

Minutes of the  
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

**POLICY BOARD**

Tuesday, November 30, 2021  
via Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:**

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

**Member(s) Absent:** Representative Ryan Yamane

**Known Guests Present:**

Marian Yasuda (DTS)	Dion Mesta (CM Elefante's office)
Mark Garrity (DTS' consultant)	Sharon Brooks (OCS)
Ken Tatsuguchi (TAC Chair)	Doug Chun (OCS)
Chris Clark (DTS)	Kari Benes (DOH)
Yoko Tomita (DTS)	Rachel Roper (HDOT)
John Rogers (NB #23)	Marcia Tagavilla (CM Tulba's office)
Chris Clark (DTS)	Meredith Soniat (DTS)
Ray Mangan (HNL)	Robert Sato (CM Cordero's Office)
Kevin Hachey	Larie Manutai (CM Tulba's Office)
DreanaLee Kalili	Ryan Tam (HART)
Dina Wong	Todd Boulanger (Biki)
Amy Ford-Wagner (FHWA)	

**OahuMPO Staff Present:** Alvin Au, Kiana Otsuka, Tori Trevino, Nicki Smith, Samantha Lara, Joel Vincent, Randolph Sykes, Nicole Cernohorsky, and Zakari Mumuni

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Since the Chair had not yet entered the meeting, Vice Chair Elefante called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

### III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

The Policy Board members reviewed the meeting minutes for October 28, 2021, which were emailed to them in advance of the meeting.

There was no discussion, objections, or abstentions and the minutes were accepted as presented.

### IV. Reports

#### A. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Au presented the Executive Director Report to the Policy Board. He provided updates on the Public Participation Plan, the ORTP land management survey, the OWP FY2023, the annual Title VI Accomplishments Report for FFY2021, the State Over-the-Shoulder Review meetings, and noted that the OWP Quarterly Financial Report was attached to the Executive Director's report.

Director Au summarized the business transacted at the meetings of the November 11<sup>th</sup> Technical Advisory Committee and the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Citizen Advisory Committee meeting. The full Executive Director's Report can be viewed at:

[https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb\\_dl=2532](https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2532)

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

TAC Chair Ken Tatsuguchi indicated he had nothing to report.

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

The CAC Chair and Vice Chair were not present, and no report was presented.

Acting Chair Elefante welcomed Councilmember Augie Tulba and Deputy Director Ed Sniffen to the meeting.

### V. Old Business

#### A. Discussion and Action Regarding Scoring of Mid, Long Range, and Illustrative Oahu Regional Transportation Program (ORTP) 2045 projects and programs

Kiana Otsuka, Transportation Planner for OahuMPO provided background on this issue noting that Senator Lee had requested the Mid, Long Range, and Illustrative projects be scored. She discussed the difference between the ORTP and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the process and purpose of prioritizing projects, the timeline for the ORTP, the application process for the ORTP, and the scoring process for the projects. She noted that there are 38 projects carried over from the prior ORTP into the 2045 ORTP. Of these, 18 are sponsored by the City's Department of Transportation Services (DTS), 15 by the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT), and five by Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART). Ms. Otsuka discussed the three steps and the possible timeline that would follow should the Policy Board decide to request the scoring of these 38 projects.

Senator Lee explained his concerns and the concerns of the public and how the scoring of these projects can create transparency and better outcomes in decision-making.

Chair Moriwaki entered the meeting and assumed the role of Chair from Vice Chair Elefante.

To Ed Sniffen's question on how many OahuMPO staff would be needed to do the scoring, Ms. Otsuka indicated that two OahuMPO planners would be working on the scoring. Deputy Director Sniffen also requested clarification on the intent of this effort. Senator Lee explained that the intent is to help determine a better process for project selection and to gain better outcomes.

Chair Moriwaki requested further clarification on what this process is meant to accomplish. Senator Lee indicated the scoring will give a better idea on how these projects fit into the current policies and goals and on prioritizing limited funding. Doing the scoring would show how they compare to one another, could help create efficiency with better outcomes, and clarify the value of these projects especially to the Legislature and the community.

