

Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

POLICY BOARD

Tuesday, January 25, 2022
via Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

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

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

Known Guests Present:

Amy Ford-Wagner (FHWA)	Kathleen Rooney (Ulupono Initiative)
Bryan Kimura (HDOT)	Ken Tatsuguchi (TAC Chair)
Chris Clark (DTS)	Kiana Otsuka (HSEO)
Dion Mesta (CM Elefante's office)	Larie Manutai (CM Tulba's Office)
DreanaLee Kalila (DTS)	Lee Nagano (HDOT)
Gavin Kennedy (OCS)	Lianne Yamamoto (HDOT)
Janel Serpents (HBL)	Marcia Taravella (CM Tulsa's office)
John Rogers (NB #23)	Robert Sato (CM Cordero's Office)
Jon Noguchi (DTS)	Ryan Tam (HART)
Justine W Nihal (OP)	Sharon Brooks (OCS)
Kaleo Chang (CM Cordero's Office)	Shelly Unitage (Hawaii State Civil Defense)
Karen Kahiki (HDOT)	Todd Boulanger (Bike)

OahuMPO Staff Present: Mark Garrity Zakari Mumuni, Roni Schack, Tori Trevino, Samantha Lara, Joel Vincent, Nicole Cernohorsky, and Nicki Smith

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moriwaki 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. Members present indicated no one was in their remote location with them. Chair and staff confirmed that at least six members had their cameras on at all times during the meeting.

Chair Moriwaki wished everyone in attendance a happy New Year, explained the housekeeping items such as requesting members mute themselves if not speaking and to raise their hands if they wish to be recognized to speak.

III. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 30, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

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

Deputy Director Ed Sniffen joined the meeting and was welcomed by Chair Moriwaki.

A motion was made by Senator Lee and seconded by Councilmember Cordero. There were no discussions, objections, or abstentions and the minutes were accepted as presented.

IV. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mark Garrity presented the Executive Director Report to the Policy Board. He provided updates on the Public Participation Plan and the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP), noted the STIP was approved by FHWA and FTA in November, noted OahuMPO's submitted their Obligation Report and the Annual Report to the Legislature at the end of the year, indicated TIP revision #2 and #3 will be presented to the Policy Board in February, that both the TIP revision #3 and revision #2 of the OWP FY2022 were released for public and intergovernmental reviewed. He reported that the TIP revision #2 and #3 will be presented to the Policy Board in February. He noted that the Strategic Plan survey will be sent out to the members before the next Policy Board meeting.

Executive Director Garrity summarized the business transacted at the November meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Citizen Advisory Committee meeting. The complete Executive Director's Report can be viewed at: https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2563

B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

TAC Chair Ryan Tam indicated he had nothing to add to Director Garrity's comments. Vice Chair Elefante and Chair Moriwaki thanked TAC emeritus Chair Ken Tatsuguchi for his service as the TAC Chair and welcomed the new TAC Chair Ryan Tam.

C. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

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

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

A. Elect a New Policy Board Chair and Vice Chair

The Policy Board Chair's and Vice Chair's tenure is two years. From January 2020, the Policy Board Chair was a member of the State Legislature and the Vice Chair a member of the City

Council. The Policy Board Bylaws decrees that in this next rotation a member of the City Council will serve as Chair and a member of the State Legislature will serve as Vice Chair.

Chair Moriwaki opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Councilmember Elefante nominated Councilmember Radiant Cordero for Chair and Representative Henry Aquino for Vice Chair. Councilmember Elefante explained that he felt it is appropriate that the City Council's Chair of Transportation and the House of Representatives' Chair of Transportation serve as the Policy Board's Chair and Vice Chair. There were no other nominations.

A motion was made by Councilmember Elefante and seconded by Joey Manahan to have Radiant Cordero for Chair and Representative Henry Aquino as Vice Chair.

Senator Lee expressed his gratitude to the outgoing Chair Moriwaki and Vice Chair Elefante.

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

Chair Moriwaki congratulated Chair Cordero and Vice Chair Aquino and passed the virtual gavel to Chair Cordero. Chair Cordero thanked the Policy Board members.

B. 2018 - 2022 Highway Safety Targets

OahuMPO Senior Transportation Planner Zakari Mumuni provided background on the purpose of safety targets, what targets are federally required, and what targets are not federally required. He discussed the four options that the Policy Board is being asked to choose from pertaining to the federally required targets and the three non-required targets. He reported what options the Safety Target Working Group, the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended.

