.8		
			STP								969.9		
			SPF								96.9		
Project Total					0.0	0.0	300.0	250.0	0.0	14,175.8			
32119	NSHWY00445	5th Avenue Reconstruction Reconstruct 5th Avenue from Center to 7th Street to provide improved facilities for all users. Reconstruction includes dedicated lanes and provides to accommodate bicycles, wheelchair and stroller users, and landscaping in accordance with FAST Planning's "Complete Street" Policy.	STP	Design	159.2								
			SPF	Right-of-Way	15.8								
			SPF	Utilities	363.9								
			STP		56.1	2,456.2							
			DW-TAP	Construction	454.9								
			AC		2,456.2								
			ACC			2,456.2							
			SPF		389.0								
			Project Total					3,775.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
			21934	NSHWY00648	Advanced Project Definition Provide funding to the State and City to develop new activities for STIP projects.	STP	Planning			91.0			
Project Total					0.0	0.0	300.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
30011	TRD	Barrette Street Reconstruction Reconstruct Barrette Street from 3rd Avenue to Aspen Way to include dedicated bicycle lanes, dedicated utility lanes, drainage improvements, pedestrian and vehicle upgrades, utility relocation, lighting and signage and landscaping. This project shall be consistent with the Complete Street concept of Center Street.	STP	Design						3,500.0			
			ILLU	Right-of-Way							1,000.0		
			ILLU	Utilities								1,000.0	
			ILLU	Construction								14,350.0	
			Project Total					0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17,850.0
31278	TRD	Walk Lane Striping & Signing - Pilot Program Striping and signing of existing paved shoulders within Fairbanks City. Reconstruct sidewalks to accommodate bicyclists as integrated side lanes for pedestrian use.	TAP	Design	91.0								
			SPF		91.0								
			TAP	Construction	454.9								
			SPF		45.2								
Project Total					300.0	300.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			

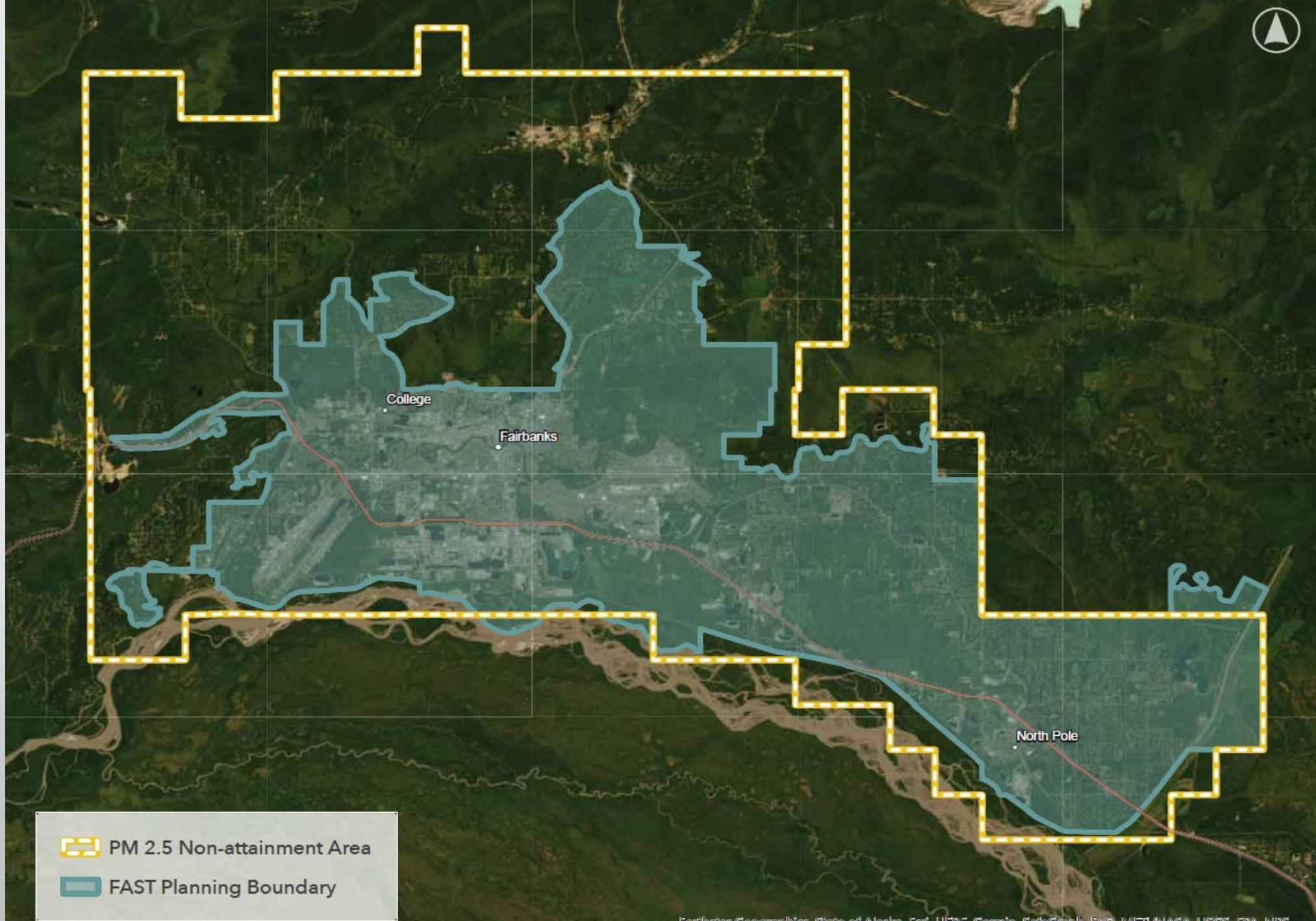
STP - Surface Transportation Program, CMAAQ - Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality, TAP - Transportation Alternatives Program, CR - Carbon Reduction Program, MPL - Metropolitan Planning, TPL - Transit Planning, OFF - FAST Planning Offset Funds, SA - State Funding Appropriation, SM - State Match, SPF - 3rd Party Funding, FM - FAST Planning Match, ILLU - Illustrative Funding (Placeholder), AC - Advanced Construction, ACC - Advanced Construction Conversion



