



Assembly Climate Action Committee Meeting Agenda

January 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Comments limited to items on the agenda only. Each person's comments limited to 3 minutes (Comment time limited to 30 minutes total)

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4.a. Review and discussion of committee members prepared comments and edits to the Plan Documents of the draft proposed Climate Action and Adaptation Plan with the Consultant, RESPEC.
- 4.b. Discussion with and direction to the Borough's Project Manager, April Trickey and Consultant, RESPEC, regarding modifying the contract for the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, to include modifying the scope of work, as defined in the contract, editing/rewriting of previous completed plan documents, additional cost to complete modified task or edits, and extending the contract completion date.

5. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

6. ADJOURNMENT

General comments

Role of the plan: An important clarification of the current draft plan is that it states explicitly that the plan provides guidance but no mandates or requirements for what the borough *must do* in terms of climate action. It is the borough staff and administration who decide what to do: "The goals and strategies provide general guidance to the FNSB as a framework of possibilities. The plan allows FNSB staff the flexibility to decide which of these actions to implement, based on FNSB authority and their understanding of feasibility, cost-effectiveness, grant opportunities, impacts on FNSB operations, and the needs of residents and businesses." (page 5 of the *climate action chapter*). This seems appropriate for a planning document for a second-class borough.

Emphasize goals that are likely to broadly supported by the public. For example, the plan describes adaptation in terms of improving the safety, livelihoods, and quality of life of borough residents and businesses. It describes mitigation in terms of reducing energy use and associated costs and impacts on climate (e.g., pages 13 and 14 of the *climate action chapter*).

Addresses committee concerns: This version of the plan addresses most of the specific concerns raised by committee members in its November 15 meeting:

1. It lists only high and medium-priority recommendations (about half as many recommendations as in the previous draft report).
2. The recommendations now conform more closely to borough authority and responsibilities.
3. Studies that provide evidence for past and projected climate change are presented in the *existing conditions report* (but perhaps they should be moved forward to the main part of the report).

Organizational issues: In general, the plan is well organized and clearly written. I have a few organizational suggestions.

1. Add something at the beginning of the plan explaining what the plan is and how it came to be: This could be a one-page executive summary or a letter to borough residents from the Mayor, as in the Anchorage plan. It would briefly explain the goal of developing a climate action plan, the benefits of developing a plan, the scope of the plan, the process used to develop the plan, how the plan is organized, and how the plan will be used. This could be followed by the current *Background information chapter*.
2. Replace pages 1-3 of the *Background information chapter* with pages 1-3 of the *Public participation chapter* (plus the overall vision from page 4). These two sections cover the same material, but the section in the public participation chapter is written more compellingly.
3. Most of pages 8-17 of the public participation chapter could become an appendix or be moved to page 70 in the existing conditions report. This is important background information but not essential for everybody to read. The general description of the outreach approach (pages 5-8 and 14) should be in the main part of the report. For example, it could be placed after page 7 of the *background information chapter*, where the FNSB climate planning process is described.

4. The role of the *existing conditions report* in the plan is unclear to me. It is a combination of important scientific evidence about climate change (with appropriate references) and various details that will be important to people who want to use the report for FNSB planning but that most people don't need to know. It is listed as an appendix in the table of contents. I would suggest moving a few parts of *Climate Science: The Big picture* (Pages 6-14) and *Climate change effects* (pages 29-43)] to the *background information chapter*, but only if that chapter is intended to convey the scientific basis for the report. Other parts, like the detailed maps can probably stay in the existing conditions report as part of the appendix.

Background information Chapter

Page 2: Reverse goals 1 and 2 (i.e., put adaptation first and mitigation second)

Page 2, line 3: Change “comprises” to “consists of” (less academic wording)

Page 3, line 10: Add a reference after “temperatures” (for example, IPCC and US climate assessment about scientific consensus on climate change)

Page 3, second column: Put “Climate change Adaptation” before “Mitigation” (makes sense alphabetically and in terms of importance of community concerns)

Page 3: use a darker font for definitions on the right-hand column. They are hard to read.

Pages 5 and 6: Choose quotes from the public survey that correspond with the text. Move the picture on page 6 to page 5 so it corresponds with the text.

Pages 6 and 7: Can you put the text, picture, map and survey quote about wildfire all on the same page?

