

**Minutes of the  
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization  
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.**

| <b>Organization</b>                          | <b>Present</b> | <b>Represented by</b>    | <b>Absent</b> |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| AARP   | X              | Elizabeth Chinn          |               |
| American Planning Association                |                | Jared Chang              | X             |
| 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 | X              | David Aki                |               |
| Institute of Transportation Engineers        | X              | Jasmine Teramae-Kaehuaea |               |
| Kaaawa Community Association                 | X              | Andrea Anixt             |               |
| Palehua Townhouses                           |                | Michael Golojuch         | X             |
| 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                                | X              | Ken Jacob                |               |
| 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              | Darren Cantrill          |               |
| NB#15 Kalihi- Palama                         |                | Kendrick Farm            | X             |
| NB#18 Aliamanu – Salt Lake                   | X              | Lorene Godfrey           |               |
| NB#21 Pearl City                             | X              | Larry Veray              |               |
| NB#22 Waipahu                                | X              | Danny de Gracia          |               |
| NB#23 Ewa                                    | X              | John Rogers              |               |
| NB#25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu               | X              | Skyler Ross              |               |
| NB#26 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village               |                | Joe Francher             | X             |
| 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              |               |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| NB#36 Nanakuli-Maili  | Richard Landford  | X |
| <b>OahuMPO staff:</b><br>Mark Garrity<br>Samantha Lara<br>Nicole Smith<br>Danelle Miyahara<br>Dallas Ige<br>Lily Zheng<br>Kiana Otsuka<br>Chelsea Dau | <b>Guests:</b><br>Laura Ruby<br>Eduardo Hernandez<br>Todd Boulanger<br>Rae Gee, NB#12 |   |

**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 FEBRUARY 7, 2024 MINUTES**

Frank Genadio requested amendments to the minutes to reflect a grammatical error and a missing comment from the February presenter. Samantha Lara stated she would review the recording and make changes as appropriate. 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) presentations on the Transportation Improvement Program, Revision #17, and the proposed update to the Transportation Improvement Program Policies and Procedures. The TAC voted to recommend Policy Board approval. The Policy Board heard both of these presentations, as well, and voted to approve both the revision and the proposed update.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Charley’s Taxi Presentation**

Ryan Naka from Charley’s Taxi presented information regarding the authority of the Department of Customer Service Director to establish and regulate taxicab rates, of which transportation network companies (TNC’s) are exempt from. Ryan expressed the difficulties this poses for taxicab drivers, affecting

their pay and ultimately causing driver shortage for taxicab companies. He emphasized that other services such as the bus, skyline, and Handivan are able to charge what they need, which limits taxicab companies to operate competitively. Ryan explained that Taxicabs offer services that TNC's are unable to offer, such as medical transport services. He stated that TNC's do not have rigorous background checks, insurance policies, or driving tests, which is a safety concern. He emphasized the need for taxicab companies to set their own rates by explaining that custom vehicles for wheelchair access are costly, and current regulations limit the ability of taxi drivers to update their vehicles. Ryan also stated that TNC's often will not take customers to the North Shore, which causes issues for tourists and kupuna. He explained that these reasonings show the need for support for a bill to repeal rate control, prioritize taxis, and maintain their vital role in the community. Ryan substantiated this claim by showing charts that provided information regarding wait times, the deregulation of TNC's coinciding with demand and outgrowth of taxi service, data collected from other cities and countries, and an image of a complaint received by someone who did not receive timely service due to driver shortage.

David Aki of Hawaii Teamsters' offered support for the taxicab industry, stating the community will always be in need of cab service.

Bob Leinau of NB#27 expressed that while he can see the difficulty of the taxicab company, perhaps TNC's are acting in response to the market in terms of their model. He encouraged the presenters to be clearer about what their recommendations for the best direction forward would be. Dale Evans of Charley's Taxi responded that the company would like to have rate regulations repealed in efforts to support the economic vitality of the taxicab companies and protect the consumer.

Todd Boulanger asked Charley's Taxi to revisit their information regarding TheBus not having fare regulation and cited the municipal code which outlines the public process for fares. He also asked how Charley's Taxi would set rates if deregulated and if they have an app for consumers. Dale Evans responded that Charley's Taxi does indeed have a multi-language app for consumer use and would base rates off of quality, convenience, and preference of customers.

Donald Sakamoto of Citizens For A Fair ADA Ride offered support for Charley's Taxi, saying the company should have more ability to receive subsidies for ADA vehicles. He then asked Dale how many ADA vehicles are in the Charley's Taxi fleet. Dale Evans responded that the company does not have any wheelchair accessible vans at this time.

Daisy Murai of the Waikiki Residents' Association offered support of Charley's Taxi's endeavor to repeal rate regulation of taxis. She expressed safety

concerns regarding Uber and Lyft drivers not having background checks. Daisy stated that she has experienced having to utilize a cab because the City does not have enough vehicles for service. She emphasized the need for the City to work with taxi companies to address needs.

Adriel Lam of NB#30 offered support of Charley's Taxi's endeavor to repeal rate regulation of taxis and encouraged Charley's to remain competitive by offering specialized services.

Ken LeVasseur of NB#29 encouraged Charley's Taxi to create a document that shows the categories outlined in the presentation in efforts to put together a task force that can address each category and show crossovers. He emphasized the effectiveness of this approach to assist with writing a bill and gathering support from legislatures.

Bob Leinau of NB#27 suggested Charley's Taxi to provide information on the profitability of the taxi cabs. He recommended an approach to highlight what the company does want instead of what they do not want. Dale Evans responded by expressing concern and frustration for the underpaid drivers.

Chair Rooney recommended Charley's Taxi be more explicit in what they want, suggesting being clear on what the request is from the city and county and state legislation. She encouraged Charley's Taxi to simplify their presentation in efforts to focus on what their actual request is in efforts to maybe get more traction and support.

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

David Aki stated that he had submitted three documentations regarding toxic chemicals being used on the City bus without safety precautions to OSHA to which OSHA responded with fines and shut down to the City. He expressed desire for safety education regarding proper procedures of using chemicals and offered a recommendation to have this as an agenda item for the CAC. Chair Rooney said she would discuss with MPO staff this potential agenda item and Samantha Lara stated she would send the documentation provided by Mr. Aki to the CAC members for review.

Ken LeVasseur of NB#29 informed the CAC that a Kahaluu community member recently was killed in an area the community has identified as in need of a multiuse pathway, and stated the community is working on getting more members involved in writing a resolution to address this urgent matter.

Laura Ruby requested to share photos of low, modest bridges that should be considered in the planning of the Ala Pono bridge. She expressed concern for the width of the bridge and emphasized the need for the McCulley bridge

maintenance be addressed first. Laura stated she is looking into becoming the NB#8 representative.

Larry Veray of NB#21 stated that he has two bills that are going through the legislature at the moment, SB2445 and HB2015, which request an emergency egress road to be built for Pacific Palisades.

Donald Sakamoto requested a presentation from Ryan Fujii of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

#### **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Rooney at 3:02PM

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at:

[https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb\\_dl=3228](https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3228)