



Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Roads Plan

Steering Committee Meeting #2

3:30-5:30 pm September 30, 2021

Virtual



Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

The Project Team



Co-Project Managers
Brittany Smart
Kellen Spillman



Lead:

Patrick Cotter, AICP



Lead:

Shelly Wade, AICP

Dena'inaq etnen'aa' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu.

We live and work on the land of the Dena'ina.

Translation by J. Isaak and S. Shaginoff-Stuart

The Steering Committee

- Developers
- Fire/EMS
- Local Government
- Military
- Roads Service Areas
- State
- Surveyors
- Transportation
- Other (water/fuel delivery, UAF, etc.)





Meeting Purpose

Meeting Purpose

Share and gather Steering Committee input on:

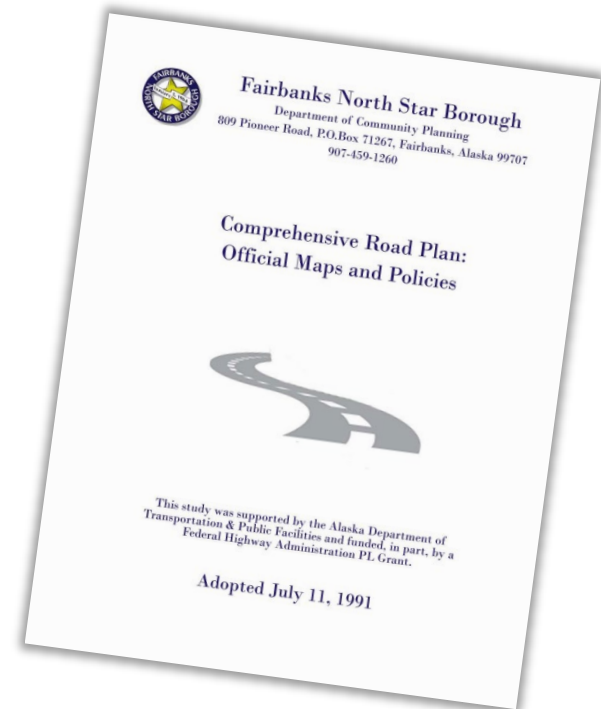
- Project purpose, timeline.
- Existing transportation goals.
- Community input to date.
- Emerging vision and goals.
- Next steps.

Project Purpose – What & Why

To evaluate and update the 1991 Comprehensive Road Plan in order to:

- **Improve the current and future road network** by creating
- **Appropriate and strategic road corridors, connections and access points** throughout the borough.

For a **safer and better-connected road network** in the FNSB.



Project – Why & How

Opportunity to create a **plan that aligns with present and future FNSB by:**

- **Bringing together and building from the knowledge** of residents, community leaders, transportation experts, Road Service Area Commissioners, developers, surveyors, and landowners/managers.
- Assessing **how the borough has and is projected to grow and change**, and related challenges and opportunities for a future roads network.
- Taking advantage of **new and improved information** on things like permafrost, wetlands, and other topographical features.
- Sharing and documenting examples of **successes and lessons learned from the 1991 Plan** and related roads policies.

What Does the FNSB Roads Plan Not Do?

The Road Plan DOES NOT:

- Allow the Borough to:
 - Acquire or “take” private property.
 - Force roads through private property.

Corridors in the plan will only be dedicated on private property at the time owners subdivide their land.

- **Draw hard, fixed, unchangeable lines on a map** – development patterns and other change may call for alternative road corridors in the future – the plan and related actions will respond and adapt to these changes.
- **Act as a barrier to development.** Instead, the plan is a tool to increase collaboration, communication and teamwork between FNSB, residents and the developer community.