Page 7: The brown colors in the map are not defined. Use larger font for Figure legends; I'd suggest just giving the years and delete the words “Historic wildfire boundaries” (information that is already given in the heading). In the green figure legend at the bottom, I'd suggest putting the word “wildfire” between “Historic” and “Boundaries” (i.e., “Historic wildfire boundaries”)

Fix the page numbers throughout the chapter: For example, page 7 is followed by a second page 2 and then by a second page 1; Pages 2-4 of “climate projections” are missing. Page numbers should be consecutive within the Background information chapter

Page 1 of climate projections: I'd suggest changing the label of the left and right axis to “Temperature change (degrees F)”. I'd suggest rewording the text on the left to read:

Temperatures have been rising in the FNSB in every season—especially winter. Historical data show that spring temperatures have increased since the early 1900s, whereas autumn warming only began in the 1980s. [Note on word accuracy: Temperatures “rise”; climate and seasons “warm.”] Change the color or thickness of the text to make it more visible.

Page 5 of Climate projections: Make sure this wording doesn't overlap with the numbers in the axis of the graph

Page 6: In the figure legend, change “Trothttheet” to “Troth Yeddha'”. [There are about 30 Dene names for locations in what is now Fairbanks. Six of the Fairbanks-area names have Troth Yeddha' as the main part of their name, and this is the name that is most familiar to Fairbanks residents. I checked this out with Jim Kari, an Athabascan language specialist.

Page 6: On line 4 of the text, change “experience increased” to “receive more”. On the last line of the text, change “spring” to “summer” [as you can see on the graph]. It would be nice if the text were a different color that is easier to read.

After page 6, there are five page 5s.

Page 5—thawing, line 1: replace “with” by “by”

Page 5—ground temperature maps: I'd suggest adding to the legend below the maps (before listing the source): "The top row shows projected changes assuming large global emission reductions (RCP 4.5). The bottom row shows projected changes assuming no global emissions reductions." The legend for these maps is nearly invisible. There is lots of blank space; can the legend be made larger? This figure would have greater impact if there were fewer maps (maybe only 1995, 2011-2040, and 2061-2090. Rather than having the complex legend, you could say that blue colors indicate presence of permafrost and red colors indicate absence of permafrost.

Unnumbered page—More extreme weather: Simplify the wording and reduce repetition. I would suggest replacing the paragraph with the following: "Extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, rain-on-snow in winter, windstorms, and summer drought will be more intense and occur more frequently due to climate change. For example, the graph below shows changes in the amount of rain expected from the largest 24-hour storm in a two-year period. Overall, larger storms are becoming more frequent and delivering more rain and snow, worsening flooding and riverbank erosion at certain times of year."

Page 5—Biological changes: Line 6 of text: Change "wildlife use" to "wildlife-use". In the second bullet point, line four: Change "plant reproduction" to "plant reproduction, including berry production". Third bullet point, line 1: Change "disease carrying" to "disease-carrying". Fourth bullet point, line 2: Change "necessitate increased" to "increase"

Page 6—FNSB Climate Planning: No suggested changes

Page 7: first paragraph, last two lines: Change "JCCTF; however this posed a significant challenge" to "JCCTF and was never accomplished"

Second paragraph, line 5: Change "but has been granted an established temporary multiyear budget" to "budget". In lines 6-8, change "comprises six...the mayor" to "consists of the mayor plus six appointed volunteer members including one FNSB Assembly-person and five community members."

Page 8 is repeated in the PESTEL chapter. Try to keep page 8 and the two following pages (1 and 18) fairly general and brief, with details in the PESTEL chapter which is where the report begins to organize its information around sectors, so that these details are more relevant there.

Page 1—public services: Fix pagination. The text is clear, as written.

Page 18—planning and land management: Fix pagination. The text is clear, as written.

Page 18—climate planning context: Fix pagination. Shouldn't the borough comprehensive plan be added?

Page 18—Climate action benefits: Last paragraph of text, lines 1-2: Change "core component of the FNSB's Comprehensive Plan" to "planning document" [I believe that the CAAP is not intended to be a component of the Comprehensive Plan.]

Public Participation Chapter

General suggestion: Much of the material in pages 1-6 makes a good introduction to the overall report and could become an introduction or executive summary that precedes the background chapter. Most of pages 8-17 of the public participation chapter could become an appendix or be moved to page 70 in the existing conditions report. This is important background information but not essential to be read by everyone. The general description of the outreach approach (pages 5 and 14) should probably be in the main part of the report.

