

**Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Committee**

October 15, 2024

10:00-11:00 AM

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kathleen Rooney, who conducted a roll call to confirm the attendance of committee members and guests.

Member requirement	Appointment detail(s)	Name	Present?
One member to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives	House of Representatives appointee, chair for 2024-2025	Kathleen Rooney	Y
One member to be appointed by the president of the senate	Senate appointee	Pending	n/a
The department of transportation's safe routes to school program coordinator		Tara Lucas	Y
The deputy director of the department of transportation's highways division		Robin Shishido	Y
One member representing the physical activity and nutrition section of the department of health's chronic disease prevention and health promotion division		Heidi Hansen-Smith	Y
The superintendent of education		Audrey Hidano, official designee	N
The co-chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources	Luke Sarvis, official designee	Y
The co-chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development	Leah Laramée, official designee	N
One member representing the Hawaii state energy office		Nicole Cernohorsky, Alternate Designee	Y,
One member representing the Hawaii state council on developmental disabilities		Sierra Whiteside	N
One member representing each county agency with jurisdiction over transportation	City and County of Honolulu	Yamato Sasaki	Y
	County of Hawaii	Jesse Domian	Y
	County of Kauai	Michael Moule	Y
	County of Maui	Kurt Watanabe	Y
One member representing an organization with a focus on bicycling	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	Thomas Noyes	Y

One member representing an organization with a focus on senior citizens and their families	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	James Burke	Y
One member representing an organization that understands the ways families with young children navigate through the State	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	Pending	n/a
One member representing an organization with a focus on public health and mobility	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	Jessica Thompson	Y
One member representing an organization with a focus on transportation equity and mobility	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	Jeanne Torres	N
The chair of representatives standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	Senate, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Senator Chris Lee	N
The chair of the senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	House of Representatives, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Representative Chris Todd	N

Guests – Richelle Takara, FHWA, Ikaiki Hussey.

## II. Approval of the Minutes

Past meeting minutes were approved as follows:

a. July 30, 2024

Heidi Hansen-Smith motioned to approve the July 30 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Jesse Domian. Luke Sarvis and James Burke abstained from the vote, as they had not been present at the July 30 meeting and had not had a chance to review the notes. With no other objections, the July 30 minutes were approved.

b. August 15, 2024

Hansen-Smith motioned to approve the August 15 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Domian. Again, Sarvis and Burke abstained from the vote, as they had not reviewed the notes. The August 15 minutes were approved with the two abstentions.

c. August 27, 2024

The approval of the August 27 minutes was tabled, as the committee had not yet had a chance to review them.

d. September 24, 2024

The approval of the September 24th minutes was also tabled, as the committee had not yet seen them.

### **III. Presentation on City and County of Honolulu's Safe Routes to School Work**

Yamato Sasaki provided a detailed presentation on the City and County of Honolulu's Safe Routes to School program. Sasaki covered the student population on O'ahu, the distribution of schools, and the program's focus areas, which include promoting inclusive walking and rolling, increasing driver safety culture, and enhancing crosswalks and walkways.

Discussion touched on the program's funding sources, including the Safe Routes to Schools special fund and transportation alternative program (TAP) funds, as well as the program's history and funding breakdown over the past seven fiscal years. Burke inquired about the future plans for the program, and Sasaki explained that the continuation of the program would depend on securing ongoing funding. Sasaki was also asked if he had official numbers on the non-student population living within the walk zones, and Sasaki agreed to provide that information. The committee emphasized the importance of improving conditions for walking and rolling to school, as it benefits the broader community, not limited to students.

### **IV. Discussion and Appropriate Action on Approach to Meeting Law's Mandate**

The chair shared a proposed draft of the annual report and recommendations on how to encumber the \$10 million in funding. The proposal included three main components:

- a. Funding for the creation of a comprehensive statewide Safe Routes to Schools plan, including goals, strategies, performance metrics, and methods to ensure the stability and consistency of the funding.
- b. Staffing support for five years, including six full-time positions for state, county, and Department of Education Safe Routes to School coordinators.
- c. Specific priorities and a process for funding plans and projects, including both proactive and reactive approaches.

Burke raised the importance of having a consultant to support the committee in developing the statewide plan, and the chair acknowledged that additional support would be crucial given the tight timeline. Burke motioned to approve the three-part proposal, and Hansen-Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Yamato Sasaki and Jessica Thompson, members of the PIG, briefly presented a draft proposal for designing "a clear and transparent process for the advisory committee to identify, evaluate, and recommend projects for funding". Sasaki and Thompson will update PIG's proposal updated to align with the "report and recommendations" presented by chair and approved by committee just prior to the presentation of the PIG's process presentation.

### **V. Open Forum: Invitation to Interested Members of the Public to be Heard**

No members of the public requested to be heard on matters not included on the agenda.

### **VI. Announcements**

Tommy announced an upcoming Community Work Day event at Lydgate Beach Park, inviting

committee members to participate in the cleanup and celebration of Hawai'i's Ke Ala Hele Makālae's induction into the Rails to Trails Conservancy Hall of Fame.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.