Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

Overview
What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization?

- MPOs date back to 1960s
- Urban areas in the United States are required by federal law to have an MPO in order to receive federal transportation funds
- The MPO is a forum for local officials to jointly select projects paid for with federal funds
- The MPO sets policy and guides the transportation planning process for the region

Cypress Freeway eradicates neighborhoods (Oakland, CA)
Requirements of an MPO

• All MPOs must…
  • Maintain a **Regional Transportation Plan**
  • Maintain a **Transportation Improvement Program**
  • Maintain an **Overall Work Program** that includes operations and planning studies
  • **Involve the public** in decision-making
OahuMPO Background

- *The OahuMPO is the federally mandated metropolitan planning organization designated by the governor to develop an overall transportation plan and to allocate federal funds on Oahu.*

- OahuMPO has existed since 1973

- Planning area: island of Oahu

- Implementation partners:
  - City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services
  - Hawaii State Department of Transportation
  - Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation
## OahuMPO Key Work Products

### Oahu Regional Transportation Plan
- Long-term transportation plan
- Establishes vision and goals for the region
- 25-year planning horizon
- List of projects and programs
- Updated at least every 5 years; Current: The 2045 ORTP

### Transportation Improvement Program
- Short-term schedule of projects and programs
- Covers a 4-year time period
- New TIP development cycle every 3 years
- Consistent with ORTP
- Budgeting tool AND legal commitment for use of funds
- Amended twice annually

### Overall Work Program
- OahuMPO’s operating budget
- Covers a two-year period
- Supports planning studies and other activities such as the Congestion Management Process and Training Programs
OahuMPO Structure
OahuMPO Governance

- The OahuMPO is governed by the Policy Board:
  - The Policy Board is the MPO and decision-making body
  - Current Chair: Councilmember Radiant Cordero
  - Current Vice Chair: Representative Darius Kila

- 11 Voting Members:
  - 3 City Council Members
  - 2 State Senators
  - 2 State Representatives
  - HART CEO
  - DTS Director
  - HDOT Director
  - DPP Director

- 3 Non-Voting Members:
  - FHWA Administrator
  - State Department of Health Director
  - State Office of Planning Director
Role of the Policy Board

• The “Gatekeepers” for federal transportation funding

  • Projects and Programs must be included in both the long-range plan (ORTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be eligible for federal funds

  • Projects and programs must have been vetted through collaboration with the community and relevant interested parties, as well as with State, City & County, and Federal agencies

  • Projects must be beneficial to the community and region and consistent with long-range plans

  • Can be obligated (ready to start expending funds) in the federal fiscal year of approval
    • Will not add to the existing substantial backlog of obligated, unexpended projects
Policy Board Duties

• Review and approve federally required transportation plans and programs developed by OahuMPO, e.g.:
  • Transportation Improvement Program
  • Oahu Regional Transportation Plan
  • Other approved Planning Studies

• Consider recommendations of advisory committees:
  • Citizen Advisory Committee
  • Technical Advisory Committee

• Endorse Overall Work Program (annual budget)

• Attend Regular Board Meetings
  • Quorum requires 6 out of the 11 voting members
  • Meets last Tuesday of each month
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- Advisory to Policy Board and Executive Director
- Provides technical expertise and advice to the Policy Board and OahuMPO Staff
- 10 voting, 6 non-voting members, representing:
  - Implementation partners (HDOT, DTS, HART)
  - Other transportation related agencies
  - Planning/land use
  - Economic development
  - Public works
  - Freight/shipping
- Monthly meetings
  - Second Friday of each month at 9 am

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<td>DFM</td>
<td>Kyle Oyasato</td>
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Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

- Advisory to Policy Board and Executive Director
- Contributes to the federally required public participation process
- Currently more than 40 member organizations represented
  - Including private, non-profit, and/or non-governmental organizations, plus neighborhood boards
  - Current Chair: Katie Rooney
  - Current Vice Chair: Adriel Lam
- Monthly meetings
  - First Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm
OahuMPO Staff