General: Address adaptation before mitigation

Page 2, lines 1-2: Change "Mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts are equally" to "Adapting to and mitigating climate change impacts are both"

Page 3: Reverse the order of the mitigation and adaptation strategies

Page 4: Move the description of the sectors to the PESTEL chapter. Move the rest of page 4 (overall vision) to the overall introduction of the plan

Page 15: This should be in past tense, because all of this will be history by the time the plan reaches the assembly. Similarly, on page 16, 3-4 lines from the bottom, change “is working” to “worked”

PESTEL chapter

I'd suggest choosing a title for this chapter that everyone will understand (delete PESTEL from the title). Possible titles include: “Situational Analysis for Climate Planning”, Context for Climate Planning”, etc.

Page 2, right-hand column, heading: Change “Pestle” to “PESTEL. The definitions for “legal” and “environmental” are switched. Leave the definitions where they are and switch “L LEGAL” and “E ENVIRONMENTAL”

Page 3, the icons used on page 8 seem more intuitive than these ones.

Page 4, left column, last line: remove quotation marks from ‘other’.

Page 4, lefthand side, paragraphs 1 and 3: This identical wording was used in chapter 1. The PESTEL chapter seems like the chapter where this wording is most important, so it could be shortened in the background chapter.

Page 5, righthand side, line 5: I'm not familiar with the “bounty program” in the context of air quality. It is the only program listed in which the program name is not self-explanatory. Perhaps add a phrase of explanation.

Page 8: I'd suggest listing the sectors in the same order as they are used in the recommendations in the action plan chapter. For example, many of the issues and adaptations overlap between buildings/energy and transportation, so it would make sense that transportation should follow buildings/energy. Once you have chosen an order to list them on page 8, use the same order in the rest of this chapter.

Page 15, second bullet, line 2: Delete comma after “technologies”. Same bullet, last line: Change “strategies are” to “strategies that are”. Fourth bullet: Change “organizationsto” to “organizations to”

Page 17, second bullet line 2: Change “fuel-free” to “less flammable”

Page 19, 2 lines from the end: Change “address sprawl” with “better access”

Page 20, 4th bullet, line 2: Change “reforestation and other” to “reforestation, protection from wildfire, and”

Page 21, third line from the end: Change “agricultural” to “agriculture”

Page 26, last bullet, line 1: Change “address sprawl, which makes” to “make”

Page 27, left side, line 3: Change “among” to “within”. Right side, line 1: Change “sprawling” to “dispersed”. Next to last line: Change “co-benefits²” to “co-benefits²” Next to last line: Change “Read on to” to “Read”

Page 28, line 1: Make sure the first line is consistent with the actual title chosen for this chapter.

Action Plan Chapter

Page 8, paragraph 3, line 3: Delete “reduce development sprawl and”

Page 10, paragraph 2, line 1: Change “consider” to “considers”

Page 23, HP3.2A, line 2: Change “electric other” to “electric and other”

Page 27, paragraph 1, next-to-last line: Change “decreases” to “decrease”

Page 31, HP6.1D, line 3: Change “non-forested” to “less flammable”. For example, aspen and birch forests are less flammable than black spruce and can reduce risks to neighborhoods from wildfire spread.

Page 39, left side, point four: Make sure to use the final chapter title of the “PESTEL chapter”

Evaluation framework chapter

No suggested changes

Existing conditions report

I have to confess that I haven’t yet read this section of the report as carefully as other sections so my comments may be incomplete and not be fully informed. I’d prefer not to make detailed comments until I know the purpose of this report with respect to the whole plan.

Page 70 (public and stakeholder involvement) can be deleted because it is already covered in greater detail in the public participation chapter.

Page 79 (available metrics): Move this graphic to page 13 or 14 of the Evaluation framework as an example of an early metric that was used to assess borough energy use. If other metrics have been collected by the sustainability commission, this should be stated.

Page 80, lines 1-2: change “will build” to “was built” (if that statement is true). Next to last line: Delete “will”. However, I’m not entirely convinced that data from past metrics were evaluated in constructing the final plan.

Draft Strategies

The following list of Action Strategies require further studies and money allocation. This current study was almost \$80,000. Each suggestion must be looked at individually to ascertain whether the FNSB has funds available for more studies and the implementation of the study. It must be determined if this issue falls under the classification and authority of a second-class borough. It also should be determined if the borough is able to use the results of the study to benefit the FNSB as a whole.

Respec worked hard to gather information and make a well-informed presentation. FNSB should be aware that Respec are suggesting many more contracts and plans. Although these may be reasonable and important action strategies, this may result in a conflict of interest for them. The FNSB should be careful to not allow any appearance of conflict of interest or allow undue monetary benefits to any one company.