Project Timeline Updates

Project Timeline

Spring 2021: Launch & Discover

Convene Steering Committee

Conduct initial research



Summer/Fall 2021: Learn and Listen

Invite public input

Compile & analyze data

Develop vision & goals

Prepare maps



Winter 2021-2022: Draft and Review

Develop draft plan

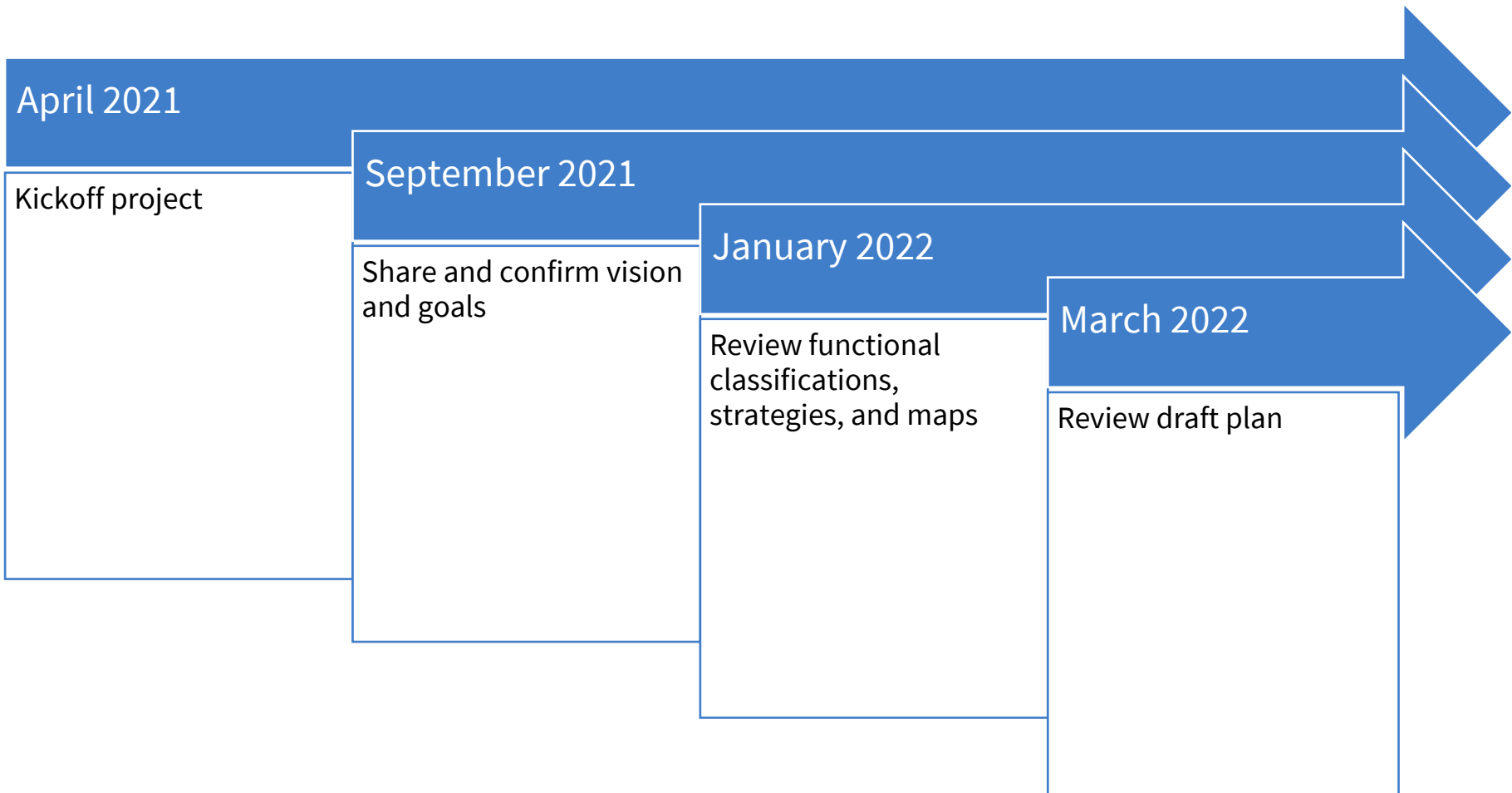
Collect input on goals, strategies & maps



Spring 2022: Finalize and Adopt

Adopt plan

Steering Committee Meeting Topics



Our Public Involvement Timeline

	2021										2022				
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Steering Comm Mtg		•					•				•		•		
Launch website		•													
Stakeholder Interviews	•	•					•	•							
Organizational Discussions		•	•	•			•	•							
Public Survey & Comment Map			•	•	•	•	•								
Postcards					•						•				
Platting Board, PC & Assembly Updates		•	•				•	•			•	•			
Virtual Open House			•												
Community Meetings												••••			
Community Perspective							•								
Radio							•					•			

Social Media, E-Newsletters and Website Updates:

← ongoing throughout the project to share emerging findings & promote engagement opportunities such as community meetings, survey →

Key Deliverables	Project Kickoff	Vision, Goals & Strategies	Share Draft Plan & Collect Feedback	Distribute Final Plan	Adopt Plan
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A Starting Point: Existing FNSB Transportation-Focused Goals

1991 FNSB Comprehensive Roads Plan Goals

- Access/Rights-of-Way
- Traffic Circulation
- Aesthetics
- Environment
- Community Impact
- Safety

Reduce traffic in residential areas

Propose collector corridors in unincorporated areas

Increase compatibility between roads and trails

2006 FNSB Comprehensive Plan: Transportation Goals

**Safe, efficient, multi-modal
transportation system**

**Infrastructure that meets future
demands and growth**

2019 Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan: Transportation Goals

