



# Fairbanks North Star Borough

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**TO: Fairbanks North Star Borough Senior Commission**

**FROM: Bryce Ward, Mayor**

**DATE: May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**SUBJECT: Response to the Senior Commission request**

Chair Daniello,

I am providing you responses to several of your correspondence From December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2021. I appreciate the commissions patience while we manage workloads and get the best available information back to you. Thank you for the hard work you do for the community and your commitment to finding sustainable solutions to our local challenges to include the Senior Transportation Survey.

**December 16<sup>th</sup> letter on Transportation planning:**

The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) has a Coordinated Transportation Plan. The focus of that plan is to coordinate services provided through various agencies in the FNSB. This included agencies like FNSB Transportation Department, Access Alaska, Fairbanks Resource Agency, WallBusters, and at the time FMATS, now FAST Planning. This plan was originally developed in 2015 and is due for an update. I believe that this plan and its update, could provide the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission with the product they need, while at the same time providing an update for the agencies that use this document to justify capital expenditures.

A committee was put together for the development of this 2015 effort called the Fairbanks Mobility Coalition (FMC). The FMC moved from a creation phase once the plan was completed to an implementation phase where they made recommendations for funding and service provision. This group hasn't convened since the end of 2019 just before the Covid-19 outbreak; however, they were actively moving towards an update of the 2015 Coordinated Transportation Plan.

It is important to look for all potential funding sources for such a plan. The original Coordinated Transportation Plan was funded through a grant with the Community Transportation Association of America. There may be an opportunity to get funding with this group. Additionally, the Federal Transit Administration has funded individual plans through



their grants process. FAST Planning is getting funding from the Consolidated Planning Grant through Alaska DOT. This grant could be used to fund this plan in whole or in part. Lastly, there are the ARPA funds that you mentioned in your letter, which are also a possibility, although not a source the administration would like to use.

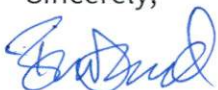
Once a clear path forward has been established, appropriate funding can then be allocated for a project. I look forward to working with the Senior Advisory Commission to move forward and provide exceptional transportation services for our seniors.

**December 17<sup>th</sup> letter on the Community Research Quarterly housing data:**

The issue of affordable quality housing is a critical component of a thriving community and one that we are focused on in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. As was mentioned in your letter we have been tracking housing data for more than 40 years through our Community Research Quarterly (CRQ). The suggestions made by the Commission would be great additions to the CRQ and we are working to get this information incorporated as part of the data we collect. We are exploring options to add accessibility to the community rental survey, and we are searching other databases to gather information on housing accessibility and ADA access.

The Assembly recently approved a housing exemption ordinance for multifamily units, this exemption comes with specified quality standards and is targeted to address concerns for all housing needs in the community. The FNSB Senior Needs Assessment was a cited source in the ordinance and we are hoping this option will help entice additional development throughout the Borough for senior housing.

Sincerely,



Bryce Ward

Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough

