

Meeting Summary of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 21, 2007, 3:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room
Honolulu Hale, Room 301
530 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Members Present:

Committee for Balanced Transportation
NB #10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus
Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii

Committee for Balanced Transportation
Eye of the Pacific
Hawaii Bicycling League
Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996
InterAgency COORDINATION Councils
League of Women Voters
Leeward Oahu Transportation Management Association
NB #03 Waialae-Kahala
NB #05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu-Saint Louis Heights
NB #09 Waikiki
NB #12 Nuuanu-Punchbowl
NB #14 Liliha-Alewa-Puunui-Kamehameha Heights
NB #27 North Shore
NB #30 Kaneohe
NB #34 Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale
NB #35 Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley
North Shore Chamber of Commerce

Pacific Resource Partnership
Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter
Waianae Coast Transportation Concerns Group
Waikiki Residents Association

Members Absent (Reps):

American Planning Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Landscape Architects
Charley's Taxi
E Noa Corporation
Hawaii Highway Users Alliance

Joe Magaldi, Jr., Chair
Charles Carole, Vice Chair
Dean Minakami
Sherman Wong
Frank Genadio
Patricia Blum
Scott Snider
Michael Costa
CC Curry
Jacqueline Parnell
Gladys Quinto
Lester Fukuda
Joe Otto
Robert Finley
Heather Mullins-Crislip
Donald Nitta
Antya Miller
Wendell Lum
Michael Golojuch
Pamela Young
Gil Riviere
Mike Lyons
Richard Kane
Randy Ching
Dick Boddy
Daisy Murai

Gene Yong
Joy Nishida
Chris Dacus
Dale Evans
Tom Dinell
Darci Evans

Hawaii Transportation Association
Honolulu Community Action Program
Institute of Transportation Engineers
Land Use Research Foundation
NB #02 Kuliouou-Kalani Iki
NB #01 Hawaii Kai
NB #08 McCully-Moilili
NB #13 Downtown
NB #18 Aliamanu-Salt Lake-Foster Village
NB #21 Pearl City
NB #22 Waipahu
NB #23 Ewa
NB #24 Waianae Coast
NB #25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu
NB #26 Wahiawa
Tax Foundation of Hawaii

Gareth Sakakida
Vai Leatiota
Pete Pascua
Gladys Quinto
Linda Starr
Don Huff
Ron Lockwood
Burton White
Larry Baird
Cruz J. Vina, Jr.
Thomas Maus
L. Gary Bautista
Karen Awana
David Aki
Robert Kent
Lowell Kalapa

Guests Present:

Jace Mikulanec	Councilmember Dela Cruz
Leona Ching	EAH Housing
Alan R. Gano	Leeward Infrastructure Coalition

OMPO Staff Present:

Gordon Lum and Marian Yasuda

Chair Joe Magaldi called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of February 21, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Patricia Blum moved and Dick Boddy seconded that the February 21, 2007 meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Joint Traffic Management Center Presentation

Ty Fukumitsu, acting Chief of Traffic Signal and Technology Division for the Department of Transportation Services (DTS), gave a presentation about the Joint Traffic Management Center (JTMC). Mr. Fukumitsu presented information about the project's purpose, objectives, and benefits. The project's preliminary plans and artist's renderings were shown as well as a video from the Sunguide Traffic Management Center in Florida.

[Note: Unless otherwise specified, questions were answered by Mr. Fukumitsu.]

Discussion Highlights:

- In response to a question by Alan Gano: The federal support for this project will be 80% of the cost, with the local match making up the remaining 20%.

- In response to a series of questions by Wendell Lum:
 - The Florida video did show examples of the management of interstate highways, but the center services smaller roadways as well.
 - Although the bus terminal in the artist's rendering looks small, it actually has greater capacity than the current bus terminal. The scale of the site is so large that the bus terminal appears small from that perspective.
 - The bus terminal does serve articulated buses and will have covered loading shelters, restrooms, and landscaping.
- In response to a question by Jacqueline Parnell: The radios for communication now used by the Honolulu Fire Department, Honolulu Police Department, and Emergency Services Department are compatible.
- In response to a question by Mr. Boddy: Some states on the mainland have an AM radio station designated for traffic updates. Many of those states are phasing out the radio stations because drivers tune into the stations after they are already in heavy traffic. Warning drivers prior to getting stuck in traffic jams is preferable, using real-time traffic management and dynamic message signs.
- In response to a question by Richard Kane: Incident management and emergency response will benefit greatly from this project. The State may look into ramp metering for the freeway ramps.
- In response to a question by Michael Costa: There will be four loading shelters for the buses in the proposed plan. Currently, there are five loading areas, but they found that some of them are frequently empty. The proposed terminal will have more bus capacity than what is available currently.
- In response to a question by Bob Finley: The proposed location of the JTMC is actually more cost-effective than having it located in Kapolei. The City already owns the Alapai site, so there will be no land acquisition costs. The location is centralized for all of the participating agencies. There are existing communication lines located near the site; the cost of re-routing those lines will be minimal compared to the cost of developing the JTMC in Kapolei.
- In response to a comment by Scott Snider: The State is planning for roving rangers and tow trucks to be used to assist with traffic incidents.
- In response to a follow up question by Mr. Snider: DTS is the lead agency for this project. The State and DTS will work cooperatively in the proposed JTMC. This should increase efficiency and cut costs for both agencies.
- In response to a question by CC Curry: The military has been kept informed of the plans for the JTMC. The Military Defense Transportation Association has not been specifically invited to participate.
- In response to an additional question by Ms. Curry: Dave Hisaka, Danielle Tucker, and other traffic reporters are independently contracted by the media outlets.