Incorporated into  
STIP by Reference

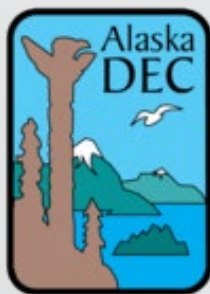
Alaska DOT&PF  
STIP



# PM2.5 Non-Attainment Area



-  PM 2.5 Non-attainment Area
-  FAST Planning Boundary



# SIP Partial Approval

- State Implementation Plan (SIP) for PM<sub>2.5</sub> Serious Non-Attainment Area submitted to EPA in 2020
- EPA issued partial approval and partial disapproval in 2023
- Final rulemaking took effect January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 w/ CAA penalties
  - Initial penalty → **Air Quality Conformity Freeze** on local Transportation Plans [**MTP** & **TIP**]

## ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



### Amendments to:

### State Air Quality Control Plan

### Vol. II: III.D.7.1

### Executive Summary

### Adopted

November 19, 2019

Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor

Jason W. Brune, Commissioner

III.D.7.1-1



94626 Federal Register / Vol. 88, No. 232 / Tuesday, December 5, 2023 / Rules and Regulations

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52  
[EPA-R10-OAR-2022-0115; FRL-9755-02-R10]

#### Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval: AK, Fairbanks North Star Borough; 2006 24-Hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> Serious Area and 189(d) Plan

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).  
ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving in part and disapproving in part the State implementation plan (SIP) submissions, submitted by the State of Alaska (Alaska or the State) to address Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) requirements for the 2006 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) in the Fairbanks North Star Borough PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment area (Fairbanks PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area). Alaska made these submissions on December 13, 2019, and December 15, 2020.

**DATES:** This final rule is effective on January 4, 2024.  
**ADDRESSES:** The EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA-R10-OAR-2022-0115. All documents in the docket are listed on the <https://www.regulations.gov> website. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available through <https://www.regulations.gov>, or please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section for additional availability information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Matthew Jentgen, EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue—Suite 155, Seattle, WA, 98101, (206) 553-0340, [jentgen.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:jentgen.matthew@epa.gov).  
**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Throughout this document wherever “we,” “us,” or “our” is used, it is intended to refer to EPA.

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V. Incorporation by Reference  
VI. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews  
A. Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review and Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review  
B. Paperwork Reduction Act  
C. Regulatory Flexibility Act  
D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act  
E. Executive Order 13132, Federalism  
F. Executive Order 13175, Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments  
G. Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks  
H. Executive Order 13211, Actions That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use  
I. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act  
J. Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations  
K. Submission to Congress and the Comptroller General  
L. Petitions for Judicial Review

