

Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, April 11, 2011, 1:30 p.m.
Council Committee Meeting Room 205
530 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Open Session

Members Present:

Councilmember Breene Harimoto, Chair	Representative Karen Awana
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair	Representative Marilyn Lee
Councilmember Romy Cachola	Senator Will Espero
Councilmember Stanley Chang	DOT Director Glenn Okimoto
Councilmember Ann Kobayashi	DTS Director Wayne Yoshioka
Councilmember Ernest Martin	

Member(s) Absent: Representative Joseph Souki and Senator J. Kalani English

Guests Present:

Joseph Magaldi, Jr. (Committee for Balanced Transportation, CAC)	Mike Golojuch (NB #34, CAC)
Tom Smyth (NB #13, CAC)	Adrienne LaFrance (Civil Beat)
	Randall Urasaki (PB Americas)

OahuMPO Staff Present: Brian Gibson, Lori Arakaki, Randolph Sykes, Marian Yasuda

The meeting was called to order by Chair Breene Harimoto. A quorum was present.

[Representative Marilyn Lee and Councilmember Romy Cachola arrived at 1:37 and 1:39 p.m., respectively.]

I. DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION RELATING TO EXEMPT-EXCLUDED EMPLOYEES' (OAHUMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OFFICE MANAGER) FURLOUGHS

Chair Harimoto read an announcement regarding the need to go into Executive Session in order to discuss the exempt-excluded employees' furloughs. The members unanimously voted to go into Executive Session. A recess was called at 1:38 p.m. while the members met in Executive Session in Conference Room 1. The meeting reconvened at 1:44 p.m.

II. ACTION RELATING TO EXEMPT-EXCLUDED EMPLOYEES' (OAHUMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OFFICE MANAGER) FURLOUGHS

Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga moved and Department of Transportation Services (DTS) Director Wayne Yoshioka seconded that the furloughs for the exempt-excluded OahuMPO staff end effective May 1, 2011 and the exempt-excluded staff be given 48 hours of comp time. The motion was unanimously carried.

III. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2011 MEETING

There being no objections, the minutes for the February 22, 2011 meeting were accepted as circulated.

IV. OAHU REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (ORTP) 2035

Handouts: Draft ORTP 2035; comment summaries of Intergovernmental Review and Public Review of ORTP 2035

Executive Director Brian Gibson gave a presentation on the ORTP 2035 – including the public and intergovernmental reviews comments, Technical Advisory Committee recommendation, and Citizen Advisory Committee consideration.

Questions & Discussion

Representative Marilyn Lee brought up the question asked by the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board No. 25 about why the Central Mauka Road was removed without any reason given; this information should have been shared with NB #25 earlier. Representative Lee stated that she was surprised that the project was removed from the Illustrative list, since there must have been a reason for including it in the list in the beginning. Representative Lee questioned why the Committee is now being told that there needs to be a technical evaluation and study prior to it being included in the ORTP.

Secondly, Representative Lee stated that Director Gibson mentioned a need for technical evaluations and studies for the Central Mauka Road and the Mililani-Central Oahu rail spur. Representative Lee asked if OahuMPO is equipped to do those technical evaluations and studies.

Director Gibson responded that OahuMPO is currently developing the FY 2012 Overall Work Program. When local funding resources are made available to match federal funds, then OahuMPO will work with its partnering agencies to program the resources needed to do the studies.

Representative Lee stated that it is important for the affected neighborhood boards to know why other projects have been given top priority. Representative Lee noted that she would need to vote with reservations, since her community is unhappy with the removal of the Central Mauka Road project.

Representative Karen Awana stated that she was grateful for the inclusion the Waianae Coast

Second Access Road in the Illustrative list.

Senator Will Espero asked if the Mililani rail spur could be included in the Illustrative list. Director Gibson responded that the Mililani spur could be added to the Illustrative list, but noted that the Illustrative list is not technically part of the plan. Senator Espero stated that he would be supportive of including the Mililani spur in the Illustrative list.

Senator Espero asked about Project #23 (Keoneula Boulevard, Extension, Kapolei Parkway to Franklin D. Roosevelt Avenue). DTS Director Yoshioka responded that the roadway is not up to the current standards. The challenge is not only the roadway, but also the infrastructure issues – water, sewer, power, etc. Senator Espero noted the community’s concerns, including their desire to connect Keoneula to Coral Sea. Director Yoshioka responded that, though Project 23 is just to make a connection between Kapolei Parkway and Franklin D. Roosevelt Avenue, connecting Keoneula to Coral Sea would not be precluded as a possibility.

Representative Lee moved and Councilmember Ernest Martin seconded that the draft plan be amended to include a Central Oahu rail spur in the Illustrative category and that a technical evaluation study of the Central Mauka Road for possible inclusion in the ORTP 2040 be conducted. The motion was unanimously carried.

Chair Harimoto noted that there were no registered testifiers for this agenda item. He asked if anyone wanted to testify on this agenda item. No one offered testimony.

Senator Espero moved and Representative Awana seconded that the ORTP 2035 be approved as amended. The motion was unanimously carried.

V. CONSIDER REVISION #2 TO THE FFYS 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Handouts: Draft FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Revision #2 Amendment; comment summary of Intergovernmental Review of Revision #2 to the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP

Director Gibson gave a presentation on Revision #2 to the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP – including the public and intergovernmental reviews comments, and the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation. The TIP remains fiscally constrained.

Director Yoshioka stated that DTS will be changing the scope of existing Project OC16 (Local Shuttle Service) to revert back to shuttle service only in the Kalaeloa area. This change is due to the grantee who would have serviced the Waianae area being unable to fulfill the requirements. So, Director Yoshioka requested that the verbiage “Added a shuttle service for seniors in the Waianae Valley area.” be removed from the project description. He added that: (1) TheHandi-Van currently services the Waianae area and (2) Project OC24 (Local Shuttle Service) is an islandwide transportation service that includes the Waianae area.

Representative Awana moved and Senator Espero seconded that draft Revision #2 to the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP be amended as requested by Director Yoshioka.

Discussion

Representative Awana asked if there was an opportunity to offer the running of the shuttle service to another vendor. Director Yoshioka responded that the funds include a 50% local match that will lapse on June 30, 2011, so there is no time to do another procurement.

In response to Senator Espero, Director Yoshioka stated that the funds for OC16 are specific for the Kalaeloa area. Director Yoshioka stated that DTS will try to go out again and procure a vendor for the Waianae area.

Director Gibson stated that, even though Project OC16 (without the Waianae-area service) is an existing project, the public has been asked to comment on the project including service in the Waianae area. So, OahuMPO will now need to go back out for public comment on the original project. Significant comments will be brought back to the Policy Committee. In response to Chair Harimoto, Senior Planner Lori Arakaki stated that the public comment review would take 2-3 weeks. Councilmember Romy Cachola suggested approving Project OC24 of Revision #2 and coming back to the Policy Committee to approve Project OC16 once the public comment review is complete. Director Yoshioka noted the need to complete the procurement process for this project before June 30; if not, the local match for this project will lapse.

There was a question about whether the project, that has already been vetted in the community, needed to go back out for public comment. Director Gibson stated that, per the Code of Federal Regulations, if there is a significant change in the scope of a project between the draft presented and what is finally approved, we are either required or it is encouraged to go back out for public comment; he was not certain if it was required, encouraged, or suggested. Director Yoshioka noted that the original project previously went through the public input process and was previously approved.

Representative Awana stated that the project can be presented at a community meeting that is scheduled for April 23. Senator Espero noted that, for this purpose, the meeting should be noticed in order to comply with the Sunshine Law. Director Yoshioka stated that DTS is willing to assist in informing the public in any venue that is chosen.

Director Gibson, after conferring with staff, stated that federal regulations do require that we go back to the public for their comments, though it does not state how it should be done.

Director Yoshioka withdrew his request to amend Project OC16. The motion to amend draft Revision #2 was withdrawn.

Director Yoshioka moved and Councilmember Cachola seconded that the Policy approve Project OC24 of Revision #2 to the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP and defer action on Project OC16 until the after the public review period. The motion was unanimously carried.

VI. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

CAC Chair Michael Golojuch gave a summary of the last two CAC meetings.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS (ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLY)

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.