

Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Committee

March 25th, 2025

10:00-11:00 AM

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Kathleen Rooney called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. She conducted a roll call of committee members and confirmed a quorum was present.

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	
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		Megan Omura for Audrey Hidano, official designee	
The co-chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources	Luke Sarvis official designee	X
The co-chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development	Leah Laramee, official designee	X
One member representing the Hawaii state energy office		Chris Yunker	Y
One member representing the Hawaii state council on developmental disabilities		Sierra Whiteside	Y
One member representing each county agency with jurisdiction over transportation	City and County of Honolulu	Yamato Sasaki	Y
	County of Hawaii	Melanie DeMello	Y
	County of Kauai	Michael Moule	Y
	County of Maui	Kurt Watanabe	Y

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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	
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	
The chair of representatives standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	Senate, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Senator Chris Lee	
The chair of the senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	House of Representatives, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Dorene Eddy for Representative Darius Kila	Y

Identified Guests – Bev Brody (Get Fit Kauai); Kevin Richardson (Deputy Attorney General upon request); Chelsea Dau (Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization); Patti Hatzistavrakis and Leigh Ann Lopez (Hawaii Public Health Institute); Natasha Soriano (Hawaii Department of Transportation); Paul Strauss and Justin Menina (Hawaii Department of Health); Shana Merrifield (Hawaii State Energy Office); Doorae Shin, and Summer Begnaud (Ulupono Initiative)

II. Approval of the Minutes

The Committee approved the January meeting minutes unanimously; motions and seconds provided by various members.

III. Presentation by County of Maui

Kurt Watanabe from Maui County's Department of Public Works presented four federally funded Safe Routes to Schools projects and the improvements made at the following schools:

Kamali'i Elementary – Kihei, Maui (Completed 2014); Princess Nahienaena Elementary – Lahaina, Maui (Completed 2014); Paia School Frontage Improvements – Paia, Maui (Completed 2019); and Paia School Sidewalk Improvements – Paia, Maui (Completed 2019). The County has also spent its allocated special funds on speed feedback monitors, plastic delineators, and sidewalk projects. The County also hosted "Walk to School" days with community partners. However, they haven't collected extensive post-project data on the effectiveness of these interventions in reducing speeds or improving pedestrian safety. The presentation highlighted Maui County's proactive approach to improving safe routes to schools through infrastructure and community engagement.

III. Discussion and Appropriate Action on Approach to Meeting Law's Mandate

James Burke provides an update on legislative bills related to Safe Routes to Schools, including House Bill 300, Senate Bill 473, House Bill 1231, and others.

- a. Adoption of [Final Report to Legislature](#) – The Committee adopted the Final Report to Legislature (December 2024) as its formal set of recommendations unanimously.
- b. Approval of permitted interactions for SRTS plan scope action – A draft scope is available but needs to be refined based on feedback from Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT). If timing works out, a final scope will be available for Committee approval at the April meeting. Procurement will then be handled by HDOT.
- c. Approval of permitted interactions for SRTS staff recommendation action – Chair Rooney provided an update, recommending the prioritization of the HDOT program manager and the City and County of Honolulu's SRTS manager, of which funding may be expiring as of July 2025. A job description for the HDOT position is being developed. Additionally, the City and County of Honolulu has submitted a funding request to HDOT for a 3-year contract, but the Committee can entertain a request for back-up funding if needed at future meetings.
- d. Addition and Approval of state projects into 2025 Proposed Project Pipeline List – The Committee desired the additional of state projects to the list of potential projects to be evaluated for funding. The Committee approved integrating the state project list into the full project list in the Report to Legislature, together referred to as the "[2025 Project Pipeline List](#)"; the vote was unanimous.
- e. Addition of evaluation criterion that adds priority to existing projects – Upon the recommendation of the Deputy Attorney General, the Committee approved adding one additional evaluation criterion – that priority be given to existing projects, as per Act 244 (2023); the vote was unanimous. It will be integrated into the evaluation approach in the Final Report to Legislature as it is utilized by the approve permitted interaction group (see next action)
- f. Approval of permitted interactions for project funding recommendations action – The Committee approved establishing a permitted interaction group under §92-2.5 (b) to evaluate and make recommendations to the Committee and HDOT for SRTS funding. The permitted interaction group will use the current project proposal evaluation form and criteria to work with project sponsors to submit projects for evaluation by the group,

specifically for the available \$6 million. At least one project in each county and state will be recommended from the “2025 Project Pipeline List”. The vote was unanimous. The permitted interaction group will include Committee members Jessica Thompson, James Burke, Heidi Hansen-Smith, and Yamato Sasaki. Other non-committee members also volunteered to help support.

III. Open Forum

A member of the public wanted to make sure the local neighborhood boards were consulted about future projects.

IV. Announcements

Tommy Noyes promoted voting for Kalahale Makalai coastal path in USA Today's best trails list.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am