

Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, February 22, 2013, 1:00 p.m.
Honolulu City Council Committee Meeting Room, Room 205
530 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Members Present:

Councilmember Breene Harimoto, Chair	Representative Sharon Har
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair	Representative Ryan Yamane
Councilmember Carol Fukunaga	Senator J. Kalani English
Councilmember Joey Manahan	Senator Will Espero
Councilmember Ron Menor	DOT Director Glenn Okimoto
Councilmember Kymberly Pine	DTS Director Michael Formby

Member(s) Absent: Representative Henry Aquino

Guests Present:

Dennis Galolo (CM Menor)	I. Robert Nehmad (CAC, ITE)
Jill Tanabe (DOT)	Marcia Linville (CAC, LWV)
Patrick Tom (DOT)	Linda Starr (CAC, NB #2)
Marlene Young (DOT)	Bert Narita (CAC, NB #5)
Ty Fukumitsu (DTS)	Charles Carole (CAC, NB #10)
Don Hamada (DTS)	Tom Smyth (CAC, NB #13)
Elizabeth Fischer (FHWA)	Dick Poirier (CAC, NB #25)
Joseph Magaldi, Jr. (CAC Chair, CBT)	Michael Golojuch (CAC, PTA)
Chad Taniguchi (CAC, HBL)	

OahuMPO Staff Present: Brian Gibson, Lori Arakaki, Marian Yasuda, Pamela Toyooka

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Chair Breene Harimoto. A quorum was present.

I. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2013 MEETING

Executive Director Brian Gibson noted that Elizabeth Fischer requested that she be included on the list of guests present.

There being no objections, the minutes of the January 7, 2013 meetings were approved as amended.

[Senator Will Espero arrived at 1:03 p.m.]

Chair Harimoto asked if anyone wanted to offer testimony on any agenda item. None was offered.

II. CONFIRMATION OF CURRENT CHAIR'S TERM

Director Gibson explained that, at the last meeting, the election of the Chair for fiscal year (FY) 2014 was held prior to the Policy Committee changing the Chair and Vice Chair's terms from FY to calendar year.

Representative Ryan Yamane moved and Senator Donovan Dela Cruz seconded that the term of Chair Harimoto end at the first meeting following January 1, 2014. The motion was unanimously carried.

[Councilmember Joey Manahan arrived at 1:07 p.m.]

III. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Director Gibson explained that the Vice Chair's seat became vacant between the last meeting and this meeting, so an election needs to be held to fill the Vice Chair's seat.

Senator Kalani English nominated Senator Dela Cruz for office of Vice Chair; Representative Yamane seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, Senator Dela Cruz was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

IV. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) REVISIONS

[Handout(s): Draft Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2011-2014 TIP Revision #19 (Expedited Administrative Modification); Draft #2 of FFYs TIP Revision #20 (Amendment); Public Comment Tally for Revision #19 to the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP; Intergovernmental Review Comment Summary for Revision #20 to the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP]

[Representative Sharon Har arrived at 1:15 p.m.]

Revision #19

Director Gibson stated that the draft FFYs 2011-2014 Revision #19 is an expedited administrative modification that requires OahuMPO Policy Committee approval, but does not require prior review by the Technical Advisory Committee or solicitation of public comment. No projects were added or deleted from TIP in Revision #19. The TIP remains fiscally constrained. Though solicitation of public comment is not required, OahuMPO received over 460 signatures from an online petition regarding project OS82 (Farrington Highway, Bridge Replacement, Makaha Bridges #3 and #3A), asking that the replacement bridges be located mauka of the current bridges that are being replaced.

As a separate issue, Councilmember Kymberly Pine asked if there was any way, in the future, to add to the TIP the realignment of Farrington Highway on the mauka side of the road. Director Gibson stated that a study could be placed in the OWP to look at the feasibility of realigning the road. Department of Transportation (DOT) Director Glenn Okimoto agreed that this is a separate issue. He stated that the bridges really need to be fixed. They are in very bad shape – they have been burned and are termite-eaten. A realignment of the highway could be done later, after the bridges have been replaced. In response to Councilmember Pine, Director Okimoto stated that the bridges are safe, though the load requirement may have to be reduced.

Senator Espero moved and Representative Yamane seconded that FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Revision #19 be approved. The motion was unanimously carried.

Revision #20

Director Gibson gave a presentation on Revision #20. Revision #20 is an amendment – requiring review by the OahuMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the solicitation of public comments, and Policy Committee approval. Five new projects were added and six projects were deleted. The TIP remains fiscally constrained. Mr. Gibson went over the public review and intergovernmental review comments received, and the technical analyses – including the project criteria, project evaluations, Congestion Management Process, and Title VI and Environmental Justice analysis. TAC recommended approval of Revision #20 at its February 8th meeting.