- In response to a question by Frank Genadio: The JTMC will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with a skeleton crew in the evenings.
- In response to an additional question by Mr. Genadio: A City ordinance requires that new buildings be constructed using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™. LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. The building will need to incorporate water capture for irrigation, cold generation for air conditioning, and use environmentally sensitive materials.
- In response to a question by Daisy Murai: The City currently synchronizes all traffic signals. Two-way streets pose a challenge because when one direction is altered, the other direction may be negatively impacted.
- In response to an additional question by Ms. Murai: The JTMC will have back-up generators for use during power failures. The Transit Center will have a separate system.
- In response to a question by Chair Magaldi: The current traffic management center staff is made up of three engineers and two technicians. The number of additional staff needed for the JTMC is still being determined.

3. OahuMPO Meeting Highlights - Policy Committee & Technical Advisory Committee

3.A. Policy Committee

- The Policy Committee has not met since the last CAC meeting. A Policy Committee meeting is anticipated in early May. Although the agenda has not been set, it is anticipated that the Policy Committee will act on an amendment to the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan 2030.

3.B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- The TAC has not met since the last CAC meeting. The TAC will meet on April 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the DLIR Conference Room #310, 830 Punchbowl Street.

4. Announcements

Ms. Yasuda made several announcements:

4.A. FYs 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Draft Amendment #11

- The draft FYs 2006-2008 TIP Amendment #11 is a non-administrative amendment that changes the number and type of buses to be purchased in FY 2007. This reflects the City's decision to: (1) purchase hybrid-electric 60-foot buses instead of diesel buses, (2) expand the Handi-Van fleet at this time instead of purchasing replacement vehicles, and (3) utilize budget savings in Section 5309 Bus Capital funds.
- The public review period for this draft amendment began Monday, March 12, 2007. The draft amendment is available on the OahuMPO website. Comments on draft TIP

Amendment #11 may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the OahuMPO office no later than Friday, April 13, 2007.

4.B. FY 2008 Draft Overall Work Program (OWP)

- A public review period for the draft FY 2008 OWP is underway. Copies of the draft have been mailed; it is also available on the OahuMPO website. Comments may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the OahuMPO office no later than Monday, April 2, 2007.

4.C. OahuMPO Certification Review Update

- A special CAC meeting will be convened concurrently with the public meeting on the certification of the metropolitan transportation planning process. The meeting will be on Wednesday, April 4, 2007. A meeting notice and agenda will be mailed to all CAC members. Attendees will be asked their thoughts on the OahuMPO planning process.

4.D. Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) 2030 Draft Amendment #1

- Gordon Lum announced that the public review period for the ORTP 2030 draft Amendment #1 is underway. The ORTP is the official guide for the development of the major surface transportation facilities and programs to be implemented on Oahu. This amendment will reflect changes in budget projections and operating segments for the fixed guideway project as generally described by the City Council in their adoption of the minimum operable segment (MOS) of the locally preferred alternative.
- In order for federal funds to be available for preliminary engineering of the MOS as designated by the City Council, the local MPO must demonstrate general broad support of this action. The OahuMPO is demonstrating this support through amending the ORTP 2030 to revise the project description of the rail transit project (ORTP 2030 Project #31) and updating the financial plan to reflect this revision.
- Comments may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the OahuMPO office by Monday, April 30, 2007.

[Note: Unless otherwise specified, questions were answered by Mr. G. Lum.]

Discussion:

- In response to a question by Mr. Kane: This amendment will show a broad, general support of the fixed guideway project by the regional transportation body. The amendment can be ambiguous and not define specific alignment options.
- The Committee for Balanced Transportation provided Mr. G. Lum with a letter of support for the MOS and expressed their preference for the airport alignment and the use of rail technology versus buses.
- In response to a comment by Mr. W. Lum: Mr. G. Lum said that, if the CAC members are interested in the details on the development of the fixed guideway, they must attend

the DTS' scoping and subsequent meetings. This amendment simply incorporates the MOS into the ORTP 2030.

- Chair Magaldi informed the CAC that the next DTS scoping meetings will be on March 28 at Kapolei Hale from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on March 29 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at McKinley High School. Information on the upcoming meetings may be found on the website: www.honolulustransit.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.