

Meeting Summary of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 20, 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 Planning Association Hawaii
American Society of Civil Engineers
Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii
Citizens for a Fair ADA Ride
E Noa Corporation
Hawaii Bicycling League
Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996
Institute of Transportation Engineers
Land Use Research Foundation
League of Women Voters
Leeward Oahu Transportation Management Association
Mestizo Association
NB #01 Hawaii Kai
NB #03 Waialae-Kahala
NB #05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu-Saint Louis Heights
NB #08 McCully-Moiliili
NB #09 Waikiki
NB #11 Ala Moana-Kakaako
NB #13 Downtown
NB #18 Aliamanu-Salt Lake-Foster Village
NB #21 Pearl City
NB #22 Waipahu
NB #29 Kahaluu
NB #34 Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale
NB #36 Nanakuli-Maili
North Shore Chamber of Commerce
Pacific Resource Partnership
Palehua Townhouse Association
Tax Foundation of Hawaii
Waikiki Residents Association

Joseph Magaldi, Jr., Chair
Charles Carole, Vice Chair
John Goody
John Valera
Lara Karamatsu
Laura Kodama
Rose Pou
Tom Dinell
Ivy Chuang
Michael Costa
Robert Nehmad
Dave Arakawa
Marcia Linville
Wynde Yamamoto
Arvid Youngquist
Greg Knudsen
Lester Fukuda
Bert Narita
Joseph Bonin
Robert Finley
Dexter Sensui
Tom Smyth
Lorene Godfrey
Cruz J. Vina, Jr.
Braunsen Kalaikai
Ken LeVasseur
Jame Schaedel
Richard Landford
Bob Schieve
Paul Migliorato
Michael Golojuch
Randall Hiu
Daisy Murai

Members Absent (Reps):

Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

Patti Goeas

Hui Kupuna VIP
NB #02 Kuliouou-Kalani Iki
NB #07 Manoa
NB #14 Liliha
NB #15 Kalihi-Palama
NB #23 Ewa
NB #24 Waianae Coast
NB #25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu
NB #26 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village
NB #35 Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley

Donald Sakamoto
Linda Starr
Tom Heinrich
Chad Atkins
Fetu Kolio
John Gollner
Greg LeGros
Dick Poirier
Jeanne Ishikawa
Alan Suwa

Guests Present:

Barbra Armentrout	Citizen
Jan Bappe	Citizen
Paula Luv	Citizen
Hannah Miyamoto	Citizen
Landa Phelan	Hawaii Association of the Blind
Marcel Honore	Honolulu Star Advertiser
Frank Genadio	Neighborhood Board #34
Shirley Landford	Neighborhood Board #36

OahuMPO Staff Present: Brian Gibson and Marian Yasuda

Chair Joseph Magaldi called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Hearing no objections, Chair Magaldi took two agenda items out of order.

1. Approval of the January 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as circulated.

2. OahuMPO Meeting Highlights

Marian Yasuda announced that the Policy Committee had not met since the CAC last met. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Committee Room #205. At that meeting, it is anticipated that they will:

- Confirm the length of the Chair Harimoto's term;
- Elect a Vice Chair;
- Take action on Revisions #19 and #20 to the FFYs 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP);
- Consider the CAC membership application submitted by Marine Corps Base Hawaii;
- Consider a resolution supporting the adoption of two legislative bills requiring that operators of public transportation be included in the OahuMPO;

- Present Certificates of Appreciation to ten organizations with exemplary attendance at CAC meetings in 2012:
 - Committee for Balanced Transportation
 - Hawaii Bicycling League
 - Institute of Transportation Engineers
 - League of Women Voters
 - NB #05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu-St Louis Heights
 - NB #10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus
 - NB #13 Downtown
 - NB #25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu
 - NB #34 Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale
 - Waikiki Residents Association
- Hear a presentation on the draft FYs 2014-2015 Overall Work Program (OWP); and
- Hear the CAC highlights.

