

Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

POLICY BOARD

Tuesday, April 27, 2021
via Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Chair	HDOT Deputy Director Edwin Sniffen
Councilmember Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair	HART Interim Executive Director & CEO Lori Kahikina
Senator Chris Lee	DPP Deputy Director Dean Uchida
Councilmember Augie Tulba	FHWA Division Administrator Ralph Rizzo
Councilmember Radiant Cordero	OP Planning Program Administrator Rodney Funakoshi
DTS Chief Planner Chris Clark	DOH Primary Prevention Branch Manager Heidi Hansen-Smith

Member(s) Absent:

Representative Ryan Yamane, Representative Henry Aquino

Known Guests Present:

Dion Mesta (Clmbr Elefante's office)	Amy Ford-Wagner (FHWA)
Ryan Tam (HART)	Yoko Tomita (DTS)
Ken Tatsuguchi (HDOT)	Kathleen Rooney (Ulupono Initiative)
Rick Donnelly (WSP)	Laurie Manutai
Meredith Soniat (DTS)	Marcia Tagavilla (Clmbr Tulba's Office)
Shaun Ueda (DTS)	Sharon Brooks
Dina Wong (DPP)	Doug Chun (OCS)
Chace Shigemasa (CAC Chair)	John Rogers (Ewa Neighborhood Board)
Charles Izumoto (Sen. Moriwaki's office)	Kyle Ward (Caliper)

OahuMPO Staff Present: Alvin Au, Roni Schack, Zakari Mumuni, Kiana Otsuka, Tori Trevino, Nicki Smith, Nicole Cernohorsky, Samantha Lara, and Randolph Sykes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Roger Morton of DTS introduced himself and advised that because he will need to leave shortly, Chris Clark will be representing him at this meeting.

Chair Moriwaki welcomed Director Morton and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken of Policy Board members present and quorum was established.

III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 23, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

The Policy Board members reviewed the February 23, 2021 meeting minutes which were emailed to them in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made by Brandon Elefante and seconded by Chris Lee to accept the February meeting minutes as presented. There were no further discussion, objections, or abstentions and the minutes were accepted as presented.

IV. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Alvin Au reported that OahuMPO conducted Phase 3 of public involvement and concluded the public and intergovernmental review (IGR) for the 2045 Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) in March, performed the IGR for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) from March 16th through April 2nd, and an IGR for the Overall Work Program (OWP) from March 17th through April 16th. He provided a website where the Policy Board members can subscribe to the OahuMPO monthly newsletter, reminded members that their annual mandatory financial disclosures are due to the Ethics Commission by June 1st and Gift Disclosures by June 30th, provided the OahuMPO third quarter financial report, and summarized the business covered at the April 9, 2021 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, the March 3, 2021 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, and the April 7, 2021 CAC meeting.

The Executive Director's Report may be viewed at: https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2196.

B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

There was no report from the TAC.

C. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

There was no report from the CAC.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

A. New Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Program Projects

OahuMPO's Transportation Impact Analyst Nicole Cernohorsky provided the Policy Board with a presentation that discussed what the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program is, the program timeline, the two projects being considered for this funding, funding options, and the comments received during the public and intergovernmental review period.

There was discussion on the TA process, when a call-for-projects would next occur, how much funding each of the two proposed projects presented would receive, the reason for and the amount of the TA funds lapsing this year. It was noted that both projects are the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) projects, and that the pedestrian access for Waiawa station is above ground while the Halawa station is off-road and at-grade. Chris Clark provided background on why the City submitted these two applications, noted that the City traditionally uses only local funds for small projects, indicated the City would be obligating \$500K for the third-party design review of the Ala Wai Bridge project this year, noted that the cost of the projects included in the presentation is an estimate since actual apportionment is

not yet known, and added that the City will make a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) request in the year the funds are available.

A motion was made by Ed Sniffen and seconded by Brandon Elefante to approve the award of the TA-Set Aside funds to the two candidate projects as presented.

A roll call vote was taken:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki	– Aye	HDOT Deputy Dir Edwin Sniffen	– Aye
Senator Chris Lee	– Aye	Councilmember Augie Tulba	– Aye
HART Interim Exec Dir/CEO Lori Kahikina	– Aye	Councilmember Radiant Cordero	– Aye
DPP Deputy Dir Dean Uchida	– Aye	Councilmember Brandon Elefante	– Aye
DTS Chief Planner Chris Clark	– Aye		

There were no further discussions, abstentions, reservations, or objections and the motion was approved unanimously.

B. Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) 2045

OahuMPO’s Senior Transportation Planner Zakari Mumuni provided background on what the ORTP is, its development process, its vision and goals, the projects recommended for funding in the ORTP, and the requirements that must be met. He discussed the funding availability between 2021-2045, fiscal constraint, plan performance metrics, comparisons of investments between the 2040 ORTP vs. the 2045 ORTP for Title VI/Environmental Justice and Non-Title VI/Environmental Justice census block group areas, and reported on the comments received during the public and intergovernmental review period.

There was discussion on the urgency of approving the 2045 ORTP, whether the ORTP can be revised after approval, and how that can be accomplished in the event there are new projects deemed necessary which are not currently included in the 2045 ORTP.

Chris Clark indicated his concern that the City was not given adequate time to review the model and requested a contingency be added to the ORTP motion to have OahuMPO staff develop a performance improvement plan and to report quarterly to the Policy Board on the progress of the 2050 ORTP.

To a question that was raised inquiring how expected revenues can exceed the cost of the plan despite the drop in the fuel revenue, Mr. Mumuni explained that other funding sources were also considered, and the metric is based on the fiscally constrained projects included in the plan.

Councilmember Cordero requested that the CAC also receive the quarterly progress report.

A motion was made by Chris Clark and seconded by Ed Sniffen to approve the 2045 Oahu Regional Transportation Plan as presented contingent on OahuMPO staff’s agreement that they will prepare a performance improvement plan and report on the progress to the Policy Board and Citizen Advisory Committee quarterly starting no later than the July 2021 meeting.

A roll call vote was taken:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki	– Aye	HDOT Deputy Dir Edwin Sniffen	– Aye
Senator Chris Lee	– Aye	Councilmember Augie Tulba	– Aye
HART Interim Exec Dir/CEO Lori Kahikina	– Aye	Councilmember Radiant Cordero	– Aye
DPP Deputy Dir Dean Uchida	– Aye	Councilmember Brandon Elefante	– Aye
DTS Chief Planner Chris Clark	– Aye		

There were no further discussions, abstentions, reservations, or objections and the motion was passed.

C. Mahoe Street Reclassification

Shaun Ueda of the DTS provided the history of Mahoe Street’s classifications, background information on roadway classifications, the reasons why a reclassification is being sought for this street, displayed the proposed changes for the Mahoe Street Improvements Project such as bulb-outs and concrete speed tables.

To a question inquiring when construction is expected to begin, Mr. Ueda indicated this project is on the FY 2022 STIP, so construction could begin in early 2023.

DPP Deputy Dir Dean Uchida left the meeting.

A motion was made by Brandon Elefante and seconded by Ed Sniffen to concur with the reclassification of Mahoe Street from a Local Road to a Minor Collector.

A roll call vote was taken:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki	– Aye	HDOT Deputy Dir Edwin Sniffen	– Aye
Senator Chris Lee	– Aye	Councilmember Augie Tulba	– Aye
HART Interim Exec Dir/CEO Lori Kahikina	– Aye	Councilmember Radiant Cordero	– Aye
DTS Chief Planner Chris Clark	– Aye	Councilmember Brandon Elefante	– Aye

There were no further discussions, abstentions, reservations, or objections and the motion was approved by those members remaining in the meeting.

Chair Moriwaki asked members present if members were agreeable with continuing the meeting since the meeting has exceeded one hour. There were no objections, so the Chair continued with the meeting’s agenda.

D. Establish a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to Manage the Executive Director Evaluation Process

Chair Moriwaki discussed the resolution that had been included in meeting handouts distributed to the Policy Board members. There was discussion on revising language in the resolution that indicates criteria would be determined at the Policy Board meeting and instead delegate that task to the Permitted Interaction Group.

A motion to adopt the resolution with the revision to delegate the determination of criteria for the Executive Director’s evaluation to the Permitted Interaction Group was made by Ed Sniffen and seconded by Brandon Elefante.

A roll call vote was taken:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki	– Aye	HDOT Deputy Dir Edwin Sniffen	– Aye
Senator Chris Lee	– Aye	Councilmember Augie Tulba	– Aye
HART Interim Exec Dir/CEO Lori Kahikina	– Aye	Councilmember Radiant Cordero	– Aye
DTS Chief Planner Chris Clark	– Aye	Councilmember Brandon Elefante	– Aye

There were no further discussions, abstentions, reservations, or objections and the motion was approved by those members remaining in the meeting.

Chair Moriwaki noted that, as indicated in the resolution, the PIG members would include the Policy Board Chair and Vice Chair, the DTS Director or designee, the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) Executive Director/CEO, and the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) Director or designee. Deputy Director Ed Sniffen confirmed that he would be the HDOT Director’s designee.

