

Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Interior Alaska Economic Summit

Opening Plenary, February 22, 2022

Westmark Hotel & Conference Center & Zoom

Land Acknowledgement

We recognize Alaska Native Tribes as the traditional stewards of this land and acknowledge the enduring relationship that exists between Alaska Native People and their traditional territories.

Special Thanks To:

- Fairbanks Economic Development
 Corporation and The Greater Fairbanks
 Chamber of Commerce for helping facilitate
 breakouts
- Explore Fairbanks for providing us with supplies
- The Westmark for hosting us
- The FNSB and Interior AK community, visitors and other partners that have contributed to the process since we began in spring 2021

Setting the Stage

Fairbanks North Star Borough CEDS Project Manager Brittany Smart

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.

What is a CEDS?

- A locally-based, regionally-driven economic development roadmap that guides government and community action.
- 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

The Project Team

FNSB Economic Development Commission

Mayor Bryce Ward | Abigail Riggs | Frank Tomaszewski Kristan Kelly | Mark Billingsley | Paul Robinson | Russell Talvi

Past Members: Deb Hickock, Matt Cooper, Mike Meeks, Mindy O'Neall

FNSB Project Manager

Brittany Smart

Contracting Team:

Shelly Wade, AICP Molly Mylius



Supporting team members:







What does FNSB look like today? **Place**

- FNSB: Interior AK Hub
- Over 7,000 square miles
- Alaska's 2nd largest borough

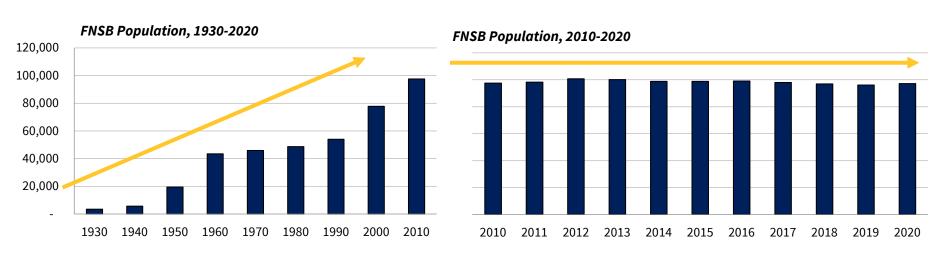
Key regional partners beyond FNSB boundaries include:

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



What does FNSB look like today? **People**

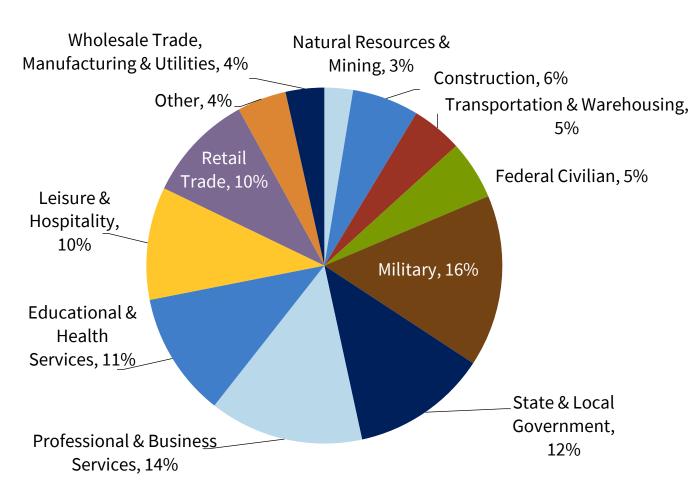
- Migration More transitory than the state overall, with over 15,000 people moving into or out of the Borough annually
- Education Nearly 1/3 of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher
- Population Experienced rapid growth between 1950 and 2010; since 2010, population has remained steady



What does FNSB look like today? **Economy**

- Hub for over 40 Interior Alaska communities.
- Diverse economy.
- The military is the FNSB's largest employer

FNSB Employment by Industry



What does FNSB look like today? Major Economic Impacts

COVID-19

- Relatively high unemployment rate and job losses
- Leisure & Hospitality most impacted
- Federal investment in local recovery CARES Act, ARPA, and Build Back Better

Military

- F-35 Beddown and four additional KC-135s at Eielson Air Force Base
- Quality of life investments on Ft. Wainwright
- Military families stay after service; 12% of businesses are veteran-owned
- Meeting housing need for military growth

State and Federal Changes

- State of Alaska lacks a comprehensive fiscal plan
 - Deep cuts to UAF and local municipalities
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Learn More – See Regional Snapshot



www.FNSBCEDS.com

Polovant Planning Efforts

Relevant	. Plan	110115

Completed	
Interior Alaska COVID-19 Economic Impact and Recovery Plan (2021)	https://covid-fnsb.hub.arcgis.com/
Tanana Chiefs Conference CEDS (2021)	www.tananachiefs.org/ceds/

Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan (2019)	http://salchabadgerplan.com/

Eielson Regional Growth Plan (2018)	http://www.eafbregionalgrowth.com/

Eletson Regionat Growth Ltan (2010)	Tittp://www.carbregionatgroven.com/
FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan (2005)	https://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/

FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan (2005)	https://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/

In Progress	
Northern Opportunity: Statewide CEDS	http://northernopportunity.com/

- **FNSB Comprehensive Roads Plan** fnsbroadsplan.com/
- **Fairbanks Downtown Plan** https://downtownfbx2040.com/
- **FNSB Comp Recreational Trails Plan** fnsbtrailsplan.com/
- **Pioneer Park Master Plan** fairbankspioneerparkplan.com/

Purpose & Structure of the Summit

Agnew::Beck Project Manager

Shelly Wade

Agenda

Tuesday, February 22nd – Focus on Industry Clusters

Time	Topic		
8:30 - 9:00 am	Continental breakfast		
9:00 - 9:45 am	Opening Plenary: Welcome and Inspiration – Virtual option available		
9:45 - 10:00 am	Break		
10:00 11:45	Industry	Agriculture	
10:00 – 11:45 am	Breakouts Round 1	Energy	
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch - on your own		
	Industry	Forestry	
1:00 – 2:45 pm	Breakouts Round 2	Health Care	
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break		
	Industry	Mining	
3:00 – 5:00 pm		Research & Innovation	
		Visitor Industry	

Wednesday, February 23rd – Focus on Community Influencers

Time	Topic		
8:30 – 9:00 am	Continental breakfast		
0.00 40.45	Influencer	Small Business Development & Entrepreneurship	
9:00 – 10:45 am	Breakouts Round 1	Communications (phone, internet connectivity)	
10:45 – 11:00 am	Break		
	Influencer	Land Use, Housing, & Environment (includes utilities)	
11:00 am - 12:45 pm	Breakouts Round 2	Recreation & Entertainment (includes retail, parks, trails)	
12:45 – 1:45 pm	Lunch - on your own		
	Influencer	Education & Workforce Development	
1:45 – 3:30 pm	Breakouts Round 3	Transportation (includes roads, aviation, rail, bike/pedestrian connections)	
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Break		
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Closing Plenary: Summary of Results and Next Steps – Virtual option available		

Sample Guiding Questions for the Summit

1. What did we get **right**?

2. What would you **change**?

3. What is **missing**?

4. What is **most important**?

Proposed Economic Vision

- A vision statement tells us what we want our future economy to look like and what we're working toward.
- We have a proposed economic vision statement and want your input!



Interior Alaska – In 5, 10, 15 years...

The Land of the Midnight Sun & Golden Heart of Alaska is a global economic hub, where families, businesses, adventurers, and opportunities thrive.



2022-2026 Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Strengths Internal attributes that co

Fairbanks has seen growth in number of farms, farm

equipment, supplies, and products

lengthening

Where We Are

274 Farms

(2017) \$10.4 M

sales, and farm employment. FNSS is on the road system, making it easier to move

ensemble reasons services are increasingly using the growing freehoods including high tunnels and growing freehoods including high tunnels and

equipment, supplies, and products interior Alaska farmers are increasingly using innovative

UAX'S Fairbanks Experiment Farm supports agric research and innovation that supports farmers

seconorma measure UAF's Fairbanks Experiment Farm supports agricultural

Alaska is emerging as a worldwide peony supplier Adalas is emerging as a wondownee peonly supplied Alaska approved by USDA to produce industrial hermo placete his technologies and produce industrial permanent placete his technologies and produce and produce industrial permanent placete his technologies and produce and produce in the p

Alaska has the highest percentage or uses in the country (2017 Census of Agriculture) in the country (2017 Census of Agriculture)
Due to climate change, the growing season is

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Farms - Total number of farms in Interior Alaska

Farms — Total number of tarms in interior Alaska.
Out of god total in the state, increase of 25% from 2012

Challenges securing seasonal labor force

inspanny wetween agricultural and retail.

