



Meeting Minutes of the
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
POLICY BOARD

July 29, 2024, 11:00 AM
Virtual Meeting hosted on Zoom
and in person at
707 Richards Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96813

Members Present:

Representative Darius Kila (Chair)	HDOT Deputy Director Tammy Lee
Representative Lisa Kitagawa	HART Executive Director & CEO Lori Kahikina
Councilmember Val Okimoto (Vice Chair)	DTS Director Roger Morton
Councilmember Radiant Cordero	DPP Tim Streitz
Senator Chris Lee	DOH Heidi Hansen-Smith
Senator Sharon Moriwaki	OPSD Katia Balassiano

Members Absent: Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, FHWA Richelle Takara

Known Guests Present:

Benjamin Foster	Paul La Farga
Chris Clark	Robert Sato
Justin Menina	Sharon Brooks
Katie Rooney	Tim Streitz
Malcolm Iwami	Vance Tsuda

OahuMPO Staff Present: Executive Director Mark Garrity, Chelsea Dau, Dallas Ige, Danelle Miyahara, Joel Vincent, Kiana Otsuka, Lily Zheng, Maile Greenhill, Nicole Smith, Samantha Lara, Zakari Mumuni

I. INTRODUCTIONS / ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Val Okimoto called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Vice Chair Okimoto 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. Vice Chair Okimoto and Oahu MPO staff monitored cameras to ensure at least six members had their cameras on at all times during the meeting.

Chair Kila resumed leading the meeting and mentioned that Agenda Item B / New Business, Safe Streets for All Grant Application will be postponed to next month.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 24, 2024 POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Policy Board members reviewed the meeting minutes of the June 24, 2024 meeting which were sent to them in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cordero and seconded by Senator Lee to approve the June 24, 2024 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 Interagency Coordination and Grant Support, OahuMPO's Open House, the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan 2050 Survey, and a summary of the latest Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings.

Regarding the SMART grant application, Councilmember Cordero asked about the extent of the Nimitz highway corridor, to which ED Garrity replied that the corridor would extend from Ala Moana Boulevard in Waikiki to the airport, several miles long.

Senator Moriwaki asked Director Morton about the SMART grant and the technology. Director Morton explained that the grant is for enhancing signal timing to improve transit operations from the airport to Waikiki, as part of a longer-term modernization program.

A copy of Executive Director Garrity's report is available on the OahuMPO webpage: https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3346

B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

There was no report from the TAC.

C. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

There was no report from the CAC.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. FEDERAL TRAINING, EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS TO SUPPORT POLICY BOARD CHAIR TRAVEL AND ATTENDANCE AT UPCOMING CONFERENCE

Executive Director Garrity presented that per the approved FY2024-2025 Overall Work Program, funds are available at 100% federal share, to "support travel cost, workforce training, continuing education and member association fees for relevant professional organizations to build up technical capacity of the staff. It will also potentially fund various training opportunities for Policy Board members, with the prior written approval of FHWA."

The OahuMPO and the Policy Board could benefit from Chair Kila attending the Hawaii Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO) Conference in Kamuela, Hawaii, from September 11-13, 2024. This year's conference will feature relevant topics including Innovative

Approaches to Assess Alternate Commuters' Transportation Needs, and parking reform. FHWA has provided written approval via email on July 22, for the Chair to attend the conference.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cordero and seconded by Senator Lee to approve a resolution supporting the Chair Kila's travel and attendance at the HCPO Conference in Waimea, Hawaii, from September 11-13, 2024. There were no discussions, objections, or abstentions and the motion was passed.

B. SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT APPLICATION

As mentioned previously by Chair Kila, Vice Chair Okimoto stated that the above-mentioned agenda item will be deferred to next month.

C. VISION ZERO MOBILE WORKSHOP

OahuMPO Policy Board Vice-Chair Val Okimoto and Executive Director Mark Garrity attended the Hawaii Vision Zero Mobile Workshop in New York City and Northern Europe, from June 1-11, 2024, which was spearheaded by the State of Hawaii, including Senator Chris Lee, the Department of Health, and included support from other organizations. They were able to visit and experience locations that have successfully reduced transportation related fatalities and serious injuries, and they met with leaders and project managers that made it possible. Executive Director Garrity provided a summary of the mobile workshop, lessons learned and next steps.

Senator Lee highlighted the potential cost savings and additional housing units through proper development and deployment and proposed a follow-up meeting involving more players from Hawaii's transportation teams.

Katia Balassiano raised a question about the construction of parking structures and bike bridges and suggested incentives to reduce the number of cars on the streets and encouraged more transit use. Senator Lee proposed creating public parking facilities instead of individual parking garages, allowing for more efficient utilization of parking spaces and reducing costs for developers and residents. This would allow for lower building heights, creating more pedestrian-friendly spaces with outdoor areas.

Councilmember Cordero asked about the infrastructure costs and budgets for cities like Kakaako and East Kapolei to support such transit-oriented developments. Senator Lee responded that there is no specific budget-related discussion but suggested the reprogramming of existing funds. Chair Kila proposed that the research findings be presented in the next Policy Board meeting, and Councilmember Cordero suggested future overview of transportation spending and planning.

Tim Streitz noted the potential impacts of transportation improvement investments on land use and the importance of education for safe and sustainable transportation.

Vice Chair Okimoto thanked ED Garrity for his thorough presentation and added that during the trip, she would observe every location and consider how the details could be applied or be implemented in Hawaii.

Heidi Hansen-Smith mentioned that in addition to the focus of land use and infrastructure, she observed the importance of commitment to pedestrian and biking safety education from a very young age. This helps to instill street/road safety values in teens and adults.

D. MPO INVESTMENTS IN SAFETY

Due to time constraints and members needing to leave the meeting on time, the members decided to postpone this agenda item D to the following month.

VI. INVITATION TO INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON MATTERS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM.

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at:

https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3347