

Minutes of the  
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

**\*\* OPEN SESSION \*\***

Tuesday, December 20, 2005, 1:30 p.m.  
Honolulu Hale, Council Committee Room, room 205  
530 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

**Members Present:**

Representative Marilyn Lee, Chair	Representative Mark Moses
Councilmember Todd Apo, Vice Chair	Senator Will Espero
Councilmember Romy Cachola	Senator Brian Kanno
Councilmember Charles Djou	Rodney Haraga, DOT Director
Councilmember Ann Kobayashi	Alfred Tanaka, Acting DTS Director
Councilmember Gary Okino	

**Members Absent:** Representative Joseph Souki, Senator Lorraine Inouye

**Guests Present:**

Dennis Galolo (Clmbr Cachola staff)	CC Curry (Interagency Coordination Councils Organization, CAC)
Grant Kawaguchi (CI Chair Dela Cruz staff)	Charles Carole (NB #10, CAC, Vice Chair)
Stan Fichtman (Clmbr Djou staff)	David Aki (NB #25, CAC)
Robert Sato (Clmbr Okino staff)	Richard Kane (Pacific Resource Partnership, CAC)
Hamid Jahanmir (DBEDT-OP)	Michael Costa (Teamsters Local 996, CAC)
Toru Hamayasu (DTS)	Vicki Gaynor (Community Planning)
Liz Fischer (FHWA)	Lela Dowd (Hui of Bus & Handivan Users)
Bob McGraw (American Plng. Assn., CAC)	Larry Spurgeon (PBQD)
Alan Suwa (Castle & Cooke, CAC)	Becki Ward (Ward Research)
Frank Genadio (Committee for Balanced Transportation, CAC)	

**OMPO Staff Present:** Gordon Lum (Executive Director), Lori Arakaki, Shevaun Low, Pamela Toyooka

Chair Marilyn Lee called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Lee explained that, pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes sections 92-4 and 92-5(a)(2), the Committee would be taking a roll-call vote in order to convene an Executive Session to act on the selection and hiring of an OMPO planner and pay adjustments for OMPO excluded exempt employees. Chair Lee read the members' names; and Pamela Toyooka recorded the votes, as follows:

In favor: Councilmember Todd Apo, Councilmember Romy Cachola, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Councilmember Gary Okino, Acting Director Alfred Tanaka, Representative Marilyn Lee, Representative Mark Moses, Senator Will Espero, Senator Brian Kanno, Director Rodney Haraga.

Opposed: None.

At 1:40 p.m., the room was cleared of all people, except for the members, Gordon Lum, and Ms. Toyooka. The Committee went into Executive Session. At 2:17 p.m., the public was allowed back into the room. The Open Session reconvened at 2:18 p.m.

## **I. HIRING OF OMPO PLANNER**

*Representative Moses moved and Councilmember Kobayashi seconded that the Executive Director be authorized to select and hire an OMPO planner to fill a vacant position. The motion was unanimously carried.*

## **II. PAY ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE OMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OFFICE MANAGER**

Senator Kanno asked that the pay adjustments for the Executive Director and Office Manager be acted upon separately.

*Senator Kanno moved and Senator Espero seconded that the Office Manager receive a 3.5% pay increase effective December 20, 2005, and a subsequent 3.5% pay increase effective October 1, 2006.*

Senator Espero asked when the Office Manager last received a pay increase. Mr. Lum responded that it was on January 1, 2005.

*A vote was taken. The motion was unanimously carried.*

*Representative Moses moved and Mr. Tanaka seconded that the Executive Director receive a 3.5% pay increase effective December 20, 2005, and a subsequent 3.5% pay increase effective October 1, 2006.*

Senator Espero asked when the Executive Director last received a pay increase. Mr. Lum responded that it was in 2001.

