



# Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning

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## Intro to FAST Planning & TIP/STIP Coordination

*Senate Transportation Committee*

*February 27, 2025*

*Presented by: Jackson Fox, Executive Director*

# Overview



- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
  - Who we are & What we do
- Planning Area Boundary
- Policy Board & Committees
  - Who we work with
- Required Transportation Plans
  - Relationship between MTP, TIP, & STIP
- Recent STIP Amendments & Coordination with MPOs





# The Crew @



Deborah - 12 yrs



Jackson – 7 yrs



Olivia – 5 yrs



Corey – 2 yrs

# Our Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

- Formed in 2003 following 2000 Census
- Urbanized Area ~70,000 population
- Operated as 501(c)3 Non-Profit Independent Organization
- Our responsibilities:
  - Carry out the Transportation Planning Process under 23 CFR 450, Subpart C, to develop the region's Long- and Short-Range Transportation Plans
  - Empower local governments in the transportation decision-making process
  - Continuously engage the public in planning transportation projects and programs







# Intergovernmental Operating Agreement



Fairbanks North Star Borough,  
City of Fairbanks,  
City of North Pole,  
and  
State of Alaska

## FAIRBANKS AREA SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

### INTER-GOVERNMENTAL OPERATING AGREEMENT and MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING for TRANSPORTATION AND AIR QUALITY PLANNING

In the  
Metropolitan Area  
of the  
Fairbanks Metropolitan Planning Organization

OT&PF, FNSB, and the MPO. Discussions between ADOT&PF, and MPO shall take place to determine how the proposed can be accomplished in the most efficient and effective er. The UPWP shall be reviewed by the Technical Committee, ived by the Policy Board, and forwarded to ADOT&PF for irrent approval by FHWA and FTA prior to any work being rmed.

its to Key Plans and Programs

i to the MTP and TIP

with its responsibility to maintain existing plans and all approve amendments, in accordance with its Public Plan. An Amendment is triggered by the addition or deletion r a major change in the project cost, project / project phase es, or a major change in design concept or design scope. An is a revision that requires public review and comment periods th the FMATS public involvement policy, re-demonstration of aint, or a conformity determination (for MTPs and TIPs on-exempt" projects in nonattainment and maintenance idments require the concurrence of the MPO, ADOT&PF, TA before becoming effective.