Improve safety and access

Establish bike/ped network

Maintain regional freight system

2019 Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan: Transportation Goals

Maintain roads for current use and future growth

Develop an interconnected trail network

Ensure trail system is maintained and environmentally friendly

2019 Envision 2045: FMATS Metropolitan Transportation Plan Goals

Integrate transportation with other systems for smart growth

Manage a connected, multi-modal transportation system

Optimize the lifespan of the existing transportation system

2016 FNSB Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Transportation Goals

Support expansion of military bases

Increase investment in infrastructure

Improve access throughout the borough

Themes Across Existing FNSB Plans

Plan for growth

Infrastructure that meets future demands and growth

Support expansion of military bases

Integrate transportation with other systems for smart growth

Improve and increase connections

Propose collector corridors in unincorporated areas

Improve access throughout the borough

Increase investment in infrastructure

Create efficiencies

Develop an interconnected trail network

Increase compatibility between roads and trails

Optimize the lifespan of the existing transportation system

Create a multi-modal network

Manage a connected, multi-modal transportation system

Establish bike/ped network

Improve safety

Safe, efficient transportation system

Improve safety and access

Reduce traffic in residential areas

Maintain current networks

Ensure trail system is maintained and environmentally friendly

Maintain regional freight system

Maintain roads for current use and future growth

Themes Across Existing FNSB Plans

A road network built for future growth

A safer, more efficient network

A network that promotes multi-modal transportation



Community Input to Date

Survey

1. Where is your primary residence?

2. In general, roads in the Fairbanks North Star Borough are **safe**.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly agree | <input type="radio"/> Disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Agree | <input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree | |

3. In general, roads in the Fairbanks North Star Borough are **well-connected**.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly agree | <input type="radio"/> Disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Agree | <input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree | |

- As of September 30, 140 responses.
- Survey deadline extended to October 15th.
- Participants average 9 minutes on the survey.

Who Took the Survey (Q #1, #12, #13)

- **58%** live in a Road Service Area (RSA).
 - TBA: How many residents live within an RSA?
- **33%** of participants are 65 and older.
 - 11% of overall Borough residents are 65 and older.
- **73%** are 45 and older.
 - 34% of overall Borough residents are 45 and older.
- Participants represent different neighborhoods and areas of the borough.

Overall Satisfaction (Q #2 & #3)

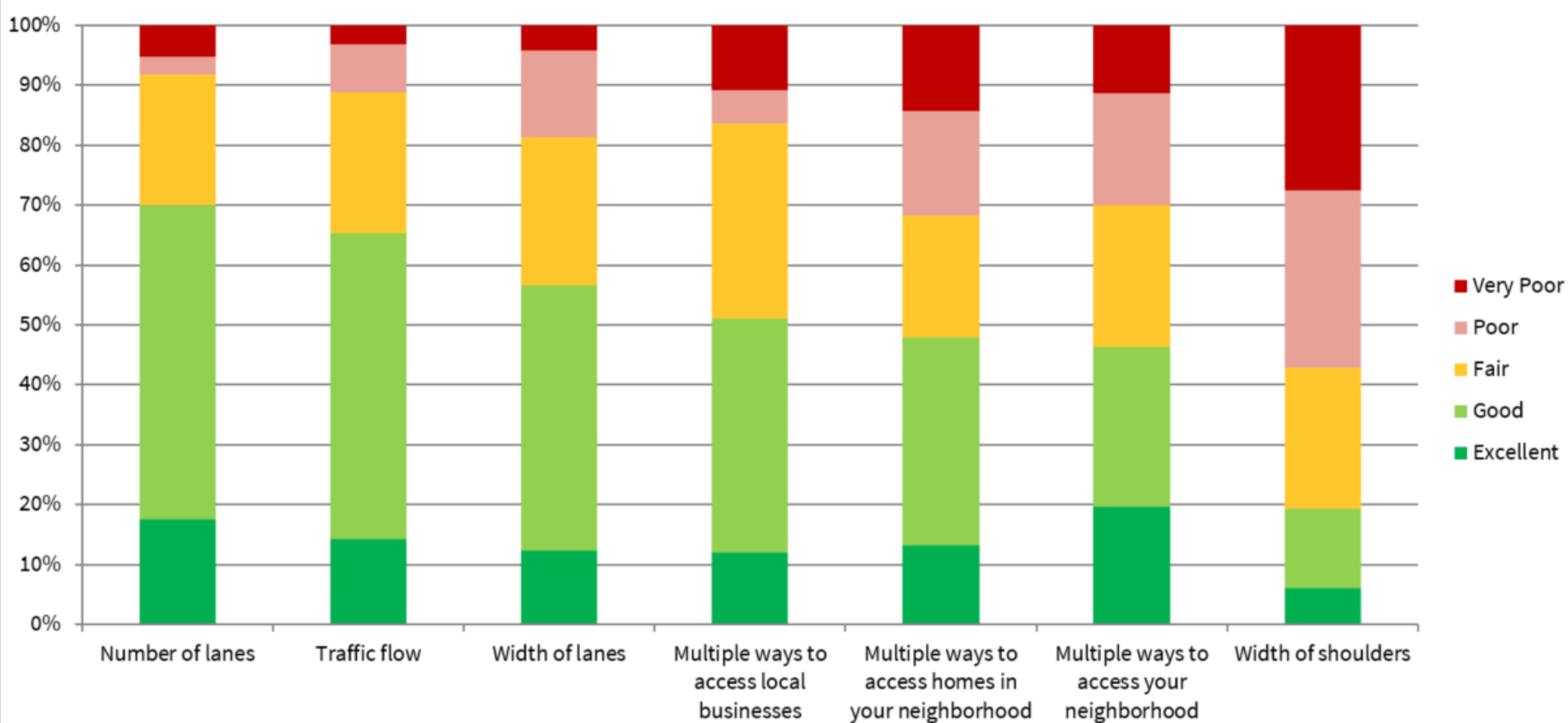
54% of respondents said the roads are **safe** and **53%** said they are **well-connected**



