



Updates from Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning

**Associated General Contractors of Alaska
2023 Spring Agency Day**

April 13, 2023

Presented by: Jackson Fox, Executive Director

Overview



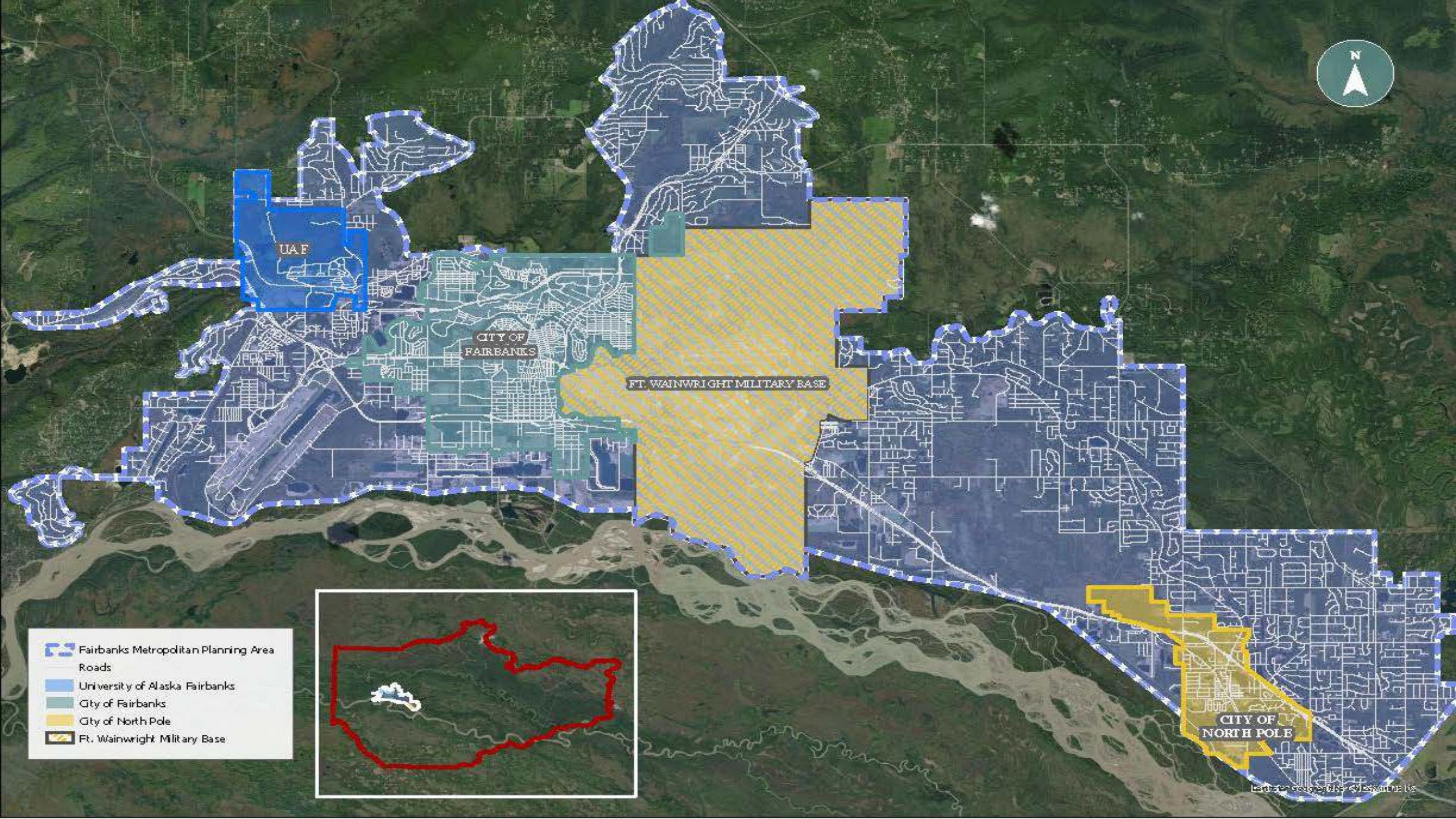
- Who we are & What we do
- Recently Adopted Plans
- Potential EPA Sanctions
- Current Planning Efforts



Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

- Urbanized Areas with 50,000+ population
 - In Alaska → Anchorage & Fairbanks → ...soon MatSu Region
- Federally mandated
- Federally funded → Fairbanks MPO receives \$12 million annually
- Responsible for regional transportation planning and agency coordination
- Empowers local governments in the transportation decision-making process
- 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

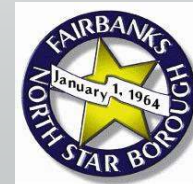
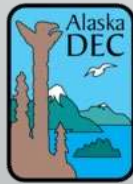


7 Board Members: (2) Borough, (3) City, (2) State

Technical Committee (Primary Advisory Body)

16 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 Planning Commission
- Alaska Railroad
- Fort Wainwright
- Fairbanks International Airport
- Public Safety Representative
- Tribal Representative
- Freight Representative



Other FAST Planning Committees

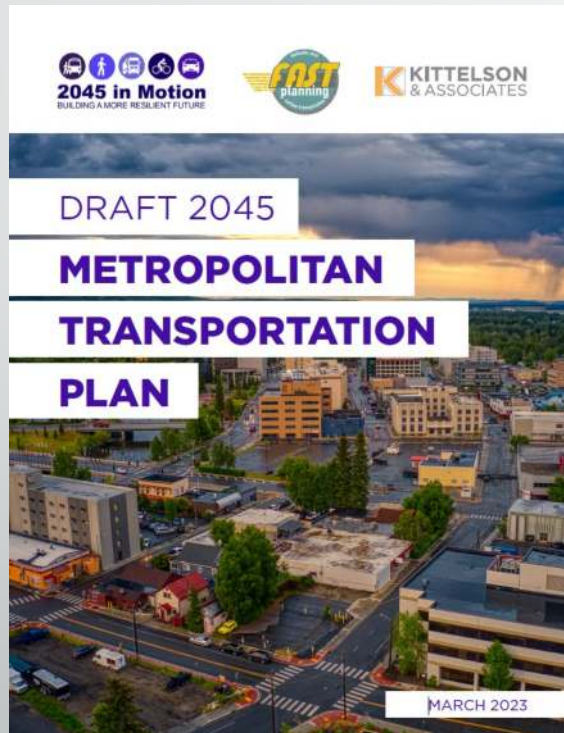
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
 - Agency, Local Interest Groups, & Public members
- Project Enhancement Committee
 - Engineers, Architects, & Maintenance Managers
- Freight Advisory Committee
 - Agency & Freight Industry representatives
- Seasonal Mobility Task Force
 - DOT&PF Maintenance, City Public Works, Borough Rural Services, Borough Parks & Recreation, MACS Transit, UAF Operations, School District, Access Alaska (disabilities)



Recently Adopted Plans

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

20-year Long Range Transportation Plan



March 2023

4-year Short Range Funding Plan

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

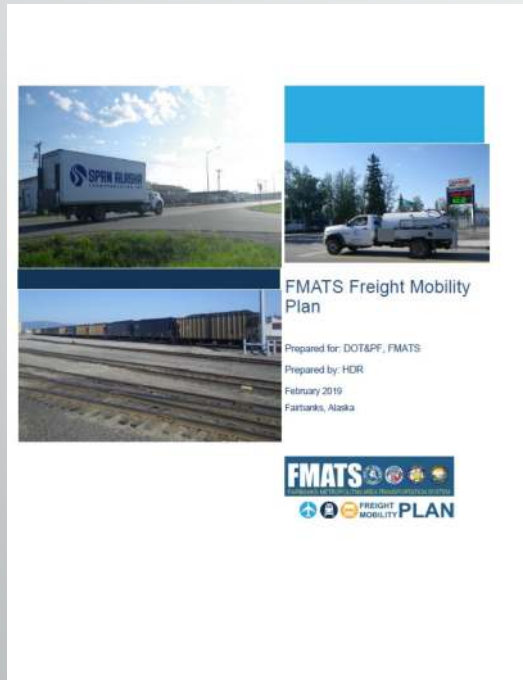
NID	IRIS	Project Description	Fund Code	Phase	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25	FFY26	FFY27	Beyond	
34141	TBD	4th Avenue Reconstruction Reconstruct 4th Avenue from Conley to Barnette Street to provide improved facilities for all users, including ADA-compliant sidewalks, storage improvements, and roadway resurfacing.	STP	Design			272.9	227.4			
			3PF				27.1	22.6			
			STP	Right-of-Way							
			3PF								
			STP	Utilities							
			3PF								
			STP	Construction							
3PF									15.8		
Project Total					0.0	0.0	300.0	250.0	0.0	1,175.0	
32110	NFHWY0045	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 bicycles, repaving and bike lane 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						
			SM-TAP	Construction	454.9						
			AC		2,456.2						
			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 TRP 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 3rd 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. This project should be consistent with the Complete Streets concept of Custom Street.	ILLU	Design						2,500.0	
				Right-of-Way						100.0	
				Utilities						1,000.0	
				Construction						14,350.0	
Project Total					0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17,950.0	
32278	TBD	Bike Lane Striping & Signing - Pilot Program Signing and striping of existing paved shoulders within Parkville City limits on City streets to accommodate bicycles as designated bike lanes for seasonal use.		Design	TAP	91.0					
					3PF	9.0					
				Construction	TAP		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), ACC - Advanced Construction, ACC - Advanced Construction Conversion