**I. Background**  
For a complete regulatory history of the Fairbanks PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area, see the EPA’s proposal, published on January 10, 2023 (88 FR 1454) (Proposal). This action finalizes the EPA’s specific assessment of the State of Alaska’s SIP submissions to meet nonattainment plan requirements for the Fairbanks PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area, as discussed in the Proposal.  
In summary, Alaska submitted a plan to address the Serious area plan requirements on December 13, 2019 (Fairbanks Serious Plan). On September 2, 2020, the EPA determined that the area failed to attain the NAAQS by the

outmost statutory Serious area attainment date of December 31, 2019, and denied the State’s Serious area attainment date extension request under CAA section 189(e) (85 FR 54509). As a result, Alaska was required to submit a new SIP submission to meet both the Serious area attainment plan requirements and the additional CAA requirements set forth in CAA section 189(d) by December 31, 2020.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the EPA taking action to approve or disapprove the Fairbanks Serious Plan, Alaska withdrew and replaced several chapters of the Fairbanks Serious Plan with the Fairbanks 189(d) Plan submission, submitted on December 15, 2020 (Fairbanks 189(d) Plan).<sup>2</sup> Thus, the State intended to address the Serious area plan requirements with a combination of unwithdrawn portions of the Fairbanks Serious Plan and revised elements submitted as part of the Fairbanks 189(d) Plan. In this final action, the EPA is not acting on the withdrawn elements of the prior Fairbanks Serious Plan, but only acting on those elements that remain as revised by Alaska in the Fairbanks 189(d) Plan. Additionally, on September 25, 2023, Alaska withdrew the State’s sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) best available control technology (BACT) findings submitted as part of the Fairbanks Serious Plan.<sup>3</sup> In the Proposal, the EPA proposed to approve the following components of the Fairbanks Serious Plan and Fairbanks 189(d) Plan: the base year emissions inventory; the State’s PM<sub>2.5</sub> precursor demonstrations for nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions; the control strategy for the solid fuel-fired heating device source category and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) BACT and BACT findings, as applicable; specific regulations under 18 AAC 50.075 through 077 and the Fairbanks Emergency Episode Plan.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 40 CFR 51.1063(c).  
<sup>2</sup> See SIP submission cover letter, submitted by Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Commissioner Jason Brune to EPA Regional Administrator, Chris Hladick, on December 15, 2020.  
<sup>3</sup> Fairbanks SIP submissions for the Serious area and 189(d) plans. Letter from Emma Pihkon, Acting Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, to Casey Sickler, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 10, September 25, 2023. Included in the docket for this action.  
<sup>4</sup> State Air Quality Control Plan, Vol. II, Chapter III.D.7.1. The portion of Alaska’s SIP is distinct from Alaska’s emergency powers under Alaska Statutes 46.03.010 and 18 AAC 245.245–245.246 that authorize ADEK to declare an air alert, air warning, or air advisory to notify the public and prescribe and publicize curtailment action. In prior actions, the EPA has determined that these authorities are consistent with CAA section 110(a)(2)(C) and 40 CFR 51.150 through 51.153. See 83 FR 60769, November 27, 2018, at p. 60772.

# Conformity Freeze on MTP & TIP

- Freeze begins on effective date of SIP partial disapproval – **January 4, 2024**
- State has 24 months to correct the SIP deficiencies and have EPA fully approve the plan
- State is planning to submit revised plan by July 2024, and EPA has 18 months to review and approve – Freeze expected to last full 24 months
- During a **Conformity Freeze**:
  - No new air quality conformity determinations are allowed for MTP or TIP
  - No amendments are allowed for MTP or TIP (except for **Exempt projects** under 40 CFR 93.126)
  - Only projects in first 4 years of MTP and TIP may move forward – 2023 to 2026
- If SIP deficiencies are not corrected within 24 months, **highway sanctions** are imposed and a **conformity lapse** occurs (only Exempt projects under 40 CFR 93.126 can proceed – **safety, transit, air quality, planning/studies**; for all other Projects, use of Federal highway funding is prohibited, and funding may be diverted to other communities across the State)

# MTP/TIP Revisions

## What we **Cannot** do

- Add or remove Projects
- Add or remove project phases for Design/Construction
- Alter the original project intent or purpose and need
- Any revision that triggers an air quality conformity reevaluation
- Change in project costs that requires redemonstration of fiscal constraint
- Increase or decrease project length  $\geq 30\%$
- For projects  $\leq \$3$  million: Approve cost increases  $> 50\%$  or  $> \$1$  million
- For projects  $> \$3$  million: Approve cost increases  $> 30\%$  or  $> \$1.5$  million
- Add Federal funding to a project that does not have Federal funding (Illustrative and State-funded projects)

## What we Can do

- Add or update project numbers/Need IDs
- Split projects into phases or combine projects
- Add or remove project phases for Right-of-Way and Utilities
- Shift funding for project phases between fiscal years
- Update project titles and descriptions as long as the changes do not affect the original project scope or purpose and need
- Change funding type for a project phase (i.e. changing CMAQ to STP)
- Increase or decrease project length  $\leq 30\%$
- For projects  $\leq \$3$  million: Approve cost increases  $\leq 50\%$  or  $\leq \$1$  million
- For projects  $> \$3$  million: Approve cost increases  $\leq 30\%$  or  $\leq \$1.5$  million
- Proceed toward implementation of Exempt projects [40 CFR 93.126]