1. Executive Director
2. Office Manager
3. Planning Program Manager
4. Accountant
5. Senior Transportation Planner
6. Senior GIS and Data Analyst (Temp/PT)
7. Transportation Impact Analyst
8. Senior Transportation Planner
9. Transportation Planner
10. Senior Transportation Planner
11. Transportation Planner - GIS
12. Assistant Transportation Planner
13. Senior Community Planner
14. Community Planner
15. Planning Intern

Management and Admin
Modeling, GIS, and Data
Planning Studies
Long-Range Planning
Community Engagement
OahuMPO Strategic Plan 2023-2027

• The OahuMPO Strategic Plan:
  • Provides vision, mission, goals, objectives, major work products, proposed staffing, funding strategy, strategic initiatives and action items for the OahuMPO over the next five years
  • OahuMPO-2022-Strategic-Plan-FINAL-20221220.pdf

• Includes Strategic Initiatives related to:
  • Training and Staff Development
  • Funding
  • Overall Work Program (OWP)
  • Performance Based Planning and Programming
  • Data Collection and Management
  • Public Engagement
  • Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP)
  • Congestion Management Process (CMP)
  • Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Overall Work Program (OWP)

- Includes OahuMPO’s annual operating budget and funding for planning studies
- 80% Federally funded: USDOT Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] and Federal Transit Administration [FTA]
- 20% Locally funded: split among State (HDOT), City & County (through DTS), and HART
- Operating budget:
  - $9,933,530 in FY2024-2025 for operations, staff, and planning projects (over two years)

- Planning studies and other efforts:
  - Project Management Training Program
  - Updated Regional Travel Demand Model
  - Active Transportation Monitoring Program
  - Transit Rider Survey
  - Multimodal Assessment
  - Mobility Hub Study, and others…
Oahu Regional Transportation Plan 2045 (ORTP 2045)

• ORTP 2045 Vision Statement:

  • “In 2045, O‘ahu’s path forward is multimodal and safe. All people on O‘ahu can reach their destinations through a variety of transportation choices, which are reliable, equitable, healthy, environmentally sustainable, and resilient in the face of climate change”
ORTP 2045: Seven Goals

1. Improve the safety of the transportation system;
2. Support active and public transportation;
3. Promote an equitable transportation system;
4. Improve the resiliency of the transportation system;
5. Preserve and maintain the transportation system;
6. Support a reliable and efficient transportation system; and
7. Improve air quality and protect environmental and cultural assets.
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

• A four-year schedule of surface transportation projects and operations
  • Consistent with ORTP 2045
  • Projects are “Ready-to-Go”
  • Local match provided (if applicable)
  • Includes Planning Factors

• Projects must be on the TIP to receive federal transportation funds
Revisions to the TIP

• Revision Process:

• Scheduled twice a year, and “as needed”

• Administrative Modification
  • Minor revision that does not require review by the Committees or the Policy Board
  • Does not require solicitation of public comments or re-demonstration of financial constraint

• Amendments
  • Major revision that requires review by the Committees and Policy Board
  • Requires solicitation of public comments and re-demonstration of financial constraint
Federal Certification Review

• The FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the MPO planning process meets federal requirements

• Certification process identifies:
  • Corrective actions
  • Recommendations
  • Commendations

• Occurs at least every four years
• Most recent Certification Review completed in July 2022
• Received 11 Corrective Actions, which have already been addressed or are in the process of being addressed
2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) aka Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

- IIJA or BIL is the 5-year Transportation Authorization Bill that provides federal funds to FHWA and FTA projects

- Provides more federal funding compared with previous bills
  - More formula funding and more discretionary (grant) funding
  - More funding for bridges, including off-system bridges

- Emphasis on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians

- More flexible formula funding available for Oahu (e.g., STBG funds) and more of it available as Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Set-Aside funding

- More discretionary grant opportunities available to advance local priorities and specific programs or projects that align with federal goals
If you want to know more…

• Visit: www.oahumpo.org

• Mark Garrity, Executive Director
  • (808) 586-2308
  • mark.garrity@oahumpo.org

• Mahalo!