



A Stronger, More Resilient Economy: *An Update to the FNSB Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*

Health Care Roundtable

January 11, 2022



Introduction & Purpose

Participants

Name	Affiliation	Role	Status
Steve Williams	Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority	Chief Operations Officer	Attended
Col. Eli Lozano	Bassett Army Community Hospital	Commander MEDDAC-AK	Attended
Jeff Cook	Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation	President of Executive Board	Attended
Dr. Heather Willis	Spruce Roots Family Dentistry	Owner, Dentist	Attended
Gary Roderick	Foundation Health Partners	Chief Financial Officer	Attended
Karen Huff	Foundation Health Partners	Medical Staff Services Senior Manager	Attended
Pamela Wagaman	FNSB Health & Social Services Commission	Vice Chair	Attended
Jacoline Bergstrom	Tanana Chiefs Conference	Executive Director of Health Services	Attended
Other entities invited: 354th Eielson Medical Group, 168th Medical Group (Air National Guard), Alaska Family Health & Birth Center, Alaska Public Health Association, Chena Health, Coalition Health Center, Fairbanks Clinic, Fairbanks Family Wellness, Fairbanks Health Clinic, Fairbanks Native Association, Fairbanks Regional Public Health Center, Interior Community Health Center, Interior Women's Health, North Star Council on Aging, Polar Wind Medical Center, The Surgery Center			

Facilitated by Shelly Wade and Molly Mylius, Agnew::Beck, with support from Renee Linton at FEDC

The Project Team



FNSB Project Manager:
Brittany Smart



Contracting Team:
Shelly Wade, AICP
Molly Mylius

Project Steering Committee: the FNSB Economic Development Commission

Supporting team
members:



Project Purpose

To develop an updated Five-Year FNSB Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

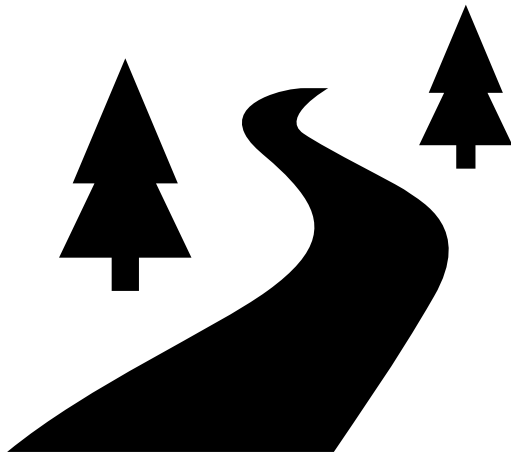


CEDS must go through a robust update every five years, with shorter, less intensive updates annually.



CEDS Purpose

A CEDS is a locally-based, regionally-driven economic development planning document that guides local government and community action.



It serves as a road map to economy resilience and prosperity.

What does a CEDS do?

- Brings the private and public sector together to develop a regional strategy and action plan.
- Identifies projects and makes recommendations to:

