

Minutes of the  
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

Monday, February 10, 2014, 2:00 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

**Members Present:**

Senator Will Espero, Chair		Representative Ryan Yamane
Councilmember Carol Fukunaga		Senator J. Kalani English
Councilmember Ron Menor		DOT Director Glenn Okimoto
Councilmember Kymberly Pine		DTS Director Michael Formby
Representative Henry Aquino		

**Member(s) Absent:** Councilmember Breene Harimoto (Vice Chair), Councilmember Joey Manahan, Representative Sharon Har, and Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, HART Executive Director Dan Grabauskas

**Guests Present:**

Jame Schaedel (CM Pine)		Charles Carole (CAC, NB #10)
Elizabeth Fischer (TAC, FHWA)		Marilyn Lee (CAC, NB #25)
Pat Phung (FHWA)		Karen Loomis (CAC, NB #25)
Tiffany Hamada (CAC, ASCE)		Dick Poirier (CAC, NB #25)
Joseph Magaldi, Jr. (CAC, CBT)		Frank Genadio (CAC, NB #34)
I. Robert Nehmad (CAC, ITE)		Paul Migliorato (CAC, Pacific Resource Partnership)
Andrea Anixt (CAC, Kaaawa Community Association)		Michael Golojuch (CAC, Palehua Townhouses)
Joseph Bonin (CAC, NB #8)		
		Gil Riviere

**OahuMPO Staff Present:** Brian Gibson, Marian Yasuda, Lynne Kong, Pamela Toyooka

At 2:28 p.m., OahuMPO Executive Director Brian Gibson stated that a quorum was present; however, both the Policy Committee Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend today's meeting. Agenda item II was the election of the new Chair and Vice Chair, so he suggested that the members appoint a Chair Pro Tem to conduct the elections.

*Representative Ryan Yamane was selected as Chair Pro Tem.*

**I. ELECTION OF THE 2014 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

*Senator J. Kalani English moved to nominate Senator Will Espero as the 2014 Chair. Councilmember Kymberly Pine seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Senator Espero was unanimously elected Chair.*

Senator Espero assumed the position of Chair.

*Councilmember Ron Menor moved to nominate Councilmember Breene Harimoto as the 2014 Vice Chair. Councilmember Pine seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Councilmember Harimoto was unanimously elected Vice Chair.*

## **II. HIRING SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNER**

Director Gibson requested that the Policy Committee authorize him to hire a qualified candidate for the Senior Transportation Planner position. In response to Chair Espero, Mr. Gibson stated that:

- The salary would be set according to the person's experience and qualifications.
- The salary range was approximately \$62,000 to \$90,000.
- OahuMPO previously had an employee in that position.

In response to Chair Espero, Pamela Toyooka stated that the previous Senior Transportation Planner's pay was approximately between the low- and mid-\$70,000s.

*Councilmember Pine moved and Senator English seconded that the OahuMPO Executive Director be authorized to hire a Senior Transportation Planner at a salary in the range of \$62,000 to \$90,000, dependent upon his or her experience and qualifications. The motion was unanimously approved.*

## **IV. FYs 2014-2015 OWP REVISION #2**

*[Handouts: Overall Work Program (OWP) Fiscal Years (FYs) 2014-2015 Draft Revision #2; Intergovernmental Review Comment Summary; Public Review Comment Summary]*

Director Gibson gave a presentation on the FYs 2014-2015 OWP Revision #2. There would be three major changes:

- Deletion of the Central Oahu Transportation Study (work element (WE) 202.02-14)
- Amendment to the Waikiki Transit Circulator Study (WE 202.84-11)
- Amendment to the Ewa Impact Fees for Traffic & Roadway Improvements Update Study (WE 203.75-09)

Director Gibson went over the Intergovernmental Review comments and the public review comments. Director Gibson stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended that a working group of agency staff be formed to discuss the reworking of WE 202.02-14. He noted that a working group has been meeting to rework the project for a future OWP. Mr. Gibson stated that he supports the inclusion of WE 202.02-14 in a future OWP.

### Testimony

- Dick Poirier (Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board #25 (NB #25)) – Against removal of WE 202.02-14.
- Karen Loomis (NB #25) – Against removal of WE 202.02-14.
- Marilyn Lee (NB #25) – Against removal of WE 202.02-14.
- Andrea Anixt (Kaaawa Community Association) – Against removal of WE 202.02-14.
- Gil Riviere – Against removal of WE 202.02-14.