Overall, respondents felt the **full Borough road network was safer** and **better connected than their neighborhood roads.**

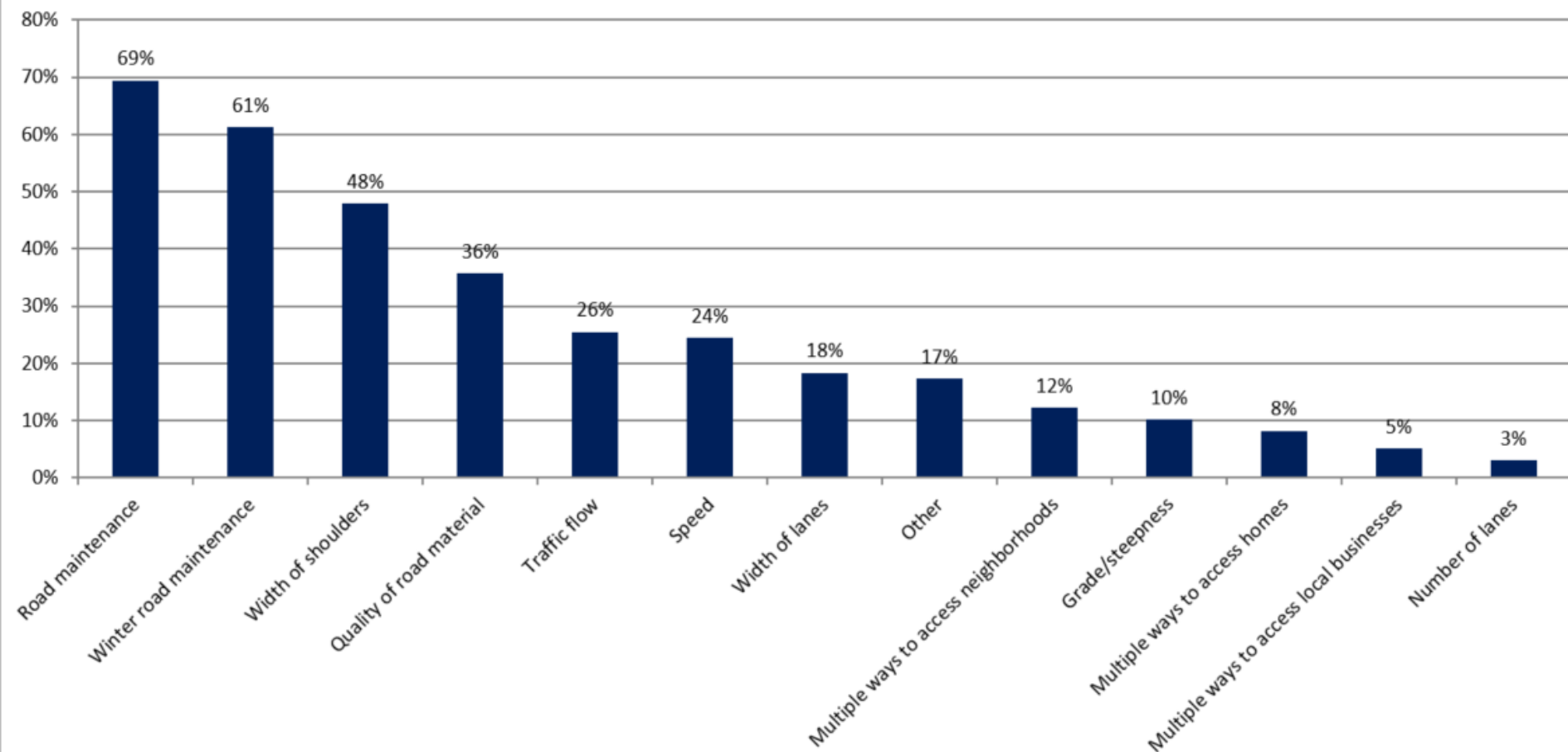
Current Roads Satisfaction (Q #6)