March 2023

Recently Adopted Plans (cont'd)

Freight Mobility Plan



2019

Road/Rail Crossing Reduction Plan



2021

Road Service Area Expansion Plan



2021

Bike/Pedestrian Plan



2021

EPA Partial Disapproval of Fairbanks Air Plan

- Was open for public comment through March 22, 2023
- EPA expected to issue Final Disapproval by December 2023
 - Starts 2-yr Sanctions Clock; and
 - **Conformity Freeze on Transportation Funding**
- December 2025 – **highway funding freeze** for Fairbanks & North Pole

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R10-OAR-2022-0115; FRL-9755-01-R10]

Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; AK, Fairbanks North Star Borough; 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} Serious Area and 189(d) Plan**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve in part and disapprove in part the state implementation plan (SIP) revisions, 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_{2.5}) national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) in the Fairbanks North Star Borough PM_{2.5} nonattainment area (Fairbanks PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area). Alaska made these submissions on December 13, 2019, and December 15, 2020.

DATES:

Comments. Written comments must be received on or before March 13, 2023. *Public Hearing.* EPA plans to hold one public hearing concerning the proposed rule in Fairbanks, Alaska. The date, time and location will be announced separately.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R10-OAR-2022-0115, at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information the disclosure of which is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Matthew Jentgen, EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue—Suite 155, Seattle, WA 98101. (206) 553-0340, 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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I. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA)
J. Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Population

I. Background

In 2009, EPA designated a portion of the Fairbanks North Star Borough as “nonattainment” for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS, which is set at the level of 35 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) (Fairbanks PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area) (74 FR 58688, November 13, 2009).¹ Effective July 2, 2014, EPA classified the area as “Moderate” (79 FR 31566, June 2, 2014). Subsequently, Alaska submitted, and EPA approved, a plan to meet Moderate nonattainment area requirements (82 FR 42457, September 8, 2017) (“Fairbanks Moderate Plan”).

On May 10, 2017, EPA determined that the Fairbanks PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area failed to attain the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS in the area by the outermost statutory Moderate area attainment date of December 31, 2015 (82 FR 21711). As a result, the Fairbanks PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area was reclassified as a “Serious” nonattainment area by operation of law.

Upon reclassification as a Serious PM_{2.5} nonattainment area, the State was required to submit a Serious area attainment plan satisfying the requirements of CAA sections 172, 189(b), and 189(c) and 40 CFR 51.1003(h). In accordance with CAA section 188(c)(2), the outermost attainment date for a Serious area is no later than the end of the tenth calendar year following designation (*i.e.*, December 31, 2019).