### Questions and Answers

Department of Transportation Services (DTS) Director Michael Formby stated that his understanding is that TAC's objection to the originally drafted WE 202.02-14 were two levels of concern – substantive and procedural. And, at this past TAC meeting, TAC recommended approval of the deletion of WE 202.02-14, subject to reintroduction of the study later. Director Gibson responded that TAC recommended approval of the deletion with a caveat; TAC felt strongly that the study should be included in a future OWP. In response to Director Formby, Director Gibson stated that TAC approved the inclusion of WE 202.02-14 when the FYs 2014-2015 was approved. Director Formby asked if there were any TAC concerns or comments that didn't get reflected during the initial review of the FYs 2014-2015 OWP, since it seems unusual that TAC would recommend approval the first time around, then recommended deletion in the current revision. Director Gibson responded in the affirmative.

Director Formby stated that the substantive concern was that the original draft was really a feasibility study for very specific projects, versus a real transportation study – that looks at conditions, future developments, and projected growth; then comes up with the best way to solve those issues. Some of the planners felt that the way WE 202.02-14 was drafted was not the best way to proceed with the study. Regarding the current scope of WE 202.02-14, Director Gibson responded that concerns have been expressed about the project description and the scope of the study, relating to what Director Formby brought up. The project description states that OahuMPO would manage the project and would pull together a working group to define the issues that would be studied. He stated that he was not sure why TAC voted two different ways.

In response to Director Formby, Director Gibson stated that he himself drafted the language in WE 202.02-14.

In response to Chair Espero, Director Gibson stated that he understood that the State is uncomfortable with funding the study as it is currently described. So, the State may not provide the local match necessary to fund the study.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Director Glenn Okimoto stated that DOT supports a study in the area, because one is needed. However, like Director Formby has stated, the scope of the plan is unclear; it needs to be reworked.

In response to Chair Espero regarding a timeframe to rework the project, Director Gibson stated that, based on TAC's recommendation, the OahuMPO staff, DOT staff, and DTS staff have been meeting to reword it; DTS has a current reworked draft. Director Formby acknowledged that Director Okimoto has not seen the draft, but that there has been coordination with some of the DOT staff. Director Formby was confident that they would be able to move forward with the redrafted study in the near future.

In response to Chair Espero, and to Councilmember Menor's concern that the study not be delayed any further, Director Gibson noted that, as part of the agenda, there is also the FYs 2015-2016 OWP. The Policy Committee could: 1) delete WE 202.02-14 (as currently written) from the FYs 2014-2015 OWP, then 2) place the redrafted study into draft FYs 2015-2016 OWP. The draft FYs 2015-2016 OWP could then go through public review with the redrafted study in it.

Director Gibson stated that, whether the study stayed in FY 2014 or was placed in FY 2015, the study could be initiated within this calendar year if there is a local match. FY 2015 starts July 1, so work on it could begin on July 1.

Councilmember Menor stated that he preferred to not delete WE 202.02-14 and provide impetus and incentive for the City and State to put in a serious, good-faith effort to come up with an acceptable compromise.

Chair Espero asked what the local match was. Director Gibson responded, as the WE 202.02-14 is currently drafted, the local match is \$50,000 each from the City and from the State. Director Formby stated that the local match for the redrafted study would be \$47,000 each from the City and from the State.

Representative Yamane asked if it would be okay if WE 202.02-14 is not deleted from FY 2014 and the City provided their match, but the State did not provide their match. Chair Espero asked if WE 202.02-14 could be removed from Revision #2 and the Committee could just vote on the changes to the other two studies. Director Gibson responded that these would be okay to do.

*Representative Yamane moved and Councilmember Menor seconded the Policy Committee remove WE 202.02-14 from Revision #2 to the FYs 2014-2015 OWP and that Revision #2 then be approved as revised. The motion was unanimously approved.*

## **V. FFYS 2011-2014 TIP REVISIONS #27 & #28**

*[Handouts: Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Draft Revision #27, Expedited Administrative Modification; FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Draft Revision #28, Amendment]*

### FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Revision #27

Director Gibson gave a presentation on the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Draft Revision #27.

*Councilmember Menor moved and Councilmember Pine seconded that FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Revision #27 be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.*

### FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Revision #28

Councilmember Pine voiced her objection to the deletion of project OS2 (Farrington Highway (Route 93), Bridge Preservation, Ulehawa Stream Bridge) from the current TIP.

*Councilmember Pine moved that the deletion of project OS2 be removed from the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Revision #28.*

In response to Chair Espero, Director Okimoto stated that leaving project OS2 in the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP would unconstrain the TIP. Another project would need to be removed from the TIP in order to constrain the document. Director Gibson stated that the TIP needs to be financially constrained.

Director Okimoto explained that project OS2 was not being stopped. It's taking longer than expected, so it would be moved from FFY 2014 to FFY 2015. Councilmember Pine asked that the project move forward without further delays.

