

Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

POLICY BOARD

Tuesday, May 25, 2021
via Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Chair	HDOT Deputy Director Edwin Sniffen
Senator Chris Lee	HART Interim Executive Director & CEO Lori Kahikina
Representative Ryan Yamane	DPP Deputy Director Eugene Takahashi
Representative Henry Aquino	FHWA Division Administrator Ralph Rizzo
Councilmember Augie Tulba	OP Planning Program Administrator Rodney Funakoshi
Councilmember Radiant Cordero	DOH Primary Prevention Branch Manager Heidi Hansen-Smith
DTS Director Roger Morton	

Member(s) Absent:

Councilmember Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair

Known Guests Present:

Dion Mesta (Clmbr Elefante's office)	Ryan Tam (HART)
Robert Sato (Clmbr Cordero's office)	Ken Tatsuguchi (HDOT)
Charles Izumoto (Sen. Moriwaki's office)	Chris Clark (DTS)
Marian Yasuda (DTS)	Mark Au (DTS)
Dina Wong (DPP)	Marcia Tagavilla (Clmbr Tulba's Office)
Louis Galdeira (Clmbr Tupola's office)	Sharon Brooks
Jo Jordan (NB #24 Waianae Coast)	Laurie Manutai
Chace Shigemasa (CAC Chair)	Ken Farm (CAC Vice Chair)
Cody Brooks	Doug Chun (OCS)

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moriwaki called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

The Policy Board members reviewed the April 27, 2021 meeting minutes which were emailed to them in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made by Radiant Cordero and seconded by Chris Lee to accept the April 27, 2021 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 the FFYs 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Revision #20 draft and the FFYs 2022-2025 TIP proposed projects and programs list were released for public and intergovernmental review and comments. He also advised the Board of the FFYs 2022-2025 TIP Open Houses schedule and provided a summary of business conducted at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

The Executive Director's Report may be viewed at: https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2332

B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

TAC Chair Ken Tatsuguchi stated he is available to answer any questions the Policy Board may have regarding the TAC's May meeting draft minutes which were included in the Policy Board meeting materials.

C. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

CAC Chair Chace Shigemasa reported that the CAC recommended the approval of the FY 2022 Overall Work Program with the contingency it be amended to include the continued funding of the Makaha Beach Farrington Highway Realignment Study and the removal of the Ala Moana Transit Alternative Analysis by a vote of 19 for the motion, one against, and one abstention.

CAC Vice Chair Ken Farm added that the Center for Medicare/Medicaid services (CMS) has a non-emergency transport program. He stated he doesn't believe the county has used these funds and suggested this may be a source of funding the county could explore. He explained this is non-emergency funds outside of HDOT. He added that employers often ask individuals if they have reliable transportation, and noted there should be something that declares TheBus shall be considered an acceptable or suitable form of transportation for employment. Mr. Farm offered to email, and Chair Moriwaki consented to receive, the CMS information.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

A. Final Draft Overall Work Program FY 2022 (OWP)

OahuMPO's Planning Program Manager, Nicki Smith provided background on the OWP, noted changes made to the document since the Policy Board's February OWP presentation, defined unobligated balance versus funds apportionment, compared funding sources and FY 2022 funding requests. She discussed de-obligation and re-obligation of prior years' obligated funds, the four tasks included in the OWP, the amendment to de-obligate the Makaha Beach Park Farrington Highway Realignment Feasibility Study and the Vision Zero Action Plan, obligation of funds for prior year sub-recipient studies, funding distribution, and comments received during the public and intergovernmental review period.

Nicki Smith provided a brief history of the Makaha Beach Park Farrington Highway Realignment Feasibility Study, the justification for the proposed cancellation, and displayed

both OahuMPO and Hawaii Department of Transportation's (HDOT) formal responses to the public comments received. She pointed out that HDOT's response supports the proposed cancellation due to the lack of funds at this time for the construction of the realignment and notes that continuing with this study would result in duplicative planning costs since the study would have to be redone once construction funding is available. HDOT's response also indicated that should there be significant changes in the coastal highway protection assessments or in funding levels, HDOT can revisit the study and planning process.

Department of Transportation Services (DTS) Director Morton stated that he and the mayor have both written to Representative Kahele expressing support for the Farrington Highway Realignment Study and asked him to find federal funding for this study that would be in addition to what has already been identified. He indicated his support while recognizing there are higher priority studies and noted other Councilmembers in the area and many community members support for the realignment study.

Councilmember Cordero inquired about the Active Transportation Monitoring Program and whether there is a contractor who can meet the scope of the three phases. Ms. Smith confirmed DTS has a consultant who can perform the three phases and noted the current status of the procurement and that funding for phases two and three of the project are part of this FY 2022 OWP.

Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) Deputy Director Sniffen expressed his support for the removal of funding for the Makaha Beach Park Farrington Highway Realignment Feasibility Study, that work performed in this study would have to be redone when HDOT is ready to begin environmental clearances, that there is no direct project delivery for the project or funding currently available to implement the realignment with an estimated cost of \$75-\$80 million. He added that HDOT is working with the community to look at information on improvements that can be made at the beach, on the roadway, at the park, and in the watershed. Information gathered in this effort can be used to bolster support for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application HDOT is applying for, the awarding of which could change the project's prospects.