Alaska submitted a plan to address the Serious PM_{2.5} nonattainment area requirements on December 13, 2019 (Fairbanks Serious Plan).² Along with the required planning elements, the Fairbanks Serious Plan includes more stringent performance and operating requirements for residential and commercial heating devices, new regulations for wood sellers, and some requirements for stationary sources in the nonattainment area. The Fairbanks Serious Plan is comprised of revisions to Title 18, Chapter 50, of the Alaska Administrative Code (18 AAC 50) and the State Air Quality Control Plan, adopted and incorporated by reference into State law at 18 AAC 50.030(a).³ On January 9, 2020, in accordance with CAA section 110(k)(1)(B), EPA determined that the Fairbanks Serious

¹ See 40 CFR 81.302.

² Alaska SIP revision submitted October 25, 2018, to address the nonattainment NSR element for the Fairbanks Serious area, among other things, EPA approved as meeting the nonattainment NSR element for the Serious Plan on August 29, 2019 (84 FR 45419).

³ We note that 18 AAC 50.030(a) is not submitted, rather Alaska submits the adopted provisions separately for EPA approval.

NEVI Program

- \$52 million apportioned to Alaska
- First must build out “Alternative Fuel Corridor” from Anchorage to Fairbanks
 - EV charging stations every 50 miles
 - Four 150kw DC fast chargers per location
 - Estimated \$14-20 million buildout
- Once buildout complete, the remaining \$30+ million can be spent anywhere in the State



