



## **Trails Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda**

July 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers  
Juanita Helms Administration Center  
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

### **B. ROLL CALL**

### **C. MESSAGES**

C.1. Citizens' Comments - limited to three (3) minutes

C.1.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

C.1.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

C.2. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest

### **D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (\*) on the agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such a request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

### **E. MINUTES**

E.1. \*Trail Advisory Commission meeting minutes from April 27, 2026.

### **F. REPORTS**

F.1. Report from Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director.

### **G. NEW BUSINESS**

G.1. An update from FNSB Staff regarding trail-related items in the release of the public review of the Draft Regional Comprehensive Plan, to include a discussion.

G.2. A presentation by Trisha Levasseur, Parks Project Coordinator, followed by a discussion with Parks and Recreation Staff to review trail-related grant efforts in the Borough.

G.3. An update from Parks and Recreation Staff regarding the letter of recommendation to the Borough Mayor and Assembly in response to Resolution

No. 2025-33 regarding commercial vehicles on recreational trails, to include a discussion.

**H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

**I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH  
Trails Advisory Commission  
April 27, 2026  
6:01 p.m.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Trails Advisory Commission was held Monday, April 27, 2026, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

**B. ROLL CALL**

There were present:

Helyn Lefgren  
Maxwell Plichta

Gail Davidson  
Richard Shideler, Vice-Chair

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Garrett Armstrong, Assemblymember  
Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director  
Andrea Jacobs, Trails Coordinator  
Allison Donovan, Assistant Clerk I

Members Excused

Geoffrey Orth  
Rod Boyce, Chair

Michael Roddewig

**C. MESSAGES**

C.1. Citizens' Comments - limited to three (3) minutes

C.1.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

NONE

C.1.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

NONE

## **MESSAGES – continued**

### **C.2. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest**

NONE

## **D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (\*) on the agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such a request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

DAVIDSON,  
Seconded by LEFGREN

moved to approve the agenda and consent  
agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses: Davidson, Plichta, Lefgren, Shideler

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 0 Noes

## **E. MINUTES**

E.1. \*Trails Advisory Commission meeting minutes from January 26, 2026.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

## **F. REPORTS**

F.1. Report from Andrea Jacobs, Trails Coordinator.

Andrea Jacobs, Trails Coordinator, had no staff report to provide.

## **G. NEW BUSINESS**

G.1. Review and provide feedback to staff on a draft commercial use policy and potential approval of recommendation of standards to the Mayor and Assembly in response to Resolution No. 2025-33 regarding commercial vehicles on recreational trails.

Andrea Jacobs, Trails Coordinator, presented a draft letter of recommendation.

## NEW BUSINESS – continued

Discussion ensued and feedback was given on the following:

- Basing policy on existing framework used for other park operators.
- Separating commercial use policy from wheeled vehicle policy.
- Commercial operator fee structure and reporting requirements.
- Dedication of funds for trail maintenance and improvements.
- Difficulty of setting standards without data on current commercial use.
- Regulations serving in place of standards while learning more about commercial use operatives in the Borough.
- Implementing an enforceable departmental policy now that can evolve into a codified plan with standards.
- Plan to inform the assembly of ongoing work on a wheeled vehicle policy and add it as an agenda item at the next meeting.

LEFGREN,  
Seconded by DAVIDSON

moved to approve a revised draft letter of recommendation to the FNSB Mayor and Assembly regarding commercial use policy standards in response to Resolution No. 2025-33 regarding commercial vehicles on recreational trails.

No discussion ensued.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE A REVISED DRAFT LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION TO THE FNSB MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY REGARDING COMMERCIAL USE POLICY STANDARDS IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION NO. 2025-33 REGARDING COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON RECREATIONAL TRAILS.

Yeses: Plichta, Lefgren, Davidson, Shideler

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 0 Noes

G.2. Discussion and potential recommendation to staff for the Borough regarding Mental Health Trust Authority trail easement agreement applications for the I-BR9 South Harding Ridge Traverse Trail and the I-B8 Equinox Marathon Trail located in the Ester Dome area.

Andrea Jacobs, Trails Coordinator, provided a staff report on the ongoing internal discussions on the consideration to submit applications to purchase the trail easements to secure more permanent access.

## **NEW BUSINESS – continued**

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Location of the easements.
- Intent of purchasing trails.
- Trust land use policy and regulations.
- Application process.
- Financial cost of acquisition.
- Right-of-way designation.

G.3. Discussion and potential recommendation to staff regarding the Call of the Wild Subdivision project involving the I-B22 Eldorado Creek Trail and provide feedback to staff on easement acquisition considerations.

Andrea Jacobs, Trails Coordinator, presented a staff report on consultations with landowners and options available regarding easement acquisition and land clearing.

