



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Transportation Meeting

Location: Virtual via Zoom and 1010 Richards Street, Room 118

Date: November 15, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Gerald Ohta, Teri Spinola-Campbell, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Kirby Shaw, Kristine Pagano, Bryan Mick, Elizabeth Pearson, Sue Radcliffe, Staff

GUEST: Alberto Perez

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETER: Regina Sapko

- I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.
- II. Committee members, staff, and the guest introduced themselves.
- III. Chairperson Violet Horvath reported no written public testimony was submitted.
- IV. The Committee approved the September 24, 2024, meeting minutes (M/S/P Townsend/Spinola-Campbell).
- V. Unfinished Business

- A. Standing Agenda Items

- Public Transit and Paratransit

Bryan Mick reported that the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services (DTS) just released proposed fare increases to fixed route and paratransit, and they are not proposing any changes to the low income paratransit fare.

Bryan Mick reported that DTS reported at a meeting of the Committee on Accessible Transportation that while they still envision a second paratransit base yard in Central or West Oahu, it would need to have enough space for electrical vehicle chargers to be installed. There is no particular site that is being targeted at this time.

Bryan Mick reported that Kauai County waived its bus and paratransit fees on election day to ensure people could get to the voting centers. Committee member Charlotte Townsend commented that Maui used to also waive its bus fare on election day but was not sure if they did this year. Staff will follow up.

Streets and Highways

Bryan Mick provided the responses from the State Department of Transportation regarding the Kahaluu roundabout project and roundabouts in general. There will be accessible features such as audible beacons.

Bryan Mick reported the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration published a Proposed Rule which would create regulations for the design of automobiles which eliminate collisions of pedestrians and automobiles or minimize the impact to the pedestrian when they are unavoidable. Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell made a motion that DCAB submit testimony in support of the regulation. The Committee approved the motion (M/S/P Townsend/Ohta).

Pedestrian Mobility and Built Environment

Bryan Mick circulated an article about New York City legalizing jaywalking after a study showed that tickets were disproportionately given to people in disadvantaged neighborhood or demographics. The Committee had previously discussed a similar bill introduced last year at the Hawaii State Legislature which did not pass. He added that its important that if the Legislature ever passes this, funds for pedestrian safety improvements are increased. Chairperson Violet Horvath commented she was a big fan of the Barnes Dance intersections which are common in Japan.

Air Transportation and Airports

Bryan Mick mentioned that staff had received a concern about the procedure at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport to inspect a service animal arriving from out of state. Pre-COVID, a person could request the inspection occur at the gate. This was very important for someone with a mobility disability who otherwise would have to travel a far distance to the inspection station. Additionally, the accessible route from the inspection station to the baggage claim is poorly marked. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (DOA) responded to an inquiry that staffing shortages are the reason gate inspections were ended, but someone could still request one as a reasonable modification though they did not guarantee staffing levels would allow it to be provided.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) worked with DOA to update their website about how a traveler with a service animal may request a gate inspection. DOT also commented that the airlines are required to accompany the person and service animal to the inspection station, and

that under the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA), the person could request the airlines provide an escort from there to the baggage claim and to curbside. Committee member Charlotte Townsend suggested the Committee do a site visit to the airport.

Bryan Mick circulated an email sent to DCAB from an out of state visitor who observed renting an accessible vehicle in Hawaii is much more difficult and expensive than in other states.

Bryan Mick circulated an email sent to DCAB from an out of state visitor who complained the rental car shuttle dropped passengers off at a curb which lacked curb cuts. DOT forwarded the concerns to the rental car company who confirmed that there are curb cuts at that location.

Update from Standing Committee on Parking

Bryan Mick reported staff is also trying to meet with the Honolulu Chief of Police to stress the importance of the Volunteer Special Enforcement Officer program.

VI. The next meeting will be Monday, January 13, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
BRYAN K. MICK