

OahuMPO Title VI
Report for FFY 2021

October 2020 - September 2021



OahuMPO FFY 2021 Title VI Accomplishments	2
Title VI Environmental Justice Implementation Plan	2
Transportation Improvement Program	2
Overall Work Program	4
Oahu Regional Transportation Plan 2045	4
OahuMPO's Reach	9

OahuMPO FFY 2021 Title VI Accomplishments

Title VI Environmental Justice Implementation Plan

During FFY 2021, OahuMPO updated the 2019 Title VI and Environmental Justice (T6/EJ) Implementation Plan. OahuMPO was notified that this plan did not have to be approved by the Policy Board since it has a three year validity date and was approved in 2019 (existing plan expires in 2022, and will require Policy Board approval before September 2022). The approval of the Title VI Environmental Justice Implementation Plan is a Federal Transportation Administration requirement.

Transportation Improvement Program

OahuMPO is required to conduct an analysis comparing Title VI/Environmental Justice census block group areas relative to total per capita Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) investment, with every TIP amendment or new TIP. The following provides details for three TIP amendments, a new TIP, and their analyses.

To evaluate the equity in spending of the TIP amendments, OahuMPO analyzes planned investment in T6/EJ population areas. The analysis entails determining the percent investment and average per capita investment by Census block group (BG) based on the list of projects included in the TIP. Block groups were determined based on racial minority and income.

FFYs 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments July 2020:

Upon analyzing the FFYs 2019-2022 As of TIP Revision #13, the results show the average per capita investment is \$2,488 and \$2,497 in T6/EJ and non-T6/EJ areas, respectively, meaning that roughly the same amount of funds is being spent in T6/EJ and non-T6/EJ areas (the difference being -\$9 per capita which amounts to a less than 0.5% difference).

March 2021: Upon analyzing the FFYs 2019-2022 As of TIP Revision #17, the results show that 23% of the block groups are designated as T6/EJ BGs and about 32% of the plan's investments would occur in these BGs. The average per capita investment is \$2,433 and \$2,299 in T6/EJ and non-T6/EJ areas, respectively, meaning that 6% more funds (\$134 per capita) are being spent in T6/EJ areas.

July 2021: Upon analyzing the FFYs 2019-2022 As of TIP Revision #20, the results show that 23% of the block groups are designated as T6/EJ BGs and about 32% of the plan's investments would occur in these BGs. The average per capita investment is \$2,383 and \$2,258 in T6/EJ and non-T6/EJ areas, respectively, meaning that 6% more funds (\$125 per capita) are being spent in T6/EJ areas.

FFYs 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program

June 2021: Upon analyzing the FFYs 2022-2025 TIP, the results show that 23% of the block groups are designated as T6/EJ BGs and about 33% of the plan's investments would occur in these BGs. The average per capita investment is \$1,809 and \$1,578 in T6/EJ and non-T6/EJ areas, respectively, meaning that 15% more funds (\$231 per capita) are being spent in T6/EJ areas.

For the Transportation Improvement Program FFYs 2022-2025, the OahuMPO conducted the following forms of public outreach:

- **TIP Open Houses:** OahuMPO conducted three open house opportunities co-hosted with project agency sponsors in June 2021. The MPO scheduled these open house sessions to include a midday **June 7, 2021, 12:00-1:30pm**, evening **June 14, 2021, 6:00-7:30pm**, and weekend **June 5, 2021, 10:00-11:30am** option in efforts to provide the community with ample options to participate. A presentation was given on the OahuMPO, and the purpose and importance of the TIP. Participants were then given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the proposed projects and programs. Notice of the open houses was distributed via MailChimp to the OahuMPO email list, a press release via the government delivery platform hosted by HDOT, a newsletter distributed by HART, posted on the OahuMPO website, and promoted via the OahuMPO Facebook.
- **Instructional Video Resource:** OahuMPO staff developed a video to assist the community with better understanding the purpose, process, and development of the Transportation Improvement Program. This video was shared via social media, posted to the website, and distributed via OahuMPO newsletter. In total, the video was viewed 52 times.
- **Public and Intergovernmental Review Period:** OahuMPO staff conducted a Public and Intergovernmental Review Period between **May 20, 2021- June 22, 2021** for the TIP. The Citizens Advisory Committee, the general public, mandated stakeholders, and federally required agencies were notified of the final draft of the TIP, how to provide comments, and a deadline to provide comments. The public and intergovernmental review period was promoted via MailChimp to the OahuMPO email list, a press release via the government delivery platform hosted by HDOT and promoted via the OahuMPO Facebook. The TIP webpage also gave notice of the public and intergovernmental review period, and provided the draft TIP, an online map to visualize project locations, and information about how to provide comments. In total, 70 comments were received during the IGR period.
- **Committee Meetings:** OahuMPO staff updated the Citizen Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Policy Board on the Transportation Improvement

Program FFYs 2022-2025. These meetings were also open to the public. The public comments received during the Intergovernmental and Public Review period were sent to the corresponding agencies for consideration. The MPO then provided the committees and Policy Board with the comments and responses received for consideration.