Councilmember Elefante noted his concern about how this effort may impact projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that are already in progress. Ms. Otsuka clarified that it would not impact TIP projects which are near-term projects since this proposed effort will be scoring only mid, long-term, and illustrative projects in the ORTP which are projects about ten or more years into the future.

To the Chair's question if the criteria differ from prior criteria used, Ms. Otsuka explained that the only federal requirement is that projects must be consistent with the ORTP vision and at least one of the goals. That was the basis used in the 2040 ORTP. She added that during the 2018 federal certification review, the OahuMPO was encouraged to develop a more robust process for determining if projects are consistent with the ORTP's vision and goals. She noted that the new application form requests additional information not previously requested in the prior ORTP. This information includes how these projects meet the ORTP 2045 objectives, the purpose, and need for the projects, and the scope of work. These metrics were applied to the new projects included in the 2045 ORTP. Senator Lee explained that this will mean all projects in the ORTP 2045 will have been scored with the same current goals and objectives, thus providing a more complete picture of how all the projects in the ORTP 2045 compare to one another and to the current metrics.

Vice Chair Elefante asked if the HDOT and DTS would be able to provide this new information and not the rescoring of these 38 projects. Roger Morton indicated DTS and Ed Sniffen indicated HDOT would be able to provide the additional information but believes it would mean moving backwards, taking the effort to score these older projects with no indication of changing them, but feels the Policy Board could consider doing the scoring in the next ORTP. Joey Manahan agreed that scoring should perhaps be considered for the next ORTP.

Senior Transportation Planner Zakari Mumuni commented that there is an opportunity to explore the prioritization process further in the next ORTP. He added that the impetus comes from the IIAJ Act which includes provisions for the MPO and State to explore opportunities for intensive prioritization. He indicated OahuMPO will study this provision and report its assessment to the Policy Board once the final rules are published.

Senator Lee indicated that funding these projects impacts millions of dollars and without these projects being scored based on the changed metrics, it is not known how these new projects fit into the new vision.

Deputy Director Sniffen commented that the agencies measure what they do in their programs, and put out the responses and information to the public, so no one is flying in the dark. He noted that all have objectives that they work toward, and they also report to the legislators. He commented that the state, county, and MPO work to ensure that objectives align as much as possible. He stated he is agreeable to looking at how the process can be improved going forward. However, since the projects being considered are 5-10 years out, he suggests the scoring effort be done in the next ORTP.

Chair Moriwaki motioned that the Policy Board call on the implementing agencies to submit additional information on the purpose and scope of their projects to meet the approved 2045 criteria adopted by the Policy Board and direct staff to score any new projects and programs according to those new criteria, but not return to rescore older projects. The motion was seconded by Deputy Director Sniffen. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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

## VI. New Business

### A. Overall Work Program (OWP) Work Element Presentation: Review and Update of Planned Right-of-Way (ROW) for Existing Streets

Mark Garrity, DTS' consultant on this project, discussed the purpose of the project, the feedback received in the outreach performed last September, and indicated changes made based on that feedback. He also discussed the conclusion and key takeaways, and provided the link to the project webpage.

Mr. Garrity shared that the project's work products included a multimodal digital street database, interactive web maps, public story maps, a summary report, technical documentation, and Python Code in Github.

He stated that conclusions reached during the project were that the existing street system is extensive both in length and value and is a limited resource that can be used to better meet the needs of all people. Additional takeaways mentioned were to efficiently prioritize uses and noting that needs exceed available space. Strategies for accommodating improvement include parallel corridors; quick build projects; shared/managed spaces; and time-of-day, peak hour or managed parking.

Mr. Garrity noted that the next step for DTS will include assigning street types digitally for the entire right-of-way. He commented that digital maps will inform the development review and permitting process, identify priority Complete Streets corridors, adapt to climate change and sea level rise, and improve transportation equity.

The Policy Board was advised that the Citizen Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee both recommended Policy Board approval of the Right-Of-Way Widths for Planned Street Improvements.