Deputy Director Sniffen noted that Oahu's rolling 5-year average for fatalities is 53, and this year there were 49 fatalities, so the goal recommended in Option C is higher and is going backward. He noted he cannot accept a fatality rate over zero and so could not support any of the options presented. He explained that Option A is HDOT's 2018 TAMP (Transportation Asset Management Plan) goal submitted to FHWA. Since then, there have been significant changes in HDOT's program, but Federal Highways does not allow HDOT to change those goals at this time. However, internally, HDOT has set their goals at zero which is reflected in their Act 100 reporting.

To Zakari's question what the end time for the zero fatalities is, Deputy Director Sniffen indicated it is for 2022.

Senator Moriwaki asked why the non-required targets are being presented if the Policy Board needs to vote on the federally required targets. Executive Director Garrity explained that the Policy Board needs to vote on both the federally required safety targets and the non-required safety targets in two separate motions.

He also agreed that ideally everyone would want a zero fatalities target and explained that options B, C, and D were designed to improve on the existing Option A HDOT targets. Chair Cordero asked if the Policy Board could change the Options despite the recommendations of the CAC and TAC. Executive Director Garrity confirmed that the Policy Board could do that.

DTS Director Morton noted that since 1980 Oahu fatalities have decreased by half from 22 to 11 per 100,000 population. He added that he supports zero fatalities but recognizes that progress is incremental. He also noted that the numbers should be lower than the 5-year average and suggested a 3-5% lower than the rolling average may be reasonable.

Chair Cordero noted that the deadline for the Safety Targets is late February.

Senator Moriwaki asked what the CAC's and TAC's rationale was for lowering the targets. Emeritus TAC Chair Ken Tatsuguchi responded that the TAC spent two TAC meetings on this topic and wanted an option more aggressive than Option B, so the TAC chose Option C.

Director Morton clarified that Option A is for the whole state and Option B, C, and D is for Oahu only.

To Councilmember Elefante's questions, FHWA Administrator Ralph Rizzo indicated that the deadline is 180 days after the State establishes their targets. He noted the consequences are tied to the State's performance measures and added that the MPO sets their performance measures, send them to the State, and the State can share them with FHWA.

Executive Director Garrity explained that Option D is based on the premise that we will get to zero by 2045 and that assuming we plan to implement the Vision Zero action plan over the next few years, we have a 20-year target to get to zero that is consistent with Option D.

Senator Chris Lee asked when these targets can be revisited. Zakari Mumuni reported that the targets are set annually.

Chair Moriwaki asked for further clarification on why the CAC and TAC chose Option C. Emeritus TAC Chair explained that there was no implementation plan on how the targets in Option D would be met but at the same time the TAC felt there is a need to choose something better than we currently have so settled on Option C.

TAC Chair Ryan Tam added that the TAC included an annotation to their motion which states Option C is aspirational yet supportable by State and County planning efforts. The target will be looked at again during the annual target setting process as other City plans are rolled out which will provide another opportunity to see how these targets align with the plans.

Nicole Cernohorsky offered further clarification noting that OahuMPO had not set its own targets in the past and Option A was not something that was expected to be adopted since it is based on statewide numbers. She explained that OahuMPO felt something Oahu-specific would be more appropriate so Options B, C, and D were developed. She explained that Oahu's Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is 60% of the statewide VMT. Option B's numbers were derived from Option A numbers but modified to account for the Oahu-specific VMT(60%) . On the other

hand, Option C is a reduction by 2% of the 2016-2020 Oahu-only averages. Option D is a reduction of the 2016-2020 Oahu-only averages by 4.5% and is based on Vision Zero which will lead to zero fatalities by 2045.

Deputy Director Sniffen clarified that Oahu’s 5-years rolling average is 53 fatalities, so if the Policy Board is looking to reduce the target to below the Oahu 5-year rolling average based on the numbers presented then the target numbers should be reduced.

Director Manahan asked if OahuMPO has a table that displays the annually decreasing numbers up to the year 2045 and if there is a requirement for the Policy Board to vote on these targets today. Executive Director said OahuMPO may have such a chart and explained the decrease for C is 2% per year and for D is 4.5% per year. He said that OahuMPO must adopt targets 180 days after the State’s targets which is the later part of February and may be before the next Policy Board meeting.

Heidi Hansen-Smith recommended the Policy Board adopt the most aggressive route, especially since Deputy Director Sniffen had said that we are already moving in that direction.

Director Morton motioned that the Policy Board adopt Option D of the federally required targets and Senator Moriwaki seconded the motion. Deputy Director Sniffen indicated he would abstain.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilmember Cordero	Aye	DTS Director Roger Morton	Aye
Senator Sharon Moriwaki	Aye	HDOT Deputy Director Edwin Sniffen	Abstained
Senator Chris Lee	Aye	Councilmember Brandon Elefante	Aye
Representative Aquino	Aye	HART Director Joey Manahan	Aye
DPP Deputy Director Takahashi	Aye		

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

Director Sniffen motioned that the Policy Board adopt the non-required targets and Director Manahan seconded the motion. There were no further discussions, abstentions, reservations, or objections and the motion passed.

C. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Executive Director Garrity provided background on the IIJA from the MPO perspective. He noted the bill provides 30% more funding than the previous infrastructure bill and more flexible formula funding and discretionary grant opportunities providing more options that these funds may be spent on. He discussed some of the programs in this Act including the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation program (PROTECT) and the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program.

Director Roger Morton provided background on the IIJA from the City’s Department of Transportation’s perspective. He discussed the policy changes, the rising FTA levels of formula grants, greater availability of discretionary programs, and the priority programs for the City.

Because the meeting was running overtime and Deputy Director Sniffen had to leave to attend another meeting, his portion of this agenda item was postponed to the February Policy Board meeting.

To Councilmember Elefante's question on what RAISE stood for, Director Morton explained it is a grant program administered by the Secretary of Transportation and is for large, one-time projects and is a discretionary program that is very competitive nationally. It is the acronym for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity.

Councilmember Elefante commented that he and Chair Cordero sit on the National League of Cities (NLC) and Chair Cordero also serves on the NLC's Transportation Infrastructure and Services Committee. He noted that this committee advocated for IJA to members of Congress and Hawaii's delegation to bring home these types of funding for our community and expressed his thanks for Chair Cordero's hard work.

Senator Moriwaki asked Executive Director Garrity if he has prioritized any of the discretionary grants or determined if staffing levels are adequate to work on some of the available discretionary grants and if these grants will enable OahuMPO to hire staff. He explained that OahuMPO can prioritize some of the discretionary grants, noting, in particular, the resiliency improvement program which in his understanding can be 100% funded by the federal government. He added that he does have a plan and is rebuilding staffing that has been lost over time, noting that OahuMPO has an intern starting on February 1, 2022 and another individual potentially starting in May. He remarked that potentially some of these grants may enable OahuMPO to hire more staff.

Heidi Hansen-Smith asked if any of the IJA funding could help with bike share integration and support County bike share programs. Director Morton responded that they could but explained if the City federalizes small projects, it complicates the projects. He noted he'd like to see a better programmatic way of doing the bike paths, too, so if they were to use federal funds, there needs to be a firm commitment such as a four- or five-year plan in place. He also remarked that whatever funding they receive they will spend, adding that if the City was going to spend more than their federally allocated funds, then sometimes those bike programs are better off funded that way. He indicated that he didn't believe Bike Share is an eligible use but purchasing bikes or equipment is eligible.

Director Morton clarified that RAISE is the reincarnation of what was once the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant program, became the BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) grant program, and is now the RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant program.

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

John Rogers, co-chair of the Ewa Neighborhood Board's Transportation committee and a Hawaii Bicycling League advocacy team member asked if the Policy Board could consider allowing two-minute public comments earlier in the meeting.

He commented that Phase I of the Leeward bikeway is currently being built connecting Halawa to Kapolei but Phase II which would take the bikeway to Nanakuli is no longer included in the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan and asked the Policy Board to please look at this since it is an obligation from the State to the federal government to build a recreational path from Halawa to Nanakuli that we are not meeting.

VIII. Announcements

Federal Highway Administrator Ralph Rizzo announced that this meeting was the last OahuMPO Policy Board meeting he would be attending because he was relocating to Olympia, Washington office. He remarked that it had been a pleasure working with everyone and noted that Rochelle Takara will be his replacement at the Hawaii Federal Highway Administration office and on the Policy Board.

Chair Cordero and members of the Policy Board thanked Mr. Rizzo for all his work.

Chair Cordero expressed her thanks to the former Chair and Vice Chair, her appreciation of the support of everyone, and that she looks forward to working with everyone.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Cordero adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at: https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2561