*A vote was taken. The motion was carried with nine in favor and one against.*

## **III. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2005 MEETING**

*There being no changes or objections, the minutes of the September 2, 2005 meeting were approved as read.*

## **IV. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEMBERSHIP REQUEST**

Chair Lee stated that the North Shore Chamber of Commerce (NSCC) had attended the required number of meetings and requested membership on the CAC.

*Representative Moses moved and Councilmember Okino seconded that the NSCC be appointed to the CAC. The motion was unanimously carried.*

Chair Lee requested that the NSCC be notified of their appointment by way of a letter.

[Councilmember Charles Djou arrived at 2:25 p.m.]

## **V. OAHU REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (ORTP)**

### ***V.A. Identification of Task Force Members to Investigate the Island-Wide Community Meeting<sup>1</sup>***

Mr. Lum explained that the Sunshine Law permits no more than two members of a board to attend the same meeting. If there is a possibility of having more than two members, but less than a quorum, in attendance at a meeting, then the board needs to first create a task force to investigate the meeting, specify the scope of the investigation, and designate task force members to attend the meeting. Mr. Lum stated that, based on conversation with the Office of Information Practices (OIP), the Policy Committee needs to follow these steps in order to allow for the possibility of having more than two Policy Committee members, but less than a quorum, in attendance at its own upcoming ORTP island-wide community meeting.

If it seems probable that a quorum will be in attendance at this community meeting, a Policy Committee meeting will need to be scheduled for the same date, time, and place as the community meeting; and a joint Policy Committee-community meeting will need to be scheduled.

If a Policy Committee meeting is scheduled, but a quorum is not present at the meeting, then only the members of the task force would be allowed to attend the community meeting.

All of these actions will also need to be repeated for both the Citizen Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.

Several Policy Committee members expressed their concern regarding the actions needed for them to attend their own community meeting in order to comply with the Sunshine Law. Some of the Council Policy Committee members suggested that the Legislative Policy Committee members introduce a bill to exempt this Committee from following the Sunshine Law when attending informational meetings. Mr. Lum noted that a CAC member organization had recently quit the CAC because they felt that the Sunshine Law was too onerous, hampering their ability to attend meetings outside of this organization.

In response to a question from members, Mr. Lum stated that the decision to appoint a task force and the appointment of the members on the task force must be done at a Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Lum was requested to check with OIP about the possibility of having alternates attend in place of the designated task force members. In response to a question from a member, Mr. Lum stated that the task force members would be responsible for observing the meeting, giving opening remarks, and providing comments when appropriate.

---

<sup>1</sup> At the January 20, 2006 Policy Committee meeting, the December 20, 2005 minutes were amended, per Vice Chair Todd Apo request, to have the minutes reflect the complexity of the issue of the inability of a greater number of Policy Committee members to attend the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) islandwide public meeting, due to the Sunshine Law. The text in section V.A. reflects this amendment.

*Councilmember Okino moved and Councilmember Djou seconded that the Policy Committee establish a task force to investigate the ORTP island-wide community meeting and report back to the Committee. The motion was unanimously carried.*

*Councilmember Cachola moved and it was seconded that alternates be chosen for the above-mentioned task force. The motion was unanimously carried.*

*Councilmember Djou moved and Senator Espero seconded that the Policy Committee appoint the following Policy Committee members to the above-mentioned task force (members and alternates (pending OIP's opinion on this matter)):*

*Members: Councilmember Todd Apo, Councilmember Romy Cachola, Representative Mark Moses, Director Rodney Haraga, and Director Alfred Tanaka*

*Alternates: Councilmember Gary Okino, Representative Marilyn Lee, and Senator Brian Kanno*

*The motion was unanimously carried.*

*Councilmember Djou moved and Councilmember Kobayashi seconded that the above-mentioned task force be sent to the ORTP island-wide community meeting in order to observe the meeting, make opening remarks, provide comments when appropriate, and report back to the Committee. The motion was unanimously carried.*

***V.B. Prioritized Project Listing Using the Congestion Management System (CMS)***

Mr. Lum went over the ORTP prioritized congestion relief project listing. Mr. Lum explained that, as part of its CMS, OMPO has identified where the congested roadways are located, and evaluated and ranked the various projects proposed for the ORTP that are aimed at reducing congestion. The OMPO Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed the evaluations and rankings, and has recommended their submittal to the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee can use this as one of the tools in deciding which projects should be included in the ORTP. Mr. Lum noted that the highway project rankings and transit project rankings are not interchangeable, as different evaluation criteria were used for these two types of projects.