Section 1.1.A

Section 1.1.B

Section 1.1.E

Section 1.2.B

Section 1.3.B

Section 2.1.A

Section 2.1.B

Section 2.1.E

Section 2.1.G

Section 2.2.A

Section 2.2.B

Section 2.2.D

Section 2.2.E

Section 2.2.G

Section 2.2.H

Section 3.2.B

Section 4.2.A

Section 5.1.A

Section 5.1.B

Section 5.2.C

Section 6.2.A

Section 6.2.C

Section 6.2.D

Section 6.4.A

Section 6.4.B

Section 6.4.C

Section 6.4.D

Section 6.4.E

Goal 7.1.3

Goal 7.2.8

Goal 7.3.13

Goal 7.3.14

Section 8.1.H

Section 8.2.J

Section 8.2.K

The next list are thoughts and questions on each individual action strategy.

Section 1.1.D This action strategy requests a new staff position to supervise and Coordinate. Training and encouraging existing staff in opportunities to look for ways to implement the CAAP may be more advisable. Current staff have a better understanding of their department needs and understand what is a more common sense and feasible change. Empowering current staff to make changes and suggestions would be a more-long term and practical approach. It would also encourage existing staff to understand and appreciate the benefits of adapting the valuable mitigation strategies.

Section 1.2.A The FNSB has already hired a grant writer. This would be redundant.

Section 1.2.B I believe this is already modeled within the FNSB. There are not any specific new strategies listed here. This is not new information.

Section 1.2.C I believe this is already modeled within the FNSB. There are not any specific new strategies listed here. This is not new information.

Section 1.2.D I believe there are already many non-profit companies and well as local clubs that engage in education and engagement. I question the responsibility of implementation through the FNSB. I am not sure that this would be the most efficient or practical use of FNSB funds and time.

Section 1.2.E There is specific criteria already prioritized. I would not like to see a special interest classification created. We need to look at each non-profit organization and their need and value when allocating funds. This would put an added burden on non-profits to have to track specific criteria. We do not want to create additional paperwork and burdens on non-profits who work and help our FNSB

Section 1.2.F This can be researched, but this may be an issue with our labor agreements. Allowing volunteers to complete work for the borough may cause difficulties for FNSB employees

Section 1.2.G This is a great action strategy. I expect that this information is already being collected. Have any department supervisors been contacted to find out if this information is being collected and what method is used to collect and retain the information for use?

Section 1.2.B I believe this is already modeled within the FNSB. There are not any specific new strategies listed here. This is not new information.

Section 1.2.B I believe this is already modeled within the FNSB. There are not any specific new strategies listed here. This is not new information.

Section 1.3.A There is not an attachment to look at the example cited.

Section 2.1.A Is this information already being collected? Have any department supervisors been contacted to find out if this information is being collected and what method is used to collect and retain the information for use?

Section 2.1.C Is this already modeled within the FNSB?

Section 2.1.D GVEA uses gas and coal predominately to provide electric to the community. The transition of the FNSB fleet to electric and solar powered equipment should be considered on a case by case basis. Is the equipment able to be used efficiently year-round. What is required to retire the equipment, do we have the available resources to retire them? i.e. landfill requirements or special placement. What are the cost of maintenance? Are parts readily available? Are technicians and service available as needed? FNSB needs to empower the individual departments to purchase and use the equipment that will best serve the needs of the community whether gas or electric.

Section 2.1.F Is this already modeled within the FNSB?

Section 2.1.G GVEA already has a BESS and is currently looking into upgrading their system.

Section 2.1.H Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 2.2.A Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 2.2.B Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 2.2.C Is FNSB already doing what it is authorized to do? Does whether all of this action strategy falls under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough.

Section 2.2.D Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 2.2.E Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 2.2.F This is GVEA business. This does not fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough. At a GVEA recent meeting a board director stated that this was not affordable or feasible. This was easily found information and this should not have been included on this action strategy plan.

Section 2.2.G Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 2.2.H I believe there are already many non-profit companies and well as local clubs that engage in education and engagement. I question the responsibility of implementation through the FNSB. I am not sure that this would be the most efficient or practical use of FNSB funds and time.

Section 2.3.A Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? There is not enough information about the bills to recommend authorize the advocacy to the state.

Section 2.3.B Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? Is this a borough issue?

