

**Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.
via Microsoft Teams

Organization	Present	Represented by	Absent
AARP	X	Elizabeth Chinn	
American Planning Association		Jared Chang	X
American Society of Civil Engineers		Tony Gaston	X
Citizens for a Fair ADA ride	X	Donald Sakamoto	
Gentry Homes, Ltd.		Deb Luling	X
Hawai'i Association of the Blind	X	Sean Akita	
Hawai'i Bicycling League	X	Travis Counsell	
Hawai'i Teamsters / Allied Workers, Local 996	X	David Aki	
Institute of Transportation Engineers	X	Robert Nehmad	
Ka'a'awa Community Association	X	Andrea Anixt	
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i		David Arakawa	X
League of Women Voters		Marcia Linville	X
North Shore Chamber of Commerce		Roxana Jimenez	X
Palehua Townhouses	X	Michael Golojuch	
Ulupono Initiative	X	Kathleen Rooney	
Waikiki Residents' Association	X	Daisy Murai	
NB#01 Hawai'i Kai	X	Roberta Mayor	
NB#02 Kuliouou-Kalani Iki		Linda Starr	X
NB#03 Wai'alaie-Kahala		Les Fukuda	X
NB#05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu		Bert Narita	X
NB#07 Mānoa		Tom Hopkins	X
NB#08 McCully-Mo'ili'ili		VACANT	
NB#09 Waikiki	X	Ken Jacob	
NB#10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus		Fred Nakahara	X
NB#11 Ala Moana-Kaka'ako		Lynn Mariano	X
NB#12 Nu'uano-Punchbowl		VACANT	
NB#13 Downtown/Chinatown		Ernest Caravalho	X
NB#14 Liliha-Pu'unui- 'Ālewa - Kamehameha Hts	X	Cora Yamamoto	
NB#15 Kalihi- Pālana		Kendrick Farm	X
NB#18 Āliamanu – Salt Lake	X	Doreen Godfrey	
NB#21 Pearl City		Charmaine Doran	X

NB#22 Waipahu	X	Danny de Gracia	
NB#23 'Ewa		John Rogers	X
NB#24 Wai'anae Coast		VACANT	
NB#25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu	X	Skyler Ross	
NB#26 Wahiawā-Whitmore Village	X	Joe Francher	
NB #27 North Shore	X	Robert Leinau	
NB#29 Kahalu'u	X	Ken LeVasseur	
NB#30 Kaneohe	X	Adriel Lam	
NB#34 Makakilo-Kapolei Honokai Hale	X	Frank Genadio	
NB#35 Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley	X	Dean Hazama	
NB#36 Nānākuli-Ma'ili		Richard Landford	X
OahuMPO staff: Mark Garrity Samantha Lara Nicole Smith Danelle Miyahara	Guests: Robin Shishido, HDOT		

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rooney called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

OahuMPO staff member, Samantha Lara, took roll call by reading out the list of attendees in the meeting as noted in the Teams program.

3. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2023 MINUTES

Michael Golojuch, Andrea Anixt, and Joe Francher confirmed that they were in attendance and to reflect that on the November 1, 2023 minutes. Elizabeth Chinn motioned to approve the minutes with changes and Andrea Anixt seconded the motion.

4. REPORTS OF POLICY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Executive Director Garrity reported on the activity of the MPO and committees. Mark stated that he, along with Samantha Lara and Policy Board Chair Cordero, attended the MPact Conference in Phoenix, AZ. He explained that this conference was workshop based and provided attendees with opportunities to learn from Phoenix and return to Oahu with lessons learned to potentially consider with Oahu transportation planning.

Mark Garrity informed the CAC that Kiana Otsuka has returned to the OahuMPO from the State Energy Office to assume the role of Senior Transportation Planner. Regarding the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the committee met on November 13, 2023 and received updates on the 2023 Hawaii Project Management

Training Program and mobile workshop, the ORTP 2050, and the FHWA Carbon Reduction program. He advised that the next TAC meeting would be January 12, 2024. Mark Garrity also informed the CAC that the Policy Board (PB) met on November 28, 2023 and received a presentation on a proposal to organize a 2024 project

management training, conducted a performance evaluation of the Executive Director.

Daisy Murai of Waikiki Residents Association asked if the federal government requires a bike lane for any project applied for funding. Mark Garrity replied that this detail is not a federal requirement for a project but rather is a recommendation in efforts to encourage the inclusion all users in the design and development of all projects.

Bob Leinau of NB #27 asked how items are added to the newsletter and stated concern that the north shore parades were not included. Samantha Lara responded that the items on the newsletter are gathered from the partner agencies and compiled into the newsletter. She said she would follow up and email Bob.

Joe Francher of NB #26 asked that anyone who answers or asks a question to identify themselves.

Chair Rooney asked what the status of the carbon reduction program was given to the PB. Mark stated that the State may have submitted a draft and requested extra time since the deadline had passed. He included that the discussion was mostly general and that this item would be added to an agenda early 2024.

Andrea Anixt asked the relevance of "shovel ready" for funding availability. Mark Garrity stated that projects that are "shovel ready" are not the only projects that are eligible for funding. He reiterated that projects in various stages of development are eligible.

Bob Leinau of NB #27 expressed the need for sidewalks in Haleiwa and collaboration between the agencies to address this concern. He asked if the MPO actively engages in discussions with the partner agencies regarding the updates/revisions of various plans. Mark Garrity acknowledged his concerns and comments and encouraged the members to read the revised documents and submit comments.