State of Alaska Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation Plan

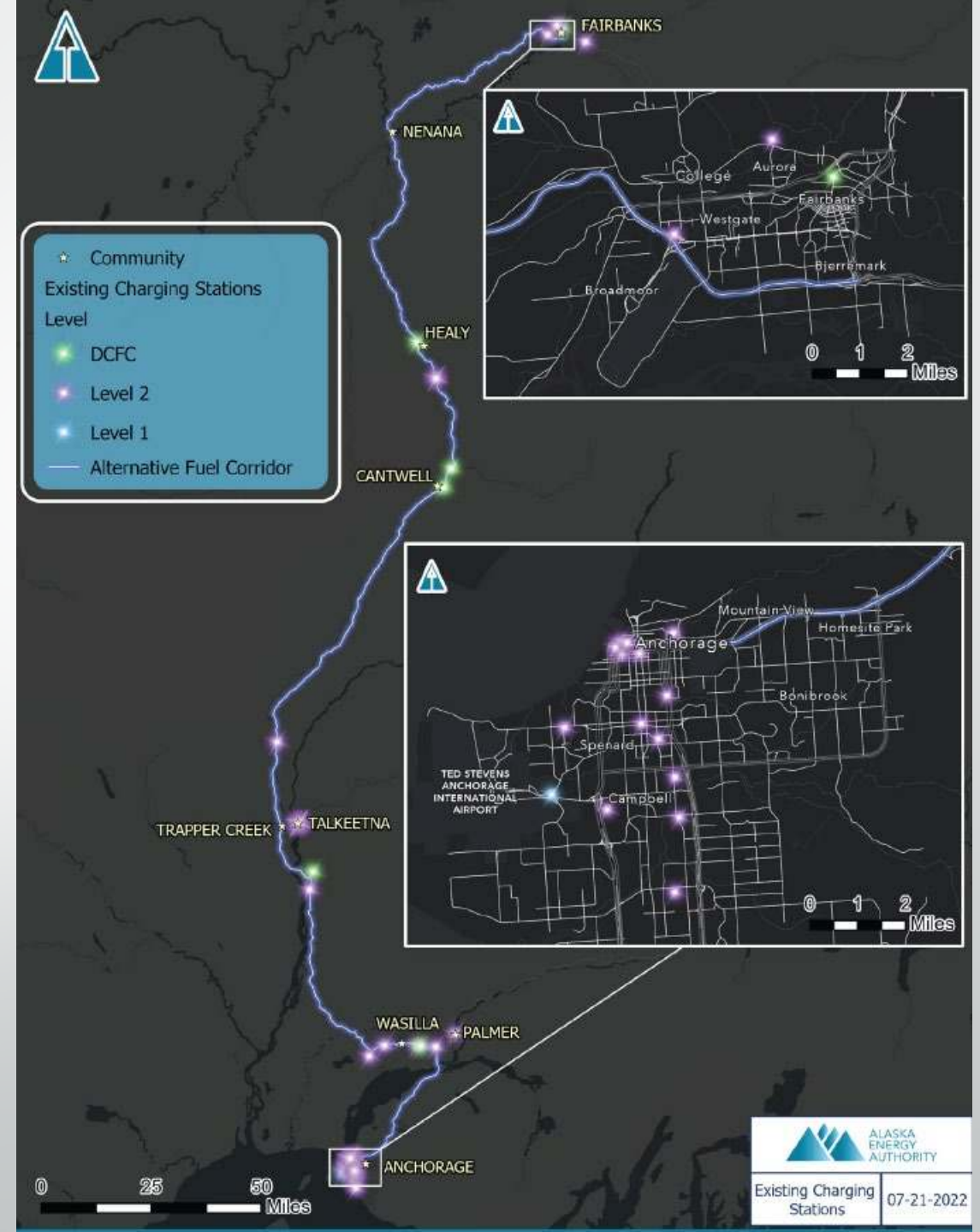


Issues

- Each NEVI-compliant charging station costs \$1 to \$1.2 million
- Requires a 20% match (\$200k+)
- Corridor is already built out with non-compliant charging stations from Volkswagen settlement

Concern

- Current site hosts will not be motivated to upgrade to NEVI standard and pay \$200k+ match
- New site hosts will not be able to afford the \$200k+ match