re Modifications to the MTP and TIP

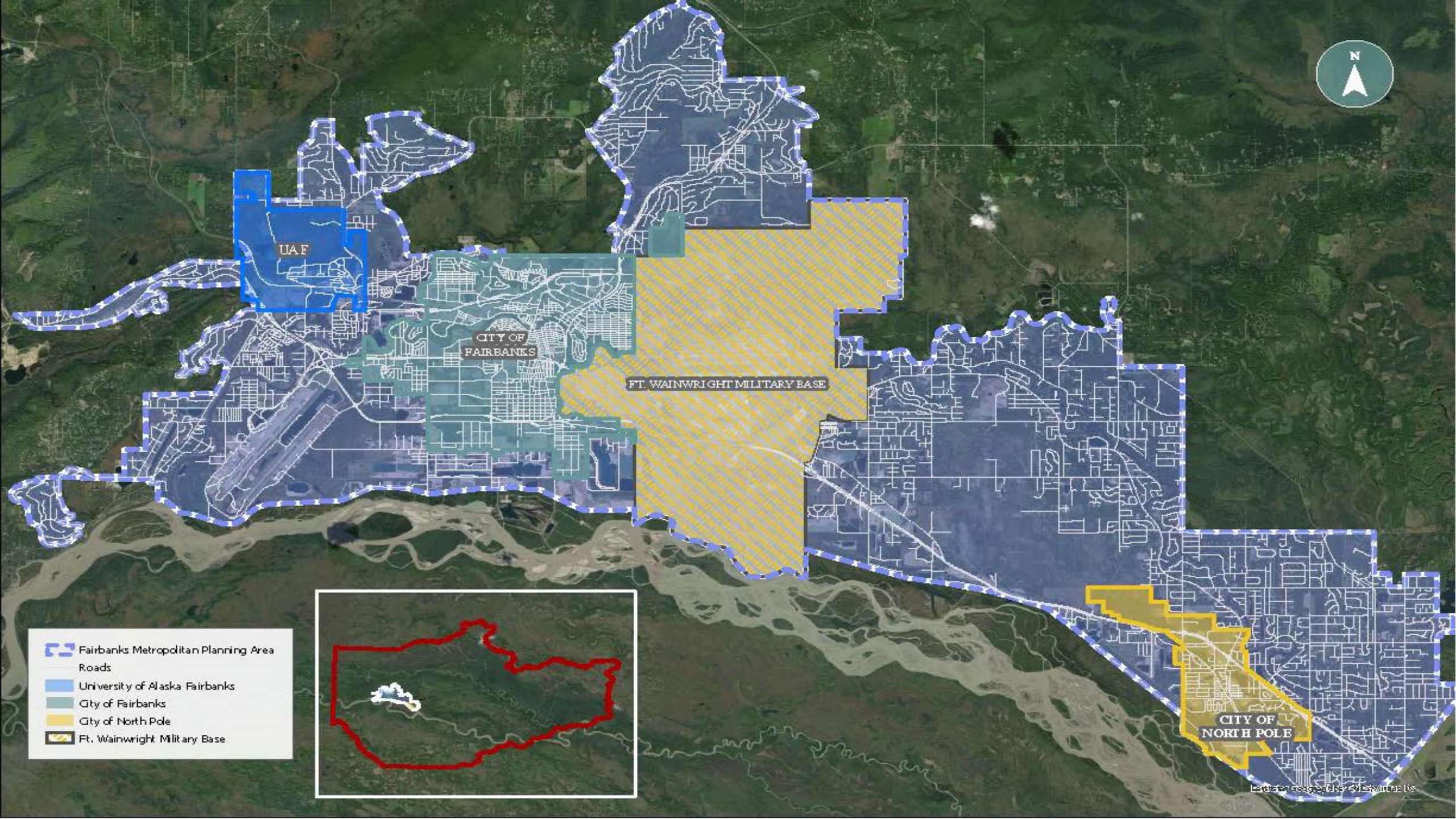
with its responsibility to maintain existing plans and all approve Administrative Modifications in accordance with rticipation Plan. An Administrative Modification is triggered revision to a metropolitan transportation plan or TIP that or changes to project/project phase costs, minor changes to ces of previously-included projects, and minor changes to ict phase initiation dates. It is a revision that does not require v and comment, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint, or a determination (in nonattainment and maintenance areas).

Administrative Modifications require the concurrence of the MPO and the ADOT&PF before becoming effective. The FHWA and FTA will be notified as soon as possible of these changes.

#### 6.2.3 Amendments/Changes to the UPWP

Changes in work assignments and studies to be performed to meet the air quality and transportation planning requirements may be made by the MPO at such times and to such extent as deemed necessary. Total funds to be made available for the performance of said work and services shall





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





# Board, Committees, & Working Groups

Policy Board

Technical  
Committee

Bicycle &  
Pedestrian  
Committee

Project  
Enhancement  
Committee

Seasonal  
Mobility  
Task Force

48

Open Public Mtgs  
(2024)

# Policy Board

→ Also 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



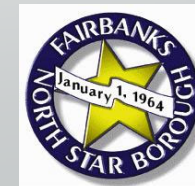
7 Board Members: (2) Borough, (3) City, (2) State



# Technical Committee

## 18 Committee Members

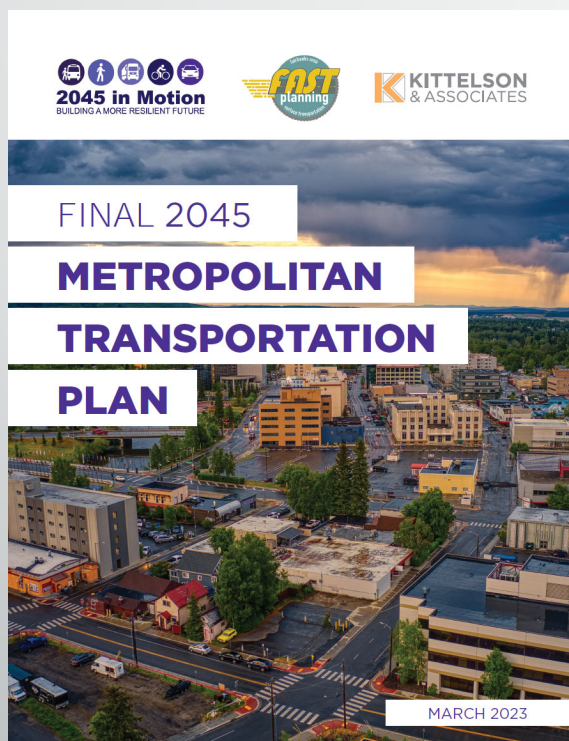
- DOT&PF Planning
- DOT&PF Preconstruction
- ADEC Air Quality
- City of Fairbanks Engineering (X2)
- City of North Pole
- University of Alaska
- Borough Community Planning
- Borough Transit
- Borough Rural Services
- Borough Planning Commission
- Alaska Railroad
- Fort Wainwright
- Eielson Air Force 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



March 2023

## 4-year Short Range Funding Plan

FAST Planning FFY2023-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
Approved 03.15.2023

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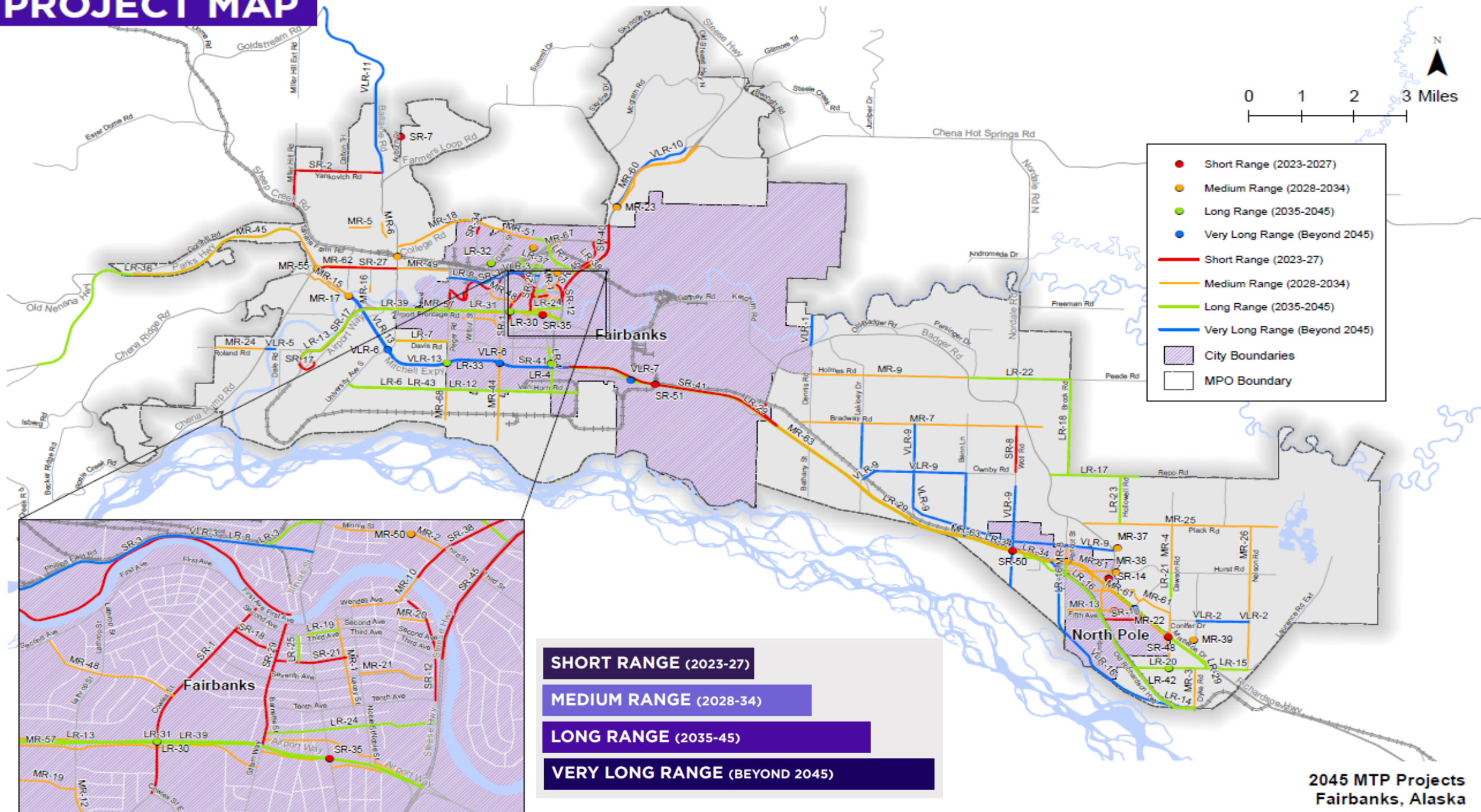
NID	IRIS	Project Description	Fund Code	Phase	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25	FFY26	FFY27	Beyond	
34141	TBD	4th Avenue Reconstruction Reconstruct 4th Avenue from Cavities to Barnette Street to provide improved facilities for all users, including ADA-compliant sidewalks, drainage improvements, and roadway resurfacing.	STP	Design			272.9	227.4			
			SPF				27.1	22.6			
			STP	Right-of-Way							159.2
			SPF								15.8
			STP	Utilities							909.7
			STP								90.3
			SPF	Construction							
Project Total					0.0	0.0	300.0	250.0	0.0	1,175.0	
32119	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						
			SPF		15.8						
			STP	Right-of-Way							
			SPF								
			STP	Utilities	363.9						
			SPF		36.1						
			STP			2,456.2					
			SW-TAP		454.9						
			AC	Construction	2,456.2						
			ACC			-2,456.2					
			SPF		289.0						
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 TSP 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, intersection and sidewalk upgrades, utility relocation, signing and striping and landscaping. This project should be consistent with the Complete Streets concept of Goshman 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 Striping and striping of existing paved shoulders within Fairbanks City limits on City streets to accommodate bicyclists as designated bike lanes for seasonal use.	TAP	Design	91.0						
				SPF	9.0						
						454.9					
				Construction		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, SPF - 3rd Party Funding, FM - FAST Planning Match, ILLU - Illustrative (Funding Placeholder), AC - Advanced Construction, ACC - Advanced Construction Conversion