The Chair asked if the 84% of funds remaining as of March 2021 pertains to this Study or to the OWP in general, and when the funding was allocated. Ms. Smith indicated the amount remaining represents unspent funds for the consultant and for OahuMPO staff time for the study, and noted the study was programmed in the 2014/2015 OWP but was not under contract until 2018.

HDOT Deputy Director Sniffen clarified that the leftover funding from the study is being moved to other initiatives in the FY 2022 OWP. He requested that OahuMPO provide reports to the Policy Board with information on each of the projects in the OWP during the next OWP, that these reports include expenditure levels, statuses of the projects, and information to help the Policy Board understand the progress of the initiatives that were funded in the past, if they are still relevant, and when they would be delivered. Chair Moriwaki asked OahuMPO to provide such reports going forward since these reports would be beneficial not just for the Policy

Board but also for the community to understand the process. Ms. Smith indicated OahuMPO will begin providing these reports.

Chair Moriwaki noted that the Policy Board had received written testimony and called for oral testimony.

Oral testimony was received from Jo Jordan who expressed her support to complete the Makaha Beach Park Farrington Highway Realignment Feasibility Study. She indicated she had also submitted written testimony. She expressed her unhappiness with the discussion at the meeting, noted that the issue goes back many years, that there is no current funding and the requests by Congressman Kahele and Councilmember Tupola still requires the community to wait to see if funding will be approved and then wait to see if the road can be rerouted.

Chair Moriwaki asked for clarification on what cancelling this study means and can funding be added to this study in a future OWP. Ms. Smith stated that cancelling means the study would be removed from OahuMPO's OWP, but that does not mean it can never be done. She added that ideally the implementing agency, in this case, HDOT, should do the study once construction is anticipated or budgeted.

Deputy Director Sniffen concurred with Ms. Smith's statement that ideally the implementing agency should do the study because it would coincide with the environmental clearances and the due diligence that is necessary for the project. If Congressman Kahele can secure funding either HDOT or the City could move forward on the study.

Testimony was received from Louis Galdeira of Councilmember Tupola's office who noted that Councilmember Tupola supports the continuation of the study in the OWP. Mr. Galdeira indicated he was speaking as a community member, when he noted he was involved in the process to add the study into the OWP from the very beginning and stated that the same concept that was talked about today applies to putting a feasibility study in the 2014 OWP and not doing that study until 2018. He added that again money will be leaving the Waianae coast, this time to be given to the Ala Moana underfunded project, resulting in an economic disadvantage for the Waianae area. He reported that the road will not last much longer and pointed out the safety concern of people having to cross the road to reach the restrooms.

Ms. Smith noted this action is not funding a study over another nor moving funds to a study that did not have funds before because the Ala Moana Transit Plaza Alternatives Analysis was previously approved at a funding level of \$500K by the Policy Board.

Councilmember Cordero asked if the study can be kept on the OWP as a priority even if unfunded and when the federal funds that would be moved from the study would be expended. Ms. Smith replied that the OWP doesn't prioritize work projects. Prioritization of projects is done in the long-range plan. She stated that the funding would be transferred to the FY 2019 federal projects and is expected to be spent within one to two years.

Representative Ryan Yamane joined the meeting.

Jo Jordan testified that there currently is no other funding to replace the OWP funding for the study and clarified there are only pending requests by Congressman Kahele and Clmbr Tupola which have not been finalized or included in their respective budgets.

In yellow: These are his actual words. It's not clear to me to what he is referring. Can someone paraphrase his intent?

Nicki commented: It's not clear to me either. Is it ok to just delete the whole sentence beginning with "Speaking...." Including the quote? Or maybe add a sentence about his support for it as a community member.

Roni response: I think we need to leave it there, especially since he said he wanted this for the record. Because he made noted that he was speaking as a community member – and not as a representative of Clmbr Tupola's office, I think it is best to leave that notation there.

Maybe I'll just put something liked this ***"the same concept that was talked about today applies to putting a feasibility study in the 2014 OWP and not doing that study until 2018."***

A motion was made by Chair Moriwaki and seconded by Ed Sniffen to approve the FY 2022 Overall Work Program, as presented.

A roll call vote was taken:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki	– Aye
Senator Chris Lee	– Aye with Reservations
HART Interim Exec Dir/CEO Lori Kahikina	– Aye
DPP Deputy Director Eugene Takahashi	– Aye
DTS Director Roger Morton	– Aye with Reservations
HDOT Deputy Dir Edwin Sniffen	– Aye
Councilmember Augie Tulba	– Aye
Councilmember Radiant Cordero	– No
Representative Henry Aquino	– Aye with Reservations
Representative Ryan Yamane	– Aye

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

B. Updated Revision to the Finance Supplemental Agreement (Agreement) FY2022-2024

Executive Director Alvin Au provided background, noted the four changes that were made to the former Agreement, and the term of the Agreement.