Section 2.3.C Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? Is this a borough issue? We have very good building codes

that are regularly updated. Does the FNSB have enough information to push an agenda or should this be left to the experts who deal with this information and have this authority?

Section 2.3.D Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 2.3.E Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second class borough?

Section 3.1.A FNSB already encourages and supports industries and jobs in the private sector. FNSB should not choose or create a special entity or category of business. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 3.1.B FNSB already encourages and supports UAF and the School. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 3.1.C FNSB already encourages and supports local organizations and unions. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 3.2.A This is great. Some of this is already being completed. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 3.2.B The FNSB has an excellent website. They enable residents to have access to information quickly. Are there specific issues or questions that are missing?

Section 3.2.C Recycling is important. It is great to encourage residents to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Section 3.2.D This appears to be a great idea for private businesses, but not perhaps within the purview of the FNSB.

Section 3.2.E FNSB already encourages and supports our local libraries and schools.

Section 4.1.A Food security is a very important issue for FNSB. This strategy does not have specific goals. FNSB could communicate with local farmers and farmer's markets to find out if the FNSB can help. Specifics need to be identified and see if it falls under the purview of the FNSB. Simple steps such as helping to change zoning to Agriculture land. Identifying and following through with residents who have Agriculture land, yet are not abiding by the rules of land use. The FNSB needs real information from local people involved in farming to find ways to actually make a difference not just a sound bite.

Section 4.1.B Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? This sounds like an excellent goal, however it may be something that needs to be worked through local non-profit organizations. (Not attacking and taxing the local community food bank would be a good start.)

Section 4.1.C FNSB already encourages and supports through a grant process.

Section 4.1.D Food security is a very important issue for FNSB. However, FNSB can't and shouldn't tell private businesses how to run. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 4.2.A Food security is a very important issue for FNSB. It is important to get local input from farmers and the Farmer's Association group for ideas of what will make a difference. Should the borough choose the land that will be best for farming, or should we make it easier for farmers to change the zoning on the land that works best for their crop? FNSB ought to find ways to empower our local farmers and get local ideas.

Section 4.2.B Please refer to Section 4.2.A FNSB needs to ensure that there are practical and specific ways to help versus an idea that sounds good, yet does nothing. FNSB must interact with the farmers to find their needs.

Section 4.2.C Food security is a very important issue for FNSB. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 5.1.C There is not enough information to understand what is recommended.

Section 5.1.D Information is very useful. It is important to attain measurable and quantifiable data. Aerial information is cost prohibitive as currently obtained by FNSB. Recommendations of cooperating with UAF and using drones may be an efficient and cost effective way to collect data.

Section 5.2.A FNSB already encourages and supports these programs.

Section 5.2.B Air quality is important and FNSB should ensure their employees have healthy environments to work in.

Section 5.2.D As shown by a vote of the people, residents do not want implementation or reinforcement of air quality by the FNSB. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 5.3.A This would be an excellent opportunity to remove beetle killed trees and allow residents to obtain firewood. Permits could be obtained with educational material for residents.

Section 5.3.B Land management is a very important tool. This could be an opportunity for residents to obtain firewood. Permits could be obtained with educational material for residents. Allowing the collection of firewood will help with heat security and allow more firewood storage and longer dry times.

Section 6.1.A This may be a private business concern. Fairbanks weather patterns bring challenges to walking and planning for areas similar to the lower 48.

Section 6.1.B Prioritizing sales of all FNSB land is a good idea. Get the land into the tax groupings. Allow Alaska residents to own land, not government

Section 6.1.C Downtown is a City of Fairbanks issue. Fairbanks weather patterns bring challenges to walking and planning for areas similar to the lower 48. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 6.1.D FNSB should allow residents the ability to choose the lifestyle that best suits them. Dense and multifamily housing is should not be a FNSB priority. FNSB should allow residents and contractors the freedom to allow the economy and demand choose the style of housing.

Section 6.1.E FNSB put out a survey about turning Lacey st. into a large greenspace. It was not well received. Fairbanks weather patterns bring challenges to walking and planning for areas similar to the lower 48. FNSB needs to recognize that we are a unique area and our needs may not be consistent with the lower 48 expectations. Parks and trails and availability to bike paths are important, but our cold weather must be acknowledged. People do not want to walk far in cold weather. There will be economic losses to businesses in winter if streets are closed and access is restricted.

Section 6.2.A I would expect that this process would include input from local farmers and co-operatives. security.

Section 6.2.B Land ought to be owned by the people. FNSB should not tie down land that should be developed and put on the tax rolls. Waiving the property tax for a special entity increases the taxes on the rest of the FNSB property owners and renters and the tax is passed on through higher rents.