March 2023



# PROJECT MAP





## SHORT RANGE (2023-2027)

### FAST PLANNING PROJECTS

SR-1	Cowles St Reconstruction (East Cowles - 1st Ave)	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	Yankovich/Miller Hill Road Reconstruction	Reconstruct Miller Hill and Yankovich Road from Sheep Creek to Ballaine Road, including widened shoulders on Yankovich Road.
SR-3	Chena River Walk Stage III	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	FAST Coordinator's Office	Funding for the Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Coordinator's office which supports delivery of the FAST Planning program.
SR-5	Advance Project Definition	Provide funding to the State and City to develop new estimates for TIP projects.
SR-6	Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Strategies	Investigate Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies in the FAST Planning area.
SR-7	Pearl Creek Elementary Access Improvements	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	Woll Road Resurfacing & Widening	Resurface and widen Woll Road from Bradway Road to Ownby Road.
SR-9	Geist/Chena Pump Road Corridor Study	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	8th Avenue Path Resurfacing	Resurface the path on 8th Avenue in North Pole
SR-11	Chena Landings Loop Path Reconstruction	Repave the path between the footbridge and Chena Landings Loop.
SR-12	Clay Street Bicycle Facilities	Provide a bicycle connection on Clay Street to downtown Fairbanks between 10th Avenue at the Steese Highway and Wendell Avenue.
SR-13	Winter Weather Event Equipment	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	Doughchee Avenue Improvements	Reconstruct Doughchee Avenue from Badger Road to Beaver Spring bridge, including drainage improvements to reduce bridge abutment erosion.
SR-15	Safe Routes to School	Supporting studies of elementary, middle and high schools, bike rodeos, outreach, safety for surrounding communities and multi-modal trips
SR-16	Lacey Street Reconstruction Planning Study	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	University Avenue South Bicycle & Pedestrian Path	Construct a facility along University Avenue South for bicycles and pedestrians between the Parks Highway and Armistead Way.
SR-18	4th Avenue Reconstruction	Reconstruct 4th Avenue from Cowles to Barnette Street, including installation of storm drain system, new sidewalks, and paved surface.
SR-19	Pioneer Park North Parking Lot & Boat Launch	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	FNSB Parking & Pathway Improvements & Community Access	Address access deficiencies and in-park ADA accessibility at Fifth Avenue Park (North Pole), Nussbaumer Park, South Fairbanks Park.
SR-21	5th Avenue Reconstruction	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	Share the Road Educational Outreach	Develop a multimedia campaign to improve education about the rights and responsibilities of each transportation mode.
SR-23	Bike Lane Signing and Striping	Signing and striping of existing paved shoulders within City of Fairbanks to accommodate bicyclists, as designated bike lanes for seasonal use.
SR-24	Driver's Education Program	Provide a subsidy for driver's ed course in Fairbanks and/or introduce driver's ed course to a local high school