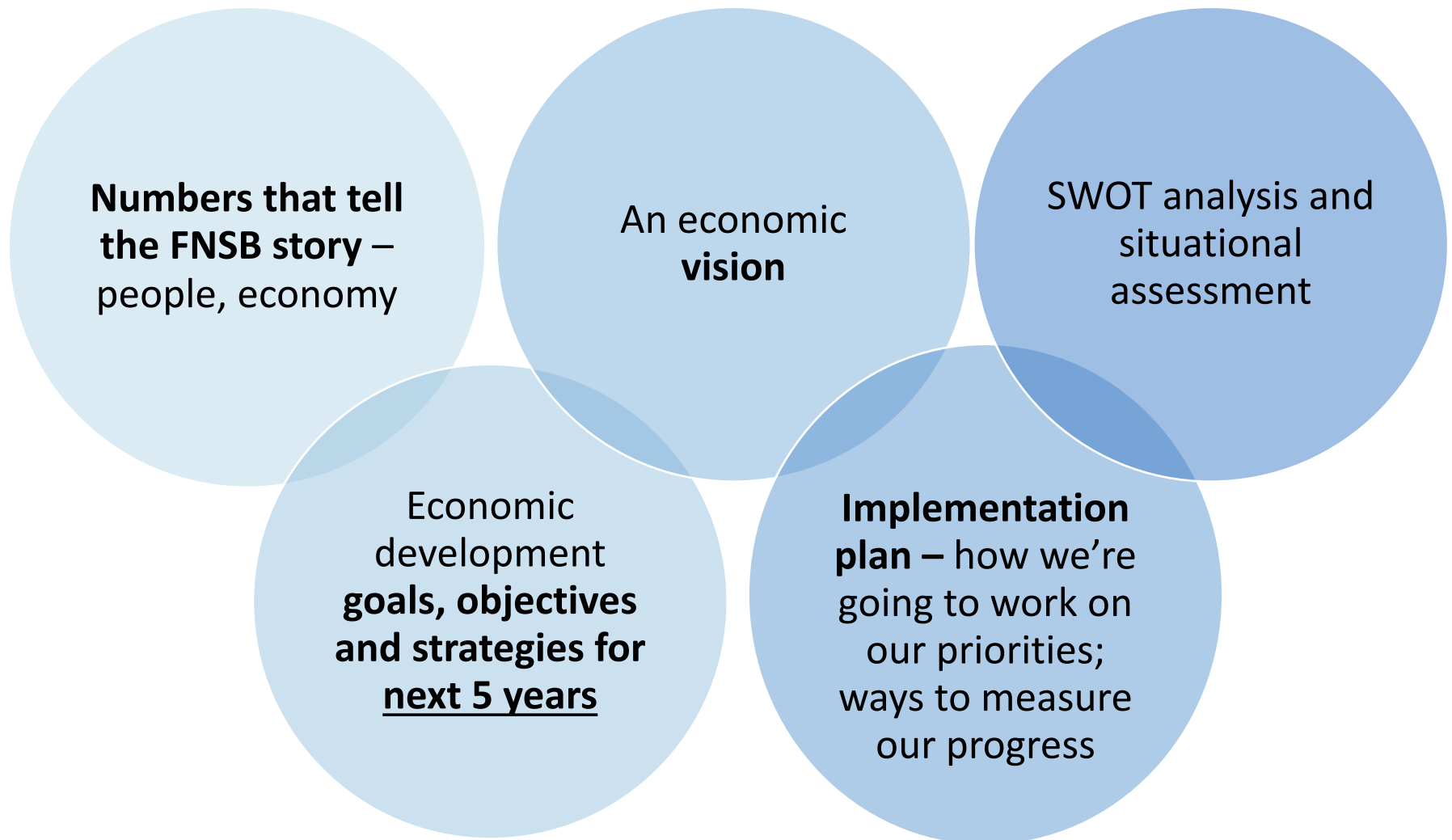
Secure and
support
businesses

Create
more and
better
paying jobs

Improve
quality of
life

Increase
resilience
to changes,
threats

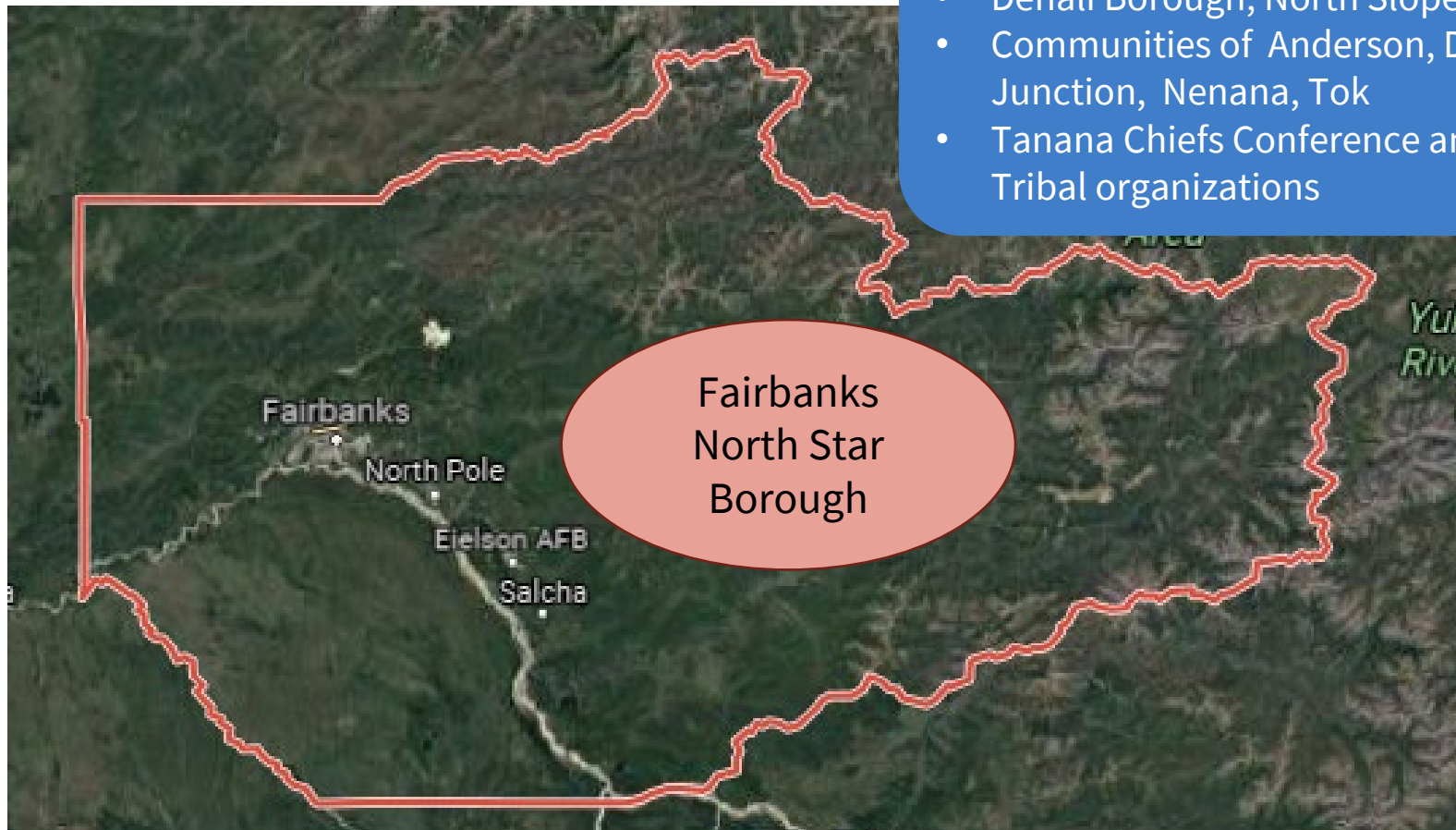
What does a CEDS include?



Project Area: FNSB

Key regional partners beyond FNSB boundaries include:

- Denali Borough, North Slope Borough
- Communities of Anderson, Delta Junction, Nenana, Tok
- Tanana Chiefs Conference and other Tribal organizations




CEDS Update Timeline

	2021									2022						
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	→
Project Website	•	← ongoing website updates →														Adoption
Stakeholder Interviews	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
Interactive Discussions	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
Community Events			Midnight Sun, Golden Days, Fair													
Economic Summit											•					
E-Newsletters, <u>Social Media</u>, Public Notices, News, Radio										•	•		•		•	
Key Phases	<i>Project Kickoff</i>		<i>Research & Events, Interviews</i>				<i>Draft Vision & Goals</i>			<i>Economic Summit</i>		<i>Public Review Draft</i>			<i>Final CEDS</i>	→

We are here

Community Events

A photograph of a booth at the Midnight Sun Festival. A white sign on a clipboard asks, "What do you find the most challenging about living in Fairbanks?" and "Write it on a Post-It!". Several colorful Post-It notes are pinned to the sign and the background, with some legible text including "lack of recreational activities", "unexpected weather & other things", "costs (e.g. shipping)", "Winters", "cost of energy", "public transportation", "supplies, especially for school", "cost of living", and "cost of food at restaurants".

