

Minutes of the  
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

**POLICY BOARD**

Tuesday, August 31, 2021  
via Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:**

Councilmember Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair	HDOT Deputy Director Edwin Sniffen
Senator Chris Lee	DTS Director Roger Morton
Representative Henry Aquino	DPP Director Dean Uchida
Councilmember Augie Tulba	OP Planning Program Administrator Rodney Funakoshi
Councilmember Radiant Cordero	HART Govt Relations & Public Involvement Director Joey Manahan
FHWA Division Administrator Ralph Rizzo	DOH Primary Prevention Branch Manager Heidi Hansen-Smith

**Member(s) Absent:** Senator Sharon Moriwaki (Chair), Representative Ryan Yamane

**Known Guests Present:**

Dion Mesta (Clmbr Elefante's office)	Charles Izumoto (Sen Moriwaki's office)
Mark Garrity	Patrick Tom (HDOT)
Ken Tatsuguchi (TAC Chair)	Amy Ford-Wagner (FHWA)
Marcia Tagavilla (Clmbr Tulba's Office)	Chris Clark (DTS)
Chace Shigemasa (CAC Chair)	Kathleen Rooney (Ulupono Initiative)
State Representative Amy Perruso	Doug Chun (OCS)
John Rogers (Ewa NB)	Jill Tanabe (HDOT)
Larie Manutai	Heidi Hanson-Smith (DOH)
Richelle Takara (FHWA)	Yoko Tomita (DTS)
Adriel Lam	Ryan Tam (HART)

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Moriwaki was not able to attend the meeting, so Vice Chair Elefante called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken of Policy Board members present and quorum was established. Acting Chair Elefante requested Chair Moriwaki be recorded as excused.

### **III. APPROVAL OF JULY 15 AND 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

The Policy Board members reviewed the meeting minutes for July 15, 2021 and July 27, 2021 which were emailed to them in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made by Senator Lee and seconded by Director Morton to accept the July 15, 2021 and July 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 on OahuMPO activities, noted that OahuMPO's FY2021 fourth quarter financial report is attached to the Executive Director Report, provided a summary of business covered at the August Citizen Advisory Committee meetings, and reported that the Technical Advisory Committee did not hold a meeting in August.

A copy of the Executive Director's Report can be viewed at [https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb\\_dl=2455](https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2455).

Acting Chair Elefante welcomed Dean Uchida to the meeting.

#### **B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

TAC Chair Ken Tatsuguchi indicated he had nothing to report because the TAC did not meet in August.

#### **C. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)**

CAC Chair Chace Shigemasa reported that the CAC received a presentation at their August meeting from the State's Broadband Strategy Officer Bert Lum. Chair Shigemasa added that the CAC will be discussing a resolution at their next meeting to encourage the Policy Board to consult congressional leaders to update MPO language to incorporate broadband infrastructure in funding for federal and/or MPO projects in the future.

Acting Chair Elefante welcomed Heidi Hanson-Smith to the meeting.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **A. Looking Toward the Future for OahuMPO**

Senator Lee pointed out that there have been many changes the last couple of years regarding the mission and projects of the City and State. He suggested the MPO try to reflect the broader movement of the MPO toward those changes and the changing priorities of the Biden Administration.

To Senator Lee's question if his comments would pertain to this agenda item or to the next, Acting Chair Elefante indicated it could pertain to both, so Senator Lee commented the general intent is good, and he will reserve more specific comments to the next agenda item.

OahuMPO Transportation Planner-Special Projects, Randolph Sykes explained that the intent of this agenda item is to introduce ideas and stimulate thought on how the OahuMPO moves

forward into the future. He discussed the Vision that the Policy Board approved in the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) 2045 and his conversations with Chair Moriwaki on whether this is the path the Policy Board would like to move forward with, while noting that OahuMPO is on the cusp of developing the next long-range plan - the ORTP 2050. He remarked on the correlation of the Vision to the development of the Strategic Plan and the ORTP 2050 and the importance of the Policy Board's input.

There was no further discussion and the Acting Chair Elefante moved to the next agenda item.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. 2025 Strategic Plan Overview**

OahuMPO's Randolph Sykes noted that OahuMPO is looking for direction from the Policy Board on how to move forward in the development of a 5-year Strategic Plan. He noted the development of a Strategic Plan was a 2018 Certification Review Recommendation; provided background on the purpose of the MPO; discussed the key goals, issues, and long-term initiatives of the OahuMPO and the next steps in the Strategic Plan development process.

To Director Uchida's question if other MPOs are taking a closer look at how teleworking is impacting transportation networks around the country and if OahuMPO will also be doing this, Mr. Sykes replied that many corporations and entities have done so and Oahu will be as well.

Director Morton commented that the City and State did a *Work Where You Live* study of public workers and noted that 75% of the workforce, unsurprisingly, likes working from home. He applauded the OahuMPO's goal to rely less on consultants and feels that is an important objective for the MPO to strive toward. Deputy Director Sniffen echoed Director Morton's sentiment.

Katie Rooney of Ulupono Initiative commented that it makes sense to integrate comments on previous products but having an understanding of what the decisions are doing and taking a holistic approach is important to connect what is happening on the ground in regard to goal #3 (*Plan for Sustainable and Livable Communities on Oahu*), to determine how well that is being done, and to determine what else needs to be done to achieve those goals. She noted that some of this is technical but added some of it is ensuring the decisions that come before the board are also supporting those objectives or that the Board should hold discussions on the effect of those decisions and what the different options are in order to achieve the goals more effectively.