A motion was made by Brandon Elefante and seconded by Ed Sniffen to establish the Permitted Interaction Group with those members noted above.

A roll call vote was taken:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki	– Aye	HDOT Deputy Dir Edwin Sniffen	– Aye
Senator Chris Lee	– Aye	Councilmember Augie Tulba	– Aye
HART Interim Exec Dir/CEO Lori Kahikina	– Aye	Councilmember Radiant Cordero	– Aye
DTS Chief Planner Chris Clark	– Aye	Councilmember Brandon Elefante	– Aye

There were no further discussions, abstentions, reservations, or objections and the motion was approved by those members remaining in the meeting.

E. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Funding Proposal

HDOT Highways Division Head Planning Engineer Ken Tatsuguchi presented background on the CRRSAA, noting that of the \$42m allocated to Hawaii, \$6,155,308 is a sub-allocation to Oahu as a Transportation Management Area (TMA), that projects using these funds need not be on the ORTP or TIP, but must be approved by the OahuMPO Policy Board and coordinated with all three implementing agencies: HDOT, DTS, and HART. He emphasized that this project benefits all three implementing agencies, is in progress, and displayed maps detailing the location and other specifications of this project.

There was discussion on what criteria was used to select this project; that the project is in the design stage; that the project affects multiple modes of transportation including bike, pedestrian, and vehicular; the estimated timeline; and that the project is expected to be completed within a year.

To a question if the surrounding area will be signalized, Deputy Director Sniffen responded that all funds would be used for a new signal and to build out the new left-turn lane.

A question was asked about how this project addresses the impacts of COVID-19. Mr. Tatsuguchi explained that this funding is earmarked for transportation and this project will help ensure that the existing transportation system is safe and efficient so social services can be delivered and people are able to get to work. FHWA Administrator Ralph Rizzo added that COVID-19 has had an effect on state and local tax revenues and part of the intent of the CRRSAA is to help cover those shortfalls, which is why 100% federal funding is allowed and fewer restrictions are imposed on the spending of these dollars.

A motion was made by Chris Clark and seconded by Brandon Elefante that the Policy Board concur with HDOT’s proposal to use the CRRSAA funds for the design and construction of a left-turn lane from Pearl Highlands Rail Station on Kamehameha Highway to Kuala Street.

A roll call vote was taken:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki	– Aye	HDOT Deputy Dir Edwin Sniffen	– Aye
Senator Chris Lee	– Aye	Councilmember Augie Tulba	– Aye
HART Interim Exec Dir/CEO Lori Kahikina	– Aye	Councilmember Radiant Cordero	– Aye
DTS Chief Planner Chris Clark	– Aye	Councilmember Brandon Elefante	– Aye

There were no further discussions, abstentions, reservations, or objections and the motion was approved by those members remaining in the meeting.

VII. Invitation to interested members of the public to be heard on matters not included on the agenda

Chair Moriwaki expressed her appreciation of everyone who was able to stay for the duration of the meeting.

John Rogers of Neighborhood Board #23 who is also a member of the CAC, commented that he attended the District 1 ORTP public meetings to learn about the ORTP and directed his request to the councilmembers on the Policy Board. He asked that they look at the Bikeways Improvement Plan and the Oahu Bike Plan. Mr. Rogers noted that Oahu Bike Plan funds should be used to build the Oahu Bike Plan, specifically mentioned the Ewa District and the Kapolei Parkway. He added that he hopes HDOT will use Transportation Alternatives funding for a shared-use path to Puuloa Beach Park from Ft. Weaver Road.

CAC Chair Chace Shigemasa requested that the ORTP be presented to the CAC two months before it goes before the Policy Board so CAC members have time to take the ORTP to their constituents before they must vote on whether to recommend approval to the Policy Board. It was noted that segments of the 2045 ORTP were presented to all committees and the Policy Board from 2019-2021. The draft project list was first presented in November 2020, again in January 2021, and again in April 2021. It was also noted that all CAC members were included in the March 2021 Public and Intergovernmental review period. Chair Moriwaki indicated that the CAC as well as the Policy Board will be apprised quarterly of the progress of the next ORTP as indicated in the motion approved in VI.B.

VIII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Brandon Elefante and seconded by Councilmember Ed Sniffen to adjourn the meeting. There were no further discussion or objections, and Chair Moriwaki adjourned the meeting at 3:07 pm.

The PowerPoint presentation for this meeting may be viewed at:

https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2201