

**Minutes of the
O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.
via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

	Present?	Represented by	Absent?
Organization			
AARP	X	Elizabeth Chinn	
American Planning Association	X	Jared Chang	
American Society of Civil Engineers		Tony Gaston	
Citizens for a Fair ADA ride	X	Donald Sakamoto	
Committee for Balanced Transportation		Joe Magaldi	X
Gentry Homes, Ltd.		Deb Luning	X
Hawai'i Association of the Blind		Anthony Akamaie	X
Hawai'i Bicycling League	X	Lori McCarney	
Hawai'i Teamsters / Allied Workers, Local 996		Wayne Kaululaau	X
Institute of Transportation Engineers		Robert Nehmad	X
Ka'a'awa Community Association		Andrea Anixt	X
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i		David Arakawa	X
League of Women Voters		Marcia Linville	X
Mestizo Association		Arvid Youngquist	X
North Shore Chamber of Commerce		Roxana Jimenez	X
Pacific Resource Partnership		Paul Migliorato	X
Palehua Townhouses	X	Michael Golojuch	
Waikiki Residents' Association	X	Daisy Murai	
NB#01 Hawai'i Kai		Roberta Mayor	X
NB#02 Kuliouou-Kalani Iki		Linda Starr	X
NB#03 Wai'alaie-Kahala		Les Fukuda	X
NB#05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu	X	Bert Narita	
NB#07 Mānoa		Dylan Armstrong	X
NB#08 McCully-Mo'ili'ili		Matthew Prellberg	X
NB#09 Waikiki	X	Kathryn Henski	
NB#10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus	X	Fred Nakahara	
NB#12 Nu'uanu-Punchbowl		Zack Stoddard	X
NB#13 Downtown/Chinatown	X	James Logue	
NB#14 Liliha-Pu'unui-Alewa-Kamehameha Hts	X	Cora Yamamoto	
NB#15 Kalihi-Palama	X	Kendrick Farm	
NB#18 Aliamanu – Salt Lake	X	Chace Shigemasa	
NB#21 Pearl City		Larry Veray	X
NB#22 Waipahu		Matthew Weyer	X

NB#23 'Ewa	X	John Rogers	
NB#24 Wai'ananae Coast	X	Jo Jordan	
NB#25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu	X	Elise Carmody / Dick Poirier	
NB#26 Wahiawā	X	Joe Francher	
NB #27 North Shore	X	Bob Leinau	
NB#29 Kahalu'u		Ken Levassuer	X
NB#34 Makakilo-Kapolei Honokai Hale	X	Frank Genadio	
NB#35 Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley		Steven Melendrez	X
NB#36 Nānākuli-Ma'ili		Germaine Meyers	X
OahuMPO staff: Alvin Au Samantha Lara Kiana Otsuka Victoria Trevino Veronica Schack		Guests: Amy Ford-Wagner (FHWA) Burt Lum (Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office)	

Meeting was properly noticed per State law.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Shigemasa called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

OahuMPO Acting Community Planner Samantha Lara took roll call by reading out the list of attendees in the meeting as noted in the Teams program.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NONE

4. REPORTS OF POLICY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS: NONE

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Broadband Digital Equity Office Update

Burt Lum of the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office provided an update on the strategies of the office moving forward beyond 2020. Strategies Mr. Lum discussed included carrier neutral cable landing stations, terrestrial backhaul connectivity, small cell deployment, interisland fiber, and rural broadband. Mr. Lum discussed those involved with the Broadband Hui, including those affiliated with rural communities, telehealth, government services, distance learning, interisland fiber, infrastructure, TransPacific Fiber, carriers, digital equity, and digital economy. The three pillars of digital equity in which the office hopes to address include access to affordable, quality broadband for all; literacy and a baseline of digital competence for all; and the improvement of livelihoods and societal systems to effectively leverage digital opportunities. Mr. Lum gave a general synopsis of the 2020 Hawaii Broadband Strategic Plan along with information about relevant federal acts.

Frank Genadio, NB #34, asked Mr. Lum about whether there are any requirements of the federal acts to purchase American products. Mr. Lum stated that there are specifications for eligible and ineligible use of federal funds, including the ineligibility of manufacturers from China.

Bob Leinau, NB #27, asked Mr. Lum how the Office is handling security questions and the viability of the technology. Mr. Lum stated that his role is to look at the fiber infrastructure aspect, and language suggesting cyber security has been introduced by the House, and it remains to be seen how this will affect funding opportunities.

Vice Chair Farm asked Mr. Lum to discuss the effects of right of way and construction of fiberoptics. Mr. Lum stated that permitting would be involved for fiberoptics construction thus DTS would be involved. Mr. Lum stated MPO involvement is important to consider in this aspect and utilized the rail as an example of a project that did not include fiberoptics along the railway in the planning of the project. Mr. Lum stated that fiberoptics will be required for transportation and cited traffic cameras and data collection methods as needs of the transportation industry.

Office Manager, Roni Schack discussed the two roles of the CAC being to act as an advisory committee to the Policy Board and Executive Director that provides public input on transportation planning issues and not actual construction or design; and to relay information to the public about the aims and progress of the 3-C transportation planning process. Mrs. Schack asked Mr. Lum what actionable items the CAC could take to help the broadband project to move forward. Mr. Lum stated his purpose of the presentation was to inform and educate the CAC of what is happening with Broadband in terms of importance and federal funding. Chair Shigemasa interjected with U.S. federal codes to emphasize the federal government's adjustment of federal transportation language to include broadband infrastructure. Chair Shigemasa stated that while federal language has changed, MPO language has not changed, and stated this would be the role of the CAC to change that. Chair Shigemasa encouraged the CAC to begin a conversation with the Policy Board about how the MPO can get involved in the planning of broadband projects. Mrs. Schack stated she had recently read an article relating roadway routes to broadband infrastructure and reiterated her interest in how the CAC can discuss project suggestions and actionable items. Mrs. Schack then asked Mr. Lum if there is any funding that is specifically targeted for the DOTs in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act 2021. Mr. Lum responded that the broadband project in question is focused on connectivity to residents, and other broadband projects would be connected to traffic related items. Mr. Lum discussed permitting and open access that would allow a third party to make it available to people to get access to the fiber network, creating more options and opportunities. Vice Chair Farm interjected with U.S. federal code CFR 550.201 to emphasize the relevance and authority of the CAC in the discussion of transportation and infrastructure.

Frank Genadio, NB #34, commented that the suggestion for infrastructure along the guideway was suggested a decade ago and was not acted on.

Chair Shigemasa asked FHWA Transportation Planner Amy Ford-Wagner about the possibility of changing MPO policy language to include broadband infrastructure language in MPO work products. Mrs. Ford-Wagner clarified that changing MPO policies would not

change whether broadband infrastructure would be eligible for the funds the MPO manages, rather this would need to be changed at the federal level. Mrs. Ford-Wagner stated that broadband discussions are in line with telework, work from home initiatives, etc. Mrs. Ford-Wagner stated she would report back with information regarding eligibility questions. Mrs. Ford-Wagner encouraged the committee to continue monitoring the reauthorization of transportation bills and policies.

7. INVITATION TO INTERESTED MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON MATTERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

A. Next CAC meeting scheduled for: September 1, 2021, 2:00pm

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Shigemasa adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm.