

Minutes of the  
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

**POLICY BOARD**

Tuesday, May 31, 2022  
via Zoom

**Members Present:**

Councilmember Radiant Cordero, Chair	Senator Sharon Moriwaki
Councilmember Brandon Elefante	Senator Chris Lee
Councilmember Augie Tulba	DPP Director Dean Uchida
HART Executive Director/CEO Lori Kahikina	DOH Heidi Hansen Smith
DTS Director Roger Morton	FHWA Richelle Takara

**Member(s) Absent:** Representative Henry Aquino, Representative Ryan Yamane, Jade Butay (DOT), and Mary Alice Evans (OP)

**Known Guests Present:**

Kaleo Chang (CM Cordero's Office)	Rachel- Roper-Noonan (HDOT)
Marcia Taravella (CM Tulsa's office)	Patrick Tom (HDOT)
Ryan Tam (TAC Chair/ HART)	Kathleen Chu
Greg Tsugawa (DTS)	Kaleo Chang (Clmbr Cordero's office)
Dion Mesta (Clmbr Elefante's office)	Leinaala Ley
Michael Motoki (DTS)	Katie Rooney (Ulupono Initiative)
Dinna Schwiering (Clmbr Cordero's office)	Jill Tanabe (HDOT)
Richard Wollenbecker (HDOT)	Marissa Gonzales (HART)
Yoko Tomita (DTS)	Ken Tatsuguchi (HDOT)
Kiana Otsuka (Hawaii State Energy Office)	Jo Jordan (CAC)
Sechyi Laiu (HNL OCS)	

**OahuMPO Staff Present:** Mark Garrity, Roni Schack, Tori Trevino, Samantha Lara, Joel Vincent, Nicole Cernohorsky, Nicki Smith, Lily Zheng, and Dallas Ige.

**I. CALL TO ORDER (15:55)**

Chair Cordero called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. She requested members keep their cameras on as a quorum of members must be visible for the duration of the meeting as required by Sunshine Law.

**II. ROLL CALL (16:56)**

Roll call was taken of Policy Board members present and quorum was established. Chair and staff monitored cameras to ensure at least six members had their cameras on at all times during the meeting.

### **III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 29, 2022 MEETING MINUTES (18:33)**

The Policy Board members reviewed the meeting minutes for the March 29, 2022 Policy Board meeting which were emailed to them in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brandon Elefante and seconded by Senator Chris Lee to approve the March 29, 2022 meeting minutes. There were no discussions, objections, or abstentions, and the minutes were accepted as presented.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Executive Director's Report (20:02)**

Executive Director Mark Garrity provided updates on the status of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) revisions #4 and #5, noted that the State's Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) revision #2 was approved by both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on April 16<sup>th</sup>, provided the status of procurements for the Travel Demand Forecasting Model (TDFM) and the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan 2050, reported on a personnel promotion and new hire, and advised Policy Board members that the OahuMPO's FY2022 third quarter financial report is attached to the Executive Director's report which was distributed to the members on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. He summarized business transacted at the May Technical Advisory Committee and the Citizen Advisory Committee meetings and gave a brief synopsis of what has been accomplished in the development of the OahuMPO Strategic Plan and what are the anticipated next steps in the process. He also reported that OahuMPO is working with the City on a *Safe Streets and Roads for All* grant application.

View the complete Executive Director's Report at: [https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb\\_dl=2643](https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2643)

#### **B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) (31:50)**

TAC Chair Ryan Tam indicated he had nothing to add to what was reported by OahuMPO Executive Director Garrity.

#### **C. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) (32:11)**

There was no report from the CAC.

### **V. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

### **VI. New Business**

#### **A. Overall Work Program (OWP) FY 2023 Final Draft (33:27)**

OahuMPO's Planning Manager Nicki Smith provided background on what the OWP is, its purpose, the relevant federal regulation that governs this annually prepared document, and the review schedule for the OWP FY2023. She discussed the expected funding sources, noted how the overall budget request of \$3,031,295 is allocated, and detailed and summarized expenditures categorized in the four major tasks groups in the OWP FY2023.

During her presentation, Ms. Smith stated that the full year funding apportionment for FTA 5305(d) funds was not published until the first week of April. Until then, OahuMPO used the previous year's apportionment in the OWP FY2023. She pointed out that the OWP FY2023 proposes programming Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) urbanized funds which are the most flexible of the Federal-Aid Highway Program funds. Although normally programmed in the TIP for FHWA funded City projects, these funds can be used for surface transportation planning. A 100% federal share of STBG urbanized funds may be used for workforce development. OahuMPO is programming \$100,000 of these STBG urbanized funds for the OWP FY2023 Workforce Development, Training and Education activities.

Ms. Smith also discussed the comments received during the OWP FY2023 public and intergovernmental period which occurred in March and April of 2022 and the actions taken by the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

In response to Roger Morton's inquiry, Ms. Smith confirmed that in the OWP FY2023, OahuMPO is taking maximum advantage of the available Planning Funds.

A motion was made by Senator Lee and seconded by Senator Moriwaki to endorse the OWP. There were no abstentions or objections, and the motion was passed.