**Comments (members' last names in parentheses)**

(Kanno) Project #130 (Interstate H-1, HOV Lanes, Waiawa Interchange to Makakilo Interchange) – This project would create a major backup. In the vicinity of Kunia Road, there are only two lanes. If one is made into a high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane, traffic would be backed to Kapolei, because cars could not go into the left lane.

Mr. Lum agreed that there are limitations to the CMS process. Normally, the larger the project, the greater the impact; and probably resulting in a larger CMS evaluation score. Mr. Lum noted that this evaluation is only for congestion-relief projects. Other projects in other categories may be more important than the congestion-relief projects. This listing should not be used as the sole decision-making tool; rather, this is just one of a number of tools that the Committee can use in their evaluation of the projects.

(Moses) Project #64 (Farrington Highway Widening, Kunia Interchange to Waiawa Interchange) – This project should be from Kunia Interchange to Kapolei, especially to the West Oahu campus.

Mr. Lum responded that another shortcoming of this process is that some of the roadway projects are segmented. The public and agencies proposed these projects, so they sometimes come to OMPO in segments. For instance, if projects #65 (Farrington Highway Widening, Kalaeloa Boulevard to Hakimo Road), #62, 67 (Farrington Highway Widening, Kapolei Golf Course to Old Fort Weaver Road), and #64 were put together, that would increase their ranking. However, these segments would possibly be phased, or some segments may not be done at all; that is another one of the shortcomings of the CMS process.

*[Councilmember Djou left the meeting at 3:05 p.m. A quorum was still present.]*

(Kanno) Project #273 (Kunia Road Widening, Royal Kunia to Anonui Street, Northbound) – Royal Kunia is at Anonui Street, so it is not clear what this description means.

Mr. Lum responded that they would check on that.

(Kanno) Project #145 (Interstate H-2, Kipapa Gulch Interchange) – It would be misleading to refer to the Kipapa Gulch Interchange, if this project was on the ocean-side at Koa Ridge.

(Tanaka) Fort Weaver Road is missing from the listing.

Mr. Lum responded that this is a baseline project, so it is already included in the plan.

### ***V.C. Home Telephone Survey #2***

Becki Ward of Ward Research gave an overview of the second home telephone survey that will be done as part of the ORTP effort to solicit public sentiment on various transportation projects and issues relating to the ORTP. Policy Committee members provided their comments on the survey.

## **VI. PROJECT STATUS REPORT: THE HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECTS – ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AT THE SCOPING MEETING**

Toru Hamayasu from the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) made introductory remarks. At this point in the process of choosing a locally preferred alternative for the Honolulu high-capacity transit corridor project, DTS' consultant, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas (PBQD), is doing a comparison of the alternatives concurrently with the preparation of the environmental disclosure report. Part of this process is the conduct of scoping meetings – obtaining the public's input on the scope of the issues and alternatives to be examined.

Larry Spurgeon, PBQD planning manager, presented the range of alternatives discussed at the

scoping meetings, as well as the scoping process.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS (ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLY)**

### ***Transportation Research Board Recognition***

Mr. Lum stated that, in 2004, OMPO had won an American Planning Association award for work done by Steve Young of the Department of Planning and Permitting on Title VI and Environmental Justice. At the Transportation Research Board's annual meeting in January 2006, a similar paper will be presented, in poster format, by Steve Young, HongLong Li, and Shevaun Low.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.