Discussion ensued and feedback provided on the following:

- Communication with landowners.
- Best use of funds.
- Clearing existing easement rather than acquiring new ones.
- Trail user challenges and safety concerns.
- Cost-effectiveness of developing existing easement.
- Impacts on adjoining landowners.
- Easement running along a power line.
- Mitigation measures to gain landowner approval.
- Eliminating trail crossings over private driveways.
- Allowing trails to benefit both landowners and trail users.

G.4. Discussion and recommendations to staff on trailhead improvements to include for potential funding as a part of the CIP FNSB Public Community Trails Improvement Program.

Andrea Jacobs, Trails Coordinator, presented a staff report on potential trailhead improvement project locations.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Parking improvements.
- Necessity of kiosks.
- Standards for trail signage.
- Dog waste management on trails.
- Mitigating conflicts between trail users and property owners.

## **H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

NONE

## **I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Plichta thanked staff and the Commission for their work, the Assembly for prioritizing trails, and encouraged the recruitment of new members especially from unrepresented areas.

Commissioner Lefgren commented on asking someone she knows to apply to be on the commission.

Commissioner Davidson expressed appreciation for everyone contributing to a good discussion.

Commissioner Shideler thanked staff for their work and expressed a desire for more frequent meetings to maintain momentum.

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

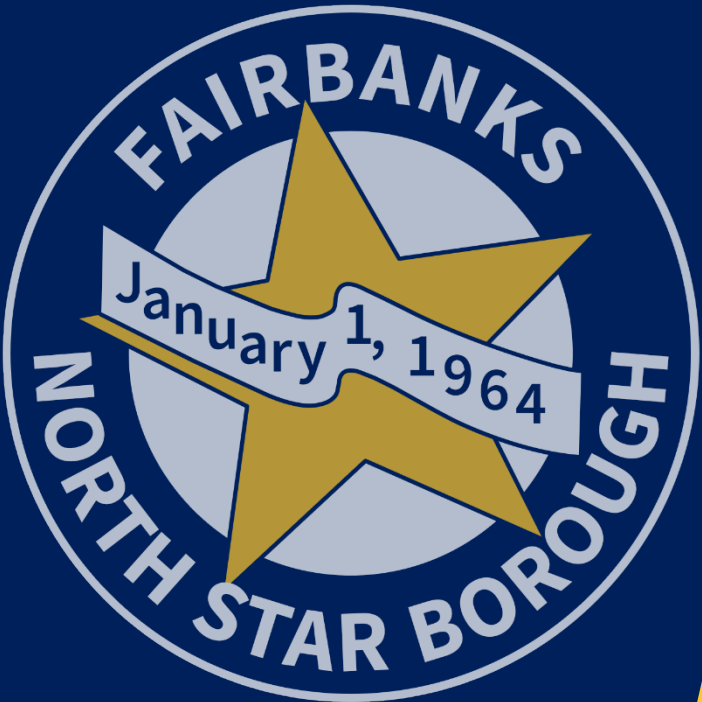
There being no further business to come before the Trails Advisory Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

# Regional Comprehensive Plan 2025-2045

*Executive Summary*  
*A Greater Future in Greater Fairbanks*  
**PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT**

JULY 2026



Prepared by  
**R&M CONSULTANTS, INC.**  
In cooperation with  
**MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL**  
**MCKINLEY RESEARCH GROUP, INC.**

# Executive Summary – A Greater Future in Greater Fairbanks

## About the Plan

### What is the FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan is the big-picture guide, for the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) for the next 20 years, covering topics such as housing, land use, economic development, transportation, and community health, safety and wellness. The Comprehensive Plan helps to guide policies, housing and business development, public investments, and other planning efforts. It is built from the community's vision of who we are and what we want to be, ensuring the greater Fairbanks area continues to be a place we all want to **live, work, learn, and play**. This vision was defined by residents during a two-and-a-half-year public process with long-range goals and action-oriented strategies for achieving the goals. The Comprehensive Plan provides the legal basis under state law for adopting land use regulations.

### How will the plan be used?

The Comprehensive Plan will be used as a guide by variety of stakeholders, including individuals, private companies, and non-profits to make important decisions about how to invest in the community and enhance the quality of life in the FNSB. The Comprehensive Plan is also referenced frequently by borough staff, commissioners, and assembly members. Actions the borough takes, such as approving transportation and capital improvement projects, revising borough code, rezoning properties, and issuing land use permits, must be supported by the Comprehensive Plan.

### Why is a new Comprehensive Plan needed?

As a second-class borough, the FNSB is required by Alaska State Statute (AS 29.40.030) to maintain a comprehensive plan. The current plan, adopted in 2005, has a planning horizon of 20 years. Changes in population, development patterns, environmental conditions, the regional economy, lifestyles, needs and attitudes, as well as time passed since the prior plan was published create the need for an update.

The plan should be reviewed on a regular basis, and revised at least every 20-years, or when there are significant changes in the community such as population, or when significant changes are anticipated.

### The Components of the Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan is comprised of three sections, or volumes.