Section 6.2.C FNSB should not restrict land use by residents.

Section 6.2.D Land management is a very important tool.

Section 6.2.E FNSB out to sell the land to increase the tax rolls and to allow more land to be developed and to allow residents access and ownership.

Section 6.3.A Is this already being done? Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 6.3.B Selling land will help to reduce the cost of ownership to FNSB. Allow residents to obtain firewood. Permits could be obtained with educational material for residents.

Section 6.3.C There may be some unrealistic expectations to the quantity of people willing to bike and walk during the winter.

Section 6.3.D This is something that is already being done by local groups. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 6.4.C Alaska is all about sprawl... limiting residents to dense areas may be counter to some Alaskan's choices.

Section 6.4.D There are already established parameters. Residents should be able to choose what to do with their land. CCHRC provides amazing education to homeowners. There are many existing resources and best practices available to residents and builders.

Sector 6

Goal 7.1.3 Residents should be able to choose whether they want restrictions on single use plastics. (which is a highly faulty name as many bags and items are used repeatedly) Residents are increasingly choosing to bring their own bags and seek alternate and paper based products. The carrot vs the stick. The carrot is working. Many restaurants are already using biodegradable materials for their food boxes. Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Goal 7.1.4 Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

We should look at measurable energy saving improvements. Sustainable and Affordable.

Goal 7.1.5 Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? Is there a plan in place already to monitor food use and waste. Leftover food is donated to the food bank already. It is a wonderful method so that no food is wasted. Leftover food and meals are donated to people in need in the community.

Goal 7.2.7 Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Goal 7.2.8 Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Goal 7.2.9 Sustainable and Affordable . FNSB has reuse sites at the transfer sites which encourages residents to reuse, reduce and recycle.

Goal 7.2.10 FNSB should look for Sustainable and Affordable ways to encourage recycling.

Goal 7.2.11 Although this is a good idea, does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 8.1.A This is an admirable goal, however this may be premature. Supplies are difficult to get right now. More studies are needed for cold weather. Repair parts and qualified mechanics for specialized fleets may be in short supply.

Section 8.1.B Use common sense for warming vehicles. We live in a cold climate.

Section 8.1.C The results of using electric busses in Juneau do not show good results. They have faced many issues, and Juneau is much warmer than the FNSB. This action strategy is premature. In time technology will catch up to our needs, but that time is not yet here.

Section 8.1.D Smaller vehicles may be able to be transitioned to renewables and hybrids. Larger trucks and equipment has not shown to work as well yet in our cold climate. This may be premature.

Section 8.1.E Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? GVEA has already installed a few electric vehicle charging stations and has a plan to install more. As demand increase the supply will grow.

Section 8.1.F NO, this is a program that will hurt the poorest and most marginalized in our community.

Section 8.1.G Zoom and Teams has changed the work environment. Choosing virtual meetings and part time remote can be good for employees and FNSB. Encourage FNSB to have an open mind but to choose what works best for the customer and employees. FNSB has been able to create hybrid work environments that are better for all involved.

Section 8.1.I Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 8.1.J Isn't this already available to some degree at the schools? Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? Would this be a school district issue?

Section 8.1.K Isn't this already in the process of being done? It may be presumptuous to start the technology and infrastructure for the future as technology is changing rapidly.

Section 8.1.L It is good to be prepared. Perhaps start employee training on repair and functionality?

Section 8.1.M Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 8.2.A It is important to have a plan to facilitate access to users. Is this already happening at the local level?

Section 8.2.B Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? I am hesitant to have an employer tell an employee how to come to work. Incentivizing low carbon modes of transportation puts some people at a disadvantage. Those with medical issues, large families, elderly, etc. They will be discriminated against. Riding a bike or walking to work is a benefit all on its own.

Section 8.2.C We need improvements in our public transit system. Smaller busses and more routes, or...

Section 8.2.D These are great ideas for the FNSB. I believe the FNSB already has a lot of this in place. There should be safe storage areas to encourage biking.

Section 8.2.E Safe and functional bike paths are an important part of FNSB. Safety upon these paths is vital. Upkeep does add an addition cost that must be entered into the equation.

Section 8.2.F Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? This appears to be a private business decision. FNSB should not give special discounts to specific developers, as it raises the cost associated to the other property owners. Property taxes should be applied without discrimination.

