

Meeting Summary of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room 301, Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Members Present:

Palehua Townhouse Association
American Planning Association Hawaii
American Society of Civil Engineers
Citizens for a Fair ADA Ride
E Noa Corporation
Gentry Homes, Ltd.
Hawaii Bicycling League
Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996
Institute of Transportation Engineers
Kaaawa Community Association
Land Use Research Foundation
League of Women Voters
NB #02 Kuliouou-Kalani Iki
NB #03 Waialae-Kahala
NB #05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu-Saint Louis Heights
NB #07 Manoa
NB #09 Waikiki
NB #10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus
NB #13 Downtown
NB #14 Liliha-Puunui-Alewa-Kamehameha Heights
NB #18 Aliamanu-Salt Lake-Foster Village
NB #22 Waipahu
NB #23 Ewa
NB #24 Waianae Coast
NB #25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu
NB #29 Kahaluu
NB #35 Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley
NB #36 Nanakuli-Maili
North Shore Chamber of Commerce
Pacific Resource Partnership
Waikiki Residents Association

Michael Golojuch, Chair
John Valera
Lara Karamatsu
Rose Pou
Jon Neill
Deb Luning
Robert Bengtson
Michael Costa
Robert Nehmad
Andrea Anixt
Dave Arakawa
Marcia Linville
Linda Starr
Lester Fukuda
Bert Narita
Jim Hayes
Robert Finley
Charles Carole
Tom Smyth
Brandon Mitsuda
Lynne Gutierrez
Braunsen Kalaikai
Rodney Boucher
Al Frenzel
Dick Poirier
Ken LeVasseur
Alan Suwa
James K. Manaku, Sr.
Antya Miller
Paul Migliorato
Daisy Murai

Members Absent (Reps):

AARP
Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii

John Goody
Laura Kodama

Committee for Balanced Transportation
Hawaii Association of the Blind
Hawaii Center for Independent Living
Hui Kupuna VIP
Mestizo Association
NB #01 Hawaii Kai
NB #08 McCully-Moiliili
NB #11 Ala Moana-Kakaako
NB #21 Pearl City
NB #26 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village
NB #34 Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale
Tax Foundation of Hawaii

Joseph Magaldi, Jr., Vice Chair
Landa Phelan
Patti Goeas
Betty Mason
Arvid Youngquist
Greg Knudsen
Joseph Bonin
Larry Hurst
Cruz J. Vina, Jr.
Jeanne Ishikawa
Frank Genadio
Randall Hiu

Guests Present:

Bob Leinau	Citizen
Morgana Lasco	Department of Transportation Services
Michael Murphy	DTS
Kate Froemming	Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation
Ryan Tam	HART
Wynde Yamamoto	Leeward Oahu Transportation Management Association
Tiffany Patrick	Marine Corps Base Hawaii
Barbra Armentrout	Neighborhood Board #5
John Nigro	Neighborhood Board #9
Hanale Hopfe	Neighborhood Board #24

OahuMPO Staff Present: Brian Gibson and Marian Yasuda

Chair Michael Golojuch called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Hearing no objections, some agenda items were taken out of order.

I. Approval of April 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Hearing no objections, the April 16, 2014 minutes were approved as circulated.

II. OahuMPO Meeting Highlights

Marian Yasuda announced that the Technical Advisory Committee met on Thursday, May 8, 2014. At that meeting, they:

- Considered the formation of a Working Group to discuss specific issues, such as the OWP and transportation & land use planning interrelationships
- Considered changes to Overall Work Program Process and Procedures Manual
- Heard a presentation about the early findings of the Planning Process Review
- Were notified of the upcoming Certification Review of OahuMPO

The Policy Committee met on Friday, May 16, 2014. At that meeting, they:

- Heard about possible changes to Overall Work Program Process and Procedures
- Heard a status report and update on the Central Oahu Transportation Study
- Heard the Federal Highway Administration Guidance Regarding MPOs
- Were notified of the upcoming Federal Certification Review of OahuMPO
- Heard a presentation about the early findings of the Planning Process Review
- Heard the Citizen Advisory Committee highlights from Chair Golojuch

III. Draft FFYs 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program

Chair Golojuch introduced Brian Gibson, OahuMPO. Mr. Gibson provided a brief introduction to the draft FFYs 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Public review of the draft TIP is underway. Comments on the draft may be submitted to the OahuMPO no later than Thursday, July 3, 2014.

Mr. Gibson said that the draft TIP includes \$650 million for highway projects and \$3.75 billion for transit projects for the four-year period. He also said that staff from OahuMPO's partner agencies – Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT), Department of Transportation Services (DTS), and Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) – are in attendance and can address project-specific questions.