How would you rate the following aspects of your local/neighborhood roads? Consider how well they meet your expectations/standards for a safe road.



Top Desired Characteristics (Q #8)

When you think about a safe and well-connected road system, which of the following characteristics are the most important to you? Please select your Top 3.



What's an Example of a Good Road? (Q #10)

“Frenchman – Good grades, surfacing, etc.”

“Abraham Road – Well planned, well built, excellent material and drainage.”

“Line Drive – Wide enough, but not too wide, great material and driving surface. Not too steep, vehicles abide by slower speeds.”

“Hans Way – It is excellent. The brush is cleared regularly, the road is plowed within 1-2 days after a heavy snowfall, it's paced, the sides are large enough, the road is wide enough to pass another car.”

What's an Example of a Poor Road? (Q #11)

“Ski Boot Hill Road – Drainage was awful this year. Then when the road got washed it, it just got wider around the bad parts. Same for down Constitution.”

“Melan Drive – Flooded every spring when culverts are thawed late. The flooding causes crevices, washed out areas, and bad bumps.”

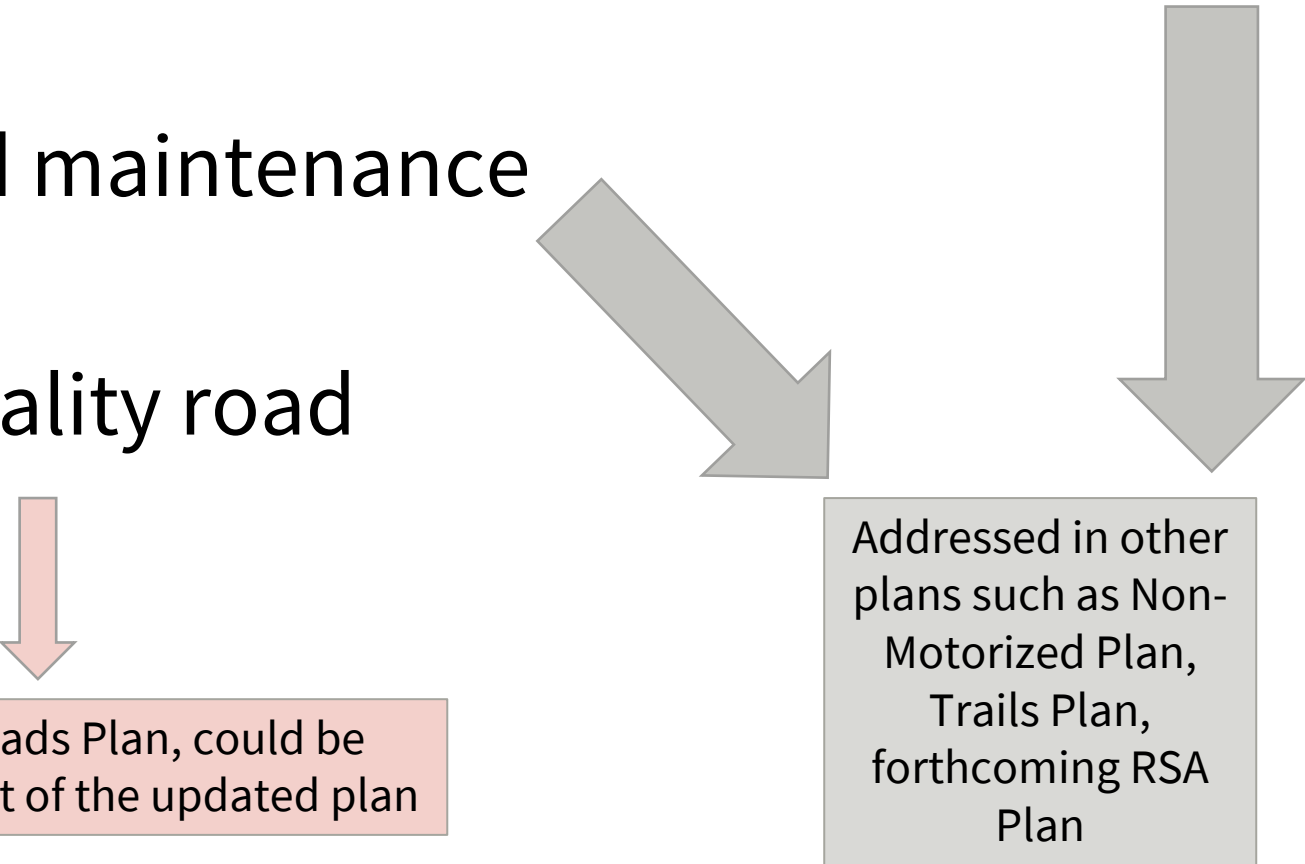
“Stony Hollow Lane – Bad, bad, bad. Come see for yourself.”

