



Meeting Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
POLICY BOARD
October 31, 2023, 1:00 PM
Virtual Meeting hosted on Zoom

Members Present:

Councilmember Radiant Cordero, Chair	DOT Director Ed Sniffen
Councilmember Val Okimoto	DTS Director Roger Morton
Senator Sharon Moriwaki	DOH Heidi Hansen-Smith
Representative Lisa Kitagawa	OPSD Katia Balassiano
Senator Chris Lee	HART Director Joey Manahan

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Darius Kila, Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos Tam,
Director Dawn Takeuchi-Apuna

Known Guests Present:

Andy	Katie Rooney
Chris Clark	Kiana Otsuka
Dinna Schwiering	Nicole Chernohorsky
Jame Schaedel	Paul La Farga
Justin Menina	Sharon Brooks

OahuMPO Staff Present: Mark Garrity, Zakari Mumuni, Samantha Lara, Lily Zheng, Dallas Ige, Chelsea Dau, Nicole Smith, Veronica Schack, Danelle Miyahara

I. INTRODUCTIONS / ROLL CALL

Chair Cordero called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Chair mentioned the meeting is being recorded and reminded members to mute their mics when not speaking and to keep their cameras on as a quorum of 6 members must be visible for the duration of the meeting as required by Sunshine Law.

Roll call was taken of Policy Board members present and quorum was established. Chair Cordero and staff monitored cameras to ensure at least six members had their cameras on at all times during the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Policy Board members reviewed the meeting minutes of the September 26, 2023 meeting which were sent to them in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made by Director Morton of Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and seconded by Senator Chris Lee to approve the September 26, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. There were no discussions, objections, or abstentions and the minutes were accepted.

III. REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director (ED) Mark Garrity provided a summary of recent activities at OahuMPO, including progress on a proposed update to the Financial Supplemental Agreement. It also includes a copy of the OahuMPO Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Fourth Quarter Financial Report.

A copy of Executive Director Garrity's report is available on the OahuMPO webpage:
https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3162

B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

There was no meeting for the TAC in October.

C. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

There was no meeting for the CAC in October.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM AND MOBILE WORKSHOP

ED Garrity reported that the OahuMPO organized a Project Management Training Program to enhance the knowledge, skills, and capacity of City and State government agency staff involved in federally funded multimodal transportation projects. The program included all-day training sessions once a month from January through September 2023, plus a four-day mobile workshop in Seattle and Portland in October. ED Mark Garrity provided an overview of the program, conclusions, and recommendations and included a survey which indicated that the program successfully met the goal of increasing capacity and confidence among staff regarding the use of federal funds for transportation projects.

Several Policy Board members shared how the training program positively impacted their departments and colleagues that attended the mobile workshop and thanked OahuMPO staff for organizing a successful program. Director Sniffen from the Department of Transportation (DOT) recommended the training program be held again in 2024, if possible.

B. RESILIENCY PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES

Policy Board Chair Radiant Cordero along with Senator Sharon Moriwaki lead a discussion on potential opportunities for the OahuMPO to be more involved in resiliency planning. Goal 4 of the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) states: "Adapt Oahu's transportation network to be resilient to the effects of climate change". The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) includes formula and discretionary funding that could potentially be used to develop a resiliency plan for Oahu's transportation system, and possibilities for future training and workshops.

Director Sniffen stated that he believes Oahu MPO is already involved in resiliency as they plan future projects, stated in Goal 4 of the 25-year ORTP. The State DOT (from 2020 through 2022) has progressed forward with impact assessments, climate adaptation action plans, and has built out their climate resilience platform. Director Sniffen mentioned that decisions regarding short term resiliency plans made are to ensure that they have

operational efficiency on the system while planning for the long term. Director Sniffen stated that the Federal Government does not require it, but strongly urges all states to have a Resilience Improvement Plan (RIP) by setting up base level resiliency plans for systems, putting in tactics that will improve resiliency once in place. Director Sniffen mentioned there will be a Federal Agencies Workshop during the week of December 11, 2023, and will include 7 or 8 federal agencies. This workshop will allow attendees to bring all our short term, midterm, and long-term initiatives to these federal agencies, in return for feedback and advice regarding formula funding, discretionary funding, and funding for planning and design alternatives.

Chair Cordero welcomed any questions and encouraged a discussion regarding resiliency planning, especially the utilization of IIJA funds. Policy Board members thanked Chair Cordero, Senator Moriwaki, and Director Sniffen for the comprehensive discussion regarding resiliency planning.

Representative Kitagawa recognized the importance of this discussion and asked DOT to please continue to encourage community engagement and participation, such as those constituents in her district who are experiencing coastal erosion on their properties and how to move forward collectively.

ED Garrity asked Director Sniffen if DOT needs any assistance from the OahuMPO with the RIP, in submitting the climate adaptation action plan and resiliency platform to federal highways. Director Sniffen replied that the RIP should be completed by 2024, and DOT welcomes OahuMPO's assistance for submission.

Ms. Katia Ballasiano from the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development reiterated the statements made earlier regarding the importance of community involvement and engagement regarding coastal zone management in decision making.

Senator Lee asked if there are any long-term solutions or suggestions regarding urban heat on island effects and the exponential rise in temperature. Director Sniffen added that DOT is trying hard to minimize added and widening of pavement in infrastructure areas. DOT is also working with DLNR to add 1000 trees per year to their system, to help build up carbon protection and to build up the native plant population.

Chair Cordero concluded the discussion and asked if there was a need for some type of follow up resolution or action needed by OahuMPO regarding resiliency policies. Director Sniffen added that once completed, DOT will send the RIP policy to the Policy Board Members.

VI. INVITATION TO INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON MATTERS

There were no comments.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cordero informed the members of the upcoming Performance Evaluation of Executive Director Garrity at the next Policy Board meeting on November 28, 2023. An online survey will be distributed to all members by Chair Cordero's office on November 1, 2023. This item will be included in the agenda for the November 28 Policy Board meeting for discussion.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM.

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at:

https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3163