Councilmember Pine voiced her concern that project OC7 (Makakilo Drive (Route 8810) Extension) was being postponed. Department of Transportation Services (DTS) Director Michael Formby responded that the Mayor supports the project, but due to a lack of funding for construction, it was decided to not proceed with planning and design. \$3 million in federal funds was deobligated; so, the City is looking at \$3 million in local funds for a design project that's estimated at \$5.5 to \$6 million. So, for that reason, the decision was made to prioritize the Joint Traffic Management Center. When construction funds are available, then design of project OC7 will begin. Councilmember Pine stated that the previous Mayor decided to postpone the design portion of the project because the philosophy was that construction funds would take a lot of money away from other projects. She asked if it's possible to ask the Mayor phase the design portion, so that this project can be done within a 10-year period. Director Formby responded that he will speak with the Mayor about using the \$3 million in local funds to phase the design portion.

In response to Senator Espero, Director Formby stated that the current estimated cost to construct OC7 is \$85 million. In response to Senator Espero, Don Hamada, DTS Transportation Planning Division Chief, responded that there are no impact fees from the developer available. Senator Espero stated that the developer, Castle and Cooke, is already building their portion in upper Makakilo. He assumed that, as the housing continues to come down the hill, the area where OC7 is supposed to be built will be prime real estate in the next boom; that will easily sell. If the developer pays a portion of that, maybe it will come in at less than \$70 or \$80 million. Director Formby responded that he would look into that and make an assessment.

Representative Har stated that she has grave concerns. There is only one way in and out of Makakilo; the developers are continuing to build houses there, so the high density is becoming a health and safety issue. This project needs to become a priority.

[Councilmember Carol Fukunaga arrived at 1:27 p.m.]

In response to Councilmember Pine and Representative Har, Director Formby responded that he heard their concerns; he will go back and look at it. He will speak to the Mayor about possibly starting the design portion.

Councilmember Pine asked about the postponing of the traffic cameras in Nanakuli (OC5 Computerized Traffic Control System). Director Formby responded that the cameras require fiber optic cables placed in conduits; the installation starts from the core and expands out as they install. The installation is currently at the base of Makakilo, which enables them to go up to Makakilo. Through a partnership with the State, using the State's conduits along H-2, they were able to go up to Mililani and Wahiawa. Currently, there is no means to access the Ewa and Nanakuli communities; DTS is working with Department of Information Technology on using wireless technology to help do that. In the meantime, the long-range laying of fiber optic cables requires that they have conduits along Farrington Highway.

In response to Councilmember Pine, Director Okimoto stated that they received a lot of complaints regarding traffic lights in Nanakuli on Farrington Highway; Farrington Highway westbound was backing up. About six months ago, DOT worked with the City; the City looked at the traffic and adjusted the signal timing. Chair Harimoto stated that he appreciated the cooperation between the City and State.

Representative Har asked for more information regarding project OC6 (Kapolei Parkway (Route 8920), Kunehi Street to Kamokila Boulevard); what the \$2.2 million will be used for. Director Formby responded that he will research this and provide her with this information.

Councilmember Fukunaga moved and Representative Yamane seconded that FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Revision #20 be approved.

Councilmember Pine voiced her reservations regarding the postponement of project OC7. Representative Har agreed with Councilmember Pine regarding project OC7; she would like a discussion with the Mayor regarding funding.

A vote was taken. The motion was carried with one objection from Representative Har and with Councilmember Pine's concerns noted.

V. CAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & POTENTIAL CHANGE TO CAC BYLAWS

Director Gibson stated that Marine Corp Base Hawaii (MCBH) had submitted a request for Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) membership. However, the CAC Bylaws stipulate that the CAC "shall consist of non-governmental organizations and...neighborhood boards..." The CAC subcommittee recommended that the Bylaws remain unchanged and that the membership application not be approved. As a non-member organization, the MCBH liaison can still attend CAC meetings and speak; he or she just can't vote. MCBH is already asked to review and comment on the main OahuMPO documents through the OahuMPO Intergovernmental Review process.

Chair Harimoto stated that he could see why the Bylaws are setup that way, but he can also see MCBH as a community.

Councilmember Pine stated that it is good to have a new set of eyes.

Senator English asked if other military installations would also be accepted; there are a lot of installations. This action would set a precedent. The military installation members could end up outnumbering the citizen/community member organizations. Representative Har agreed.

