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## One-way only: Two-way street option was decided last year

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### Editorial

The proposed return to two-way streets downtown had merit when first proposed, but the idea is no longer viable.

The local transportation planning committee decided in August last year that the Cushman Street bridge over the Chena River would remain one-way. It also decided the new Barnette Street bridge would be one-way.

Since there is no practical way to connect two-way streets to one-way bridges, the two-way streets are no longer an option.

The Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System Policy Committee will meet today and formally decide whether Cushman and Barnette streets will remain one-way.

In reality, though, the committee made that decision last year when it opted for one-way bridges.

A study conducted after that decision concluded the obvious — trying to link one-way bridges to two-way streets would create a traffic disaster.

The seven members of the policy committee decided the issue at the same meeting last year in which they rejected a roundabout intersection for Cushman and Illinois streets just north of the river.

The bridge connecting Barnette and Illinois streets is under construction. Pilings are being driven in the Chena. The project is well on its way to completion.

Supporters of two-way traffic made a good case during the past few years for a different approach, one that would slow traffic in downtown and make it a more inviting place. But their views didn't prevail at the key decision point on the bridge project. Too many technical challenges arose.

Those challenges haven't gone away, so it's time to move on and complete the bridges as designed. One-way is the only way at this point.

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"The Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System Policy Committee"

Holy heck! Who came up with that inflated ridiculous title?? Boy, someone wants something big and pompous on their resume.

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Agreed, the decision was made last year. But you know how we do it here- set up another committee, talk about the last decision that was made, choose to make a decision about the decision... and on and on and on...

That's "conservative" government for you. No progress, but make sure you and everyone you know gets paid to do it!

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