

Meeting Summary of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 3:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room 301, Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Members Present:

Committee for Balanced Transportation
NB #10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus
AARP
American Society of Civil Engineers
Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii
Citizens for a Fair ADA Ride
E Noa Corporation
Hawaii Centers for Independent Living
Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996
Institute of Transportation Engineers
League of Women Voters
Mestizo Association
NB #01 Hawaii Kai
NB #02 Kuliouou-Kalani Iki
NB #03 Waialae-Kahala
NB #05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu-Saint Louis Heights
NB #08 McCully-Moiliili
NB #09 Waikiki
NB #13 Downtown
NB #18 Aliamanu-Salt Lake-Foster Village
NB #21 Pearl City
NB #22 Waipahu
NB #25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu
NB #29 Kahaluu
NB #34 Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale
NB #35 Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley
NB #36 Nanakuli-Maili
Pacific Resource Partnership
Tax Foundation of Hawaii
Waikiki Residents Association

Joseph Magaldi, Jr., Chair
Charles Carole, Vice Chair
John Goody
Lara Karamatsu
Laura Kodama
Rose Pou
Tom Dinell
Patti Goeas
Michael Costa
I. Robert Nehmad
Marcia Linville
Arvid Youngquist
Greg Knudsen
Linda Starr
Lester Fukuda
Bert Narita
Joseph Bonin
Robert Finley
Tom Smyth
Lynne Gutierrez
Cruz J. Vina, Jr.
Braunsen Kalaikai
Dick Poirier
Ken LeVasseur
Jame Schaedel
Alan Suwa
Richard Landford
Paul Migliorato
Randall Hiu
Daisy Murai

Members Absent (Reps):

American Planning Association Hawaii
Hawaii Bicycling League
Hui Kupuna VIP
Land Use Research Foundation

John Valera
Chad Taniguchi
Donald Sakamoto
Dave Arakawa

Leeward Oahu Transportation Management Association	Wynde Yamamoto
NB #07 Manoa	Tom Heinrich
NB #11 Ala Moana-Kakaako	P. Nathan Minn
NB #14 Liliha	Loy Kuo
NB #15 Kalihi-Palama	Fetu Kolio
NB #23 Ewa	John Gollner
NB #24 Waianae Coast	Greg LeGros
NB #26 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village	Jeanne Ishikawa
North Shore Chamber of Commerce	Bob Schieve
Palehua Townhouse Association	Michael Golojuch

Guests Present:

Hannah Miyamoto	Beautiful Honolulu Foundation
Lynn Miliner	Citizen
Michael A. Murphy	Department of Transportation Services
Deb Luning	Gentry Homes
Landa Phelan	Hawaii Association of the Blind
Andrea Anixt	Kaaawa Community Association
Frank Genadio	Neighborhood Board #34
Shirley Landford	Neighborhood Board #36
Roger Morton	Oahu Transit Services
Robert Yu	OTS

OahuMPO Staff Present: Brian Gibson and Marian Yasuda

Chair Joseph Magaldi called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Oahu Transit Services – History of Public Bus Operations on Oahu

Chair Magaldi introduced Mr. Roger Morton, President and General Manager at Oahu Transit Services (OTS).

Mr. Morton provided a broad history of transit service on Oahu and operations for TheBus. Transit service in Hawaii started with the Honolulu Rapid Transit and Land Company (HRT) in 1898. The first segment of rail opened in 1901. Ridership for the rail system peaked in 1923, and then declined due to the proliferation of the automobile. Buses were added to the transit fleet in 1925 because they provided more flexibility than the rail, which was abandoned in 1941.

Harry Weinberg took over HRT in 1961. The City and County of Honolulu (C&C) began to take interest in transit in the late 1960's; and Mayor Frank Fasi was committed to starting transit under public ownership. After HRT operators began a strike and shutdown of service, the C&C established Mass Transit Lines (MTL) Limited, forerunner to OTS, to oversee operations. The formation of the Honolulu Public Transit Authority in 1991 allowed the C&C to effectuate the formation of a transit management services contractor. OTS was awarded the contract to set up that management company. OTS is deemed to be an independent contractor which is also an instrumentality of the C&C.

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) operation of the rail system will impact bus service with increased ridership, shared services, fewer long bus routes, more feeder routes to the rail line, and seamless fare systems. There will be evaluations and negotiations between HART, C&C, and OTS to determine the optimum arrangement for the operations of transit on Oahu.