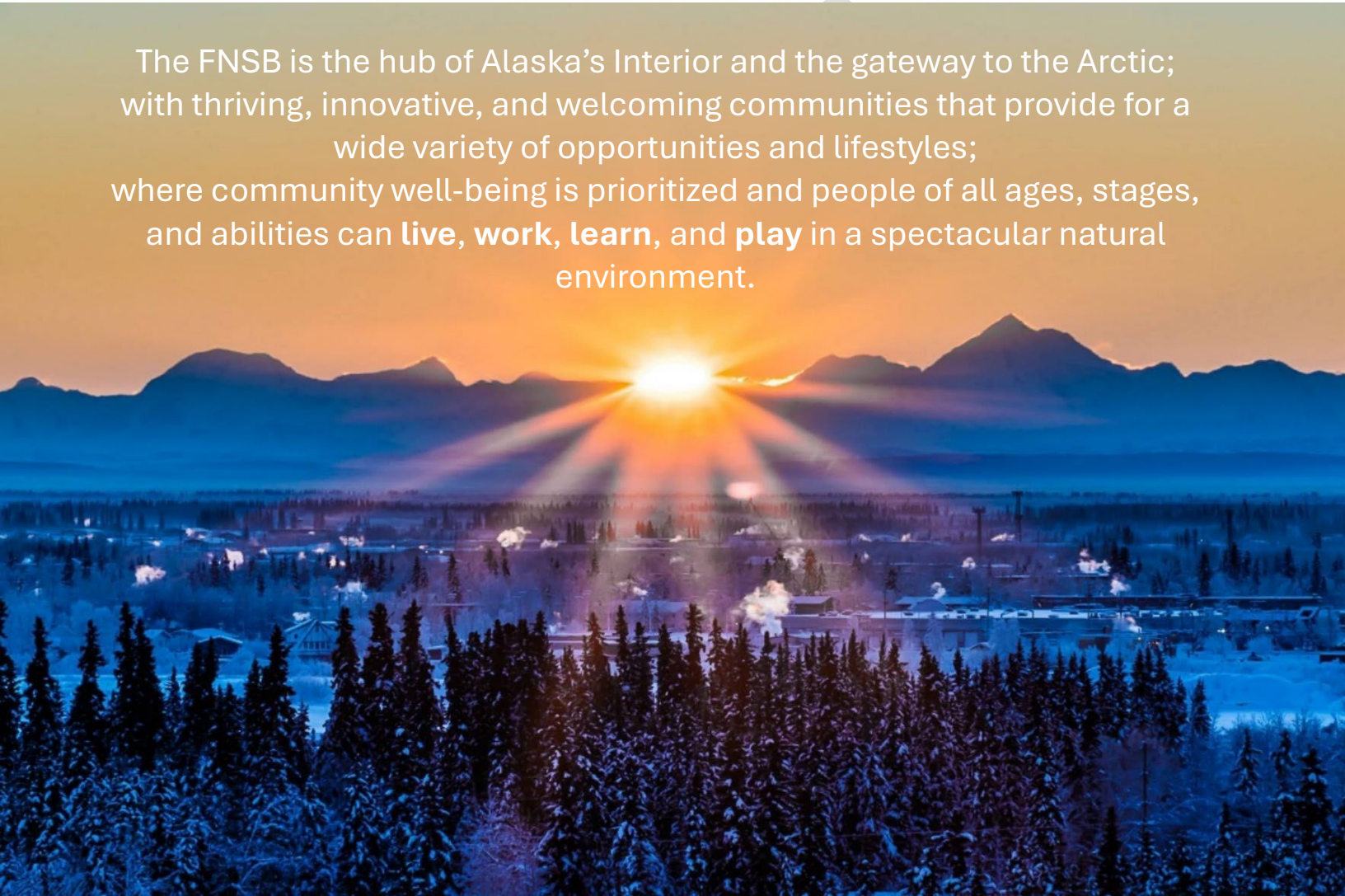
1. **Executive summary:** contains the vision, values, goals, and a summary of the plan.
2. **Plan document:** describes the planning area, plan's function, planning process, key drivers that were used to inform the goals, strategies and actions, guidance on implementation of the plan, including the master implementation table – Guide to a Greater Future for the Greater Fairbanks Area.
3. **Appendices:** include background information and detailed studies used to develop the plan's goals, strategies, and details, and the Small Area Planning Framework – the “how-to” guide for future small area planning.



## Vision

The vision for the FNSB reflects long-term aspirations by stating how the community collectively imagines the future.

The FNSB is the hub of Alaska's Interior and the gateway to the Arctic; with thriving, innovative, and welcoming communities that provide for a wide variety of opportunities and lifestyles; where community well-being is prioritized and people of all ages, stages, and abilities can **live, work, learn, and play** in a spectacular natural environment.



## Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles are the foundational beliefs that guide how we live, work, learn and play in the community. The guiding principles for the Comprehensive Plan are crafted from the core community values shared during the planning process, and organized around four key elements: Living, Working, Learning, and Playing.

