

Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

POLICY BOARD

Friday, January 26, 2016, 2:30 p.m.
Honolulu City Council Committee Meeting Room, Room 205
530 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Members Present:

Councilmember Joey Manahan, Chair	DPP Deputy Director Arthur Challacombe (Alternate)
Councilmember Ann Kobayashi	DTS Director Michael Formby
Representative Ryan Yamane	Councilmember Brandon Elefante
Representative Henry Aquino, Vice Chair	OP Debra Mendes (Non-Voting)
Senator Will Espero	FHWA Division Administrator Mayela Sosa (Non-Voting)
HART Executive Director Dan Grabauskas	DOH Heidi Hansen-Smith (Non-Voting)

Member(s) Absent: Senator Michelle Kidani and DOT Director Ford Fuchigami

Guests Present:

Jessie Souki (HART)	Doug Chun (Council Services)
Ryan Tam (HART)	Ralph Rizzo (FHWA Assistant Division Administrator)
Liz Fisher (FHWA)	Andrea Anixt (Kaaawa Community Association)
Mark Takamori (Maui County)	Daniel Alexander (Hawaii Bicycling League)
Dion Mesta (Clmbr Elefante's office)	Dion Mesta (Clmbr Elefante's office)

OahuMPO Staff Present: Brian Gibson, Chris Clark, Randolph Sykes, Taylor Ellis, Veronica Schack and Amy Ford-Wagner

Meeting was properly noticed in accordance with State law.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

The Chair Joey Manahan called the meeting to order at 2:37 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Manahan welcomed and thanked Members for their attendance.

III. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2015 POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Director Formby made a motion and Representative Yamane seconded to approve the minutes as circulated. All members voted in favor. There being no discussion, objections, or reservations the minutes were approved as circulated.

IV. REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(Hard copies of the Executive Director's report was distributed to Board members before the meeting.)

Executive Director Gibson gave a brief synopsis of what transpired at the January 20, 2016 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. The CAC did not meet in December. He also presented a summary of the December 11, 2015 and January 8, 2016 Technical Advisory Committee meetings.

Mr. Gibson presented an update on OahuMPO's staffing, a summary of the status of OahuMPO's various reports: FHWA expenditure report, annual title VI/Environmental Justice Report, and TIP revisions schedule, and OahuMPO's Federal reimbursement claim requests, and a tentative list of upcoming Policy Board agenda items. He also introduced the new Community Planner, Amy Ford-Wagner.

B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The TAC report was presented by the new TAC Chair, Jessie Souki who introduced himself and indicated he is happy to serve and looks forward to working with the Policy Board. He noted that the order of business for the TAC is to finalize updating the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) 2040 and the Overall Work Plan 2017 (OWP) for the Board's review and approval.

Chair Manahan welcomed the Chair Souki and thanked him for his service.

C. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

Since neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair of the CAC was present, there was no CAC report.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to address.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECT NEW POLICY BOARD CHAIR FOR 2016-2017

Chair Manahan thanked the Policy Board members, Executive Director Gibson and the OahuMPO staff for their support during his tenure as Chair. Representative Aquino nominated Representative Ryan Yamane for Chair and Senator Will Espero seconded it. By a show of hands & a voice vote, Representative Ryan Yamane was elected unanimously as the new Chair.

Chair Manahan called for a brief recess.

Meeting was reconvened by the new Chair. Chair Yamane expressed his thanks to former Chair Manahan and noted that he is glad to be working with the Board and the staff.

B. ELECT NEW POLICY BOARD VICE CHAIR FOR 2016 - 2017

Executive Director Gibson stated the Policy Board Bylaws requirements for election of the Policy Board Vice Chair and the duties of the Vice Chair. A motion was made by Councilmember Kobayashi and seconded by Councilmember Manahan. By show of hands, the Board unanimously voted Councilmember Brandon Elefante as Policy Board Vice Chair.

C. ELECT TWO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Director Gibson stated the Policy Board Bylaw provisions for the composition and election of Executive Committee members. DTS Director expressed his willingness to serve on the Committee if nominated. Director Formby was nominated by Senator Espero and seconded by Councilmember Kobayashi. Councilmember Manahan was nominated by Senator Espero and seconded by Councilmember Kobayashi. By a show of hands, both nominees were unanimously elected as members of the Executive Committee.

D. CONSIDER TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROJECTS

Director Gibson gave a short background summary of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) then turned the presentation over to Mr. Taylor Ellis. Mr. Ellis detailed the history of the TAP program and the two projects that are being considered for approval: 1) HART Middle Loch Connector 2) DTS Secure Bike Storage Shelters.

Senator Espero asked when the projects are expected to be completed. Mr. Ellis indicated the DTS structures are expected to be completed by 2017. HART's Ryan Tam indicated the Middle Loch Connector is also expected to be completed by 2017. There was also discussion on how the DTS Secure Bike Storage Shelters would work, the security of these units, who would have access to the structures, the cost of the structures and the cost to use them. Director Formby gave further information on what is currently in place and the variety of structures that may be incorporated into the program.