June 2021: Booth at Midnight Sun Festival

A photograph of a booth at the Golden Days event. A large white sign on a clipboard asks, "What do you value most about living in Fairbanks?" and "Write it on a Post-It!". The sign is covered with numerous colorful Post-It notes. A person is visible in the foreground, looking at the sign.

July 2021: Booth at Golden Days

A photograph of a booth at the Tanana Valley State Fair. A white sign on a clipboard asks, "What do you... VALUE MOST OR Find the MOST CHALLENGING about LIVING (or visiting!) Fairbanks?" and "WRITE IT ON A POST-IT!". The sign is covered with many colorful Post-It notes. A person is visible in the foreground, looking at the sign.

August 2021: Booth at Tanana Valley State Fair

Proposed FNSB CEDS Topics/Sectors

Industry Clusters

key sectors that drive the FNSB economy

Energy

Health Care

Military

Natural Resources
(Agriculture, Forestry, Mining)

Research & Innovation

Visitation

Community Influencers

supportive foundations that clusters rely on to grow and flourish

Communications

Government

Housing and Land Use

Quality of Life

Transportation

Utilities

Education & Workforce Development

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- Position the community/industry for **funding and investment opportunities**.
- Hold everyone accountable with **measurable short and longer-term targets** and **ways to track and communicate progress**.