Councilmember Manahan asked if one military organization could represent the entire military, or they could be non-voting members.

Representative Yamane asked if the proposal would be to change the Bylaws to “governmental” organizations or specifically “military”.

Director Gibson stated that the intent of the CAC is to provide a voice for the citizens in our process. OahuMPO has an Intergovernmental Review process that already includes the military bodies. He feels that it would be inappropriate to include the government agencies in the CAC.

Representative Yamane asked if it would be problematic to include only one type of government organization, such as the military. He felt that it would not be fair to have one organization represent all the military.

Senator English agreed with the CAC Bylaws Subcommittee’s recommendation to not change the Bylaws. There may be unintended consequences.

Tom Smyth, CAC Bylaws Subcommittee Chair, reiterated that the Subcommittee felt a change in the Bylaws was unnecessary and MCBH request should not be approved. He noted that anyone can come to the CAC meetings and make comments. The only thing non-members can’t do is vote – which includes approval of minutes, election of officers, and recommendations on documents.

Senator Espero noted that the neighborhood boards are government organizations, funded by the City and County; the members of the neighborhood boards are elected. In response to Senator Espero, Senator English stated that the language in the Bylaws specifically states that the CAC “*shall consist of non-governmental organizations and City and County of Honolulu neighborhood boards.*” Therefore, legally, “*and*” makes it an exception; so, there is no conflict.

Chair Harimoto stated that, since there is no consensus among members, the Bylaws will be left as is for now. If someone has a specific Bylaws change they want to consider, then it could be taken up at that time. In response to Director Gibson, Chair Harimoto stated that, according to the current Bylaws, MCBH does not meet the CAC membership requirements.

VI. PUBLIC TRANSIT OPERATORS AS PART OF OAHUMPO

Director Gibson stated that Senate Bill 479 and House Bill 689 have been introduced to address the new Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) requirement that operators of public transportation to be part of the MPO. He suggested that the Committee show their support through a resolution. Chair Harimoto stated that it would be helpful for the Policy Committee to take a position on this matter.

Representative Har moved and Vice Chair Dela Cruz seconded that the Policy Committee approve a resolution supporting an amendment to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 279E-3 to allow the director of Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) to be included on the Policy Committee. The motion was unanimously carried.

VII. CAC CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

The Policy Committee members presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following CAC member organizations for their exemplary attendance and commitment to the OahuMPO process during 2012 (*persons present to accept certificates on behalf of their organization in parentheses*):

- Committee for Balanced Transportation (Joseph Magaldi, Jr.)
- Hawaii Bicycling League (Chad Taniguchi)
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (I. Robert Nehmad)
- League of Women Voters (Marcia Linville)
- Neighborhood Board (NB) #05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu-St Louis Heights (Bert Narita)
- NB #10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus (Charles Carole)
- NB #13 Downtown (Tom Smyth)
- NB #25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu (Dick Poirier)
- NB #34 Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale
- Waikiki Residents Association

At 2:02 p.m., a recess was called in order to take a group photo of the certificate recipients and the Policy Committee members. The meeting was called back to order at 2:04 p.m.

VIII. DRAFT FYs 2014-2015 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM (OWP)

[Handout: Initial Review Draft OWP FYs 2014-2015]

Director Gibson gave a presentation on the initial review draft of the FYs 2014-2015 OWP.

[Councilmember Ron Menor arrived at 2:07 p.m.]

Director Okimoto asked if doing planning studies for other agencies is part of OahuMPO's normal planning function. Director Gibson responded that, in the past, OahuMPO has not done a lot of this; however, at most other MPO's this is standard fare.

Regarding draft work element (WE) 203.02 (University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) Traffic and Parking Study), Representative Yamane asked who will be providing the local match for this study. Director Gibson responded that he assumed that the local match would come from DOT and DTS; UHM is checking on whether they can pay the local match. Representative Yamane stated that the study should not be included in the OWP until UHM agrees to provide the matching funds; if this study is going to help UHM, then they should use their own resources. Councilmember Fukunaga agreed.

In response to Chair Harimoto, Director Gibson stated that it would be easier to include draft WE 203.02 in the public review draft. If it gets to the end of the process in June without the WE in the document, then it is decided to include the WE, OahuMPO would need to go back out to the public for their review prior to coming back to the Policy Committee. It would be easier to take the project out in June rather than add it back in at that time.

Representative Har asked that a caveat be added to the work element – “*Subject to funding by UHM*” (with an asterisk).