The Technical Advisory Committee met on Friday, February 8, 2013. At that meeting, they:

- Elected Brian Suzuki as the Vice Chair;
- Recommended the approval of Revision #20 to the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP;
- Heard a presentation on the draft FYs 2014-2015 OWP; and
- Were informed that Senate and House bills were introduced to add Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) to the Policy Committee membership.

3. TheBus

Chair Magaldi introduced Michael Formby, Director, Department of Transportation Services (DTS). Chair Magaldi announced the confirmation of Director Formby as Director at today's City Council meeting.

Director Formby expressed his gratitude for the support of Chair Magaldi. He then provided some history about changes that were made to TheBus operations in order to cut \$8 million from the budget. One route was cut and many routes were reconfigured in 2012. The feedback regarding those changes has prompted Mayor Caldwell to charge DTS to find what communities were most affected and find ways to make restorations of service to those communities. Without additional funds in the current budget, they will do their best to roll out service-level changes as they are able.

Discussion Highlights:

[Unless otherwise noted, questions were answered by Director Formby]

- Ken LeVasseur commented that his community was impacted by changes to routes 55 and 65. He suggests that the turn-around for those routes be changed so that the routes loop into each other, ending the need for a ½-mile walk for those needing to transfer between the two routes.

- In response to a question by Joseph Bonin: Technology improvements such as smart cards will counteract some fraud in the system, as well as provide data. That data collected will inform DTS of ridership patterns and needs, allowing for improvements in service.
- In response to a question by Marcia Linville: There is a bill before the City Council which will allow for senior citizens to be given free bus passes. The bill has passed the second reading in the Transportation Committee.
- Rose Pou requested that route 14 be restored to circle around Kapiolani Park and Diamond Head and that the drivers be reminded to keep the audible announcements on. Director Formby mentioned that route 14 is currently under consideration and he is aware of the need for the audible announcements. He also mentioned that Ms. Pou provided him with a pass for riding the Handi-Van, which he is eager to use.
- Daisy Murai suggested that route 2 should travel only one direction on Campbell Avenue.
- Shannon Wood suggested that bus service between Waikiki and the University of Hawaii at Manoa (route 4) be restored to accommodate visitors attending sporting events and students going to work or recreation. She also requests that he work closely with the Department of Facilities Maintenance and the Hawaii Department of Transportation to address the pothole situation islandwide.
- Barbra Armentrout suggested that route maps be distributed to tourists after the restoration is implemented. She also suggests that route B be restored. The tour buses and private trolleys are utilizing bus stops.
- Bob Schieve suggests that DTS consider bus turnouts on Kamehameha Highway along the North Shore. Director Formby stated that another North Shore issue being considered is the turn-around location for route 55.
- In response to a question by Arvid Youngquist: Federal funding is always being sought. Currently, there is an application for funding at the Federal Transit Authority for future stages of service restoration.
- Tom Smyth stated that many senior citizens are willing to pay more for comfortable and convenient bus service. In response to a follow-up question, Director Formby stated that as ridership increases, the subsidy burden on the public increases.
- In response to a question by Bob Finley: DTS has not related the fuel costs to operations of TheBus.
- In response to a question by Bert Narita: Procurement for fuel suppliers will be occurring in July. DTS will be doing more research into the fuel cost issue.
- In response to a question by Ms. Linville: The circle island bus was completely undependable due to the impacts of congestion, high surf events, traffic incidents, road work, and such. The route has been split in an effort to increase the reliability of service.
- In response to a question by Frank Genadio: If passed, Bill 58 – allowing seniors, disabled, and Medicare card holders a free bus pass – may impact fares for other riders due to the 27-33% recovery ratio required by statute. In 2012, such a change was projected to produce a \$2 million loss in revenue. The City Council will determine what they feel is fair and appropriate.

- Ms. Murai suggests detailed signage at each stop, including route information and schedule.

4. Announcements

Chair Magaldi announced the remaining OahuMPO listening sessions:

- Ewa Elementary School on February 21,
- Kailua High School on February 26, and
- Waianae High School on February 28.

Mr. Shieve acknowledged the session that OahuMPO conducted in Haleiwa.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.