**B. Mid-Range Transportation Plan (MRTP) Presentation by Hawaii Department of Transportation's Highways (48:36)**

Rachel Roper-Noonan of Hawaii Department of Transportation, Highway Division Planning Branch introduced herself, Mid-range Plan Manager Richard Wollenbecker, Pat Tom and Jill Tanabe who manage the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), Planning Branch Manager Ken Tatsuguchi, and their consultant Kathleen Chu.

Richard Wollenbecker provided an overview of HDOT's Planning and Programming Process, discussed the program development life cycle, the MRTP objectives, benefits, and process. He expounded on the criteria used in the MRTP process evaluation, and the evaluation and harmonize segments of this process.

Ms. Roper-Noonan discussed the prioritization results including value and cost, how funds are being spent according to district or program, and what the next steps will be.

Patrick Tom shared an overview and the workflow of the e-STIP, including its objectives, features, benefits, and changes. He discussed the training and guides that are being planned for the e-STIP and what are the next steps for the implementation of the eSTIP.

Senator Lee asked if the six criteria indicated in the presentation were the only criteria included in the MRTP. Mr. Wollenbecker and Ms. Roper-Noonan explained that the six criteria mentioned are the overarching categories. As an example, it was noted that there are sub-categories such as rockfall improvements and bicycle safety under the 'Improve safety' category. Senator Lee commented that recent legislation endeavors HDOT to, for example, reduce cost of transportation and reduce emissions. He asked if these are incorporated into the MRTP criteria.

Ms. Roper-Noonan responded that the criteria is not limited to those listed in the presentation and that as a project is fully developed other criteria is also considered. Senator Lee explained that he is interested in how the analysis is conducted, how items are weighted, and how the changes made into law are being fitted into this process. Ms. Roper-Noonan indicated she is happy to provide additional information on the topic to the Senator.

Ms. Roper-Noonan concurred to Chair Cordero's request to send OahuMPO staff any information she provides to Sen Lee, so it can be shared with the rest of the Policy Board.

**C. 2022 Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) Recovery Plan Update (1:15:28)**

HART Executive Director and CEO Lori Kahikina presented the proposed recovery plan that is required of HART by FTA to document HART's plan for completing the rail project within the forecasted available funding. Executive Director Kahikina noted that this plan was approved on May 24<sup>th</sup> by the City Council's Transportation Committee, will be presented to the full Council on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and if approved, will be submitted to FTA on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for FTA's approval.

She discussed the original scope of the rail project, the recovery plan schedule and truncated scope, the federal funds received and remaining for the rail project, the detailed financial plan summary for the truncated scope which would eliminate the last two stations and shorten the route by 1.25 miles, and presented a map illustrating the proposed truncated route. She emphasized that the overall goal of reaching Ala Moana Transit Center does not change but will need to be funded by non-Federal means, noting HART estimates the cost at 1.4 billion.

Ms. Kahikini also indicated the recovery plan includes deferring the building of the Pearl Highlands parking garage. She added that the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) intends to provide enhanced bus services from North Shore and Central Oahu to the Pearl Highlands Bus Transit Center. Expected rail ridership impact of the garage deferment is estimated to be 1.7%.

Ms. Kahikini presented a summary of the progress noting the 10-mile segment #1 from Kapolei to Aloha Stadium is completed and expected to be turned over to DTS before the end of 2022, segment #2 from Aloha Stadium to Middle Street, including the airport is 76% completed and expected to be turned over to DTS in 2025, and work on segment #3 from Middle Street to the Civic Center Station is expected to begin in June 2022. Projected system completion date is 2031. She concluded with photos and descriptions of the stations and inside the train cars.

Senator Moriwaki asked if the route will go all the way to Ward and if the two last stations on the original route are included in the cost presented by Ms. Kahikini. Ms. Kahikini clarified that the last two stations are not included in the truncated plan and that HART's estimate to complete the Civic Center to Ala Moana segment would cost \$1.4 billion. That cost could change depending on FTA's cost projections.

Senator Lee asked if the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) has been amended and if FTA provides the remaining \$744 million, is HART obligated to finish the route to Ala Moana. He also asked if the route is not completed to Ala Moana would funds already received need to be returned to FTA. Ms. Kahikini responded that the FFGA has not been amended. The first step is

to receive approval of the recovery plan. Once that is approved by FTA, then amending the FFGA can begin. She added that, although, FTA has indicated they intend to provide the remaining \$744 million, they have made it clear that FTA funds may not be used for the truncated segment from Civic Center to Ala Moana. She noted that an extension to the University of Hawaii would be a new FFGA and could be eligible for federal funds. However, a new FFGA for an extension past Ala Moana to UH may require a new environment impact statement.

**VII. Invitation to interested members of the public to be heard on matters not included on the agenda (1:38:57)**

There were no comments.

**VIII. Announcements (1:39:45)**

Chair Cordero expressed a belated happy birthday to Councilmember Tulba.

**IX. Adjournment (1:39:58)**

Chair Cordero adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at: [https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb\\_dl=2644](https://www.oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2644)