FHWA Division Administrator Mayela Sosa inquired on the TAP process and the number of applications that had been received. Mr. Ellis described the TAP process and Director Gibson noted that there had only been two eligible applications.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the prioritization of the projects and insert the program in the TIP. It was moved by Councilmember Elefante and seconded by Senator Espero. By a voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

E. DISCUSS FAST ACT SUMMARY

Executive Director Gibson presented an overview of the recently passed Federal law Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. USDOT has yet to provide official guidance so Executive Director Gibson noted that this presentation is a preliminary description of what the FAST Act may mean for Hawaii.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- In FY 2016, total Formula Apportionment will increase by +5.1% over FY 2015. From 2017-2020, it will increase around 2% each year over the prior year.
- TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act) is substantially reduced from \$1B in 2015 to \$275m in 2016 and 2017. Only minor increases of 0%-5.2% over prior year will occur in years 2018-2020.
- Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects is a new Competitive Grant Program. Executive Director Gibson discussed the goals of the Program of which the goal to address the impact of population growth on the movement of people and freight is most important to Hawaii. Important points presented noted the categories of big projects (\geq \$25m) and small projects (\$5m to $<$ \$25m), the 60% federal share cap from this program and the allowance of pooling Federal funds from other sources up to a cap of 80% Federal funding on one project.
- In the Surface Transportation Block Program (STBP) it was noted that, although TAP has ended as a program, there still is a set-aside for transportation alternatives in the STBP, and the requirements of the TAP remain. There is also \$960,464 for Hawaii for a Recreational Trails set-aside in the STBP for each year from 2016-2020. Project types eligible for STBP, suballocation of funds, and the requirement of a new annual reporting of alternative transportation applications were discussed.
- Other aspects noted in the FAST Act were the newly allowed Bridge Project Bundling, additional projects eligible in the Highway Safety Improvement Program, the National Highway Freight Program, FAST Act's clarification that City Councilmembers may act as a transit representative on the MPO Board, and the additional planning considerations/consultations of tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, stormwater run-off reduction or impact mitigation, and commuter vanpool providers, changes that help to accelerate project delivery, and the verbiage change from 'may' to 'shall consider' regarding highway design standards.
- The Executive Director pointed out were the changes in the Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grant, including the amended definition for Small Starts to increase Federal assistance up to \$100m and total net capital costs to \$300m, in the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provision that grants or loans may not be used to pay for incremental cost of art or non-functional landscaping and changes to the Buy America waiver.
- Also noted was an increase in grants for buses and bus facilities.

In response to Assistant Director Challacombe's question if STBP funds can be used for enhancements and projects to address problems in recreational trail areas such Maunawili and Haiku Stairs, Executive Director Gibson explained that the State receives its STBP allocation and a portion is suballocated for recreational trails. The decision on how those funds are spent is made by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

The City has the option of using TAP funds and STBP funds for recreational trails. However, Ms. Sosa clarified that STBP funds may be used only if there is a transportation element. STBP funds may not be used for strictly recreational trails. DLNR would be a better source of funds for the strictly recreational trails.

Councilmember Manahan asked about the four additional areas mentioned, such as tourism. Executive Director Gibson clarified that these are additional requirements for the planning process but include no additional funds.

Chair Yamane asked about the status of the Central Oahu Transportation Study and if small projects funding can be used for this Study. Executive Director Gibson noted that funds for this Study have been encumbered and Notice to Proceed was given to the consultant last week.

Councilmember Manahan asked for clarification on FFGA (full funding grant agreement) 60% funding. Executive Director Gibson indicated that he believes that HART already has a FFGA that it is not under FAST but rather under the old rules. Ms. Sosa noted that the FAST Act requirements do not affect the City's full funding grant agreement.

Chair Yamane called for testimony from the public.

Andrea Anixt noted that Tom Dinell has been elected the Vice Chair of the CAC. She indicated she would like to again bring up the request to allow the CAC to have an *ex officio* member on the Policy Board. She expressed concern at the multi-year delay of the Waikani bridge project, questioned how the bundling of the bridges would impact the project timeline, and emphasized the criticalness of the situation for the area residents when the bridge is closed due to severe flooding.

Executive Director Gibson clarified that the FAST Act allows, but does not require, the bundling of bridges. Regarding the Waikani Bridge, the decision would be made by the implementing agency which is HDOT in this instance.

Andrea Anixt also noted that the Windward side has no representation on the Policy Board, questioned the delay of the Shoreline Protection items #38, #39, and #40 in the TIP and detailed the problems when the two-lane highway recently collapsed in the Crouching Lion area. She emphasized the need for speedier action and a safer road in that area.

VII. INVITATION TO INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON MATTERS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

There was no additional public testimony.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Yamane announced that Senator Gil Kahele passed away that morning and, on behalf of the Policy Board, would like to offer condolences to the Senator's family and colleagues.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Written by: Roni Schack

Reviewed by: Brian Gibson, Chris Clark, and Randolph Sykes