*Councilmember Pine withdrew her motion.*

*Councilmember Fukunaga moved and Director Okimoto seconded that the FFYs 2011-2014 TIP Revision #28 be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.*

### Testimony

Frank Genadio – Support for project OC7 (Makakilo Drive (Route 8810) Extension

## **VI. FFYS 2015-2018 DRAFT TIP**

*[Handouts: City and County of Honolulu Projects for Consideration in the FYs 2015-2018 TIP (Exhibit 1); Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program: Draft Unconstrained FFY 2015 thru FFY 2018 (FFYs 2019-2020 Informative Only) Revision Effective Date: January 8, 2014]*

Director Gibson gave a presentation on the FFYs 2015-2018 Draft TIP.

In response to questions regarding the schedule, Director Gibson stated that the draft document would go out for public and intergovernmental review in May and June, then back to TAC, then back to the Committee for their approval. If there are substantial changes made to the projects or if projects are added during or after the public review, then the revised draft would need to go back out for public review, then back to the TAC and CAC for their reviews prior to the Committee's approval.

In response to Director Formby, Director Gibson noted that the draft document that was mailed to the Policy Committee was not final as approved by the City Council. Project OC7 was not included in the table in the current draft document given to the Committee members.

## **VII. INITIAL DRAFT FYS 2015-2016 OWP**

*[Handout(s): Initial Draft FYS 2015 & 2016 OWP]*

Director Gibson gave a presentation on the initial draft FYS 2015-2016 OWP.

Councilmember Menor asked, once the City and State come up with a compromise for the Central Oahu Study, at what stage can their revised proposal be interjected into the draft OWP. Director Gibson responded that the redrafted study should go into the draft OWP prior to going out for public comment. In response to Councilmember Menor, Director Gibson stated that the Committee could vote to put in the redrafted study or Director Formby could send it to OahuMPO to be included in FY 2015. If it is submitted by DTS, then OahuMPO would need to get the concurrence of DOT to place it in the draft document.

Director Formby stated that, because the Committee voted to keep WE 202.02-14 in the FYs 2014-2015 OWP and proceed with that study as it was drafted, he would not be proposing to

include the redrafted study in the FYs 2015-2016 OWP. Director Gibson confirmed that WE 202.02-14 remains in the FYs 2014-2015 OWP.

Director Formby stated that, since the Committee acted to not delete WE 202.02-14, he assumed that OahuMPO would be proceeding with the study as it was written. Director Gibson responded that that was correct, as long as there is the local match to do it.

Councilmember Menor stated that the concern is that DOT continues to have concerns about the study as it is currently written, so there are concerns regarding the local match. Director Okimoto responded that the scope of WE 202.02-14 has not changed, so DOT's concerns are still there. The City and the State were working on a new scope; however, the redrafted project did not get into the FYs 2015-2016 OWP because the original scope was approved.

Director Formby stated that his understanding is that the study will be done as originally drafted in the FYs 2014-2015 OWP. Director Gibson responded in the affirmative, provided there is a local match. Director Gibson noted that Director Okimoto has stated that he still has concerns, so there may not be a local match from the State. If the State and City want to revise the scope of WE 202.02-14, then another amendment would be necessary.

Director Formby stated that it could be revised in the FYs 2015-2016 OWP. Director Gibson stated that it made more sense to place the study with the revised scope in FY 2015. Director Formby agreed.

Councilmember Menor asked Director Gibson for his recommendation on how to proceed. Director Gibson stated that his personal and professional recommendation would be to go forward with WE 202.02-14 with the language as it is currently written in the FYs 2014-2015 OWP. It allows a working group to refine the scope.

Director Gibson stated that the City has already submitted their full match for this study.

Chair Espero asked if DOT had \$50,000. Director Okimoto responded that DOT has \$50,000.

## **IX. CAC CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

To recognize the CAC member organizations that have been continuously involved in the CAC during 2013, the following organizations were presented with certificates of appreciation:

- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Committee for Balanced Transportation
- Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996
- Institute of Transportation Engineers
- League of Women Voters
- Waialae-Kahala Neighborhood Board #3
- Diamond Head-Kapahulu-St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board #5
- McCully-Moiliili Neighborhood Board #8
- Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus Neighborhood Board #10
- Downtown Neighborhood Board #13

- Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board #34
- Pacific Resource Partnership
- Palehua Townhouse Association
- Waikiki Residents Association

**VIII. CAC HIGHLIGHTS**

CAC Chair Michael Golojuch gave a brief summary of the CAC meetings held since the previous Policy Committee meeting.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS (ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLY)**

*There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.*