

Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 19, 2007, 10:00 a.m.
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Room 310
830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Members Present:

Glenn Yasui, Chair	DTS	Randolph Hara	DPP
Toru Hamayasu, Vice Chair	DOT	Eileen Mark (alternate)	DTS
Eugene X. Tian (alternate)	DBEDT	Carissa Unpingco (alternate)	FAA
Abe Mitsuda	DBEDT-OP	(ex officio)	

Members Absent: Dean Nakagawa (DOT), Kathy Sokugawa (DPP), Gareth Sakakida (HTA, ex officio), Elizabeth Fischer (FHWA, ex-officio), Karl Kim (UH, ex-officio)

Guests Present:

Rob Miyasaki	DOT	Charles Carole	NB #10 (CAC)
Patrick Tom	DOT	L. Gary Bautista	NB #23 (CAC)
Steve Young	DPP	Richard Kane	PRP (CAC)
		Joel Freedman	Parsons Brinckerhoff

Staff Present: Gordon Lum, Laureen Brennan, Lori Arakaki, and Pamela Toyooka.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chair Glenn Yasui. A quorum was present.

I. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 2007 MEETING

Vice Chair Toru Hamayasu moved and Eileen Mark seconded that the minutes of the January 26, 2007 meeting be approved as circulated. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. REVIEW AND COMMENT ON TRAVEL FORECASTING MODEL SOFTWARE

Lori Arakaki introduced Joel Freedman of Parson Brinckerhoff (PB), Project Manager of the Model Conversion project. Mr. Freedman described the project's scope of work and the tasks that would be done. This project will convert the present OahuMPO travel forecasting model to a Windows-based environment. Part of this conversion involves selecting a software application that will be used to run the model. Four companies were invited to demonstrate their product.

Once the software application is selected, PB will:

- Conflate the network to the City Street Centerline file,

- Convert the networks to the new software application,
- Modify the present Fortran model application software to read from/write to new software formats,
- Integrate the forecasting model with the land use model software,
- Automate some of the model modules,
- Calibrate and validate the model,
- Write the documentation, and
- Provide training.

Vice Chair Hamayasu asked how the validation would be done. Mr. Freedman said that there were debugging features available that would allow the consultant to verify the data and outputs.

In response to a question from Chair Yasui, Mr. Freedman verified that only the platform would be changing and not the model structure.

Steve Young asked if the forecasting model was married to the land use model in UrbanSim. Mr. Freedman said that it was important that the outputs and inputs for both models remained in the same format.

Richard Kane asked if the change in the model would effect the ridership and travel times for the fixed guideway system. Mr. Freedman said that there might be some small differences, but that the results would be calibrated to the On-Board Transit Survey.

Vice Chair Hamayasu said that he thought the model software conversion would improve the model's efficiency and effectiveness. Chair Yasui agreed.

III. RECOMMENDATION TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENT #11 TO THE OAHU TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FYS 2006, 2007, AND 2008

Ms. Arakaki described Amendment #11 to the FYs 2006-2008 TIP. TIP Amendment #11 modifies the number of buses and paratransit vehicles to be purchased as part of Project C15 Bus and Handi-Van Acquisition Program. The amendment reflects the City's decision to: (1) purchase hybrid-electric 60-foot buses instead of diesel buses; (2) expand the Handi-Van fleet at this time instead of purchasing replacement vehicles; and (3) utilize budget savings in an existing grant utilizing Section 5309 Bus Capital funds.

Amendment #11 had no affect on the project consistency with the ORTP 2030, project consistency with the Oahu Regional Intelligent Transportation System Architecture, Congestion Management Process analysis, Title VI/Environmental Justice Analysis, or other technical project evaluations.

The amendment was circulated through the OahuMPO Intergovernmental Review (IR) process. Twenty-one agencies expressed no concerns or comments. The Department of Health

commented that increasing the number of paratransit vehicles will improve services for users. The current service is often unsatisfactory due to the shortage of vehicles.

Vice Chair Hamayasu moved and Ms. Mark seconded that the TAC recommend that the Policy Committee approve draft Amendment #11 of the FYs 2006-2008 TIP. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. RECOMMENDATION TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE ON FY 2008 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM (OWP)

Laureen Brennan said that the FY 2008 OWP identifies 30 planning studies with a total budget of \$5,691,100. Twelve new work elements are programmed for FY 2008 at a cost of \$1,980,000. Federal funding for the new work elements totals \$1,584,000, with local matching funds of \$396,000.

The public review period was from February 16, 2007 to April 2, 2007. Three comments were received. One comment was from One Voice for Island Living, which introduced itself and offered to work on pedestrian and bicycle projects. During the IR, two comments were received – one from the Department of Health, encouraging pedestrian and bicycle projects; and one from the State Civil Defense Office, suggesting that a traffic study to support tsunami warning evacuation be done.

Vice Chair Hamayasu moved and Ms. Mark seconded that TAC recommend that the Policy Committee endorse the FY 2008 Overall Work Program. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Gordon Lum said that the Policy Committee would meet on May 4, 2007. One of the agenda items will be a discussion on Amendment #1 to the ORTP 2030, which will modify the description of the current rail transit project and include a revised financial plan.

Chair Yasui asked Patrick Tom to summarize the schedule for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Mr. Tom said that the Department of Transportation (DOT) had been working with the OahuMPO to develop a draft STIP/TIP. The draft TIP would be discussed at the next TAC meeting on May 1, 2007. The first round of public meetings on the draft STIP would begin on the neighbor islands in May. DOT hoped to have an approved STIP by October 1, 2007.

Mr. Lum mentioned that a Citizen Advisory Committee member, at their last meeting, gave a positive comment on the new format for the draft TIP which was posted on the OahuMPO website.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.