SR-25	Peger Road Bicycle & Pedestrian Path	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	Airport Way/Peger Road Intersection Study	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	Geist Road Sidewalk Safety Improvements	To improve the safety of pedestrians and reduce motor vehicle conflicts on the south side of the Geist Road non-motorized path
SR-28	FAST Planning Improvement Program	Funding for the annual Preventative Maintenance or Rehabilitation Activities Program within the FAST Planning Area for non-NHS routes.
SR-29	Barnette Street Reconstruction	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	FAST Carbon Reduction Program	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	Household Travel Survey	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	MTP Update	Update FAST Planning Metropolitan Transportation Plan as required under 23 USC 134 (occurs every 4 years).
SR-33	Transit Plan Updates	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	Aurora Drive Noyes Slough Bridge #0209 Replacement	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	Airport Way/Cushman Street Intersection Reconstruction	Reconstruct the intersection at Airport Way and Cushman Street.
SR-36	Chena Pump/Chena Small Tracts Road Roundabout	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	City of Fairbanks Systematic Signal Upgrades	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	Old Steese Highway Reconstruction	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	NHS Pavement Management/Preventive Maintenance	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	Steese/Johansen Expressway Interchange	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	Richardson Highway MP 357-362 Bicycle/Pedestrian Path	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	FNSB Air Quality Programs (CMAQ)	Funding to support ongoing efforts and recommendations outlined under the <i>Fairbanks North Star Borough Carbon Monoxide Air Quality Maintenance Plan</i> .
SR-43	FNSB Statewide Implementation Plan (SIP)	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	TIP/LRTP Conformity Analysis	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.



# Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

## [Short Range Funding Plan]

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

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NID	IRIS	Project Description	Fund Code	Phase	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25	FFY26	FFY27	Beyond
34122	NFHWY00815	Doughchee Avenue/Beaver Springs Bridge	STP	Design	127.4	84.6				
		Reconstruct Doughchee Avenue to improve drainage, resurface roadway, and maintain accessibility to the local neighborhood by addressing erosion at bridge abutments. <i>Project is planned to be bundled with FFY25 FAST Improvement Program for bid advertisement.</i>	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	

