

**Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 3, 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	X	David Aki	
Institute of Transportation Engineers	X	Jasmine Teramae-Kaehuaea	
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	X	Ken Jacob	
NB#10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus		Fred Nakahara	X
NB#11 Ala Moana-Kakaako		Lynn Mariano	X
NB#13 Downtown/Chinatown		Ernest Carvalho	X
NB#14 Liliha-Puunui- Alewa - Kamehameha Hts	X	Cora Yamamoto	
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		Skyler Ross	X
NB#26 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village	X	Joe Francher	
NB #27 North Shore	X	Robert Leinau	
NB#29 Kahaluu		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-Mail	Richard Landford
OahuMPO staff: Samantha Lara Nicole Smith Dallas Ige Lily Zheng Kiana Otsuka	Guests: Malia K., Hawaii Bicycling League

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 JUNE 5, 2024 MINUTES

Frank Genadio requested to have a sentence deleted from the minutes regarding Chair Rooney’s response to the statistics Mr. Genadio shared with the CAC. Chair Ronney advised Samantha Lara to change the minutes to be more specific about the modes (drive alone vs. personal occupancy vehicle). Donald Sakamoto requested a correction to the minutes: July 3rd, 2024, for the next meeting, not June 5th, 2024. Donald Sakamoto motioned to approve the minutes with amendments, and Sean Akita seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions, and the motion was carried out.

4. REPORTS OF POLICY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Executive Director Garrity stated that he and the Policy Board Vice Chair, Val Okimoto, attended the Hawaii Vision Zero Mobile Workshop in New York City and Northern Europe from June 1st to June 11th. Mr. Garrity provided insights into what the workshop entailed, including visits to locations of transportation projects that have successfully reduced related fatalities and serious injuries. He then summarized the previous Technical Advisory Committee meeting, stating that the committee received a presentation from the City Department of Transportation Services on Oahu’s regional transit safety performance and Associated objectives which they voted to recommend the Policy Board support as presented. Mr. Garrity shared that the Technical Advisory Committee also heard a presentation on the Transportation Improvement Program FFY 25-28 and on the Overall Work Program Oahu Mobility Hub study for state facilities. Both presentations received votes from the committee to recommend to the Policy Board for approval. The Policy Board heard all three of these presentations and voted to approve all three items.

Donald Sakamoto asked Mr. Garrity to elaborate on anything he may have learned during the workshop that would be relevant to accommodating people with

different needs, particularly blindness. Mr. Garrity stated that while these accommodations weren't specifically called out during the workshop, the project managers did show how the implemented safety measures work to encourage people to safely walk, use transit, bicycle, and traverse streets in a safe manner.

John Rogers expressed concern about the timeline of roundabout projects on Oahu, using the projected one-year build of the Kahaluu roundabout as an example. John referred to roundabout projects being done where his family lives and stated that the city built 150 roundabouts in 27 years, or roughly 5 per year. He asked the Executive Director what the MPO's role is and whether the MPO has ability to apply pressure to the City and the State to produce these sorts of projects. Mr. Garrity responded that changes to policies, budgets, and political climate must be made to gain inertia for dramatic changes to be had.

Daisy Murai requested a status update presentation on the bicycle plan from the Department of Transportation Services. Bob Leinau expressed concern about the condition of some of the traffic signage on the island. He suggested crew from the City and the State work together to address this issue. MPO staff stated they would look into who would be the HDOT maintenance contact. Mr. Garrity suggested to Bob to start with a specific location to request maintenance.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation from Hawaii Bicycling League

Malia Harunaga from Hawaii Bicycling League presented to the CAC on electric bicycles per the committee's request. Malia reviewed the bicycle classifications, rules of the road, and benefits of increasing bike ridership. She addressed concerns raised by the CAC regarding speeding bike-like vehicles on the road and explained that bicycles and electric bicycles must have operable pedals to be classified as a bicycle. This means that vehicles on the road that go above 20mph with a battery over 750 watts is in fact not a bicycle. Malia also reviewed bicycle etiquette, both for the rider and for drivers on the road with bicyclists. She emphasized the work of Hawaii Bicycling league, explaining how the organization advocates for safe streets for all by conducting safety demonstrations and offering educational opportunities.

Donald Sakamoto asked Malia how important it is to have a bell on bicycles to inform blind individuals that a bike is coming up behind them. He also expressed interest in cyclists wearing specific colors for safety. Malia responded that current law requires cyclists to notify pedestrians of approach if they are on the sidewalk either by voice or bell. She also stated that visibility is crucial for safety.

Adriel Lam offered comments about biking and micro transit, emphasizing the need for education on rules. He also stated that old railroad tracks could be used for bike trails. Adriel expressed interest in micro transit options for neighborhood connections such as golf carts.

Bob Leinau encouraged Malia and Hawaii Bicycling League to hold the Police Department accountable for enforcing bike laws. Scott Brady responded to this comment by saying that officers have a difficult time with enforcement because of liability, explaining that if an officer pursued someone exhibiting dangerous behaviors (i.e. wheelies), and that person got injured while being pursued, the City could be sued.

Daisy Murai asked Malia about the type of batteries e-bikes use and expressed concern for the safety of lithium batteries if not stored correctly. Daisy suggested safety education on battery maintenance and storage. Malia responded that manufacturers are getting better at designing safer and more reliable batteries, however, users need to use compatible chargers and follow proper charging instructions. She also stated that Hawaii Bicycling League is looking for ways to better recycle batteries.

Chair Rooney asked Malia to discuss the benefits associated with electric bike ridership. Malia pointed out that Hawaii e-bike registration has risen drastically, allowing people more mode choice. She also said cargo e-bikes provide many benefits to families to transport their children via bike.

David Aki motioned to extend the meeting by five minutes. Donald Sakamoto seconded the motion.

Tony Gaston offered comments about bicycling, stating that cyclists also need to be defensive on a bike in order to remain safe. He used an example of him being recently "doored" when biking and encouraged members to remain vigilant and not leave safety only up to car drivers.

Travis Counsell stated that Hawaii Bicycling League is working with City Council and State officials to update biking rules to address definitions and classifications of bicycles.

Sean Akita asked Malia about the recycling process for e-bike batteries. Malia responded that Hawaii Bicycling League is looking into it.

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

David Aki expressed concern regarding the design of the Handi-Vans, specifically the dimensions of the stairs and the location of the ramp. Donald Sakamoto requested an update on a Handivan base yard on the west side. MPO staff stated they would follow up.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

John Rogers announced that the US Navy turned over 400 acres of park land to the City and County of Honolulu and expressed interest in road improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. Next meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2024.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Rooney at 3:40PM

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at:

https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3334