A motion was made by Roger Morton and seconded by Representative Aquino to approve the updated revision to the Finance Supplemental Agreement FY 2022-2024, 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 Eugene Takahashi	– Aye	Representative Henry Aquino	– Aye
DTS Director Roger Morton	– Aye	Representative Ryan Yamane	– Aye

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

C. Update to Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Sub-Appropriation Funding

HDOT Highways Division Head Planning Engineer, Ken Tatsuguchi noted the Policy Board had approved the use of the CRRSAA Sub-Appropriation funding for the construction of a left-turn lane from the Pearl Highlands Rail Station on Kamehameha Highway to Kuala Street at their April 27, 2021 meeting. He added that there is a clarification to be made that the funding would be used for HDOT’s Oahu District maintenance personnel direct labor costs. The reimbursement funds would then be spent for the construction of a left-turn lane from the Pearl Highlands Rail Station on Kamehameha Highway to Kuala Street. He noted the reasons for initially using the funds for salaries is to expend the funds as quickly as possible, and secondly, the reimbursement funds will have fewer federal restrictions, such as waiver of the NEPA requirement, allowing the project to be completed faster and with less effort.

To Senator Lee’s question if the reimbursement is coming from existing HDOT funds, Deputy Director Sniffen explained that the salaries would be paid by State funds. The reimbursement would be federal CRRSAA funds which becomes State funds when received by HDOT and these funds would then be used for the left-turn lane project.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cordero and seconded by Senator Lee to approve the use of the \$6,155,308 sub-allocation of the CRSSA Oahu Sub-Allocation funds for Hawaii Department of Transportation’s (HDOT) Oahu District maintenance personnel direct labor costs with the understanding that after the HDOT is reimbursed, the reimbursement funds will then be dedicated for the construction of a left-turn lane from the 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
DPP Deputy Dir Eugene Takahashi	– Aye	Representative Henry Aquino	– Aye
DTS Director Roger Morton	– Aye	Representative Ryan Yamane	– Aye

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

D. Report from the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) for the Evaluation of the OahuMPO Executive Director

Chair Moriwaki thanked Executive Director Au for his four and a half years of service at OahuMPO. She reported on the actions of the Evaluation of the OahuMPO Executive Director PIG, noting that since the current Executive Director is resigning, the PIG felt it is not necessary to evaluate his performance. They did develop an evaluation process that would evaluate an Executive Director six months after employment first begins and annually thereafter. It was noted that there was discussion within the PIG on who would evaluate the Executive Director, and it was recommended that only voting and non-voting Policy Board members would evaluate the Executive Director on the actual criteria. However, comments from other parties may be solicited.

E. Establish a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to Conduct a Search for and Evaluation of Candidates for the Executive Director Position

Chair Moriwaki indicated that because Executive Director Au is resigning, the Policy Board needs to establish a new PIG who will finalize the position description; develop salary range, noting she is working with the HDOT Personnel office; develop selection protocol; and conduct the search. She recommended the same Policy Board members that were on the Executive Director Evaluation PIG be included on this Executive Director Search PIG.

Representative Ryan Yamane noted that the Executive Director evaluation and the Executive Director search are not the same processes. He recommended HDOT, DTS, one County representative, and one member from the State Legislature be on the Executive Director Search PIG. He noted other Policy Board members may have a conflict of interest ,adding that the Executive Director must work on behalf of the Policy Board and not the departments.

Chair Moriwaki noted the members on the Evaluation PIG were Ed Sniffen of HDOT, Lori Kahikina of Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART), Roger Morton of DTS, Policy Board Vice Chair Brandon Elefante of City Council, and Policy Board Chair Sharon Moriwaki. She thanked those members for serving on the Executive Director Evaluation PIG and invited other interested Policy Board members to contact her if they wish to be on the Executive Director Search PIG. Roni Schack of OahuMPO advised Chair Moriwaki that Sunshine Law prohibits discussion outside of the meeting among the Policy Board members to determine who will sit on this PIG, that the PIG members must be established in the public meeting, and that the number of members must be less than the Policy Board quorum of six.

Representative Yamane recommended that the PIG members include HDOT, DTS, a Councilmember, and suggested Representative Aquino be on the PIG to represent the State House of Representatives. Chair Moriwaki asked Representative Aquino if he is willing to serve and he concurred.

Chair Moriwaki thanked Interim Executive Director/CEO Lori Kahikina of HART for her service on the Executive Director Evaluation PIG.

A motion was made by Chair Moriwaki and seconded by Ryan Yamane to establish the PIG whose members are HDOT’s Ed Sniffen, DTS’s Roger Morton, Representative Henry Aquino, Vice Chair Elefante, and Chair Moriwaki to finalize salary range, develop selection protocol, investigate candidates to fill the Executive Director position, and make a recommendation to the Policy Board.

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 Eugene Takahashi	– Aye	Representative Henry Aquino	– Aye
DTS Director Roger Morton	– Aye	Representative Ryan Yamane	– Aye

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

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

There were no comments.

VII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ryan Yamane and seconded by Ed Sniffen to adjourn the meeting. There were no further discussion or objections, and Chair Moriwaki adjourned the meeting at 2:29pm.

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at: https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2336