Health Care Context

Health Care: Highlights from 2016 CEDS

- **Background:** FNSB serves as a hub for **health care** and social services for the region, with more than 5,000 jobs associated with these services.
- **Quality of Life Objective:** Support quality in **health care**, education, public safety, beautification, government and culture that would improve the individual and community quality of life in the FNSB.
- **Strategy:** Promote vocational, technical, and career training opportunities within the FNSB that prepare residents to compete in the global marketplace as well as meeting regional industry cluster needs. Local and regional vocational needs include educators, **health care** professionals...

Health Care Recommendations from the Eielson Regional Growth Plan

1. Maintain **joint planning and cooperation among military and civilian health planners** and health and social service providers serving the region. Consider conducting a **joint assessment** of health needs and resources **on a regular basis**.
2. Address known **gaps in medical specialty care** (Otolaryngology [Ear, Nose, Throat] and potentially orthopedics), **and behavioral health services**.
3. Ensure **adequate availability of family support services** to build on the strengths of military families and mitigate risks.

From the Eielson Regional Growth Plan, Health and Social Services Chapter, pages 277 -293, available here: <http://www.eafbreionalgrowth.com>

Health Care: Highlights from the Community Health Needs Assessment

- 2019 Priorities:
 - Mental Health
 - Senior Care
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences/Trauma
 - Physical Health/Healthy Behaviors
 - *COVID-19 added in 2020*



Foundation Health Partners also prepared a 2020-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan with Goals and Strategies to address the priorities above...



CHNA Improvement Plan: Mental Health Intermediate Goals (2020-2022)

1. Reduce wait times for outpatient treatment services appointments.
2. **Continue to partner with others to support service system for youth and adolescents to reduce out-of-community placements.**
3. As service provider partners expand substance abuse treatment offerings as allowed under the new Medicaid behavioral health 1115 waiver, monitor whether inpatient substance use disorder treatment still a concerning gap.
4. **Explore options for partnerships to address need for a continuum of supportive housing types** to reduce repeated inpatient admissions and reduce homelessness among individuals with mental illnesses.
5. **Explore options for addressing workforce shortages.**
6. **Explore options for improving service provider coordination and joint planning.**

*Example strategy:
Explore partnerships between housing providers, treatment service providers and UAF to jointly support a group home or apartment complex for individuals managing chronic mental health conditions.*

CHNA Improvement Plan: Senior Care Intermediate Goals (2020-2022)

1. Improve the public and policy-makers' understanding of the scope of services and housing needed to support the wellbeing of seniors.
2. Increase opportunities for accessible services which support mental and physical fitness including screening for health conditions, remedies for isolation, exercise, good nutrition, and respite for caregivers.
3. Increase accessibility and provide help to navigate services for seniors and their families for chronic disease management.
4. Explore options for addressing wait times for Medicaid long-term care services eligibility assessments.
5. **Explore partnerships to address the current and worsening need for independent living housing and for assisted living** for those with challenging medical or mental health needs.
6. **Collaborate to assess the needed growth in workforce to care for our aging population and to plan programs to support workforce development.**
7. **Explore options for improving service provider coordination and joint planning.**

*Example strategy:
Investigate
partnerships with
UAF Community
Technical College
including growth of
the CNA training
program via Denali
Center.*

CHNA Improvement Plan: Adverse Childhood Experiences/Trauma Intermediate Goals (2020-2022)

1. Improve community understanding of trauma and its downstream impacts and how to promote resilience.
2. **Advocate for maintenance or even expansion of programs and services that serve to prevent or respond to adverse childhood experiences and trauma.**
3. **Grow individual, family and community resilience resources and capacity.**
4. Maintain an active working group to advance regional efforts in this area.