Discussion Highlights:

[Unless otherwise noted, questions were answered by Mr. Morton]

- In response to a question by Tom Smyth: Milwaukee, Wisconsin has a transit setup that is similar to Oahu's, which is known as the Memphis Plan. A Federal law requiring that existing union relationships must be respected defined the relationship between the C&C and first MTL, then OTS.
- In response to a question by Dick Poirier: Sharing services with HART makes sense because OTS has many operations currently in motion; and duplications of effort would be wasteful. The policy makers will have to look at the situation carefully and weigh the advantages and disadvantages of different relationships.
- In response to a question by Arvid Youngquist: OTS Board members receive a meeting fee and travel expenses, but they serve on a voluntary basis.
- In response to a question by Rose Pou: OTS took over Handi-Van operations in 1997 in response to a C&C ordinance. There had been a rash of complaints about the five previous operators, and the City Council sought to address the multiple problems by assigning it to OTS.
- In response to a question by Marcia Linville: OTS does not directly provide school bus service, but they do supplement bus service that goes by schools. Free bus passes are provided to school children that qualify for school lunch program by the Department of Education.
- In response to a question by Linda Starr: The scheduling of TheHandi-Van will be fixed, ultimately, by the upgrading of technology. OTS is committed to addressing the problems with the current scheduling system.
- In response to a question by Bob Finley: The Mayor's decision to provide restrooms at the Alapai Transit Center was a good one.
- In response to a question by Frank Genadio: Fuel efficiency for OTS has increased with a program improving maintenance. C&C hopes to acquire 6 diesel vehicles that are electrically powered through a turbine, rather than an engine, for a demonstration project.
- In response to a question by Braunsen Kalaikai: There are various considerations when determining an operating arrangement for all transit on Oahu in the future, but all parties seem willing to work toward the best system.
- In response to a question by Ms. Starr: OTS has been buying gasoline-powered Handi-Vans instead of diesel, which means less noise and emissions. The older buses will be replaced over time with new buses that have cleaner emissions and are 30 times more efficient.

- In response to a question by Daisy Murai: The Department of Transportation Services directs the bus routes by looking at ridership, census data, and current operations. With the implementation of rail, the routes will change to best serve the rail with feeder service to the rail stations.
- In response to a question by Hannah Miyamoto: The addition of route 1L and the increase of frequency for route 2 should address the issues of unreliability and overcrowding in the corridor of Kalakaua Avenue between King Street and Kapiolani Boulevard.

2. Approval of the February 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Chair Magaldi announced two corrections to the minutes:

- Lorene Godfrey was representing Neighborhood Board #18, and
- Cruz Vina Jr. was present.

Ms. Linville moved and Mike Costa seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the March 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as circulated.

4. OahuMPO Meeting Highlights

Marian Yasuda announced that the Policy Committee met on February 22 at 1:00 p.m. At that meeting, they:

- Confirmed the length of the Chair Breene Harimoto's term to be through the calendar year 2013;
- Elected Senator Donovan Dela Cruz as Vice Chair;
- Approved Revisions 19 and 20 to the FFYs 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program;
- Discussed the CAC membership application submitted by Marine Corps Base Hawaii;
- Passed a resolution supporting the adoption of two legislative bills requiring that operators of public transportation be included in the OahuMPO;
- Presented Certificates of Appreciation to ten organizations with exemplary attendance at CAC meetings in 2012;
- Heard a presentation on the initial draft FYs 2014-2015 Overall Work Program; and
- Heard the CAC highlights.

The Policy Committee also met on April 10 at 1:00 p.m. At that meeting, they:

- Discussed the initial draft FYs 2014-2015 Overall Work Program;
- Approved the amendment to the OahuMPO Participation Plan;
- Heard Maui MPO Briefing; and
- Heard the CAC highlights.

The Technical Advisory Committee has not met since the last CAC meeting.

There are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

5. Announcements

Brian Gibson explained that Maui has now reached the threshold requiring the formation of its own MPO. Once the MPO is established, Maui will receive a portion of the Federal dollars currently allocated to the State.

Tom Dinell announced “Hele on Kakaako”, which will occur on Sunday, May 12. It will be a Complete Streets demonstration, as well as featuring bicycle competitions, dance classes, games, skateboard ramps, and food and beverages for sale. More information can be found at www.cycleonhawaii.org.

Mr. Gibson announced that the review period for the draft FYs 2014-2015 Overall Work Program is currently underway. The draft can be found on the OahuMPO website and comments may be submitted by Wednesday, May 29. He pointed out that a Complete Streets study was inserted by the Department of Transportation Services since the CAC last saw the draft. Public comments of support or non-support for specific projects may help the Policy Committee when taking action on the draft document.

Ms. Murai announced the Ekiden Relay Race, taking place on Sunday, May 12 from Kapiolani Park to Sandy Beach and back.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.