Ken LeVassuer of NB #29 posed the question, "What is "shovel ready?" and encouraged the MPO to look into this.

The Executive Director's Report can be viewed at:

https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3174

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction and Q&A with Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) Deputy Director, Robin Shishido

Robin Shishido started his presentation with some information about his background and how he came to be in the role of Deputy Director. He prefaced his presentation by saying he would go over infrastructure investment funding, the 2022 review, and the 2023 goals of the Hawaii Department of Transportation. Robin gave a high-level overview of the infrastructure investment and jobs act (IIJA), which is a five-year funding program that increases the overall FHWA funding by 21%, establishes new programs, prioritizes efficiency, equity, resiliency, and cross jurisdiction cooperation. He stated that over the five-year period, Hawaii would receive \$1.2 billion. He explained the authorized grant programs in reference to the earlier question regarding “shovel ready”. Robin emphasized the support the state and partner agencies have available to them to submit applications for the various grants. He then discussed the 2022 Act 100 Report which was submitted to Congress to track the state’s progress toward meeting their goals. Robin added to this discussion by reviewing the 2023 goals, targets, and requirements. He provided examples of implemented projects to meet set goals including red light safety cameras and raised crosswalks. Robin stated that the State is working to prioritize infrastructure that provides affordable housing. He also reviewed various projects that are underway to address better land use, expand fleet electrification, and increase broadband connectivity.

Donald Sakamoto expressed concerns regarding speeding and high noise on windward side. He pointed out a specific crosswalk sound that is not loud enough which is a danger to blind individuals living in the area. Robin Shishido responded that the DOT is conducting a pilot study to look into noise concerns. He also said that delays pushed back when projects would begin. Donald reiterated that the crosswalk sound was not working at the Makalani and Kanohe Bay Dr. Intersection.

Adriel Lam of NB #30 asked how we can increase local coordination to get projects done. He emphasized his concern about the disconnect between the city and the state with paving projects. Adriel asked if we could use funding more collaboratively to get projects completed. He also pointed out congestion between H3 and Likelike and asked how we can relieve that pressure. Robin stated that the State is working on implementing an MOA with the City to execute discretionary grants and complete projects.

Skyler Ross of NB #25 asked Robin to expand on the H1 to Kunia to Waiawa project. Robin responded that the State coordinated a deal with the developer where the State would take on the widening and the developer would provide affordable housing. Skyler also asked for an update on the widening of Waipio Bridge, which Robin said he would need to follow up on. Skyler also asked a question regarding the emergency access to single access communities and expressed safety concerns. He asked if we could submit grants for projects to address these concerns. Robin responded that the State is focusing on reducing fuel for fires by cutting back brush and planting native plants to help reduce fire hazards.

Frank Genadio of NB #34 asked if the DOT reports back to Congress on behalf of DTS and if he has a report of how much funding DTS receives. Frank followed up with a question regarding if DTS operates separately in regard to the IJJA grant funding. Robin replied that the funding goes through DOT and through OahuMPO.

Ken LeVassuer of NB #29 mentioned that his community is working on a multi-use pathway and said he would follow up separately.

Daisy Murai of the Waikiki Residents Association asked if the State has to report to the planning commission like the City does. Robin responded that only the City reports to the planning commission. Daisy asked if the State is involved in the Ala Pono Bridge project. Robin responded that that project is a City project but does have oversight by the State.

Sean Akita of the Hawaii Association of the Blind asked if maintenance and repair of tactical spots for safety of the blind can be addressed in the Kapahulu and Kahala area.

Andrea Anixt of the Ka'a'awa Community Association asked about a section of the coastal highway in Ka'a'awa that is in major need of repair. Robin reported that the 400 ft section roughly in front of Ka'a'awa Elementary that Andrea is referring to has a project listed to put in a rock prevention. This project is in the final stages of design and permitting and is scheduled to start March 2024.

Chair Rooney asked if the State has explored a series of multiuse paths to address single access communities. Robin said that the State would be looking into this option.

James Gauer pointed out that the exit going eastbound that connects Pearl City to Waihona street has been closed for many years and is supposed to be transferred from HDOT to HART. He asked for a status update and Robin said he would have to follow up on that question.

Ken LeVasseur motioned to extend the meeting by ten minutes. Donald Sakamoto seconded the motion, and the meeting was extended by ten minutes.

B. CAC Membership Discussion

Samantha Lara began the discussion of membership and attendance, opening up the floor to the delinquent organizations to express desire to remain on the membership. Of the list, Hawaii Association of the Blind, Hawaii Teamsters Allied Workers, NB #9, NB #18, NB #22, and NB #35 expressed their desire to remain on the membership. Those who would be removed would be Gentry Homes, Land Use Research Foundation, League of Women Voters, Mestizo Association, NB #2,

NB #3, NB #7, NB #12, and the North Shore Chamber of Commerce.

Joe Francher motioned for the CAC to remove members who have excessive absences and did not express interest in remaining on the committee. Donald Sakamoto seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions, and the motion was carried out.

7. INVITATION TO INTERESTED MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON MATTERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA

Donald Sakamoto asked if Roger Morton of DTS can attend a CAC meeting to provide an update.

Robert Nehmad reported that he will be retiring and thus will no longer be the ITE representative. He expressed his appreciation for the MPO. Everyone congratulated him and wished him luck.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is January 3, 2024 and elections will be held at this meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Rooney at 3:46PM

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at:

https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3175