### LIVE

- ✓ Quality, affordable, safe, and healthful life in all seasons, at all ages and stages of life.
- ✓ The “right size,” enjoying the connectedness of a small town with the benefits of a regional hub.
- ✓ Uniquely connected to our local rivers and the wonders of the northern natural world.
- ✓ Embrace our identity as a winter community and a life lived by the seasons.
- ✓ All people, from most- to least-advantaged can find support from their neighbors and community.
- ✓ Balance our community values with private property rights.

### LEARN

- ✓ Lifelong learning and curiosity
- ✓ A gritty can-do mindset to yield innovative solutions to our unique challenges.
- ✓ A university with widespread community presence.
- ✓ Access to high quality education choices that are academic, vocational, indigenous, formal, and informal.
- ✓ The cutting edge of high-latitude research, where the best and brightest come to study the northern extremes on land, sea, and space.

### WORK

- ✓ The commercial, industrial, transportation, healthcare, and governmental hub of the interior and gateway to the arctic.
- ✓ Abundant opportunity for entrepreneurship and employment.
- ✓ Connected to meaningful and rewarding careers in natural resources, the arctic, national defense, education, healthcare, construction, and the trades that keep these industries moving.
- ✓ A unique climate, abundance of undeveloped lands and access to natural resources.
- ✓ National and worldwide leaders in arctic industries, cold weather.

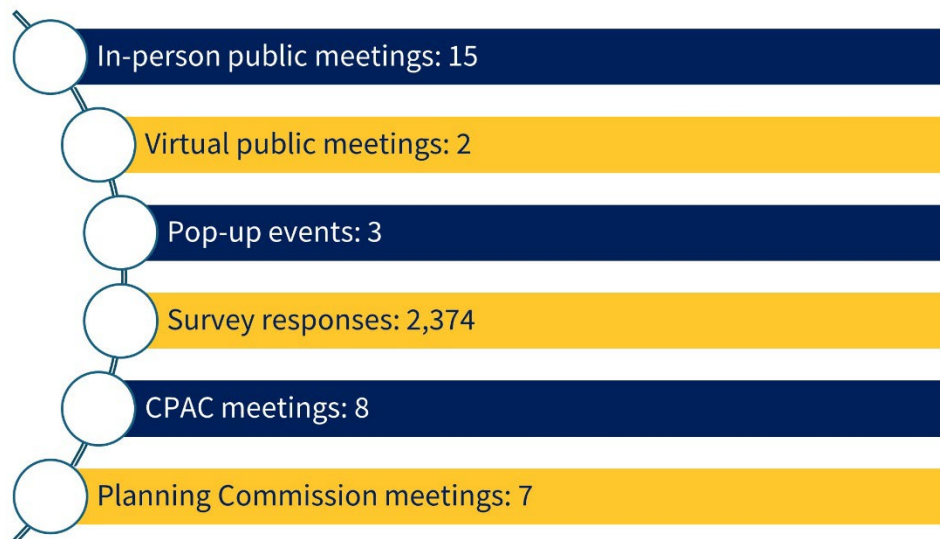
### PLAY

- ✓ People of all ages, stages and abilities have access to meaningful leisure activities, arts, music, culture, and recreation in all seasons, indoors and outdoors.
- ✓ Unparalleled public access to the wildest landscapes.
- ✓ Opportunities and support to safely adventure in our challenging environment.
- ✓ A connection to nature and extreme seasons.
- ✓ Shared gathering spaces foster a sense of community, facilitate the exchange of ideas, and encourage creative expression.



## Community Engagement

The Comprehensive Plan was developed through a citizen-oriented, multi-year process that strived to reach all corners of the community and encouraged the entire community to contribute to the planning process. More details about community engagement are found in Chapter 1 of the plan document.



## Goals & Strategies

Goals are broad, overarching statements that describe how the community aims to achieve the Vision. They were shaped by community values and key drivers. Strategies describe ways to achieve the goals. The Guide to a Greater Fairbanks, the implementation chapter of the plan document, further describes actions the FNSB, and community partners can take to implement the strategies and ultimately achieve the goals.

### Community Health, Safety and Wellness

| GOAL A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | GOAL B                                                                                                                                              | GOAL C                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Promote safe, equitable, affordable, and convenient <b>access</b> to healthcare, education, child and elder care, wellness, recreational opportunities, shelter, and social support services to meet the <b>needs of all</b> residents, current and future. | Support and enhance reliable access to <b>nutrition</b> , including local and culturally relevant foods, for all residents.                         | Provide services, programs and facilities that empower <b>year-round healthy lifestyles</b> for all ages and abilities.                                       |
| GOAL D                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | GOAL E                                                                                                                                              | GOAL F                                                                                                                                                        |
| Foster <b>lifelong learning</b> through a wide variety of high-quality educational and training opportunities.                                                                                                                                              | Nurture a <b>safe</b> and <b>welcoming</b> community that supports social connection, promotes civic engagement, and reflects all community values. | Maintain and improve systems, programs, and facilities to <b>protect</b> public health, reduce crime, improve safety and security, and mitigate hazard risks. |



