

Meeting Summary of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 15, 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
Citizens for a Fair ADA Ride
Hawaii Bicycling League
Hawaii Centers for Independent Living
Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996
Hui Kupuna VIP
League of Women Voters
NB #03 Waialae-Kahala
NB #05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu-Saint Louis Heights
NB #08 McCully-Moiliili
NB #09 Waikiki
NB #13 Downtown
NB #24 Waianae Coast
NB #25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu
NB #29 Kahaluu
NB #34 Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale
North Shore Chamber of Commerce
Palehua Townhouse Association
Waikiki Residents Association

Joseph Magaldi, Jr., Chair
Charles Carole, Vice Chair
John Goody
Lara Karamatsu
Rose Pou
Chad Taniguchi
Patti Goeas
Michael Costa
Betty Mason
Marcia Linville
Lester Fukuda
Bert Narita
Joseph Bonin
Robert Finley
Tom Smyth
Greg LeGros
Melissa Vomvoris
Ken LeVasseur
Frank Genadio
Bob Schieve
Michael Golojuch
Daisy Murai

Members Absent (Reps):

American Planning Association Hawaii
Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii
E Noa Corporation
Institute of Transportation Engineers
Land Use Research Foundation
Leeward Oahu Transportation Management Association
Mestizo Association
NB #01 Hawaii Kai
NB #02 Kuliouou-Kalani Iki
NB #07 Manoa
NB #11 Ala Moana-Kakaako
NB #14 Liliha

John Valera
Laura Kodama
Tom Dinell
I. Robert Nehmad
Dave Arakawa
Wynde Yamamoto
Arvid Youngquist
Greg Knudsen
Linda Starr
Tom Heinrich
P. Nathan Minn
Loy Kuo

NB #15 Kalihi-Palama	Fetu Kolio
NB #18 Aliamanu-Salt Lake-Foster Village	Lynne Gutierrez
NB #21 Pearl City	Cruz J. Vina, Jr.
NB #22 Waipahu	Braunsen Kalaikai
NB #23 Ewa	John Gollner
NB #26 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village	Jeanne Ishikawa
NB #35 Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley	Alan Suwa
NB #36 Nanakuli-Maili	Richard Landford
Pacific Resource Partnership	Paul Migliorato
Tax Foundation of Hawaii	Randall Hiu

Guests Present:

Hannah Miyamoto	Beautiful Honolulu Foundation
Councilmember Breene Harimoto	City Council
Michael Formby	Department of Transportation Services
Ty Fukumitsu	DTS
Mark Kikuchi	DTS
Michael A. Murphy	DTS
Jack Patterson	DTS
Chris Sayers	DTS
Landa Phelan	Hawaii Association of the Blind
Ambika Sabramony	Hawaii Bicycling League
Andrea Anixt	Kaaawa Community Association

OahuMPO Staff Present: Brian Gibson and Marian Yasuda

Chair Joseph Magaldi called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Chair Magaldi welcomed Councilmember Breene Harimoto to the CAC meeting.

1. Waikiki Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Update

Chair Magaldi introduced Director Michael Formby, Department of Transportation Services. Director Formby introduced his staff members and explained that each would be able to answer questions in their area of expertise.

Chris Sayers, Bicycle Coordinator: Mr. Sayers talked about a new bike lane on Kalakaua Avenue from Ala Moana Boulevard to Kapahulu Avenue through Waikiki, as well as sharrows added on Ala Moana Boulevard before the Ala Moana Shopping Center. DTS has also connected Ala Moana Beach Park to Kapiolani Park with special signage and improvements to the existing bike paths. Bike racks have been added in Waikiki.

Discussion Highlights:

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

- In response to a question by Tom Smyth: The sign to accompany the sharrows states “bicycle may use the full lane” and continuing education about sharrows is ongoing. Anybody may paint the bike racks in any color.

