

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

Organization	Present	Represented by	Absent
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	Eduardo Hernandez	
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		Ken Jacob	X
NB#10 Makiki-Lower Punchbowl-Tantalus	X	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		Danny de Gracia	X
NB#23 Ewa	X	John Rogers	
NB#25 Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu		Skyler Ross	X
NB#26 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village		Joe Francher	X
NB #27 North Shore		Robert Leinau	X
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-Mailii	X	Richard Landford
OahuMPO staff: Mark Garrity Samantha Lara Nicole Smith Dallas Ige Maile Greenhill Victoria Trevino	Guests: NB# 12 Rae Gee	

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 OCTOBER 2, 2024 MINUTES

Lorene Godfrey noted that she did attend the October meeting and asked her attendance status be changed. Cora Yamamoto motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, and David Aki 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 Mark Garrity provided updates on the MPO’s recent project management training program mobile workshop held in Los Angeles and San Diego from October 15th -19th. ED Garrity reported on the business conducted at the Policy Board meeting on October 28th and the TAC meeting on October 11th. In addition, Executive Director Garrity reported on a follow-up to a question asked by Andrea Anixt regarding Handivan service in Norway, Denmark and Sweden. Executive Director Garrity reported that the three countries have similar services to Hawaii and noted that to utilize the service, you need to qualify and be a resident.

Daisy Murai requested the MPO staff to inquire with the Department of Transportation Services on a Biki station on Kapahulu Avenue near Jefferson Elementary. Ms. Murai expressed concerns regarding the placement of the Biki station. Executive Garrity noted that he would pass the information to DTS.

The Executive Director’s Report can be viewed at:
https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3400

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Overall Work Program Presentation: State Government Employee Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study Task #1 Needs Assessment

Update

Kiana Otsuka, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the Oahu State Government Employee Transportation Demand Management Study, a project funded through the OahuMPO Overall Work Program (OWP). She provided an overview of the study, including background, purpose, and key milestones, emphasizing that current efforts are focused on developing recommendations for the upcoming legislative session. Ms. Otsuka outlined potential transportation strategies and their benefits for state employees and showed examples from other government agencies. She reviewed existing commuter benefits and current parking costs for state employees, then shared findings from an OahuMPO study conducted in May 2024. The presentation concluded with key takeaways, opportunities identified through focus group findings, and the study's timeline and next steps. David Aki noted that while transit programs like free passes can be successful, sudden route changes can derail community buy-in. There was a discussion on flexibility with transit options and how this program might offer transportation flexibility.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Overall Work Program (OWP) FY2026 - 2027 Public Review Draft

Nicole Smith, Planning Program Manager, provided an overview of the process and timeline for developing the Overall Work Program, OahuMPO's next two-year work program. Ms. Smith presented key points of the OWP, executive summary, and overall budget by task. Ms. Smith noted that the presentation will be given to the TAC in the beginning of November and the Public Comment period for the OWP will begin in January for a period of 30 days followed by a response from the MPO in February. Anrea Anixt asked if the budget included Maui. Ms. Smith explained that the funds are divided between Maui and Oahu. Donald Sakamoto asked about the format being used for the survey responses. Ms. Lara explained that the platform is called Metroquest and can be completed in different languages and is ADA-accessible.

The list of the priorities and potential regional planning activities can be reviewed in the presentation slides here: https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3398.

B. Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRP)

Mr. Dean Matsui, State Project Manager for HDOT Planning Branch introduced Jakob Zielkiewicz from HDOT's consultant company, ICF. Mr. Zielkiewicz provided a background and context on the Carbon Reduction Strategy. Mr. Zielkiewicz provided an update on the Hawaii Department of Transportation's Progress on the project, including current efforts being conducted by HDOT and the next steps for the strategy. John Rogers asked a question regarding the condition of shoulders on state roads (e.g., needing clean up and maintenance). He noted the importance of the maintenance of transportation corridors. Mr. Matsui reported cleaning the shoulders and roads is part of the

normal maintenance program but welcomed the comments and noted that they would consider it as an additional strategy. Andrea Anixt asked a question regarding “capacity carrying studies” and how to get in touch with ICF. Mr. Matsui explained that “capacity and traffic operations” was one of the main categories involved in the overall strategy. Mr. Matsui provided his email for the group to reach out to him directly. Daisy Murai asked if this strategy was for statewide implementation or only for Oahu. In addition, she asked a question regarding ethylene and if alternate fuel is being considered as part of the study. Mr. Matsui noted that this is a statewide project and that the study is looking at electrification rather than alternative fuel.

David Aki made a motion to extend the meeting to 3:35 PM. Larry Veray seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Mr. Aki thanked OahuMPO for their efforts and thanked the presenter for his presentation. Chair Rooney inquired about the relationship between the carbon reduction strategy and the Navahine settlement, Mr. Matsui clarified that while this initiative supports the settlement's broader goals, it is not directly addressing the settlement terms. He explained that this effort specifically fulfills FHWA requirements for the carbon reduction program, and added that a separate contract would be established to address the department-wide obligations under the Navahine settlement

In addition, Chair Rooney recommended changing the verbiage “roadway capacity.” She explained that the current verbiage implied that more road lanes would be built. ED Garrity recommended the term “roadway operational efficiency.” Mr. Matsui thanked the group for their recommendations and comments. There was a discussion on roadway capacities and where studies on roadway capacities data could be accessed.

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

Larry Veray announced an initiative to address traffic congestion at Acacia Road and Kamehameha Highway. The initiative proposes relocating the Pearl City Post Office to create space for road improvements, including intersection widening and a dedicated right-turn lane with a bus exemption. Mr. Veray noted that the resolution will be presented to his Neighborhood Board this month.

John Rogers noted that during recent travels, he observed the convenience of tap-to-pay credit card systems for public transportation. Mr. Rogers highlighted how this technology could benefit Honolulu's transit users. Executive Director Garrity noted that the City and County of Honolulu plans to implement a similar payment system by late 2025.

Chair Rooney requested a motion to extend the meeting for four more minutes.

Donald Sakamoto motioned to approve the request. David Aki seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bob Leinau reported the presence of Rhinoceros beetles on North Shore and expressed satisfaction with the area's current landscaping project. However, he voiced concerns about maintaining North Shore's landscaping standards without a landscape architect at the Hawaii Department of Transportation.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Donald Sakamoto announced that the Honolulu Rate Commission would be having a meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, from 2:30 PM -4:30 PM to discuss transit rates.

The next OahuMPO CAC meeting will be held on December 4, 2024 from 2:30PM – 3:30 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Rooney at 3:38PM

The PowerPoint for this meeting may be viewed at:
https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=3402