## Land Use, Housing and Small Area Planning

| GOAL A                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | GOAL B                                                                                 | GOAL C                                                                                            | GOAL D                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Responsibly <b>guide</b> public and private land use and development to support neighborhoods, communities, natural and wild spaces, and economic opportunities while <b>protecting</b> private property <b>rights</b> . | Maintain the Borough's status as a <b>regional hub</b> with a <b>small-town feel</b> . | Provide <b>opportunities</b> for development while <b>minimizing conflicts</b> between land uses. | Meet the local <b>housing</b> needs and desires for a broad range of incomes by providing a variety of high quality, healthy, safe and energy efficient housing options. |



## Economic Development

### GOAL A

Foster a healthy, diverse and **sustainable economy** with a supportive and inclusive business environment that facilitates a **diversity** of local businesses, services, and employment opportunities.

### GOAL B

Strengthen the borough as a full-service and competitive **regional hub** and **gateway to the arctic** by capitalizing on its unique assets.

### GOAL C

Attract investment by beautifying public spaces, **promoting arts** and creative industries, and **celebrating** the borough's diverse cultural and historic heritage.

### GOAL D

Develop a qualified, competitive labor force with the skills needed to attain high-quality, **living wage jobs** and respond to changing needs in the economy.

### GOAL E

Support a regulatory framework and tax structure that **encourages investment**, nurtures economic activity, promotes a **welcoming business climate**, with adequate environmental protections.

### GOAL F

Improve local energy security and **lower the cost** of energy.



## Natural Resources and Environment

| GOAL A                                                                                                                                                | GOAL B                                                                                                 | GOAL C                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Capitalize on the borough's natural resources in a responsible manner that protects natural systems and minimizes conflicts with impacted properties. | Protect and enhance the borough's environment and quality of life by improving air and water quality.  | Support responsible and <b>efficient use of resources</b> and materials through energy efficiency, recycling, waste reduction, and diversion. |
| GOAL D                                                                                                                                                | GOAL E                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |
| Nurture diverse and resilient <b>food systems</b> such as local food production and subsistence.                                                      | Promote reliable and affordable access to renewable <b>energy resources</b> and new energy technology. |                                                                                                                                               |



## Transportation and Infrastructure

| GOAL A                                                                                                                                                                                                              | GOAL B                                                                                                                                                                                      | GOAL C                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Provide a year-round, safe, resilient, multi-modal transportation network to move people and goods to, from and through the Borough, connecting people to opportunities, social networks, recreation, and services. | Provide efficient, effective, responsible <b>utilities</b> , infrastructure, and <b>facilities</b> to meet the current and future demands of residents, businesses, industry, and visitors. | <b>Protect</b> the borough's infrastructure and transportation network from the impacts of a warming climate and other environmental constraints. Plan for and reduce the community's vulnerability to extreme weather events and natural hazards including fires, flooding, earthquakes, winter storms, and other events. |



## Metrics

Tracking a few choice metrics will help us measure success moving forward and put the plan into action. FNSB will need to annually measure and highlight progress towards achieving the Comprehensive Plan's goals and policies, publish reports, and recognize community partners who contribute towards achieving the vision.

The following indicators are recommended as initial measures:

- **Percent of unmaintained “orphan” roads compared to overall road miles.**
- **Percent change in ridership of MACS and VanTran per year**
- **Miles of new bicycle and pedestrian facilities constructed within FNSB per year**
- **Average annual employment (QCEW)**
- **Percent change of freight at airport and rail**
- **Suicide rate**
- **Property crime and violent crime rate per 100K people**
- **Number of open cases in the FNSB Code Enforcement Office**
- **Housing units added per year by type**
- **Number of rezones and borough-initiated rezones.**
- **Number of days at nonattainment versus attainment for air quality.**
- **Number of IGU customers (IGU)**
- **Percentage of waste stream diverted from landfill**
- **Annual per capita landfilled solid waste**
- **% households living within 15 min walk of public park or greenspace, minimum ½ acre**



FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

# Regional Comprehensive Plan Update

Kellen D. Spillman, Director

Kayde Whiteside, Long-Range Planner III

Department of Community Planning

Trails Advisory Commission Meeting July 27, 2026



# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Adopted in September 2005



LANCE MACKEY WINS THE 2005 YUKON QUEST



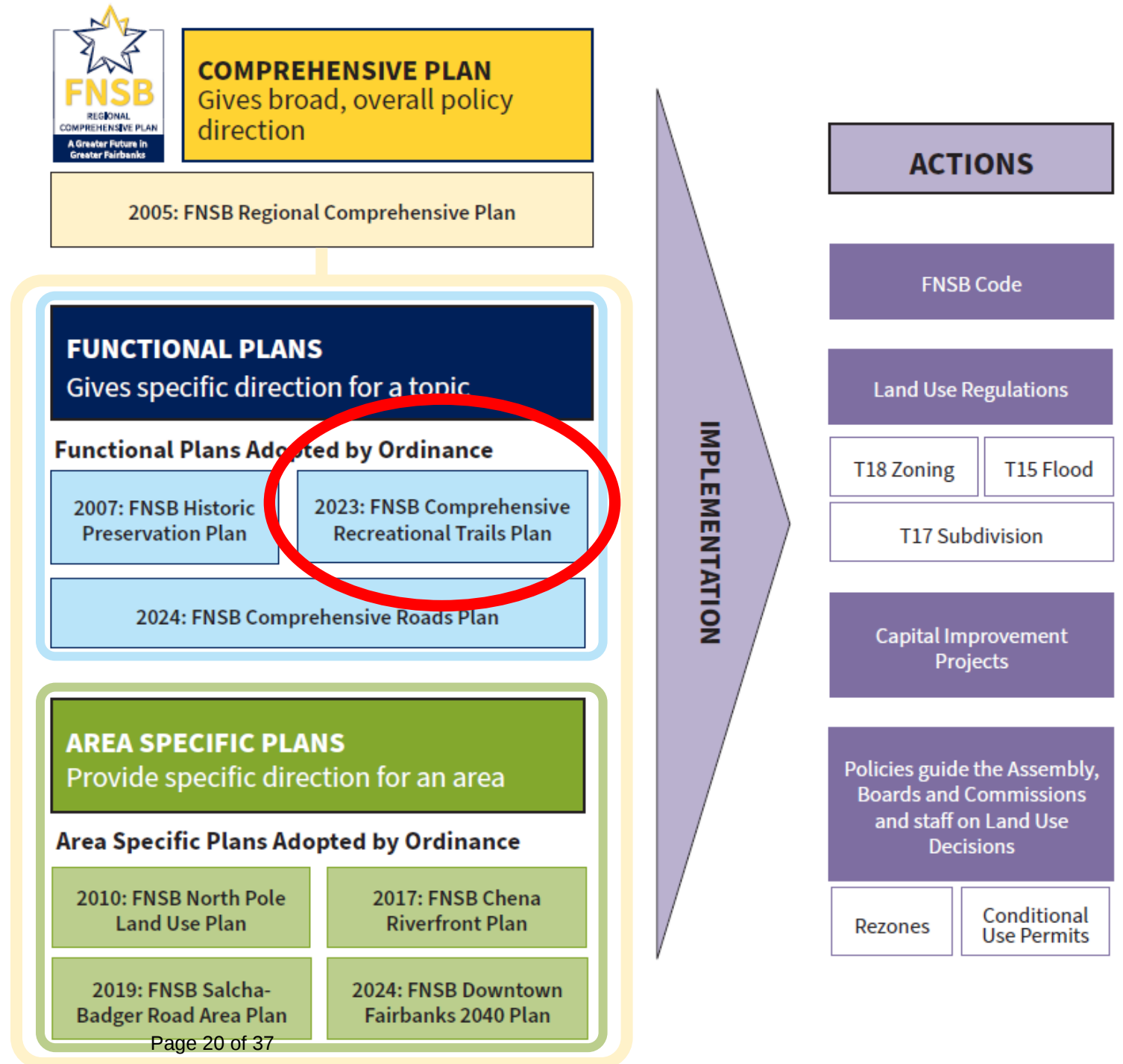
Current Regional Comprehensive Plan is nearing the end of its 20-year planning horizon.

Per the Plan, revision should take place “...every 20 years and/or when the population reaches another 20% growth benchmark.”

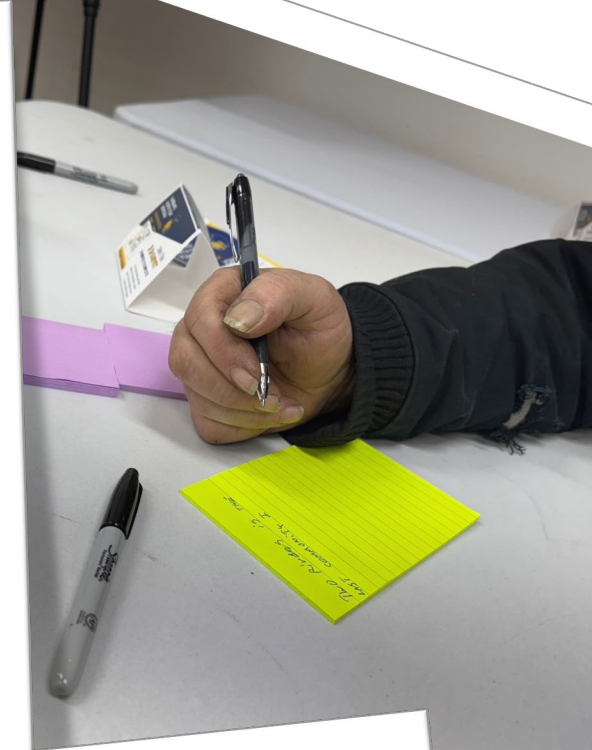
# HOW

## does the Comprehensive Plan relate to other plans?

The Comp Plan is an “umbrella” plan. Many other FNSB plans that address a specific topic or a smaller area may eventually be adopted as component parts of the Comp Plan. These plans, and actions to implement them, must be consistent with the overall policy direction of the Comp Plan.









**FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan Update 2025  
DRAFT VISION ELEMENTS**

| "LIVE"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | "WORK"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | "LEARN"                                                                                                                                                                                         | "PLAY"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing is Quality, Affordable, Diverse</li> <li>Tight Social Safety Net</li> <li>City Amenities</li> <li>Family Friendly</li> <li>Healthful life at all Ages &amp; Stages</li> <li>Interior Hub</li> <li>Personal Freedom, Pride in Self-Reliance</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interior Hub</li> <li>Indigenous Culture is Alive and Well</li> <li>Healthy Economy &amp; Low Cost of Living</li> <li>Military Connection</li> <li>Housing is Quality, Affordable, Diverse</li> <li>Sense of Community</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career Opportunities</li> <li>Innovation &amp; Ingenuity</li> <li>Access to Nature</li> <li>Responsible Development Environmental Stewardship</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College Town</li> <li>Military Community</li> <li>Strong Local Schools</li> <li>Healthful life at all Ages and Stages</li> <li>Innovation &amp; Ingenuity</li> <li>Access to Nature</li> <li>Recreation &amp; Entertainment for All Ages &amp; Activities</li> <li>Healthful life at all Ages and Stages</li> <li>Shared Community Spaces</li> <li>Family Friendly</li> <li>Small Town Feel</li> </ul> |

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# WHAT

goes in the Plan?



**SHARED VISION**



**Guiding Principles**



**Goals**



**Strategies  
& Actions**



The FNSB is the hub of Alaska's Interior and the gateway to the Arctic; with thriving, innovative, and welcoming communities that provide for a wide variety of opportunities and lifestyles; where community well-being is prioritized and people of all ages, stages, and abilities can **live, work, learn, and play** in a spectacular natural environment.



# Update of FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan

Community Health, Safety and Wellness Goal C: Provide services, programs and facilities that empower year-round healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities

Strategy 12: Increase opportunities for physical activity in all seasons.

**Action F: Improve wayfinding throughout trail networks.**

Strategy 14: Support or provide education and outreach to increase safety related to unique risks in our environment.

**Action A: Through FNSB and partner programs and facilities support or provide safety education for:**

- Off-highway vehicle operation
- Boating safety
- Fire
- Firearms
- Cold weather exposure
- **Trail use**
- Wildlife encounters



# Update of FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan

Community Health, Safety and Wellness Goal C: Provide services, programs and facilities that empower year-round healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities

Strategy 15: Sustain and protect local investment in parks.

**Action B: Re-purpose summer facilities for winter use (maintain closed roads for trails, use waterways for skating or winter trails, and development of sledding hills)**



# Update of FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan

Community Health, Safety and Wellness Goal C: Provide services, programs and facilities that empower year-round healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities

Strategy 16: Guide, maintain, and protect the community's investment in public parks and recreation.

## **Action B: Maintain a Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan that:**

- Identifies priority trails for public use
- Addresses conflicts between landowners and trail users
- Identifies suitable locations for a variety of single-use and multiple use trails during winter and summer and includes an education campaign about the importance of avoiding certain trails during fragile conditions such as spring break up.
- Establishes priorities for the FNSB investment in local trails
- Guides management and maintenance of local trails including guidelines that identify wetlands and trails where summer use causes erosion and other damage.



## Update of FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan

Transportation and Infrastructure Goal A: Provide a year-round, safe, resilient, multi-modal transportation network to move people and goods to, from and through the Borough, connecting people to opportunities, social networks, recreation, and services.

Strategy 84: Update and maintain FNSB Comprehensive Road Plan and small area plans to guide development based on road connectivity needs.

**Action D: Plan space in public rights of way for ATV use in rural areas of the Borough through:**

- **Title 17 Subdivisions**
- **Road design criteria policies**

Strategy 86: Encourage and expand the use of trails as alternative transportation corridors.

**Action A: Through the Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan and the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, identify recreational trail corridors that can facilitate new and effective transportation connections.**



## Update of FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan

Transportation and Infrastructure Goal A: Provide a year-round, safe, resilient, multi-modal transportation network to move people and goods to, from and through the Borough, connecting people to opportunities, social networks, recreation, and services.

**Strategy 90: Prioritize the development of "complete streets" corridors in urban areas for year-round multimodal improvements spread through multiple urban centers (ex. Downtown, College, North Pole). Integrate safe multiuse sidewalks and trails into road networks for commuter and recreational purposes.**



## **Update of FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan**

Transportation and Infrastructure Goal B: Provide efficient, effective, responsible utilities, infrastructure, and facilities to meet the current and future demands of residents, businesses, industry, and visitors.