Comment Map



A Lot of Feedback on Topics Outside of Roads Plan Scope

- Increased bicycle and pedestrian pathways
- More road maintenance
- Higher quality road materials



Not in 1991 Roads Plan, could be potential element of the updated plan

Addressed in other plans such as Non-Motorized Plan, Trails Plan, forthcoming RSA Plan

Other Emerging Theme: New Connector Roads

- 66 comments requested a new connection between existing roads.
- There was no significant overlap in the connections requested.
- Overall, people wanted easier access between major arterials.

Quotes: Proposed Connector Roads

“Connection of **Moose Mountain** to **Old Murphy Dome** and **Elliott Highway** as well as **Jones Road** can **reduce daily commutes 10 to 25 miles which reduces emissions** and traffic on existing roads.”

“**Salcha Drive** should be **connected** to **Coolidge Road** across the north side of the lake.”

“**Nine Mile Hill** should be **connected** across the valley to **Misty Fjords Ct.** across the valley.”

“New corridor, **Blanket Boulevard** should be connected to **Laurence Road** on the east side of the tracks, could **connect through the neighborhood.**”

Quotes: Opposed Connector Roads

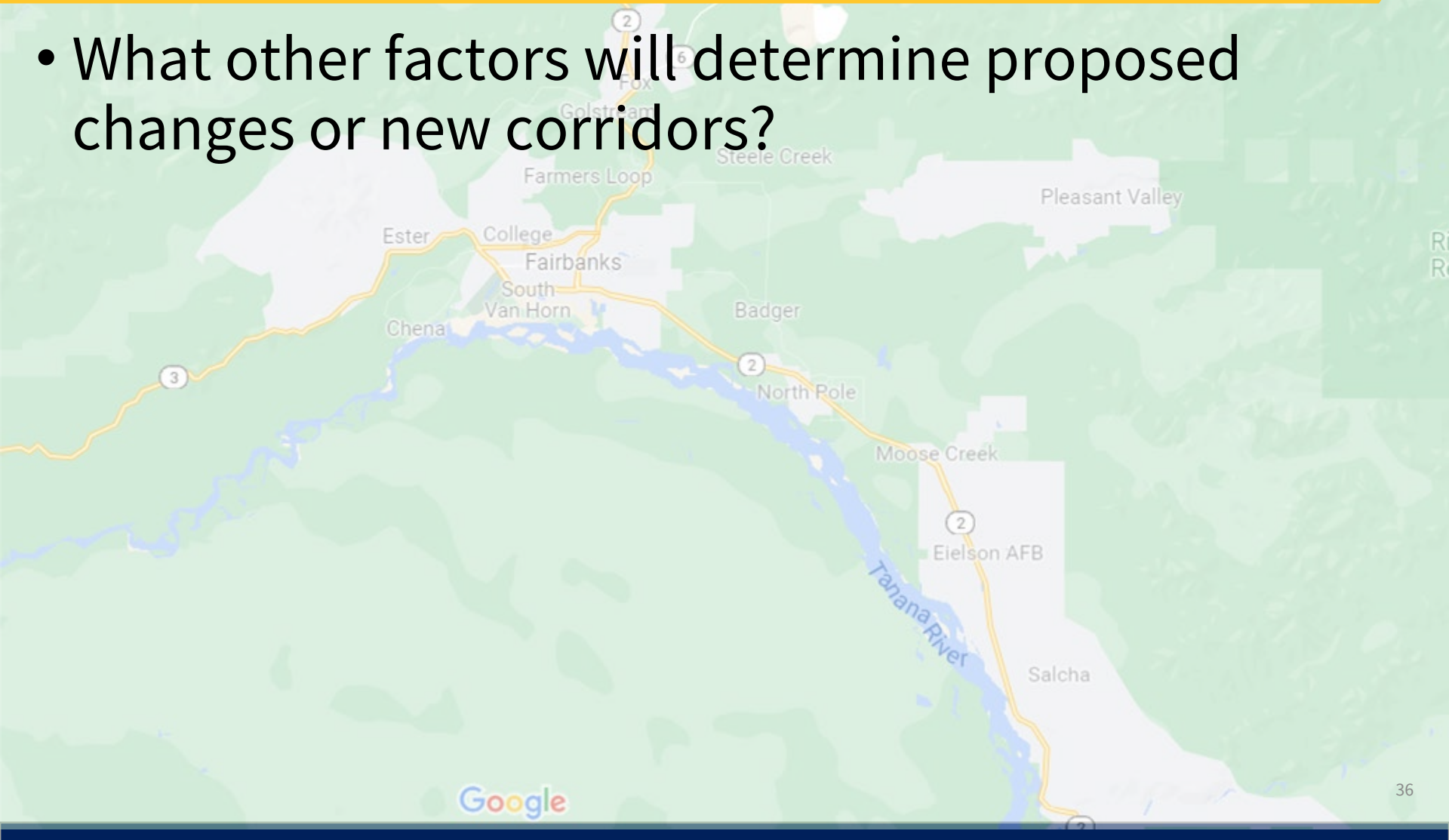
*“It is **not possible to build a road here** (**Peridot Street** to **Glacier State Drive**). This area is now a large gravel pit that is, and has been, slowly expanding south. **This is an outdated idea and needs to be completely redesigned.**”*