**TIP**  
=  
Local MPO Projects  
+  
DOT Highway  
Projects  
+  
Rail Projects  
+  
Transit Projects

## FAIRBANKS AREA 2025 CONSTRUCTION

### AREA-WIDE PROJECTS

6 7 8

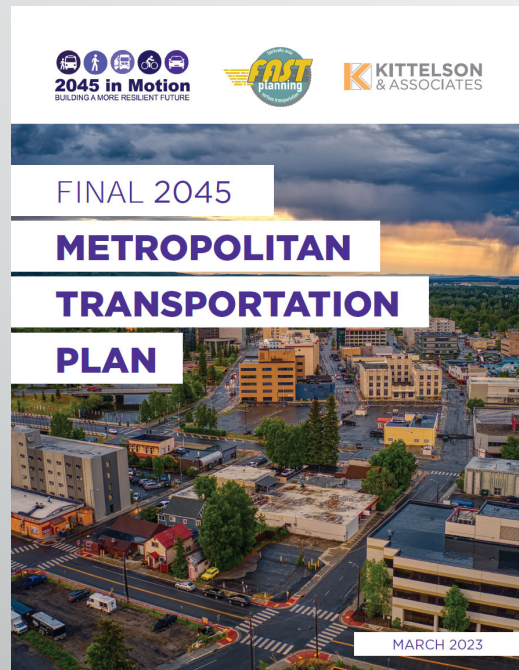




# Relationship between MTP, TIP, & STIP

[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

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NID	IRIS	Project Description	Fund Code	Phase	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25	FFY26	FFY27	Beyond
34141	TBD	4th Avenue Reconstruction	STP	Design			272.9	227.4		
		Reconstruct 4th Avenue from Center to Barnette Street to provide improved facilities for all users, including ADA compliant sidewalks, drainage improvements, and roadway resurfacing.	STP	Right-of-Way			27.1	22.8		
			STP	Utilities						158.3
			STP	Construction						968.7
			STP							96.5
		Project Total			0.0	0.0	300.0	250.0	0.0	1,175.0
32119	RPHWY00445	5th Avenue Reconstruction	STP	Design	159.2					
		Reconstruct 5th Avenue from Barnette to 1st Avenue to provide improved facilities for all users. Reconstruction includes ADA compliant sidewalks and provides to accommodate bicycles, wheelchair and electric scooter use, and landscaping in accordance with FAST Planning's "Complete Streets" Policy.	STP	Right of Way	15.0					
			STP	Utilities	363.9					
			STP		56.1	2,456.2				
			STP-TAP		454.9					
			AC	Construction	2,456.2					
			ACC			-2,456.2				
			STP		289.0					
		Project Total			9,775.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
21534	RPHWY00648	Advanced Project Definition	STP	Planning			91.0			
		Provide funding to the State and City to develop new estimates for TIP projects.	FM				9.0			
		Project Total			0.0	0.0	300.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
30011	TBD	Barnette Street Reconstruction	STP	Design						2,500.0
		Reconstruct Barnette Street from 1st Avenue to 4th Avenue to include bike-upgrades, drainage upgrades, ADA compliant sidewalks, drainage improvements, tree retention and sidewalk upgrades, utility relocation, lighting and signage and landscaping. This project shall be consistent with the Complete Streets concept of Customer Street.	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	17,950.0
32178	TBD	West Lane Striping & Signing - Pilot Program	TAP	Design	91.0					
		Striping and signing of existing paved shoulders within Fairbanks City. The project will provide to accommodate bicycles as designated bike lanes for recreational use.	STP		9.0					
			TAP	Construction		454.9				
			STP			45.2				
		Project Total			100.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

STP - Surface Transportation Program, CMAG - 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



# TIP Development

- Note: Not all projects on the MTP's Short Range Projects list can be afforded to move forward during the 4-year TIP cycle
- FAST Planning issues a Call for Project Nominations for local government sponsored projects, and works closely with DOT Planning and Preconstruction staff on selecting State sponsored projects from Short Range list with funding commitments from Statewide apportionments
- DOT Planning and Preconstruction staff prepare scopes, schedules, & estimates (SSEs) for all projects

# FAST PLANNING

## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

— project nomination form —

Project nominations are accepted from the public and are scored based on the adopted Project Scoring Criteria. The score the project receives will be used to determine the project's eligibility for funding in the Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP. The TIP identifies, prioritizes and allocates anticipated funding for transportation improvements over a 4 year period.

*All projects must complete the General section of the nomination form and then choose one of the appropriate subsections (Road Projects or Non-Motorized Projects). Projects such as rail, lighting, signing, strapping, transit, bridges, new road segments, or other projects that may fit into one of FAST Planning's programs, will not be scored with this criteria but will be reviewed individually by subcommittee.*

Please note that project nominations may be disqualified if matching funds have not been identified and/or if a preliminary maintenance commitment has not been made by a local government agency.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Proposed Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Scope/Description: \_\_\_\_\_

### FAST Planning TIP Project Scoring Criteria

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Scorer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

When scoring a "Rate 0-3" use the range to select how much the criteria is addressed.

On is not addressed, 1= slightly addressed, 2= moderately addressed, 3= fully addressed  
 For scoring a "Choose One" place a "1" in the box that the criteria is met and a "0" in the rest.