Section 8.2.G Need more info

Section 8.2.H Anchorage's trail network is full of homeless camps. Is there a different example? Fairbanks weather patterns bring challenges to walking during the winter. We cannot copy the lower 48 and have the same expectations.

Section 8.2.I We need to make common sense and economical decisions. Maybe smaller busses, but yes, we need more public transit.

Section 8.2.J We cannot copy the lower 48 and have the same expectations.

Section 8.2.K Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough? Do we have a large enough population to justify this expenditure at this time? How efficient and workable would this be during winter?

Section 8.3.C Does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

Section 8.3.D This is a great idea, however does this fall under the purview and authority of the FNSB as a second-class borough?

There are many good action strategies proposed. Respec has made a very comprehensive and detailed plan. One of the issues is whether the FNSB can or should tell private businesses how to run. The FNSB should not be interfering with private business nor be in competition with private business. There are limited funds available for use for the borough. I would hope that the FNSB chooses the biggest bang for the buck and chooses strategies that are sustainable, yet affordable. Adaptation and mitigation are worthy goals, however they must be balanced with the available FNSB funds and proven results. I would love to see specific actions chosen that show measurable and positive outcomes.

Thank you,

Harmony Tomaszewski

From: [Barbara Haney](#)
To: [April Trickey](#); [Barbara Haney](#)
Subject: Climate Change Comments
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 1:59:01 PM

Dear Committee Members:

I have a significant number of comments on the actual document, but do not have time to type them up to meet the distribution deadline because I had anticipated meeting in person and going through the document page by page. Sadly, it would appear that this will not happen in the manner that I had envisioned.

The data for the document is not representative of borough residents. First, most of the work was done during COVID on the internet. Few borough residents outside the urban core areas have adequate internet service and devices to be able to participate- less than one percent of the borough was involved, and they are principally from the areas of the borough with exceptionally good internet access. Second, those who responded to surveys appear to have been offered gift cards for their participation. This doesn't seem like good science. The borough is the size of the state of New Jersey, and it seems comments are scant beyond the urban-university core and hardly representative of the majority of the borough. This does the borough a serious disservice.

There were also important stakeholder groups ignored. The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation has reached out numerous times and were ignored. This is indeed strange given that they are tasked with developing a major natural gas pipeline and the blue hydrogen hub project that is featured later in the document! There appears to be limited, if any with the Emerging Energy Market Analysis Initiative (EMA) and their research on Nuclear Power and their work with the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) appears to be ignored by the plan, despite the fact that it calls for closer collaboration with such groups. Further, the study seems to ignore important data on carbon emissions in aviation that were presented by Zero Avian by Peter Barnes and on electric vehicles by Dr. Erin Whitney that were presented to Commonwealth North in December of 2022 and reflects their research that overlapped the time frame of FNSB study. While the study does reference working with the military, the plan does not reference the Army and Airforce Climate Action plan which were published in the summer of 2022. The call for limits on single use plastics did not appear to include any discussions with the restaurant community or the medical community- both large consumers of single use plastics- it was simply asserted by the document authors. Further, the single largest contributor to GHG, the concrete industry, particularly in clinker production, was not even addressed in the document.

Other stakeholder groups attempted to give the impression that they were something they were not. For example, one group called the Interfaith Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition claims to be "faith based." However, they appear to only have one denomination listed and it has a small congregation. Most of the larger churches have not heard of this organization and they probably would not be in agreement with many of the tenets of the group. The large number of Baptist churches in particular would not use some other outside document to interpret the Bible as this group suggests on their webpage. Further this group seems to be against the use of land for agricultural purposes as evidenced by the videos on their website protesting the agricultural lands in

Nenana. In the face of the massive grain shortages facing Alaska, this group appears to be deaf to the needs of Alaska's food security. Then there are other "groups" who are not groups at all; they are a couple of university faculty who hide behind the name of a group.

First, this document attempts to address several activities that are outside the statutory authority of a second-class borough as detailed in AS 29.35.210, and the additional limitations imposed by 19.30.111 - 19.30.251. The borough's authority is strictly limited to roads that are not part of federally funded highway systems and federal and state matching funds. The very notion of relying on federal grant money on these "suggestions," places these activities beyond the borough's authority. This was further reinforced in the recent borough election, when one candidate actually ran on the platform of hiring a grant writer for the borough, and did not win election to the assembly. This indicates the lack of political support for a major premise of this document- to hire a grant writer.