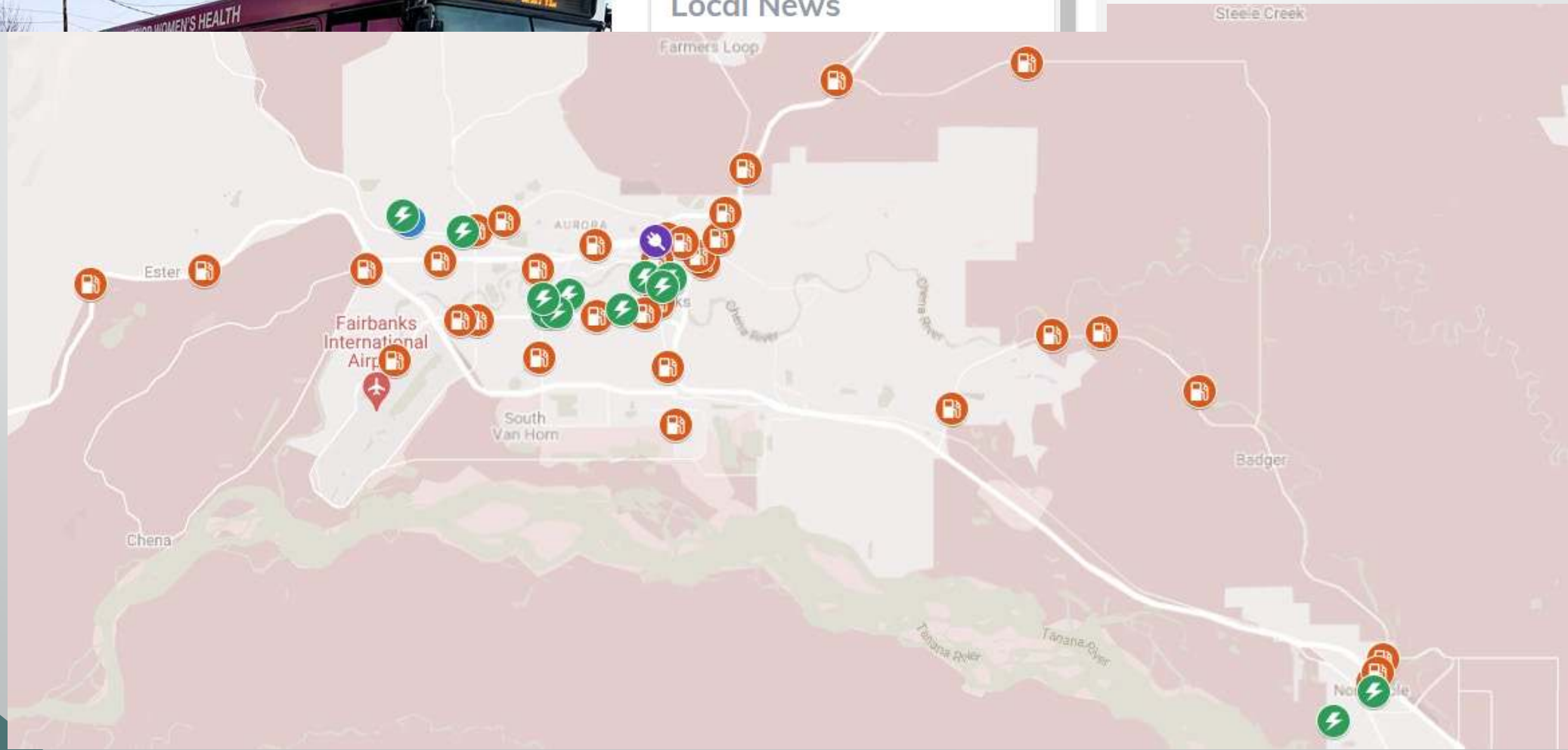


FAST Planning receives 28 project nominations, half of them electric vehicle based

Jack Barnwell | Mar 2, 2023



Local News



FAST Planning sends bike lane pilot project to city

Jack Barnwell Apr 7, 2023

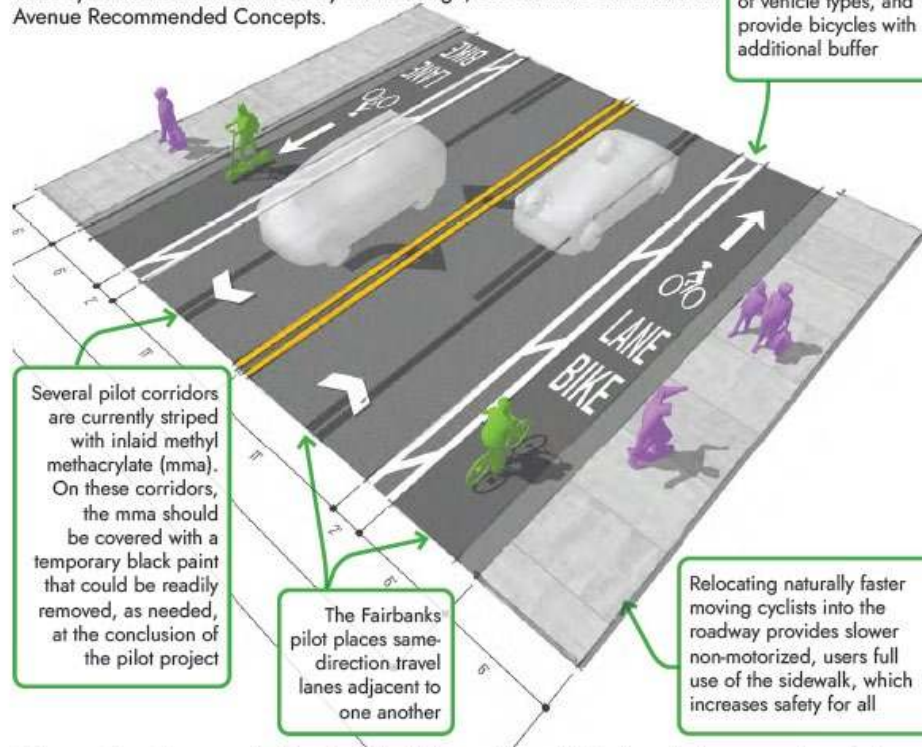


Local News

Get your daily morning news about what's go...

There are several corridor opportunities for Fairbanks to explore dedicated lanes cycle tracks and test the safety of the design; see Barnette Street and 1st Avenue Recommended Concepts.