*Example strategy:
Support
continuation of
Crisis Intervention
Training for public
safety and
corrections systems*

CHNA Improvement Plan: Physical Health/ Healthy Behaviors Intermediate Goals (2020-2022)

1. Improve understanding of behaviors that support wellness.
2. Increase screening for chronic health conditions and for indicators included in the Healthy Alaskans 2030 plan.
3. Increase vaccination rates.
4. Increase understanding of and adherence to recommended guidelines for daily movement for each age group.
5. Increase understanding of and adherence to recommended nutritional guidelines for each age group.
6. Develop a process to maintain an up-to-date guide to local resources.
- 7. Explore options for continuing service provider coordination and joint planning.**

*Example strategy:
Maintain a
Community Health
Improvement Plan
(CHIP) Work Team
to periodically
review progress.*

CHNA Improvement Plan: COVID-19 Intermediate Goals (2020-2022)

- 1. Protect/expand capacity of health system to respond to most critical needs.**
2. Improve general public understanding regarding effective prevention of viral spread.
3. Support effective coordination of community emergency response.
4. Support capacity of key response partners.

*Example strategy:
Support the State
Virology Lab by
loaning
administrative and
technical staff, as
needed*

Discussion

- What factors have/will contribute to successful implementation of the CHNA Improvement Plan?
- What factors have/will hinder successful implementation?
- What specific projects should the community and their partners focus on over the next five years that will grow the health care sector (jobs, facilities, services) in the FNSB?

Discussion – Barriers

- Medicaid and Medicare billing.
- The FNSB has limited public health authority; this became a challenge during the pandemic, with limited authority for the community to respond.
- Workforce challenges have gotten worse, with retirements and departures exacerbated by the pandemic.
 - Need to determine how to recruit people.
 - This is a major challenge in the dental industry, too. There are many women working in the industry who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic (e.g., loss of child care).
 - FNSB is competing with health care employers across the country, some of whom offer aggressive recruitment incentives.
- Winters, high cost of living can be a barrier for retaining out of town health care workers.
- In general, female workers have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. More women are choosing to be the ones who stay home with kids, homeschool, provide caretaking, etc.

Discussion – Opportunities

- Better collaboration between providers to share technology.
 - “More is not better” if equipment is being duplicated and underutilized. It can also be challenging to find skilled staff for operations.
- Crisis Now model will be helping transform the crisis system. Fairbanks is pioneering some of this in Alaska; read more [here](#) and [here](#). This will create more effective, efficient ways to support people in crisis. This will help individuals in need while freeing up resources for corrections, EMS, police, etc. There will also be new job opportunities.
- The Fairbanks Sobering Center plays a helpful role in the continuum of care.
- Telehealth has been helpful and is used extensively, especially by DoD families. “Without telehealth we would be in a much worse situation than we are.”

Discussion – Recommendations

- General consensus that priorities in the CHIP are still relevant priorities.
- Re-open the dental hygiene program at UAF.
- Behavioral health is a top priority and challenge for Bassett. The Army has high behavioral health needs in FNSB, especially for military families (young, first time away from home, stressful environment, darkness).
 - The department's behavioral health staffing sees very high turnover; 30% spend one winter here and then relocate. Exit interviews also indicate pay is below private sector.
 - Includes needs for pediatric behavioral health.
- Need more senior and elder services at multiple service levels. Especially for dementia-related disease. The lack of current reimbursement options makes this challenging.
- Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) – would like to see a program at UAF.
- Other outstanding specialty care needs:
 - Geriatrics specialties
 - Dermatology

What are the health care trends in FNSB/ Interior and how can we measure success?

What/Data	Source
FNSB Ranking on Health Outcomes and Health Factors	<i>County Health Rankings</i>
Many	<i>Healthy Alaskans Annual Report</i>
Waitlist times for new patients	<i>Major health care facilities</i>
Number of licensed specialists	<i>Alaska State Medical Board</i>

- **What other data, sources should we consider?**
- **What measurable progress do we want to make over the next five years?**

Next Steps & Wrap-Up

Next Steps

- January 2022 – Conclude sector outreach
- **February 22-23, 2022 – Economic Summit**
- April 2022 – Release public review draft
- June 2022 – Release final draft

Learn More on Our Website



2021 Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

PURPOSE

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

TOPICS

PROJECT TEAM

GET INVOLVED

SCHEDULE

RESOURCES

CONTACT US

A Stronger, More Resilient Economy.

www.FNSBCEDS.com

Other Relevant Planning Efforts

Tanana Chiefs Conference Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	<u>www.tananachiefs.org/ceds/</u>
Comprehensive Roads Plan	<u>fnsbroadspan.com/</u>
Fairbanks Downtown Plan	<i>Updated website coming soon</i>
Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan	<u>fnsbtrailsplan.com/</u>
Pioneer Park Master Plan	<u>fairbankspioneerparkplan.com/</u>

Thank you!

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