

Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Advisory Committee

January 27th, 2025

10:00-11:00 AM

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Abbey Seitz called the meeting to order at an estimated 10:01 am and 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,	Kathleen Rooney	Y
One member to be appointed by the president of the senate	Senate appointee, chair for 2025-2026	Abbey Seitz	Y
The department of transportation's safe routes to school program coordinator		Po Unutoa for Tara Lucas	Y
The deputy director of the department of transportation's highways division		Larry Dill for 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, official designee	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		Shana Merrifield for Chris Yunker, official 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, official designee	Y
	County of Hawaii	Jesse Domian, official designee	Y
	County of Kauai	Bev Brody for Keith Hatcher, official designee	N

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	County of Maui	Kurt Watanabe, official designee	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
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 the senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	Senate, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Senator Chris Lee	N
The chair of representatives 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 – Kevin Richardson and Jose Vega (Attorney General’s Office); Po Unutoa (Hawai‘i Department of Transportation); Patti Hatzistavrakis (Hawai‘i Public Health Institute); Eduardo Hernandez (Hawaii Bicycling League); Stephanie Lemke, Felice Wilson, and Kimberlee Kathleen (GoKid); Wendy Nathan, Tiffany Lida, and Anna Haney [Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)]; and Nita Wolfgramm (Community Planning and Engineering) and Danielle Tosaka.

II. Old Business

- a. The Committee approved the Draft Annual Report to the 2026 Legislature, allowing for non-substantive updates and edits, as provided by the Committee members by 2/4/2026. Once finalized, the report will be transmitted to the Hawai‘i Department of Transportation for submission on behalf of the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee.

- b. The Committee approved the dispersal of Safe Routes to School special fund monies to cover the 5% central services charge incurred by Hawai‘i Department of Transportation (HDOT) every fiscal year, as required under HRS 36-27. The Committee amended the original action to ensure it did not have to address this issue annually as well ensuring it applied to charges incurred, not estimated or forecasted.
- c. Update on SRTS Special Fund Status – This will be a new standing agenda item to provide regular visibility into the fund’s balance, revenue and expenditures.
 - The current FY26 budget authority is \$13,048,280
 - The current amount in SRTS Special Fund was \$10,707,974.65.
 - Planned allotment by quarter (FY26)
 - Q1 (July - Sept 2025) – \$8,679
 - Q2 (Oct - Dec 2025) – \$6,024,739
 - Q3 (Jan - Mar 2026) – \$4,024,739
 - Q4 (Apr - June 2026) - \$3,024,742

HDOT transferred \$2 million to the County of Kauai for their recommended projects and established a \$100,000 charge code for the recommended HDOT project. The other counties transfers are forthcoming. It was requested that the report include spending/disbursement to this presentation as well.

In addition, Chair Seitz asked for an update on the new vehicle registration fee dedicated to the SRTS special fund regarding implementation dates by county and when revenues would begin depositing into the fund. HDOT has not received notification from the counties regarding implementation dates.

III. Presentation - Mililani And Kekaulike HIDOE Carpool Program by Kimberlee Cadell and Felice Wilson, GoKid Corporation

During the meeting, GoKid on their Hawai‘i Department of Education (DOE) carpooling pilot and its alignment with Safe Routes to School goals. Launched in August 2025 at 14 schools in the Mililani (O‘ahu) and Kekaulike (Maui) complex areas, the program has over 300 registered families and is designed to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips, supplement limited bus service, and ultimately make walking and biking safer around schools. They described outreach efforts including emails, webinars, school newsletters, banners, yard signs, and in-person events such as open houses and a community talk story, and explained that the platform’s parent-to-parent tools and chat can also be used to organize walking and biking groups, not just carpools. GoKid and HIDOE shared survey results from 76 schools (and 185 parents) showing widespread concerns about traffic and safety, strong interest in a carpooling solution (50 schools indicated interest), and very low current rates of carpooling, and they signaled that HIDOE is

exploring expanding the pilot into a broader program via an RFP process, with GoKid interested in deeper coordination with the SRTS Advisory Committee.

IV. New Business

Due to time, Chair Seitz deferred several agenda items to the February meeting, including an update to the plan and program RFQ update and staff update regarding HDOT's SRTS coordinator funding request. However, Chair Seitz requested an update on the documentation needed for the County of Hawai'i SRTS staff funding request. Tara Lucas from HDOT said it may be completed within a month but they could not commit firmly as it was an FY27 priority. In addition, updates were provided regarding other counties monies dispersal for recommended projects. HDOT is developing a standard IGA template for the counties that require them County of Hawai'i, County of Maui, and City & County of Honolulu).

Chair Seitz announced future speakers for February 24, 2026 - Erin Oswald, recommended by several members (including Yamato and Bev), who had presented at the Safe Routes to School National Online Forum in December.

V. Open Forum: Invitation to interested members of the public to be heard on matters not included on the agenda – None.

VI. Announcements – None.

VII. Adjournment at 11:16 AM