

**Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.

Organization	Present	Represented by	Absent
AARP	X	Elizabeth Chinn	
American Planning Association	X	Jared Chang	
American Society of Civil Engineers	X	Tony Gaston	
Citizens for a Fair ADA ride	X	Donald Sakamoto	
Hawaii Association of the Blind	X	Sean Akita	
Hawaii Bicycling League	X	Travis Counsell	
Hawaii Teamsters / Allied Workers, Local 996		David Aki	X
Institute of Transportation Engineers		Jasmine Teramae-Kaehuaea	X
Kaaawa Community Association	X	Andrea Anixt	
Palehua Townhouses	X	Michael Golojuch	
Ulupono Initiative	X	Kathleen Rooney	
Waikiki Residents' Association	X	Daisy Murai	
NB#01 Hawaii Kai	X	Roberta Mayor	
NB#05 Diamond Head-Kapahulu		Bert Narita	X
NB#09 Waikiki		Ken Jacob	X
NB#10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus		Fred Nakahara	X
NB#11 Ala Moana-Kakaako	X	Lynn Mariano	
NB#13 Downtown/Chinatown		Ernest Caravalho	X
NB#14 Liliha-Puunui- Alewa - Kamehameha Hts	X	Cora Yamamoto	
NB#15 Kalihi- Palama		Kendrick Farm	X
NB#18 Aliamanu – Salt Lake	X	Doreen Godfrey	
NB#21 Pearl City		Larry Veray	X
NB#22 Waipahu	X	Danny de Gracia	
NB#23 Ewa	X	John Rogers	
NB#25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu		Skyler Ross	X
NB#26 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village	X	Joe Francher	
NB #27 North Shore	X	Robert Leinau	
NB#29 Kahaluu	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	NA

NB#36 Nanakuli-Maili	Richard Landford	X
OahuMPO staff: Mark Garrity Samantha Lara Nicole Smith Danelle Miyahara Dallas Ige Lily Zheng Kiana Otsuka Chelsea Dau	Guests: Laura Ruby	

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 JANUARY 3, 2024 MINUTES

Donald Sakamoto motioned to approve the minutes with corrections. Andrea Anixt seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions, and the minutes were approved.

4. REPORTS OF POLICY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Executive Director Mark Garrity provided a report of updates that included Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Board (PB) elections, presentations on the Anonui Street Functional Classification Request, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2025-2028 Project and Program Scoring Review, the Transportation Project Management Training Program, and Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification Review Action Items, and the OahuMPO Strategic Plan Action Items. Mr. Garrity stated that the TAC elected Ian Crittenden of the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) as Chair and re-elected Masatomo Murata of the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) as Vice Chair. As for the PB, Representative Darius Kila was elected to serve as Chair and City Councilmember Val Okimoto was reelected to serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Garrity also stated that the PB voted to approve an offer by the HDOT to use State directed Federal funds and OahuMPO staff time to organize and run the project management training program in 2024. The PB also approved DTS' request to assign a functional classification to Anonui Street.

Tony Gaston asked for clarification about the disbursement of the ED report. Samantha Lara confirmed that the ED report was sent out in the reminder email. She stated she would double check whether Tony Gaston was on the email list.

Bob Leinau asked if other State agencies that are involved in urban forestry activities and asked for clarification on how landscaping is addressed on the State side. Chair Rooney commented that the State Department of Land and Natural Resources has an urban forestry program. She also offered that the organization Trees for Honolulu is involved in urban forestry should anyone be interested.

Mike Golojuch asked if OahuMPO staff follow transportation bills going through the legislature. ED Garrity confirmed that the MPO does indeed track the transportation related bills and often provides testimony or comments on relevant bills.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Project Updates and Q&A with City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) Chief Planner, Chris Clark

Chris Clark began his presentation with a video created by DTS. The video can be viewed here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19l9QtSFG1Vr89TWBla1pNmEVdl_9VJfG/view?usp=sharing

He then went over the organizational structure of DTS and explained that the department is not responsible for maintenance in its \$500,000,000 budget. The departments that are responsible for this task are the Department of Facility Maintenance and the Department of Design and Construction. Chris outlined the various responsibilities of DTS which includes TheBus, TheHandiVan, Skyline, and City streets. He reviewed the strategic performance management GAP analysis, which goes over priority improvements of DTS and shows how the projects/data/programs/plans work together. Chris showed a diagram that groups key elements of planning and modeling, programming, and reporting. He highlighted elements that are relevant today along with elements DTS hopes to employ in the future.