Horizontal markings reinforce separation of vehicle types, and provide bicycles with additional buffer



Several pilot corridors are currently striped with inlaid methyl methacrylate (mma). On these corridors, the mma should be covered with a temporary black paint that could be readily removed, as needed, at the conclusion of the pilot project

The Fairbanks pilot places same-direction travel lanes adjacent to one another

Relocating naturally faster moving cyclists into the roadway provides slower non-motorized, users full use of the sidewalk, which increases safety for all



New Transit Planning Role

- FTA Transit Planning funds have been redirected to FAST Planning
- Will be performing Transit Planning on behalf of FNSB



Corey DiRutigliano
Transportation Planner



Scope of Work for Updates to the Fairbanks Area Short & Long Range Transit Plan and Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning is seeking a qualified Consultant to facilitate the update of two transportation planning documents for the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB): the Short & Long Range Transit Plan and Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. These documents are critical to addressing the current and future public transportation needs of the community. The following pages describe the two discrete, but overlapping, efforts, which are intended to be two separate deliverables. The purpose of combining them under a single contract is to take advantage of consolidated project management teams, community meetings, surveys, project website and other efforts as deemed appropriate by FAST Planning and the selected Consultant. The preferred target date for adoption of these documents is 1 year from the contract start date.

Scope A: Short & Long Range Transit Plan

In 2011 a Short & Long Range Transit Plan was created with the desire to improve the efficiencies and utility of the Metropolitan Area Commuter System (MACS), strengthen interior Alaska's transportation options and quality of life, and expand access to the community and jobs. The plan outlined policy, programmatic, and infrastructure improvements to help achieve a safe and comfortable public transportation network for a wide range of Fairbanks area residents and visitors. Since 2011, some of the suggested improvements identified in the plan have been undertaken, but much more work is needed to achieve the plan's vision. The purpose of updating the plan is to reexamine the existing conditions of the public transportation network, review area demographics and update to reflect changes in the communities social, economic and development fabric, reengage the public to identify the desires and needs of the community, and update the implementation plan for future policy, community development, and infrastructure improvements.

The scope of work for completing the Plan Update includes the following tasks:

Task 1 – Project Management

Project management will be a shared responsibility between a designated FAST Planning Transportation Planner and Consultant's Project Manager. These individuals make up the project management team and will work closely to provide adequate direction such that all aspects of the project are completed in accordance with the scope of work, schedule, budget, and to the satisfaction of FAST Planning.

Task 2 – Public & Agency Involvement

FAST Planning will establish a Steering Committee, made up of core project members and managers from within MACS Transit and interested local agencies and organizations as appropriate, which will serve as

FAST Planning becomes Pilot Regional Planning Organization (RPO)

- Implementation Plan completed Summer 2022
- Policy Board Resolution to form an RPO signed September 2022
- Cooperative Agreement with State signed January 2023
- Funding Plan under development...

Draft Implementation Plan for Establishing a
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
for the Fairbanks North Star Borough
FAIRBANKS AREA SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING | AUGUST 2022

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Between State of Alaska DOT&PF and
Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning
On the formation of a
Regional Planning Organization

This Cooperative Agreement (hereinafter, "Agreement") is effective as of this 27th day of January, 2023, between FAST Planning and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) for the establishment of a Regional Planning Organization (RPO).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is for the DOT&PF and FAST Planning to work together on transportation priorities within the rural portion of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), and to increase communication and cooperation in this effort. The FNSB has selected FAST Planning as its fiscal and administrative agent for this purpose. Forming a Pilot RPO will ensure regional and local input to identify local transportation needs and allow for better planning, prioritization and decision making to feed into DOT&PF's capital project development and benefit the region.

RPOs are informal versions of RTPOs. As such they may work on a variety of planning products, including a Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or other list highlighting regional priorities. They may also create an operating agreement and boundary description for the RPO. At the RPO stage, this boundary can be considered flexible and may change over time through discussions and in writing and agreement with DOT&PF.

BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

Since 2012, with the passage of the Federal Highway law Map-21, The opportunity for states to form Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO) were made available as an option for non-metropolitan/rural areas to provide meaningful input into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), DOT&PF's surface transportation funding program, and to offer formalized input into DOT&PF's Long Range Transportation plan and other planning products.