Second, it appears that whoever wrote this document was unaware that the borough does not have the authority to engage in workforce development (AK DOL), Wildfire management (DNR), Wetlands Protection (US BLM) and Agriculture (USDA & DNR) and seems to suggest the borough should either duplicate or usurp those authorities. That is simply outside the scope of a borough "plan." Given that one borough candidate ran on the "we need to hire a grant writer platform" and was unsuccessful by a large margin, suggests that borough residents are not in support of this idea.

Third, the document authors are clearly unaware of the role of the borough's first class cities. The borough has limited authority over first class cities, and yet it seeks to undertake several actions to mitigate "urban sprawl" and to contain development to the two authorities over which the borough has limited power. Alaska's statutes make it quite clear that the first-class cities are independent entities.

The document emphasis on "containing development to the urban core and contain urban sprawl" clearly fails to recognize the need for additional housing units to accommodate the US military personnel that are being transferred to the region, and thus fails to support the crucial mission of the military- the defense of the homeland. It fails to recognize the preferences of households to move outside the attainment PM2.5 area to dilute the problem and allow green spaces to capture carbon. It fails to recognize that people come to Alaska to enjoy the wilderness, rather than live in the areas that they left behind in the lower 48.

Further, the document also posits ideas that undermine the republican form of government detailed in the US Constitution. "Partnering" with "civic groups" that have not been elected by the people and having them monitor the actions of borough departments through a "Climate Action Coordinator" seems more like NAZI Germany and is a direct contradiction to the nature of government as is understood and valued by borough residents. There is no statutory authority for this type of governmental arrangement. Redirecting the borough's lobbyist to lobby for the agenda of specific groups rather than the priorities established by elected officials seems to undermine the democratic process.

I have additional comments, but all I want addressed is maybe some public education on insulation and perhaps the benefits of GVEA's SNAP program.


Barbara Haney

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MEMORANDUM

To: Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly – Climate Action Committee

From: Bryce Ward, Mayor 

Date: January 19, 2023

Subject: FNSB Administration Comments on Proposed Climate Action Plan

The draft Climate Action Plan prepared by RESPEC as a result of numerous committee and public meetings is robust and strikes an interesting balance between the concerns of the Administration and the public feedback received during public review.

Most goals and strategies in the draft plan are crafted in a manner that provides flexibility to local officials to appropriately implement (should they so choose). Plan chapters, such as Community Background, Public Participation and PESTEL are robust and provide a great resource for interested parties to learn about the planning process and our community.

The Action Plan chapter contains most of the substance of the plan – the Action Plan chapter is where most of my concerns are and as a result, where most of my comments are focused.

1. Prioritization of plan goals and objectives. The plan has three categories that prioritize the work: high medium and low. In the plan there are 41 high priority goals 20 medium priority goals and zero low priority goals. The plan must strike a balance between the priority of goals - if everything is high priority, nothing is high priority.

2. Assignment of responsibilities. The plan has several goals that need to be assigned to a responsible group or body. As the draft plan reads now, it appears to me all of the expected work would fall to the administration. If it's the Assembly's intention to take-on any of these responsibilities it would help to have clear indication within the plan.

3. Commitment of resources. The plan covers a wide range of operations and calls for the compilation of data that the Administration is not resourced to collect. Adoption of the Climate Action Plan must come with resources. Very few of the goals identified in the plan would result in cost savings and will most certainly add to the Borough's operational and



capital needs burden, while at the same time, adding significant workload to staff that are already stretched thin.

1. **Staffing to implement the proposed workplan.** I would recommend, at a minimum, that two FTE be added to the FNSB budget to assist with implementation and tracking of necessary benchmark data and to track progress toward plan goals.
2. **Programmatic and capital funds.** Additional funding (to be determined) will be needed to implement capital intensive programmatic objectives.

In addition, and a point to highlight - much of the proposed effort in the draft plan is partially or in full currently being done by Borough departments. What's missing are the mechanisms to monitor and track the data and metrics the plan suggests. Monitoring and data compilation are efforts we cannot expect staff to shoulder without additional resources.

The Administration will continue to focus our departments on items that support the principles of the Climate Action Plan, such as:

- reducing the energy demand on Borough operations
- increasing our overall operational efficiency
- maximizing life cycle costs of our equipment and buildings
- mitigating operational impacts due to inclement weather and natural hazards, and
- improving the efficacy of our recycling program.

The goals and objectives identified in the DRAFT Climate Action Plan are achievable. To get there will require a commitment of adequate resources and support from the Assembly.

cc: Jim Williams, Chief of Staff

/jw