- In response to a question by Mike Golojuch: Waikiki will be included in any bike share program that is developed. There is a planning process in the works.
- In response to a question by Hannah Miyamoto: There are directional arrows included with the sharrows; and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) are one way that DTS will be conducting their educational campaign.
- In response to a question by Bob Finley: Bicyclists may ride west-bound in the bus lane along Kalakaua Avenue.
- In response to a question by Joe Bonin: There will be several PSAs covering different issues. DTS may also consider utilizing advertising space on the buses for educational outreach.
- In response to a question by Chair Magaldi: Enforcement is the ultimate educational tool. Most bicycle advocates would support the enforcement of laws for both bicyclists and drivers.
- In response to a question by Mr. Smyth: The lack of signage stating that bicycles on the sidewalk are illegal does not make the law unenforceable. Director Formby will discuss this issue with Chief Kealoha and see what is needed to ensure that the laws are enforced.
- In response to a question by Ms. Miyamoto: The law states that a bicyclist is required to provide an audible signal when passing pedestrians.

Jack Patterson spoke about the addition of two Barnes crossings along Kalakaua Avenue at Lewers Street and Royal Hawaiian Avenue as a part of a new traffic study. The signal timing has been altered to add a phase allowing pedestrian-only time for crossing in any direction with no vehicle conflicts. The crosswalk change seems to be working very well.

Discussion Highlights:

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

- In response to a question by Brian Gibson: There has been a bit of an increase in vehicle queues during peak times, but not significantly.
- In response to a question by Ken LeVasseur: These new Barnes crossings are the first where traffic enters the intersection from two directions. The other Barnes crossings, already in use, are at intersections where the traffic enters from only one direction and turns only in one direction.
- In response to a question by Mr. Finley: Ty Fukumitsu stated that the signal timing is being tweaked to accommodate weekend traffic increases and special events, such as proms at the Waikiki hotels and tour bus pick-ups and drop-offs.
- In response to a question by Rose Pou: Mr. Fukumitsu stated that pedestrians do not need to push any button to activate the walk signal. DTS is getting away from the mechanical crossing buttons and replacing them with electronic buttons.
- In response to a question by Mr. Bonin: After the signals are tweaked to the satisfaction of DTS, they will take a look at the effects of the Barnes crosswalk on traffic flow. Mark Kikuchi stated that there is a proposal for a second-level pedestrian crossing at the Kapiolani Boulevard and Keeaumoku Street intersection.
- In response to a question by Daisy Murai: Pedestrians tend to follow when others correctly use the Barnes crossing; instructions for their use do not seem necessary.

- In response to a question by Mr. Finley: Mr. Fukumitsu stated that DTS is slowly phasing out the need of buttons for pedestrian crossings.
- In response to a question by Frank Genadio: Fuel efficiency for OTS has increased with a program improving maintenance. The City hopes to acquire 6 diesel vehicles that are electrically powered through a turbine, rather than an engine, for a demonstration project.

2. Walk, Bike, Drive

Chad Taniguchi and Ambika Sabramony, Hawaii Bicycling League (HBL), presented information about how to increase the safety for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. He stressed that the law allows bicyclists to use the full lane as needed and the “Vulnerable Users Law” which increases the penalties if a driver kills or seriously injures a pedestrian, cyclist, police officer, or other unprotected road user while violating the law. Requests for this presentation to any group may be made on their website – www.hbl.org.

Ms. Sabramony mentioned that HBL is planning to conduct a bicycle count around Oahu over three days in September and is soliciting help with this effort. Volunteers may sign up on the HBL website.

Discussion Highlights:

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

- In response to a question by Mr. Smyth: Permits of mopeds and bicycles are combined and are not indicative of actual ridership and usage.
- In response to a question by Mr. Finley: Bicycle rental companies have not been approached for presenting safety information. HBL will be pursuing the visitor industry to provide bicycling safety information.

3. Approval of the April 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as circulated.

4. OahuMPO Meeting Highlights

Marian Yasuda announced that neither the Policy Committee nor the Technical Advisory Committee held meetings since the CAC last met.

The Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, June 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Hawaii Department of Transportation 5th floor conference room at 869 Punchbowl Street.

5. Announcements

Bob Schieve requested a presentation by Brian Gibson about changes that are occurring with the new administration at the City and County of Honolulu.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

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