Criteria	Weight	Total Points
<b>GENERAL - ALL PROJECTS</b>		<b>Points Possible: 196</b>
<b>SAFETY</b>	<b>Rate 0-3</b>	
Project addresses a high accident location	5	0
Project improves safety for users	4	0
Project addresses a geometric deficiency	3	0
Project reduces modal conflicts	2	0
Project has a history of safety complaints	1	0
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT</b>	<b>Rate 0-3</b>	
Is included in an approved Plan	4	0
Has a resolution of support from local government	3	0
Has letters of support or petition	2	0
Has documented public comments	1	0
<b>MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS</b>	<b>Rate 0-3</b>	
Project reduces summer maintenance effort	2	0
Project reduces winter maintenance effort	2	0
Lowers operational costs	2	0
<b>SYSTEM PRESERVATION</b>	<b>Choose One</b>	
30+ Year Lifespan	4	0
15-29 Year Lifespan	3	0
10-14 Year Lifespan	2	0
Extends Life 5-9 years	1	0
<b>CONNECTIVITY</b>	<b>Rate 0-3</b>	
Provides a connection to an essential service	5	0
Serves a low income/minority population	4	0
Addresses a gap in the transportation network	3	0
Project serves a school, church or recreational facility	2	0
Project serves a business or industrial district	1	0
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION</b>	<b>Rate 0-3</b>	
Project will improve air quality	2	0
Project will improve water quality	2	0
<b>PROJECT READINESS</b>	<b>Rate 0-3</b>	
Project specific planning/traffic study completed	4	0
Preliminary engineering work has started	3	0
Environmental review initiated	2	0
Matching funds have been identified and/or secured	1	0
Coordination with utility companies initiated	1	0
<b>LAND USE</b>	<b>Rate 0-3</b>	
Is consistent with the Regional Comprehensive Plan	1	0
Is consistent with current land use	1	0
Is consistent with expected future land use	1	0



# TIP Development (cont'd)

- Projects are then prioritized by Technical Committee and Policy Board for inclusion in the fiscally-constrained TIP
- The Draft TIP is prepared by FAST Planning staff and shared with DOT Planning and Preconstruction, FHWA, FTA, and EPA staff for interagency review
- Once review is complete, the Draft TIP is presented to Technical Committee and Policy Board for release for 30-day public comment period and subsequent adoption
- Following adoption, the TIP is advanced DOT Commissioner's Office for Governor's approval and to FHWA and FTA for approval for air quality conformity



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
ALASKA DIVISION  
700 W. 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET, ROOM 851  
P.O. BOX 21648  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-1648  
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION  
919 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 3100  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

May 12, 2023

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

### Subject: Federal Actions:

- 1) Approval of Air Quality Conformity Finding for FAST 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- 2) Approval of 2020-2023 Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment 7 to incorporate the FAST 2023-2027 TIP

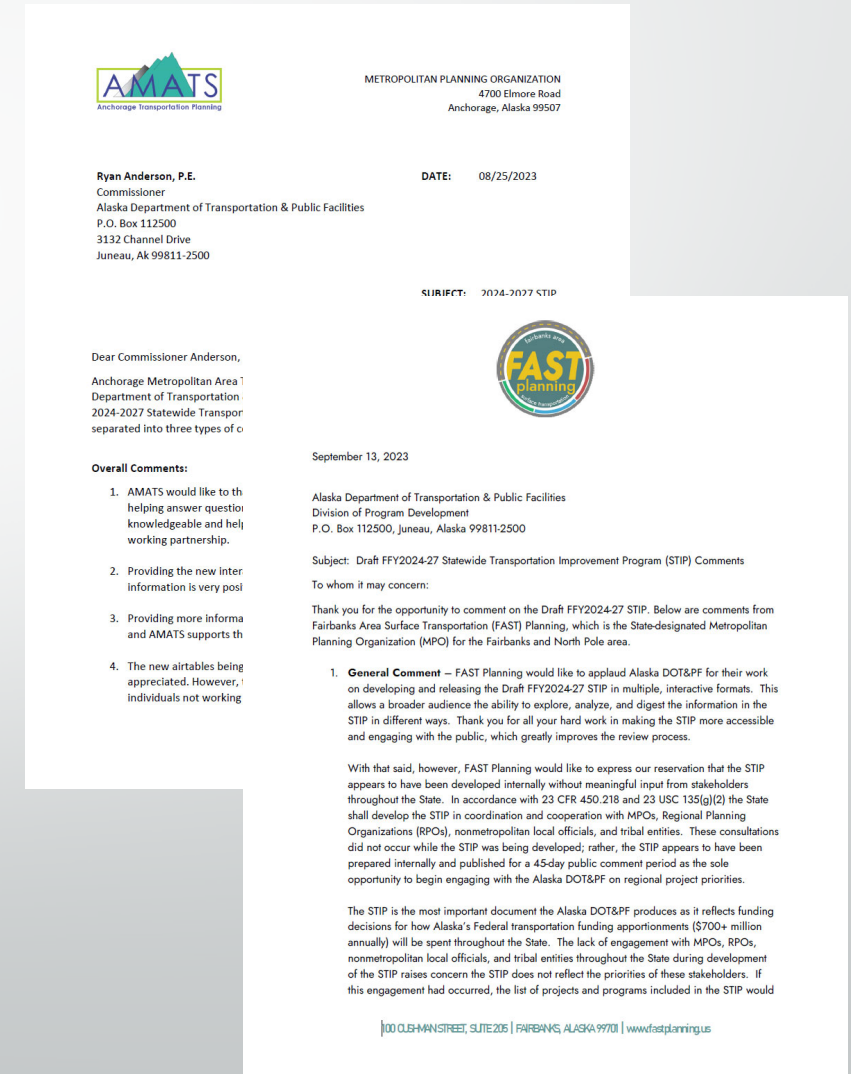
Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) received your request on May 2, 2023 to approve Amendment 7 of the 2020-2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to incorporate the recently adopted FAST 2023-2027 (TIP). In addition, your submittal includes the regional Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the FAST 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update, and the new FY2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The conformity analysis for the Fast MTP and TIP adopted on March 13, 2023 satisfies the requirements of §93.118 and, therefore a conformity finding is approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