FAST Planning is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the urbanized portion of the of the FNSB, a second-class borough with two municipalities within its

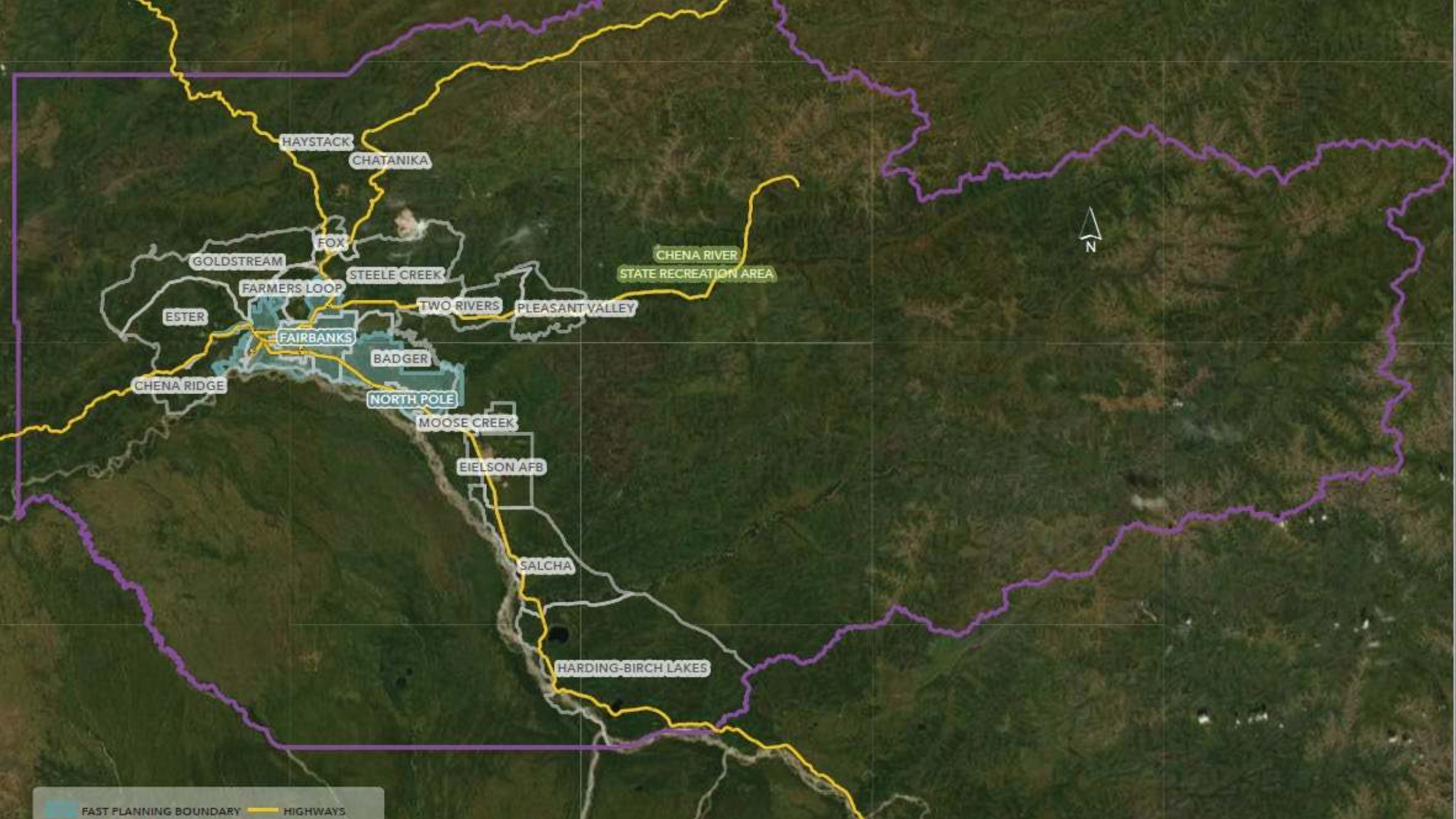


Background

FAST Planning currently serves Fairbanks and North Pole, but there are 16 rural communities surrounding the MPO boundary that do not have a framework for transportation planning at the local level

- Chena Ridge
- Ester
- Goldstream
- Farmers Loop
- Fox
- Haystack
- Chatanika
- Steele Creek
- Two Rivers
- Pleasant Valley
- Chena River State Rec Area/Hot Springs
- Badger
- Moose Creek
- Eielson AFB
- Salcha
- Harding-Birch Lakes

These communities need a local organization to facilitate conversation and champion their transportation goals, objectives, and regionally unique priorities



FAST PLANNING BOUNDARY HIGHWAYS

Thank You!

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