Senator Lee suggested adding two items on a future agenda that are related to this topic. They were 1) review some of the changes that have occurred at County, State, and Federal levels and how they can be incorporated into the Policy Board's decision making, such as the recently passed SB 1402 (Act 131 2021), and 2) have a discussion pertaining to Goal #3 (*Plan for Sustainable and Livable Communities on Oahu*) on how to incorporate the Climate Commission's considerations to help mitigate emissions and their impact. He added that he was interested in applying the scoring used for the new projects to the older projects in the ORTP to see how they measure up to the new metrics.

Executive Director Au indicated OahuMPO staff will review the scoring and provide feedback. Samantha Lara of OahuMPO commented that she supports the idea of reviewing all the projects and is willing to help. Kiana Otsuka asked for clarification on what exactly the Policy Board is seeking. Senator Lee indicated it would be a good idea to collectively look at all the projects, report back, and have a presentation to the Policy Board for discussion.

#### **B. Member Dues Increase Discussion**

OahuMPO's Planning Program Manager Nicole Smith provided the history and details of the Finance Supplemental Agreement (Agreement) which documents the agreement between the implementing partners and OahuMPO regarding the annual dues. It was noted that the dues amount was established in 2015 and that although OahuMPO's FY2021 apportionment for the OWP FY2022 was \$2.1 million, because of the 20% local match required by federal regulations and the current dues amount, OahuMPO is limited to spending \$1.875 million of those federal funds. Ms. Smith explained how the cancellation of a work element in the Overall Work Program (OWP) was the reason for the dues credit made to the implementing partners for their FY2022 dues, adding that without that cancellation the amount of the credit made to the implementing partners would not have been a significant amount.

Ms. Smith detailed items included in the FY2022 budget, the anticipated budget needs for FY2026, and the proposed dues increase.

Deputy Director Sniffen expressed support for the dues increase especially if it is used for the upgrading and retention of staff. He expressed concern on dues credited back to the implementing partners at the end of the fiscal year because it prevents the partners use of those funds for that fiscal year. He noted that when multiplied by the federal funds that could have been leveraged, the result is a significant amount. He added he would like to avoid any credits at year-end and he prefers providing financial support through supplemental assessments when budgeting for consultants.

Councilmember Cordero asked if the dues credit to the implementing partners is required, how many more households will be reached through purchasing National Household Travel Survey data, and how many visitors will be included in the outreach. Ms. Smith noted that due to inflation, OahuMPO would be purchasing the same number of households over the ten-year period as was purchased in 2012 and that there is intent to do a visitor survey in the future. She added that the previous visitor survey cost about \$250,000 which is a separate expense than the household survey expense.

Councilmember Cordero noted that in 2012 the 4,000 households represented 40% - 50% of the population and asked what percentage do other MPOs reach out to for these surveys. Ms. Smith noted the standard goal is 1.5%-2% of households.

Director Morton indicated that the appropriations in the infrastructure bill for FTA funds and perhaps even the FHWA funds are expected to be increased by 30% and asked if OahuMPO is aware of this increase. Ms. Smith responded that OahuMPO is aware and anticipated the possible increase in federal funds. She added that based on the last census, Hilo may become an eligible area for an MPO which means the distribution of planning (PL) funds would be split three ways - between Oahu, Maui, and Hilo which could result in a decrease in planning funds

for OahuMPO. She also noted that OahuMPO's primary focus is on strengthening our required core products and any federal funds that OahuMPO hasn't programmed or included in our budget is available as pass-through funds for sub-recipients.

To Director Uchida's question if expenses have been projected for the next five years and if this increase would cover those projected expenses, Ms. Smith indicated OahuMPO has performed expense projections for the next five years which was part of the basis for beginning the conversation about increasing the partner dues and expects this proposed dues amount would cover those projected expenses.

Senator Lee remarked he sees an opportunity for pooling and maximizing funding through collaboration across jurisdictions. He wondered if there is time for Policy Board members to reach out to other agencies and see if what those agencies are working on, for example, would benefit from the sharing of the modeling outputs and mentioned his intention of reaching out to agencies such as the Energy Office. Ms. Smith acknowledged there is time to do so, and OahuMPO can examine how, through collaboration, other agencies can take advantage of OahuMPO's model capabilities.

Acting Chair Elefante inquired on the term of the Agreement. Ms. Smith indicated that the Agreement is typically for three years but includes the option to do an update after one year. She indicated the Agreement OahuMPO is hoping to execute by June 2022 would be for FY2023-2024. Acting Chair Elefante commented that sometime in the future when construction ends for HART his understanding is that HART will no longer be an OahuMPO partner and other funding sources will need to be determined.

Acting Chair Elefante added that he feels it is a good idea using one consultant for the household survey and asked if other MPOs take that same approach. Ms. Smith said on the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) website there are many DOTs listed and believes there are other MPOs as well. Acting Chair Elefante requested that Ms. Smith share the URL for the NHTS website with the Policy Board members.

To Councilmember Cordero's questions if the new data would be of the same households that were surveyed in 2012 and if an equitable sample is taken from each community, Ms. Smith indicated it would not be the same households and an equitable sample would be taken from each community. She added that OahuMPO works with and provides OahuMPO's goals for the sampling to NHTS.

## **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 Senator Lee and seconded by Deputy Director Sniffen to adjourn the meeting. There were no further discussions or objections, and Acting Chair Elefante adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at: [https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb\\_dl=2456](https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2456)