



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 9, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Teri Spinola-Campbell, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members;
Kirby Shaw, Bryan Mick, Sue Radcliffe, Staff

ABSENT: Gerald Ohta, Board Member

GUEST: Genesis Leong

- I. Chairperson pro tem Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.
- II. Committee members, staff, and guest introduced themselves.
- III. Chairperson pro tem Violet Horvath reported no written public testimony was submitted.
- IV. New Business

A. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Violet Horvath was elected as the Chair of the Transportation Committee (M/S/P Townsend/Spinola-Campbell).

Charlotte Townsend was elected as Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee (M/S/P Horvath/Spinola-Campbell).

B. Adoption of Oral Time Limits for Public Testifiers

An oral time limit of three minutes with a notation that additional time would be granted to anyone requiring it due to a disability was adopted (M/S/P Horvath/Townsend).

C. Review of DCAB Plan of Action – Transportation

The Committee did not have any comments on the Transportation section of the Plan of Action.

D. Review of DCAB Guiding Principles on Public Transit Fixed Route Bus Service and Paratransit Services and DCAB Guiding Principles on the Mobility and Safety of Pedestrians with Disabilities.

The Committee asked staff to prepare a chart for the next meeting comparing the four (4) county paratransit systems for fares, subsidies, service hours, and service areas. Committee member Charlotte Townsend commented that she is traveling to Hilo and plans to use their paratransit system and some of the information they requested from her violates the ADA, so eligibility is also something that should be compared.

Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell asked about the principle supporting subsidies for those on low fixed income and if the source of the subsidies was specified. Committee member Charlotte Townsend commented that there are various potential sources of subsidies, but the two (2) most common ones are from the transportation departments and from Medicare. Bryan Mick commented that to his knowledge, no counties have paratransit subsidy for low income riders, though the City and County of Honolulu is close to establishing one.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath asked if principle one which states that the paratransit fare never be higher than the fixed route transit fare conflicts with principle four which states that the fixed route transit fare for someone who is eligible for paratransit be lower than the paratransit fare. Bryan Mick explained that it is slightly confusing, but they do not conflict as they are indexed to different things. For example, the paratransit fare might be \$3.00 and the fixed route adult fare is \$4.00. That would comply with principle one. The fixed route fare for someone who is paratransit eligible could be \$2.50 to comply with principle four. This helps to encourage those that can use fixed route to do so, alleviating some of the demand on paratransit. Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath suggested that perhaps principle four could be amended to be less confusing.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath commented that DCAB needs to advocate for more accessible seating on buses. She often sees buses which have to pass by a wheelchair user because the wheelchair spaces are occupied. Committee member Charlotte Townsend explained that the City and County of Honolulu does not retire their buses very often, so it is somewhat random how many accessible seats there are on any given bus as the older ones lacked them. Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath also mentioned that the newer buses have the Q'Straint securement system where the person ends up facing the back of TheBus. This is not ideal and can make it hard for the person to know when they are approaching their destination. She also saw one person's wheelchair get damaged by the system which uses a mechanical arm to squeeze and hold the wheelchair in place. Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell asked if the City and County of Honolulu has articulated buses in its fleet. Committee member Charlotte Townsend explained that articulated buses have accessible seating located in the front portion of TheBus. She added that DCAB should provide comments to the counties so that bids include specifications that exceed legally required minimums for accessibility and consider the preferences of disabled riders. DCAB should also advocate that electric paratransit vehicles be procured.

The rest of the meeting agenda was deferred to the next meeting.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be January 8, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

BRYAN K. MICK