Overall Work Program

The Overall Work Program annual cycle began with requesting early input from the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) on the transportation and planning related needs and issues in their communities. The CAC represents a number of Title VI and Environmental Justice populations. During this time, members of the CAC drafted OWP study proposals which the MPO staff assisted with. The public review draft was shared with OahuMPO committees before being released for public and intergovernmental review for thirty days. Members of the public were encouraged to review and submit feedback on the draft, including those organizations representing Title VI and Environmental Justice populations. The final draft was then presented to the OahuMPO committees, including the CAC, for approval.

The public and intergovernmental review period was promoted via MailChimp to the OahuMPO email list, a press release via the government delivery platform hosted by HDOT and promoted via the OahuMPO Facebook. The OWP webpage also gave notice of the public and intergovernmental review period, provided the draft OWP, and information about how to provide comments. In total, 43 comments were received during the IGR period.

Oahu Regional Transportation Plan 2045

In November 2020, OahuMPO conducted Phase 2 virtual public participation techniques in response to the COVID-19 situation.

Phase 2 of public engagement included the following:

- **Website updates:** Throughout Phase 2, OahuMPO posted relevant information including event notices, plan updates, ways to get involved, and summaries of engagement to the ORTP 2045 Public Participation and Engagement tab. It included engagement activities and events, the timeline, how to get involved, and support documents and materials. At any time, members of the public were able to submit comments through the

comment feature on the OTRP page of the OahuMPO website. Staff received comments and coordinated responses as needed. The webpage can be found here:

<https://www.oahumpo.org/ortp-engagement/>

- **Survey:** OahuMPO staff worked with Uehiro staff to develop a survey that was distributed to the community utilizing Esri's Survey123. The purpose of this survey was to seek input from the community about the new proposed projects and programs. Survey questions focused on the benefit or harm the survey participants felt the proposed project would have. The responses received on the survey were then shared with HDOT and DTS for consideration. The results of this survey may be viewed here:
<https://oahumpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Phase-2-Survey-Summary-2-merged-2.pdf> OahuMPO distributed the survey link via social media, email, newsletter, and website. In total, the survey had 85 responses.
- **Interactive Web Map:** The purpose of this survey was to allow participants to pinpoint locations of concern for the four new programs proposed in the ORTP: safety, system preservation, resiliency, and congestion. These locations were then shared with HDOT for consideration in the development of their project list, for each of the programs. The interactive web map received 114 comments, many with specific locations identified for improvements.
- **Instructional Video Resources:** OahuMPO staff developed a video to assist the community with participating in the interactive web map which was intended to provide the public the opportunity to identify areas that could use safety, system preservation, resiliency, and congestion improvements, as part of the project development process for the newly proposed programs. The video was distributed via newsletters, posted on the MPO's Facebook page, and posted to the MPO's website. In total, the video was viewed 24 times. Another video was created to give a high level overview of the ORTP and the planning process, highlighting key places where the community could get involved. In total, the video was viewed 38 times.
- **Virtual Open Houses:** OahuMPO staff facilitated three virtual open house opportunities for the community to ask questions about what an MPO does, who the staff is, our motivations and interests as planners, and how the community can get involved. The MPO scheduled these open house sessions to include a midday November 12, 2020, **11:30-1:00pm**, evening **November 12, 2020, 6:00-7:30pm**, and weekend **November 21, 2020, 10:30-12:00pm** option in efforts to provide the community with ample options to participate. The purpose of a virtual open house was to strengthen relationships and build trust, without a set focus on any one project or program. OahuMPO used Microsoft Teams and provided a call-in number for those who did not have access to a

computer or internet. Staff scheduled the virtual open houses during three different dates and times, with the goal being to provide accessibility for various demographics to participate. The virtual open houses were attended by an array of participants, both new voices and recurring community voices. The attendee list included OahuMPO committee members, government employees, university students, and community members. OahuMPO received positive feedback regarding the engagement strategies and ideas for further content. A few of the comments provided by the participants are as follows:

- Great job, nice way to introduce OMPO. Would be nice to understand how OMPO works with climate planning. Eg DTS and HDOT in prioritizing surface transportation, increasing bike/alt transportation options, community issues and community suggestions
- Great job! Nice to hear more about the OahuMPO and what's coming up next, especially during COVID! You guys are vital to our economic recovery!
- Background information on OahuMPO was very helpful, and I like your staff members' preferred method of transportation.

The virtual open houses had 31 attendees with a diverse set of participants, spanning age ranges, income brackets, household incomes, gender, and languages. We also had participants from 15 island zip codes.

- **Facebook:** OahuMPO staff utilized Facebook to invite members of the public to participate in online engagement such as surveys. Social media was also used to announce updates. OahuMPO's Facebook can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/OahuMetropolitan>. OahuMPO posted 42 times to the MPO Facebook in the form of announcements, information, and tips on how to get involved with the ORTP 2045 public participation.
- **Collaboration:** OahuMPO collaborated with UH Mānoa's Department of Urban and Regional Planning to participate as a guest lecturer in the PACE 668 class. In this class, OahuMPO staff provided insight as to what an MPO does, is responsible for, and what was currently underway. The students were to develop participation materials for OahuMPO's upcoming outreach efforts, which at the time were the district community meetings. This collaboration was in response to the MPO's intention from the Phase 1 evaluation and discussion to engage 19-24 aged populations.