Chris shared that DTS works to make transportation smarter, more affordable, and safer through initiatives such as a transit rider survey, investments in transit priority lanes, increase in zero emissions fleet inventory and charging structures, development of a south shore trail to connect existing bikeways, analysis and reporting of pedestrian safety in response to Vision Zero, and the implementation of the North King Street Bikeway.

Ken LeVasseur asked Chris if traffic signals and pedestrian crossings that are put in by the State are controlled by the City. Chris stated that the State would need to approve any signal timing change for State controlled roads; however,

through a contractual relationship, DTS would be responsible for making the changes in most cases. Chris emphasized that the ultimate decision-making power is with the State.

John Rogers asked if DTS has a plan for maintenance of the bike paths and whether they have a maintenance priority list for the bike paths. John also emphasized the lack of bike and pedestrian paths to the Skyline. He asked if DTS can work with the State to address this concern. Chris responded that DTS is prioritizing this concern and stated that the City Council funds a rail access program which supports a staff position that who's dedicated to improving rail access. He stated that there are funds to improve last mile connections, and that DTS is applying for more funds. In regard to maintenance of bike paths, Chris stated that some bike/pedestrian pathways are controlled by the State or by the City maintenance departments.

John followed up with a question about whether the City has a dedicated maintenance plan and budget. Chris confirmed that the City does have a plan and list needs.

Bon Leinau asked why the State/City has unspent federal monies. He recalled a need for a connected bike path in Haleiwa and a slow process for implementation. He expressed concern for disjointed efforts and implementation. He also stressed the need for more maintenance efforts on the North Shore, particularly trash collection and bridge upkeep. Chris replied that the challenge with using federal monies is a lack of staff support. He stated that there are efforts in place to build staff capacity at this time, such as the project management training program sponsored by the OahuMPO. Chris also stated the City has updated its Right Of Way (ROW) Plan to preserve land for future use. Regarding bridge maintenance, Chris shared that there has been a huge federal investment in bridge maintenance in recent bills.

Donald Sakamoto emphasized concern for Handi-Van availability, particularly the timeliness of purchasing the correct vans that can navigate small lanes and have ramps. Chris stated he would pass along this recommendation.

Chair Rooney acknowledged John Rogers motion to extend the meeting by thirty minutes. Daisy Murai seconded the motion. There were no abstentions or objections, and the motion was carried.

Daisy Murai shared that the new handi-vans are inaccessible to shorter individuals due to height. She stated that the vans do not have step stools, and this creates a barrier for users. Daisy also expressed concern regarding the bus only lane planned for Kuhio Avenue, encouraging DTS to consider delays that will arise when Kalakaua Avenue is closed for events. She pointed out concern for dedicated bike lanes that would remove lanes for cars. Daisy emphasized

the potential for compounding a lot of Waikiki traffic. Chris responded that he would pass along the comment regarding the stools on to the staff responsible for writing the bus specifications. He also acknowledged Daisy's concern for traffic caused by bus/bike lanes and explained that DTS simulates changes before making them. DTS takes traffic counts and does a thorough analysis to consider these concerns.

Lynn Mariano echoed Daisy's concern, pointing out other buses in Waikiki that would cause traffic frustrations. He also suggested a public hearing for when changes to the bus routes are being considered, emphasizing the strain on families who rely on buses to go to work and/or drop off their children. Lynn then requested Chris present to his neighborhood board. Chris stated that the bus only lane would accommodate other types of buses and right turns by single occupancy vehicles. He also emphasized that the public is reached out to when bus routes are being changed.