Councilmember Cordero and Director Roger Morton exited the meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Elefante and seconded by Representative Aquino to accept this report as evidence that the work was carried out as presented.

A roll call vote was taken:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki	Aye	HDOT Deputy Director Edwin Sniffen	Aye
Senator Chris Lee	Aye	Councilmember Brandon Elefante	Aye
Representative Aquino	Aye	HART Director Joey Manahan	Aye
DPP Director Dean Uchida	Aye	Councilmember Cordero	No response
Councilmember Augie Tulba	Aye	DTS Director Morton	No response

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

Councilmember Cordero and DTS Director Morton had left the meeting.

**B. Telework Resolution**

Vice Chair Elefante introduced the Telework Resolution. The Resolution urges the State, City, Businesses, and Nonprofit Organizations to update their policies and procedures to provide for the expansion of telework opportunities including the option for eligible employees to telework permanently. This resolution was sent to the members prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Senator Moriwaki and seconded by Deputy Director Sniffen that the Policy Board adopts this Telework Resolution as presented.

A roll call vote was taken:

Senator Sharon Moriwaki	Aye	HDOT Deputy Director Edwin Sniffen	Aye
Senator Chris Lee	Aye	Councilmember Augie Tulba	Aye
Representative Aquino	Aye	Councilmember Brandon Elefante	Aye
DPP Director Dean Uchida	Aye	HART Director Joey Manahan	Aye

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

**C. Sunshine Law Updates**

Tori Trevino, Secretary at OahuMPO, informed the Policy Board that Act 220 of the Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 will go into effect on January 1, 2022 and includes updates to the Sunshine Law regarding remote meetings.

The new changes include having at least one physical meeting location, requiring a quorum of six Policy Board members be visible (have cameras on) at all times during the meeting, and requiring members to state who is with them when attending the meeting from a private

location. She added that the requirement for members to state who is with them at the private location applies only to those in the same room, as opposed to the entire house or building, and noted the relationship of the individuals present, such as “spouse” or “child” may be given in lieu of names.

Ms. Trevino stated that OahuMPO staff is working to ensure that OahuMPO has the processes and technology resources in place by January to meet these requirements. It was noted that if the Governor extends his proclamation, Act 220 requirements may be postponed.

#### **D. Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

Assistant Transportation Planner Samantha Lara explained what the Public Participation Plan is and reviewed the steps taken to update the PPP since 2016-2017.

Ms. Lara discussed the different sections of the PPP and noted changes made in response to comments received during public outreach.

Ms. Lara reviewed next steps for the PPP including its release for public and intergovernmental review which will occur from December 2021 through January 2022 and summarized comments that had been received. The final draft is scheduled to be presented to the Policy Board for its approval in early 2022.

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

There were no comments.

#### **VIII. Announcements**

Chair Moriwaki noted that the Policy Board normally does not hold a meeting in December. She added that she would like DTS, HDOT, and HART to report on what these agencies are doing in light of the federal funds coming down the pipeline and in terms of OahuMPO’s major goals and objectives and where the agencies’ programs fit in that framework and in relation to the Strategic Plan.

Deputy Director Sniffen indicated he would be happy to provide this information. Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Administrator Ralph Rizzo provided the link to the FHWA’s new website for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIAJ) information:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>

Deputy Director Sniffen indicated he would be happy to distill it down into a presentation if this would be helpful to the Policy Board. Chair Moriwaki indicated that would be helpful and also suggested it would be ideal to know what the three MPO partners are planning in this arena so would like to have a discussion on this topic in the January meeting.

Mr. Garrity commented that it would be useful and is grateful Deputy Director Sniffen is willing to provide information on this issue. Mr. Garrity noted he recently attended a briefing held by Deputy Director Sniffen and his team on the IIAJ and thinks it would be helpful to think about how the IIAJ specifically will affect the MPO and its mission and to have a discussion that would emphasize the

impact the new bill would have on the MPO, its work, on opportunities and grants. He indicated he is also doing some research on this topic.

Chair Moriwaki wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

Chair Moriwaki adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at: [https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb\\_dl=2530](https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2530)

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