

Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

POLICY BOARD

Tuesday, July 27, 2021
via Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

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| Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Chair | HDOT Deputy Director Edwin Sniffen |
| Councilmember Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair | DTS Director Roger Morton |
| Senator Chris Lee | FHWA Division Administrator Ralph Rizzo |
| Representative Henry Aquino | DPP Director Dean Uchida |
| Councilmember Radiant Cordero | OP Planning Program Administrator Rodney Funakoshi |
| DOH Lola Irvin | HART Govt Relations & Public Involvement Director Joey Manahan |

Member(s) Absent: Representative Ryan Yamane, Councilmember Augie Tulba

Known Guests Present:

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| Dion Mesta (Clmbr Elefante's office) | Charles Izumoto (Sen Moriwaki's office) |
| Mark Garrity | Patrick Tom (HDOT) |
| Ken Tatsuguchi (HDOT) | Amy Ford-Wagner (FHWA) |
| Marcia Tagavilla (Clmbr Tulba's Office) | Chris Clark (DTS) |
| Marian Yasuda (DTS) | Kathleen Rooney (Ulupono) |
| Chase Shigemasa (CAC Chair) | Ken Farm (CAC Vice Chair) |
| State Representative Amy Perruso | Anukriti Hittle (Hawaii Climate Commission) |
| Christopher Johnson (DOH) | Doug Chun (OCS) |
| Sharon Brooks (OCS) | Jill Tanabe (HDOT) |

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moriwaki called the meeting to order at 1:01 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 29, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

The Policy Board members reviewed the June 29, 2021 meeting minutes which were emailed to them in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made by Joey Manahan and seconded by Radiant Cordero to accept the June 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 on the status of the Transportation Improvement Program FFYs 2019-2022 Revision #21, noted that OahuMPO staff participated in the HDOT's speed management and Sub-STAC meetings, and provided a summary of business covered at the July Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee meetings.

A copy of the Executive Director's Report can be viewed at https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2410.

B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

TAC Chair Ken Tatsuguchi indicated he had nothing to report but will be commenting on the FFY2022-2025 TIP when that agenda item is being discussed later in the meeting.

C. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC Chair was not present and no report was given.

V. Old Business

A. Looking Toward the Future for OahuMPO

Chair Moriwaki noted that Randolph Sykes who was scheduled to make the presentation was not able to join the meeting, so she postponed this agenda item to the August meeting.

VI. New Business

A. New Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FFYs 2022-2025

OahuMPO Transportation Planner Kiana Otsuka provided background on what the TIP is and how it is related to the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP); clarified that OahuMPO is currently working on two different TIPs concurrently; discussed the sixteen new projects and programs; project evaluation and scoring criteria, how they contribute to OahuMPO's goals and federal performance targets, and their impact on congestion, Title VI-Environmental Justice per capita spending, and how federal and local funds are being spent. She presented the comments received during the TIP's public and intergovernmental review period and comments received from the CAC and TAC during their meetings.

Senator Chris Lee joined the meeting.

Ken Tatsuguchi expanded on the TAC's TIP discussion at their July meeting. He noted that the TAC felt they did not have enough time to review the document nor did the implementing agencies have enough time to develop their responses. Overall, he noted that the concerns were primarily procedural and the TAC will be discussing this issue at a future meeting. He felt there are no fatal flaws, the TIP document meets the program's priorities, is financially constrained, and meets requirements which is why the TAC recommended Policy Board approval.

Chair Moriwaki asked why a project with a -1 score is included on this TIP. Mr. Tatsuguchi replied that from HDOT's regional distribution perspective, the Farrington Highway Widening, Helelua to Mohihi project is a needed project. He added that the -1 score is from OahuMPO's scoring process and referred Chair's question to OahuMPO.

Ms. Otsuka explained that project scoring is a federal requirement and the prioritization criteria was based on public input, the public's priorities, and feedback from OahuMPO's partner agencies. She added that the Policy Board has the option to decide which submitted projects to fund up to the available funding amount and can select alternative projects. However, funding was available for all the submitted projects, so this project is included in the FFY 2022-2025 TIP. She added that this particular project scored low due to its expected negative impact on air quality. More information on the scoring criteria for this project can be found at this link:

Farrington Highway Widening - Helelua to Mohihi - ORTP 2045 - Call for Projects and Programs Application v2.xlsx (sharepoint.com).

Chair Moriwaki announced that written testimony received from Ulupono, Jo Jordan, and the Climate Change Mitigation Adaptation Commission were given to the Policy Board members.

In response to Lola Irvin's question if OahuMPO relies on the agencies submitting projects to submit quality projects on equity, multimodal transportation, and increasing pedestrian capacity, Ms. Otsuka stated that because OahuMPO does not have a competitive process for funding, all projects submitted are funded, and OahuMPO does rely on the submitting agencies to submit quality projects.

Tori Trevino noted that the written testimony will be posted on the OahuMPO website.

Anu Hittle, Coordinator of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission reported that the Commission issued a statement on decision making and investment guidance to address the climate emergency in Hawaii. She noted that its priority A is on the mitigation of greenhouse gases through the elimination and reduction of emissions; points to several state agencies to work on this issue, including the Energy Office, County planning departments agencies, Department of Transportations, and MPOs; noted it is a summary of action taken at the federal and state levels; and added that Hawaii is the first state to declare a climate emergency. She urged the Policy Board to shift funding from road widening and high-capacity projects to increasing mode shifts, to consider the urgency of climate threats, and to help make progress toward resiliency, safety, and other issues.

Amy Perusu commented on the importance of walkability and transitioning to a sustainable future and noted that the TIP funds many road widening and lane mile capacity increasing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse emissions. She noted that local funds are more flexible than federal funds and questioned why such a large amount of local funds are being used to fund the widening and increase capacity projects. She expressed hope that the TIP can be revisited and revised to move toward a more sustainable future.

A motion was made by Councilmember Elefante and seconded by Representative Aquino to approve the FFY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented.

A roll call vote was taken:

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| Senator Sharon Moriwaki | Aye | Councilmember Brandon Elefante | Aye |
| Senator Chris Lee | No response | Councilmember Radiant Cordero | Aye |
| Representative Henry Aquino | Aye | HDOT Deputy Dir Edwin Sniffen | Aye |
| DPP Director Dean Uchida | Aye | HART Joey Manahan | Aye |
| DTS Director Roger Morton | Aye | | |

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

CAC Chair Shigemasa commented that in response to the negative comments just heard, he feels capacity projects are important to the communities because they provide egress and ingress for people living within those communities.

B. ORTP 2050 Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)

OahuMPO Senior Transportation Planner Zakari Mumuni discussed the benefits of the Performance Improvement Plan and presented the timeline for the development of the 2050 Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) for each of the next five years.

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

VIII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Joey Manahan and seconded by Councilmember Cordero to adjourn the meeting. There were no further discussion or objections, and Chair Moriwaki adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at: https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2408