OahuMPO also collaborated with UH Mānoa's Uehiro Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education. This collaboration was in response to the MPO's intention from the Phase 1 discussion and evaluation to engage 18 and under youth populations. The Uehiro Academy specializes in building intellectually safe communities of inquiry and facilitating discussion amongst the community. This organization works closely with the Hawaii Department of Education and thus assisted the MPO in bringing discussions of transportation into classroom settings. During the collaboration, OahuMPO staff consulted with Uehiro staff to develop materials to distribute to the Uehiro's email listserv, which consists of teachers and schools across the island of Oahu. Several teachers disseminated these materials to their students and two teachers volunteered to participate in a session to discuss the MPO and transportation planning in the classroom. OahuMPO staff were invited to sit in on the discussion and respond to student inquiry about the MPO and the role of the planner. One of the teachers had her entire class participate in the ORTP 2045 Projects and Programs survey. 25% of survey participants were 18 and under, and this is a direct reflection of the collaboration with the Uehiro Academy.

- **Newsletters:** Throughout the ORTP 2045 development process, OahuMPO distributed ORTP 2045 focused newsletters. In total, five newsletters were distributed to neighborhood board chairs, committee members, and those who signed up to receive the newsletters. The current mailing list for the newsletters has 362 subscribers. OahuMPO also utilized HDOT's press release email distribution resource (gov delivery) to reach more community members. The newsletters were also posted as pdfs on the MPO website for reference. An archive of the newsletters can be found here: <https://www.oahumpo.org/newsletters/>.
- **Committee Meetings:** OahuMPO staff updated the Citizen Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Policy Board throughout the process. These meetings were also open to the public. The public comments received during phase 2 were sent to the corresponding agencies for consideration. The MPO then provided the committees and Policy Board with the comments and responses received for consideration during the outreach strategies discussed above. In total, the MPO presented ORTP related items 8 times to the committees and Policy Board during the ORTP public outreach phase 2 process. These meetings were also open to the public.

In March 2021, OahuMPO conducted Phase 3 virtual public participation techniques in response to the COVID-19 situation.

Phase 3 of public engagement for the ORTP 2045 included the following:

- **Virtual Community Meetings:** In March 2021, OahuMPO co-hosted seven virtual community meetings with agencies who proposed projects and programs and city councilmembers in several city council districts including districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 (those who responded to the request for collaboration). The goal was to provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions of the project's sponsors regarding the ORTP 2045 proposed projects and programs with an elected representative present to hear any comments and concerns. OahuMPO also held one final open house to provide members of the community who could not attend the meeting in their district an opportunity to be heard. At these meetings, OahuMPO staff utilized multiple engagement techniques including a PowerPoint presentation for facilitation, online polls to gather data about the participants, and Google's extension, Jamboard, to mimic typical community meetings in which sticky notes would be used. The intention was to provide an engaging experience that was also informative and transparent. The seven community meetings attracted 61 participants and resulted in 140 questions and comments. The community meetings were held via Microsoft Teams at 6pm to best accommodate the community.
 - **Incentives:** OahuMPO received confirmation from FHWA to use MPO funds to purchase six \$50 Visa gift cards. At each virtual community meeting event, the MPO staff notified participants that those who provided an email address would be entered into a raffle for the gift cards. MPO staff used an online raffle resource to select six participants and the recipients were notified via email and then sent the gift card via USPS.
 - **Comments Received:** OahuMPO documented the comments received during the virtual community meetings along with anything received via email or hard copy. OahuMPO identified which agency the comment was directed to and proceeded to provide the comments to the respective agency, if they were not present at the community meetings to answer questions or were not able to answer the question at the meeting. The agencies provided responses to the comments which were then distributed to the Citizen Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Policy Board for consideration upon voting on the ORTP. The comment sheet with the responses was also posted on the website and sent to the community members who provided an email address at the community meetings.
- **Intergovernmental and Public Review Period:** OahuMPO's intergovernmental and public review period of the draft 2045 ORTP ran between March 1-29, 2021 and received a total of 75 comments. Comments and responses received during the review period may be viewed in **Table A.1** at this link: https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2198. Any comments received after March 29, 2021, are documented in the same link. These

comments and responses were also shared with the committees and Policy Board for their consideration.

OahuMPO's Reach

OahuMPO has made diligent efforts to expand upon its email list and social media reach. The following list provides an overview of our current reach:

- Facebook: 474 followers
- Mailchimp: 493 subscribers
- Press Release: 3,032 subscribers

In the next year, the MPO hopes to continue expanding upon these lists by engaging more with the community in quarterly open houses, consistent social media posts, presence in UH Mānoa classes, and collaborations with other agencies.