Director Okimoto noted that the local match for DOT and DTS went from \$120,000 (FY 2013) up to \$170,000 (FY 2014). Director Gibson confirmed this. Director Okimoto noted that, if DOT does not provide the entire State portion of the local match, then OahuMPO won't be able to do all these projects.

Representative Yamane asked if UHM asked for the study. Director Gibson responded that UHM came to OahuMPO. Director Formby stated that no one from UHM came to discuss this study with DTS. Director Gibson responded that UHM approached Department of Planning and Permitting. Representative Yamane asked why OahuMPO could not wait until UHM has the matching funds to add this WE into the OWP. Director Gibson responded that the UHM study would be scheduled for FY 2015.

Councilmember Pine asked if a project could be added today. Director Gibson responded that staff time and local matching funds are needed. Councilmember Pine stated that she wanted to add a feasibility study to realign Farrington Highway mauka of the Makaha Bridges and wanted to remove the UHM study, pending their ability to fund their study. Director Gibson stated that he would need to do an analysis to figure out whether this change is possible. Director Gibson suggested that the Policy Committee direct him to analyze the feasibility of adding the Farrington Highway study in place of the UHM study.

Chair Harimoto asked, if the Policy Committee directs Director Gibson to do the analysis, at what point does the Policy Committee make the decision to swap the projects. Director Gibson responded that he would come back to the Policy Committee with the analysis, then they could make that decision.

Director Gibson stated that there is an excess budget of \$1 million of federal planning funds that haven't been programmed. Representative Yamane noted that, even though there is excess federal planning funds, the reimbursement to the City and State is only 80%; City and State funds are still impacted by 20%. Director Gibson confirmed that if an additional project needs \$500,000 in federal funds, then \$50,000 in matching funds will be needed from each the City and the State. Representative Yamane stated that using local funds for an added study will have an impact on the City and State agencies' budgets; it may delay existing projects in the pike. Representative Yamane stated that the UHM project should be deleted from the draft document until UHM can agree to provide the matching funds.

As part of WE 301.19 (OahuMPO Data Program), Director Formby asked when approval to hire an additional OahuMPO staff member would occur. Director Gibson responded that approval of

an OWP that includes this work element would also approve OahuMPO hiring the additional staff member.

Director Gibson stated that if you want a project in the final OWP, he recommended that it be included in the public review draft, so that it can go through the public review process. If a project is not certain since it's subject to the availability of funds, a caveat can be placed in the document.

Councilmember Pine suggested that both the UHM and Farrington Highway WEs include "pending" caveats.

Councilmember Pine moved and Councilmember Menor seconded that OahuMPO do a feasibility study to realign Farrington Highway mauka of Makaha Beach, pending funding approval.

Director Gibson noted that there was a Makaha Beach Park Master Plan, done by the City Department of Parks and Recreation, which did propose a mauka alignment. However, the State Department of Transportation (DOT) was never consulted on the feasibility of realigning the roadway.

Councilmember Pine made a friendly amendment to her motion, rewording it to read: Requesting OahuMPO to do a feasibility study on realigning Farrington Highway according to the Makaha Beach Park Master Plan. Councilmember Menor seconded the rewording of the motion.

Vice Chair Dela Cruz stated that they need to make it contingent upon funding being approved by both the City and State in their budgets. There must be support from both Administrations for these projects.

Councilmember Pine stated that this issue goes back almost 20 years. Makaha Beach is eroding the highway. The City and County did a plan many years ago showing the road going closer to the mountain (more mauka).

Director Gibson explained that he would go back to the office, do a cost analysis, then come back to the Policy Committee. He will then be better able to tell the Policy Committee what the trade-offs will be with placing this study into the draft OWP. From what Director Gibson had said, Chair Harimoto clarified that the Policy Committee would not be voting to put this project in the document; instead it would be directing Director Gibson to do a preliminary analysis, then come back to the Policy Committee and report what the impact will be.

Councilmember Pine withdrew her motion.

Councilmember Pine moved and Representative Yamane seconded that the OahuMPO Executive Director be directed to do preliminary analysis on a feasibility study to realign Farrington Highway mauka of Makaha Beach according to the Makaha Beach Park Master Plan and report back to the Policy Committee. The motion was unanimously carried.

IX. CAC HIGHLIGHTS

CAC Chair Joseph Magaldi, Jr., summarized the two CAC meetings held since the prior Policy Committee meeting.

X. OTHER BUSINESS (ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLY)

Director Gibson announced that there will be two more Oahu Regional Transportation Plan listening sessions next week.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.