Discussion Highlights:

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

- In response to a question by Linda Starr: Mr. Gibson knew of no flood-control studies as related to transportation facilities.
- In response to a question by Barbrea Armentrout: Transportation Assistance for Elderly and Disabled is a State project. Morgana Lasco stated that maintenance funding for Handi-Vans is only programmed through 2015 because DTS does not know the amount of funding that will be available to them beyond 2015. The full-funding agreement for the rail project states that 5307 funds go to HART before DTS.
- In response to a question by Marcia Linville: Scot Urada stated that Transportation Assistance for Elderly and Disabled is a Federal Transit Administration program to purchase buses and pay for operating expenses. Ms. Lasco stated that the camera surveillance project provides information to the Traffic Management Center to assist with roadway issues and incidents.
- In response to a question by Andrea Anixt: Mr. Urada stated that the Laniakea Bypass project is a federally-funded project undergoing an environmental assessment which may be added to the TIP with an amendment. State monies approved in the budget have a 6-year window to be utilized.
- In response to a question: Ms. Lasco stated that the Traffic Management Center will eventually be able to monitor the entire island.
- Bob Leinau expressed his gratitude for the inclusion of the Kamehameha Highway, Rockfall Protection, Waimea Bay project in the TIP.

IV. City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services Update:

a. TheBus Advertising (Bill 69)

Chair Golojuch introduced Michael Formby, Director, Department of Transportation Services. Director Formby summarized Bill 69 and explained that it is currently in the Budget Committee and will likely be deferred until next year. The City is hoping that this would become a sustainable source of revenue without placing additional financial burden upon residents. This revenue will allow greater transportation equity and restoration of previously discontinued bus routes. State law already provides for advertising on the sides of vehicles that transport goods or people. City ordinance will need to be changed to allow for exterior advertising.

Discussion Highlights:

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

- In response to a question by Rodney Boucher: DTS has submitted a friendly amendment to the City Council for Bill 69 that states there will be no wrap-around ads, no window ads, no transit center or bus stop ads; and clarifies that the Bill would only apply to regular City buses.
- In response to a question by Ms. Starr: Advertisements on TheBus will not be more of a distraction to drivers than any of the numerous other distractions vying for the drivers' attention. It is a question of balance and benefit-risk ratio.
- In response to a question by Robert Nehmad: State law defines billboards as a fixed advertisement on the side of the road. That HRS citation will be provided via email.
- In response to a question by Paul Migliorato: Interior advertising is not in high demand because the demographics of transit riders are not the target of the companies wanting to pay for bus advertisement.
- In response to a question by Joseph Manaku: Interior advertisement prices have been reduced as a pilot to see if revenue could be increased. It did reap additional revenue; however, it was not even close to what could be generated from the exterior.
- Al Frenzel stated that the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board unanimously opposed Bill 69.
- In response to a question by Ms. Starr: Censoring advertisements and First Amendment freedom of expression challenges could raise litigation issues. However, the City administration feels strongly that this effort is worthy of a solid attempt rather than inaction due to a fear of lawsuit.
- Braunsen Kalaikai stated that Waipahu, Mililani, and Ewa Neighborhood Boards fully support Bill 69. The very folks that need a robust bus service are the ones that may not have the ability to attend meetings to voice their needs; they deserve your consideration. This solution seems like a win-win proposition and does not burden the citizens of Oahu with additional taxes or increased fares.

b. Handi-Van Program Audit (Resolution 14-69)

Director Formby explained that the resolution passed by Council requesting an audit of the Handi-Van has been delayed until the current improvement efforts have an opportunity to be fully implemented and evaluated for effectiveness. Current efforts include the purchase of 99 new Handi-Vans; implementation of a no-show policy for chronic abusers; and the reduction of the reservations window from 7 to 2 days. Agency-provided trip support continues, but service providers are being encouraged and assisted to provide their own transportation for clients rather than relying on the City. Real-time scheduling will be implemented on October 1, 2014.

- In response to a question by Rose Pou: Getting the new Handi-Vans have been slowed down by the manufacturer's limitations as the City's insistence that the vans be in top shape before they are accepted and put into service.
- A request by Ms. Starr for same-day reservations will be conveyed.
- In response to a question by Ms. Armentrout: Real-time scheduling will improve the availability in areas outside of the primary urban center as will the reduction of agency-provided trips.
- In response to a question by Antya Miller: The no-show policy will not be a financial penalty; it will limit future ability to make reservations.
- In response to a question by Mr. Frenzel: Handi-Van drivers do have cell phones to check with dispatch.
- In response to a question by Ms. Armentrout: Changing to a 2-day scheduling window should relieve the volume of calls to reservationists due to not as many cancellation calls being made. More phone lines and/or reservationists may be needed after changes are implemented and evaluated.

V. Announcements

Chair Golojuch announced that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be conducting a certification review of OahuMPO during the first week of June. As part of that review, there will be a public meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 309 of the State Capitol Building.

VI. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.