*“Do not recommend connector here over **Goldstream Creek**. **Miller Hill** (south of the creek) is not in an RSA and **road would need major improvements** to be able to handle any additional traffic.”*

*“Connection to **Monteverde Road** is not viable. **Moose Mountain roads** are **not designed for more traffic**. Added traffic will conflict with ski area. **Commute would be terrible.**”*

Discussion

- What other factors will determine proposed changes or new corridors?





Emerging Vision and Goals

Vision

Roads Plan: *A safer, better-connected* Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan: The Salcha-Badger Road area is comprised of communities in the Fairbanks North Star Borough **renowned for their rural, small-town feel; respect for personal freedoms; thriving businesses and services; and access to year-round outdoor recreation.**

FNSB Comprehensive Plan: Work for community end goals with a **minimum impact and disruption of individual private property rights.**

FNSB Roads In the News!

- Imagine it is 10 years from now – there is a story on the front page of the News-Miner about the community's road network...
 - What does it say? What do you want it to say?
 - What has changed and/or improved about roads in the FNSB?

How the 1991 Plan is Organized

- Access/Rights-of-Way
- Traffic Circulation
- Aesthetics
- Environment
- Community Impact
- Safety

Goals

- Connections that create a more efficient road system.
- A safer driving environment.
- A network that supports future growth.
- A multi-modal transportation system.
- A Roads Plan that aligns with other Borough plans.

Potential Plan Examples

- Municipality of Anchorage's 2011 Official Streets and Highways Plan
- Wasilla's 2005 Official Streets and Highways Plan

Engagement

Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FNSBRoadsPlan>

Deadline extended to
OCTOBER 15!!



The image shows a printed survey form titled "FNSB Roads Plan Community Survey" with the subtitle "Help Create Safer and Better-Connected Roads in the Fairbanks North Star Borough!". It features the Fairbanks North Star Borough logo at the top left. The form includes instructions to take a 10-minute survey, explains that responses will contribute to an update of the Comprehensive Roads Plan, and states that the survey and comment map will close on Monday, September 13th. It includes a "THANK YOU" message and a link to the project website. The survey questions are: 1. "Where is your primary residence?" with a text input field, and 2. "In general, roads in the Fairbanks North Star Borough are safe." with four radio button options: Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly disagree. A page number "1" is at the bottom right.

FNSB Roads Plan Community Survey
Help Create Safer and Better-Connected Roads in the Fairbanks North Star Borough!

Take this 10-MINUTE SURVEY.

Your responses to this survey and the related interactive comment map will contribute to an update of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Comprehensive Roads Plan.

The survey and comment map will close on Monday, September 13th.

Visit the [project website](#) to learn more.

THANK YOU for your time and contributions to the updated FNSB Comprehensive Roads Plan!