Sean Akita asked if the City has considered working with rideshare companies to address the overbooking of paratransit. He also asked who he would need to talk to about malfunctioning crosswalk signals and safety features for the blind. Chris stated that DTS does use taxis as alternatives and are continuing to explore this type of arrangement. Regarding maintenance issues, Chris directed people to email complaints@honolulu.gov. He explained that this would create a work order ticket for the City to review and address.

Laura Ruby asked if DTS can conduct a full environmental impact assessment (EIS) of the Ala Pono bridge project. Chris responded that the project is a federal undertaking, thus DTS did not go directly to an EIS but is following the requirements of Federal law. He emphasized that DTS is working towards a FONSI (finding of no significant impact) and has conducted a robust public outreach effort regarding this project.

Ken Levassuer shared the need for maintenance of a one lane bridge in the Kahaluu area. He stated that the State would need to force the City to take over the road and bridge, allowing the City to address the maintenance needs.

B. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FFYs 2022-2025 Revision 17 Amendment Responses to Comments and Approval Request

Dallas Ige of the OahuMPO presented a quick overview of the process and status of the TIP Amendment 17. He noted the key requirements of a major amendment and emphasized that the presentation would go over the comments received in the public review period of the amendment. Complete comments and direct responses can be viewed in the meeting presentation found here: https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3209

Chair Rooney acknowledged the effort OahuMPO put in to present and gather

comments from the CAC in response to recent requests for more time in the process. She also asked to include replacing the bus shelters in the cost of the projects.

Chair Rooney requested a motion to recommend Policy Board approval of the TIP FFYs 2022-2025 Revision 17. Donald Sakamoto made a motion, and John Rogers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the results of the roll call are as follows:

Organization	Represented by	Vote
AARP	Elizabeth Chinn	Y
American Planning Association	Jared Chang	Y
American Society of Civil Engineers	Tony Gaston	Y
Citizens for a Fair ADA ride	Donald Sakamoto	Y
Hawaii Association of the Blind	Sean Akita	Y
Hawaii Bicycling League	Travis Counsell	Y
Kaaawa Community Association	Andrea Anixt	A
Palehua Townhouses	Michael Golojuch	NV
Ulupono Initiative	Kathleen Rooney	Y
Waikiki Residents' Association	Daisy Murai	Y
NB#01 Hawaii Kai	Roberta Mayor	NV
NB#11 Ala Moana-Kakaako	Lynn Mariano	NV
NB#14 Liliha-Puunui- Alewa - Kamehameha Hts	Cora Yamamoto	Y
NB#18 Aliamanu – Salt Lake	Doreen Godfrey	Y
NB#22 Waipahu	Danny de Gracia	NV
NB#23 Ewa	John Rogers	Y
NB#26 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village	Joe Francher	Y
NB#27 North Shore	Robert Leinau	Y
NB#29 Kahaluu	Ken LeVasseur	A
NB#30 Kaneohe	Adriel Lam	NV
NB#34 Makakilo-Kapolei Honokai Hale	Frank Genadio	N
NB#35 Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley	Dean Hazama	NV

The vote resulted in 13 yay's (Y), one no (N), two abstentions (A), and six no votes* (NV). The motion was carried.

**No vote indicates the member was present for roll call but subsequently left the meeting before the vote was taken for this agenda item.*

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

John Rogers shared that the Ewa Neighborhood Board adopted a resolution regarding bike use of right turn only lanes. He noted that HDOT would be attending the Ewa NB meeting and that he would report to the CAC how the meeting goes.

Donald Sakamoto notified the CAC that the Rate Commission would be having a meeting in the following week. Donald reported that Barbara Armentrout of the Rate Commission recently passed away.

Chair Rooney requested clarification from John Rogers on the resolution. John responded that the resolution is specific to Fort Weaver Road to allow bike use of the right turn only lane, including signage.

Frank Genadio asked for contact information for Chris Clark of DTS. Samantha of the MPO stated she would email out the information from this agenda item to the CAC.

Donald Sakamoto asked if he could request guest speakers in the future. Samantha replied that any member can request a guest speaker and the MPO would work to include a presentation on the agenda, pending relevance to the MPOs work products.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2024.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Rooney at 3:51PM

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at:

https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3209