Strategy 97: Support modern and sustainable facilities that meet current and future community needs.

**Action E: Support Fairbanks as the terminus of the proposed Alaska Long Trail concept.**



## **Update of FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan**

Economic Development Goal A: Foster a healthy, diverse and sustainable economy with a supportive and inclusive business environment that facilitates a diversity of local businesses, services, and employment opportunities.

Strategy 50: Provide public transit and a robust active transportation network, recognizing their essential role in ensuring a workforce can access employment.

**Action B: Consider pedestrian and bike routes in future developments and maintain sidewalks and bike lanes.**

**Action C: Recognize the economic impact of reducing dependency on personal vehicles and recreational trails/corridors used for commuting.**



# Progress

Community Identity, Values, Issues

- ✓ PC & CPAC Meetings #1
- ✓ Community Values Survey
- ✓ Roadshow Series #1

Plan Vision, Principles & Goals

- ✓ 2005 Plan Audit
- ✓ CPAC Meetings #2 & #3
- ✓ Needs Assessment

Sub-area Framework

- ✓ Draft Sub-Area Framework
- ✓ CPAC & PC #4
- ✓ Roadshow #2

Implementation Strategies

- ✓ Draft Implementation Strategies
- ✓ CPAC #5, Survey #2
- ✓ CPAC #6, Refine Strategies & Actions

Final Comprehensive Plan

- ☐ Draft Plan Public Review
- ✓ Roadshow #3

Public Outreach



We are HERE!

Adoption  
Winter  
26/27

# Public Release Draft



Learn more on our website:

**FNSB.GOV/COMPPLAN**



Draft plan released for public comment on July  
**15<sup>th</sup>!**

Comments accepted through August 15th.

Full plan, executive summary, and appendices all at project website.  
Paper copies of plan at Community Planning front counter, and NP  
and Noel Wein Libraries.





# Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY  
Boards and Commissions Clerks

clerks@fnsb.gov  
Main: (907) 459-1401  
Fax: (907) 459-1224

April 29, 2026

Mayor Grier Hopkins  
Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly

THROUGH: Matthew Boyer, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Andrea Jacobs, Trails Coordinator

***Re: Letter of recommendation addressing Resolution No. 2025-33: A resolution requesting the Trails Advisory Commission recommend standards for the use of commercial motorized vehicles on recreational trails***

Dear Mayor Hopkins and Assemblymembers,

On April 27, 2026, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) held a regular meeting and passed a motion to recommend establishing a commercial use policy on Borough trails that are included in the FNSB Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan (CRTP) and considered the Borough's primary management authority.

At a work session on December 11, 2025, the TAC reviewed how other municipalities and agencies manage commercial use on recreational trails throughout Alaska. At the January 26, 2026, meeting, the TAC discussed different options for how to address commercial use on the Borough's recreational trails. After these discussions, the TAC recommends the development of a more immediately enforceable departmental policy with potential for the policy to evolve into a codified commercial use trail plan addendum and program.

The TAC proposes adopting a departmental Parks and Recreation commercial use on Borough trails policy which utilizes the framework that is already in place via the fee schedule and contractor agreement currently utilized. The process would ideally be as follows:

- a. A commercial operator would submit an application to the Department of Parks and Recreation with an operating plan and proof of insurance.

- b. Applications would be reviewed by the TAC as meeting agenda items, allowing for public comment to be heard. The TAC would be given the powers to recommend both regulations and application approval or denial to the mayor. Regulations could include route, hours of operation, group size, tour number and frequency, parking location, vehicle type, vehicle size/weight, stakeholder meeting requirements, etc. These regulations would serve in place of standards while we learn more about our commercial use operatives in the Borough.
- c. The Parks and Recreation Director and Trails Coordinator would review the application and forward departmental and commission recommendations to the mayor.
- d. The mayor would approve or deny the application.
- e. If approved, the application would be processed by the Department of Parks and Recreation, and a 6-month term use agreement would be established.
- f. The commercial operator would be required to pay 15% of proceeds monthly and provide an end of season report. As a solution to the current trail maintenance funding and labor shortage, the TAC requests that these proceeds be deposited into a to-be created multi-year trail maintenance fund rather than the general fund. A dedicated maintenance fund could help to strengthen future grant applications, which usually score the Borough's plan to maintain trail infrastructure, which we often score poorly on.

The TAC believes trialing the departmental policy structure could reveal whether the level of commercial use on Borough trails dictates the necessity for a more formal commercial use addendum and codified restrictions to be established at a later date.

As a separate but related issue, the TAC would appreciate the consideration of adopting a wheeled vehicle policy which would restrict off highway (OHV) and all-terrain (ATV) vehicle size and weight on trails included in the FNSB CRTP and considered the Borough's primary management authority. Restricting vehicle size and weight according to trail specifications would protect trail conditions and the community's ability to safely recreate on our trails.

Sincerely,



Richard Shideler, Vice-Chair  
Trails Advisory Commission