# STIP Partial Approval

- FFY 2020-23 STIP expired September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- DOT&PF granted 6-month extension on FFY 2020-23 STIP approval – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- FFY 2024-27 STIP resubmitted to FHWA & FTA on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- FHWA & FTA issued partial approval on March 27<sup>th</sup>



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
ALASKA DIVISION  
709 W 9<sup>th</sup> STREET, ROOM 551  
P.O. BOX 21645  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-1645

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION  
915 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 3142  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98174

March 27, 2024

Mr. Ryan Anderson, P.E., Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 112500  
3132 Channel Drive  
Juneau, AK 99811

Subject: 2024 – 2027 Alaska State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On March 1, 2024, we received the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) 2024 – 2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). The STIP was significantly revised from the January 19, 2024, submittal including introducing several new projects. Upon thorough review of the STIP submittal, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have determined that pursuant to 23 CFR 450.220(b)(1)(iii), the STIP is Partially Approved. The following projects and language are excluded from this STIP approval:

- #34374 - Railroad Anchorage North & South Rail Corridor
- #26076 - Aurora Drive-Noyes Slough Bridge Replacement
- #34385 - Port of Alaska North Extension Stabilization Step 1 Project
- #33860 - PROTECT Program
- #34205 - Ferry Boat Funds Placeholder as Future Match using Toll Credits [LEDGER]
- #6447 - Bridge and Tunnel Inventory, Inspection, Monitoring, Preservation, Rehab, and Replacement Program
- STIP Narrative Document - Page 17 - "Projects may be started under a 'group' and, through the project life cycle, increase in size or scope to no longer meet the requirements of the grouping. In those instances, the projects will be created with their own Need ID and incorporated into the STIP via an amendment."
- STIP Narrative Document: Page 19 - "FHWA and FTA will provide DOT&PF with any



# Federal Planning Finding

## **Tier 1:** Resolved conditions for approval, and elements excluded from approval

- Incorporating TIPs into STIP by reference without change or duplication (**partially resolved**)
  - Includes MPO TIPs, Tribal TIPs, & Western Federal Lands Highway Division TIP
- Adhering to requirements for Grouped Projects (i.e. Programs) – must be exempt from air quality conformity and qualify for a CatEx under NEPA (**partially resolved**)
- Demonstration of Fiscal Constraint (**partially resolved**)
- Removal of exceptions from STIP Amendment & Admin Mod procedures (**resolved**)
  - Removed exception for “Funding adjustments to award contracts”
- Documentation of Fairbanks PM<sub>2.5</sub> Area Conformity Freeze in effect (**resolved**)

# Federal Planning Finding (cont'd)

**Tier 2:** Updated conditions for first STIP Amendment within 6 months (Sept 30<sup>th</sup>)

- Unresolved Tier 1 conditions (see previous slide)
- Develop and implement processes and procedures for MPO coordination
- Document public involvement, including coordination with Local and Appointed Officials, and the disposition of public comments
  - Also recommends addressing how the public will be engaged when significant changes occur after the comment period closes and prior to adoption and submittal to FHWA and FTA
- Develop and implement processes and procedures for Tribal consultation
- Document total cost of each project, inflation factors, and fiscal constraint
- Clarify the performance-based planning and project selection processes used in the STIP

# Federal Planning Finding (cont'd)

## **Tier 3:** Updated conditions for project approvals

- Remove any projects in the STIP that are in TIPs
- Conduct Interagency Consultations for air quality conformity for Fairbanks area projects
- Remove all projects and programs not eligible for inclusion in the STIP; examples include:
  - Projects not eligible for Federal funding source listed
  - Projects not included in a Plan (i.e. HSIP, Freight Plan, etc.)
  - Inadequate project description, unrealistic project schedule, current project funding needs to be identified/updated, and lack of detail on Advance Construction (AC) balance and payback plan
  - Project eligibility needs to be confirmed before obligation of funding

# Moving forward...



- Air Quality Conformity Freeze (expected to last until December 2025)
  - Continue to seek a “Protective Funding” under the CAA to lift the Freeze
  - Facilitate Interagency Consultations for air quality conformity for all eligible projects to acquire “Exempt” determinations
  - Consider shifting more investments in the TIP towards Exempt projects
- STIP Conditions for Approval (within next six months; by September 30<sup>th</sup>)
  - Work closely with DOT&PF and other MPOs on all Corrective Actions related to our areas
  - Streamline STIP and TIP Amendment & Admin Mod procedures for consistency and expediency
  - Support DOT&PF’s funding request to U.S. DOT for the Prioritization Process Pilot Program to improve project selection processes and engagement with the public

# Thank You!

Jackson Fox

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