1. Where is your primary residence?

2. In general, roads in the Fairbanks North Star Borough are safe.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Disagree

☐ Agree ☐ Strongly disagree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

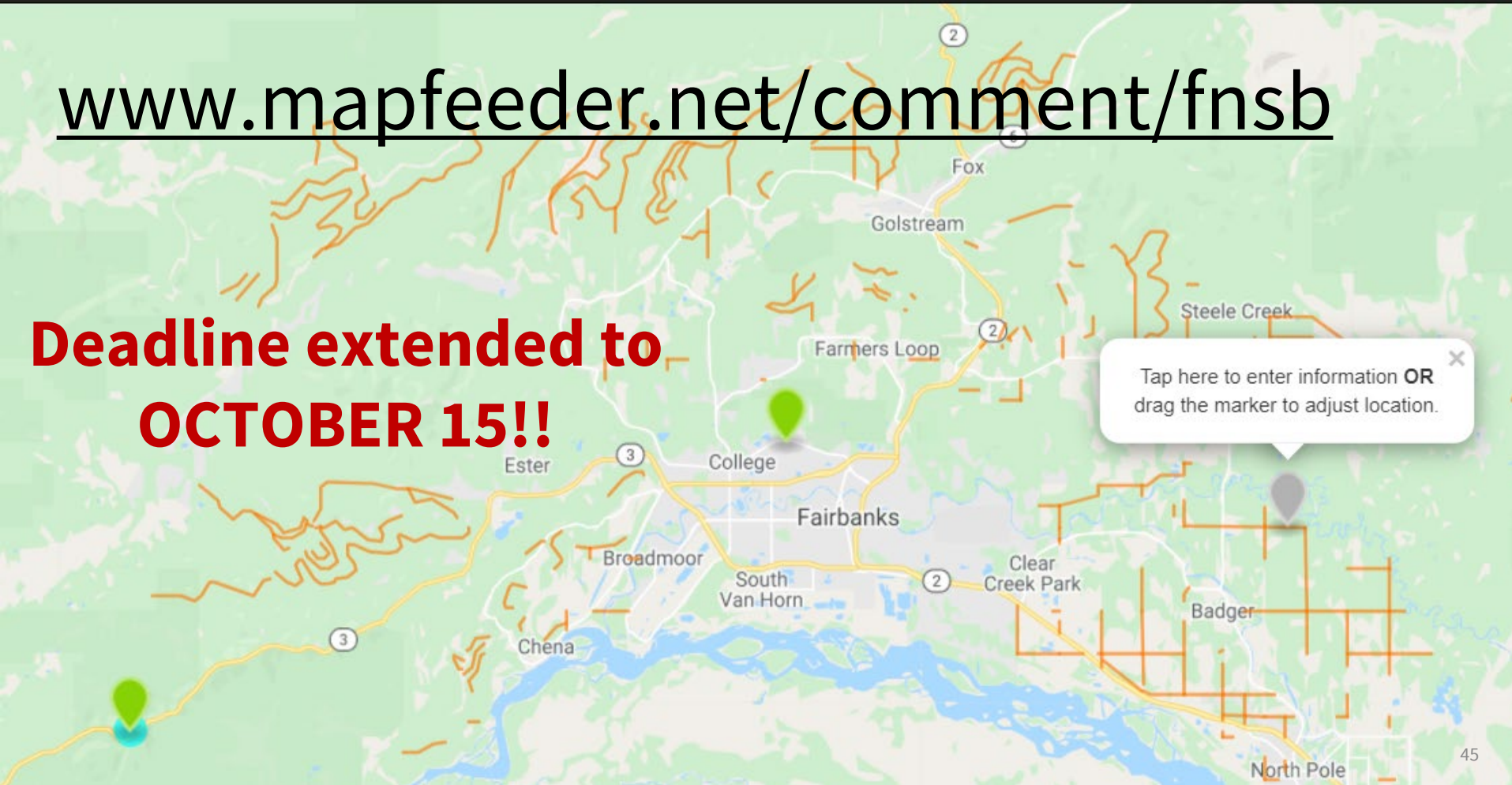
1

Comment Map

Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Roads Plan Comment Map

www.mapfeeder.net/comment/fnsb

**Deadline extended to
OCTOBER 15!!**



Website

SAFER. BETTER CONNECTED.

2021 Fairbanks North Star Borough

COMPREHENSIVE ROADS PLAN



PURPOSE

ABOUT THE PLAN

1991 PLAN REVIEW

PROJECT TEAM

GET INVOLVED

SCHEDULE

RESOURCES

CONTACT US

www.fnsbroadspan.com/

Other Tools

- Community Perspective
- Social Media



Next Steps and Wrap-Up

Steering Committee Meeting Topics



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Thank you!

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