High reliance on imported foods

Reliance on imported food and s

Short growing season

Climate change

insurance in Alaska



One-Pager Breakdown (Front)

Title

Measures of Success

How can we track progress?
Generally includes baseline
(2019) and targets (2026)
with growth of 5%; some
variation between sectors

2022-2026 Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Visitor Industry Cluster Summary - DRAFT

Includes: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats | Targets | Goals | Strategies & Actions | Relevant Plans

Weaknesses Internal barriers to success

limited sidewalk snow removal in winter

· Aging infrastructure: roads and sidewalks in disrepair,

Strengths Internal attributes that contribute to success

Access to outdoor recreation (trails, parks, fishing)

Appealing and walkable city center

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) Analysis Increased collaboration between neighboring Light pollution (threat to aurora viewing) destinations (Denali Borough, City of Nenana, Tok) Supply chain shortages (e.g., impacts on rental car supply) Increasing year-round tourism Uncertainty and disruption to travel and workforce caused Legalization of marijuana Where We Are 2026 Targets What measurements can we use to track progress? (2019 as pre-(5% growth from Where do we want to be in 5 years? pandemic baseline) 2019) Jobs - FNSB residents employed in leisure & hospitality 5,991 6,290 10% of total workforce in 2019; this sector saw the greatest losses in 2020 Visitor Spending - Hotel/motel annual room receipts \$70.5 Million \$74 Million Increased 8% from 2016 to 2019, then declined 55% between 2019 and 2020 Wages - Annual wages to FNSB residents employed in leisure & hospitality \$143 Million \$150 Million Only 4% of total wages, indicating these jobs pay less than other industries Passengers - Fairbanks International Airport passenger arrivals 596,066 625,869 2020 passenger arrivals were half the 2019 number Trip Length - Average stay for visitors whose Alaska trips include Interior Alaska 12.5 days 11.7 days (2016) Visitors to Interior Alaska stay longer than the statewide visitor average of 9.2 days (increase of ~1 day) Sources: Employment & wages from 2019 Bureau of Economic Analysis; Hotel receipts from FNSB Community Research Quarterly (as reported by Cities of Fairbanks & North Pole, FNSB Financial Services), Passenger data from FNSB Community Research Quarterly; trip length from the Alaska Visitor Statistics Program.

One-Pager Breakdown (Back)

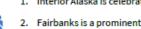
Other Resources

Regional and community plans and resources related to the focus area

Visitor Industry Goals - long term improvements and changes we want to see



Interior Alaska is celebrated as a year-round, world-class year-round.



2. Fairbanks is a prominent international hub for military,



3. Interior Alaska is recognized and rewarded for its outd

Goals long term improvements we want to see (5+ years)

Strategies & Actions – the activities we will implement over the next 5 y

- 1. Coordinated Marketing/Planning Fund destination marketing and pla Fairbanks. (Goals 1, 2, 3)
 - a. Promote Fairbanks as an in-state destination for Alaskans.
 - b. Promote Interior Alaska as a road trip destination for Canadians, and Lower 48 visitors.
 - Collaborate with neighboring destinations (Denali Borough, Nenana, Tok) on marketing.

2. Top-Ranked N Star Borough **Strategies &** a. Cons 3. Internation aurora touris **Actions** a. Crea

4. Year-round how we will accomplish (Goals 1, 2, 3) a. Incre

goals and meet targets

markets.

Fairbanks.

banks North

5. Recreation Oppor appeal to residents and visitors alike. (Goals 1, 3)

- a. Complete and implement the FNSB Recreational Trails Plan.
- b. Support establishment of the Alaska Long Trail.
- c. Conduct a conceptual design study for renovation of the Carlson Center, including expanding indoor recreation, fitness, and multipurpose space.
- Quality Infrastructure & Effective Policies Implement infrastructure and policy recommendations from regional plans that help create livable, vibrant communities and destinations, (Goals 1, 2, 3)
 - a. Maintain and implement the Chena Riverfront Plan.
 - b. Complete and implement the Fairbanks Downtown Plan.
 - c. (see also strategy 5, action a).

Other Relevant Resources

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b. Supp c. Expa

- Alaska Visitor Statistics Program. Alaska Travel Industry Association. View here.
- Chena Riverfront Plan. Fairbanks North Star Borough Chena Riverfront Commission. Amended 2016. View here.
- Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan. Fairbanks North Star Borough. Est. completion spring 2022. View here.
- Explore Fairbanks 2022 Strategic Marketing Plan. Explore Fairbanks. 2021. View here.
- Feasibility Study & Market Analysis for the Management Options of the Carlson Center. Fairbanks North Star Borough. 2020. View here.
- Fairbanks Downtown Plan. Fairbanks North Star Borough. Est. completion Fall 2022. View here.



Developed as part of the 2022-2026 FNSB Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

www.FNSBCEDS.com

Next Steps

Summit

- Industry Cluster breakouts *today*
- Influencer breakouts tomorrow
- Closing hybrid plenary tomorrow afternoon 4 pm
- Post-Summit communications, 1-pagers & summary of breakout discussions – end of February

CEDS Draft & Final

- Public review draft release target: April 2022
- Final draft adoption *target: summer 2022*

Thank you!

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