In accordance with 23 CFR 450.220, the FHWA and FTA, based on the certification of the Statewide and metropolitan transportation planning process for and within the State of Alaska, hereby find that the actions described in the STIP Amendment are based on a transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of 23 CFR Part 450 Subparts A, B, C; 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303-5304; and 23 U.S.C. Sections 134 and 135. Therefore, the 2020-2023 STIP Amendment 7 is approved.

# STIP Development & Recent STIP Amendments

- Federal regulations require the State to develop the STIP in coordination with MPOs [23 CFR 450.218 & 23 USC 135(g)(2)], but this historically has not occurred
- MPO staff and our Technical Committees and Policy Boards only get to review the documents when they are released for their 45/30-day public comment periods
- All three MPOs submit comment letters during the open public comment periods





# Facing Uncertainties

- FHWA Alaska Division Office lost five (5) staff members this month
- U.S. DOT Headquarters instituted added layer of review in approval of STIP Amendments
  - Division Offices required to forward all STIP Amendments to Office of General Counsel (OGC) at U.S. DOT for review before any approval actions can take place
  - No timeline has been provided for how long OGC reviews will take
- Could lead to extended review period and disruption to project schedules

**AMPO** ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

\*IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION: USDOT on STIP Amendment Approvals

February 20,  
2025

Good Morning,

We wanted to share an important update regarding the approval process for Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) amendments.

Over the past week, we've heard growing concerns from several MPOs across the country regarding an added layer of review in the approval of STIP amendments. We've heard from MPOs in at least six states that the additional layer of review was initially communicated by FHWA and FTA division offices and is reportedly under direction from USDOT Headquarters. This morning, AMPO received confirmation that instructions regarding the additional layer of review were sent to all FHWA division offices by USDOT HQ.

This change requires division offices to forward all STIP amendments to the Office of General Counsel (OGC) at USDOT for review before any approval actions can be taken. No timeline has been provided for how long OGC reviews will take, raising significant uncertainty and concern among MPOs and industry partners.

While FHWA divisions are reportedly continuing to accept STIP amendment submissions, the added review layer has effectively placed a hold on all projects requiring a STIP amendment. Impacted MPOs have flagged that if an extended review period continues, project implementation schedules could face significant disruptions. Potential impacts include delays in contract awards, construction start dates, and the obligation of federal funds—jeopardizing the ability to meet fiscal year deadlines and potentially risking the lapse of funds.



# Thank You!



Jackson Fox

[jackson.fox@fastplanning.us](mailto:jackson.fox@fastplanning.us)

100 Cushman St, Suite 205

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

(907) 205-4276

