

Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

County of Hawai'i

Friday, December 17, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O'Loughlin called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Michael O'Loughlin, Chairman
James Lee, Benjamin Agdeppa, Kristy Cruz,
Neva Supe-Roque, Commissioners

Staff: John Andoh, Interim Mass Transit Administrator
Betty Alcover, Interim Commission Secretary
Keyra Wong, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Absent: John Walker, Vice Chair, James Weatherford, Commissioner

A quorum was determined.

III. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 17, 2021 AGENDA

Commissioner O'Laughlin, Commissioner Agdeppa moved that agenda be approved, seconded the motion by Commissioner Cruz, it carried unanimously, 5 ayes. Agenda approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 MINUTES

Commissioner O'Laughlin, Commissioner Lee moved that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Supe-Roque seconded, 5 ayes. Minutes approved.

V. PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Chairman O'Loughlin made a motion to open Public Statement. Seeing no individuals present who wished to speak, Chairman O'Loughlin closed the Public statement section. Commissioner Agdeppa seconded the motion. 5 ayes. Closed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review taxicab application for NEW Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity to operate in the County of Hawaii.

1. Randy Llameza dba Kai's Taxi

Not present. Daughter stated they are having a hard time connecting. Wishes to own and operate a taxi.

2. Rodolfo Palilio dba Kristine Taxi

Present and stated he has had a taxi license before and wishes to have one now.

3. Herrick Pimentero – Not present.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve new applications, seconded by Chairman O’Loughlin. Applications approved. 6 ayes. All applicants approved by all five commissioners.

B. Hearing on revocation of the following Certificate of Public Conveniences due to the discontinuance by the carrier of the business of transporting passengers as a common carrier of passengers operating upon and using the public highways for a period of thirty consecutive days or more or failure to renew his/her taxicab license for the year.

No revocations.

VII. DISCUSSION OF TRANSIT AND MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.

John Andoh, Interim Mass Transit Administrator, played a video of a proposed transit plan. Transit has 18 employees and now have apps for phone use. We have a new logos, credit card sales capabilities and google maps. We have added 6 new routes and now operate on Sundays and Holidays. He also stated that Hele-On buses should go fare free in February and will be funded by a Federal grant. The fare free will be for two years giving us time to change our fare boxes to electronic fare boxes on all of our buses. We are looking to install cameras on all of our buses. Transit is still looking at transit hubs in Pahoia and Kona. We are looking into Uber and Lyft to work with the shared ride program. Installing cameras on all of our buses

We have applied for 8 grants since June 2021 and 3 were awarded and we are pursuing 8 more grants now.

Questions asked included was how were we working with Maui and Kauai. Is this for workforce training? Right now we are working with Maui and Kauai for procurement of buses.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF CHAPTER 18 AMENDMENTS

Interim Administrator Andoh presented this item and asked the Commissioners if they had any questions. There was none.

IX. MASS TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Interim Administrator Andoh presented this item and asked the Commissioners if they had any questions on his report which is summarized below:

- Made revisions to transit services on September 20, October 3 and November 14 to address on time performance issues and re-routing due to the Kolekole Bridge weight reduction
- Reclassified Program Manager into a Transit Program Manager

- Continued discussions with UH-Hilo and UH-Hawai'i Community College regarding a U-Pass Program
- Started mobile ticket app sales via Token Transit
- Redid specifications for bus replacements and issued an IFB for 14 diesel and diesel-hybrid buses.
- Preparing RFP for 4 battery electric buses, with options for up to 20 more battery electric buses with association in partnership with counties of Maui and Kaua'i
- Launched new trip planner in partnership with Moovit and Bing Maps. Awaiting implementation of trip planner with Google and Apple maps.
- Started work on a new website. Updated Transportation Commission information on current and County website.
- Completed new paint scheme for Hele-On buses and bus stop signs.
- Implementing actions with the Department of Justice regarding ADA complaints.
- Participating and responding to questions to HDOT regarding procurement, Title VI, DBE, drug & alcohol and ADA compliance
- Implementing uniforms for the mechanics and Garage Supervisor
- Continued integration of HIBike into Hele-On
- Launched partnership with Uber for vaccine transportation
- Working with HDOT to finalize grants and get them implemented for expending funds
- Working on bringing the hydrogen buses to Kailua-Kona
- Continued development of new paratransit and eligibility assessment contractor request for proposals
- Continued work to bring buses back into service – a total of 14 buses brought back into service.
- Working on inventorying parts and reclassifying automotive mechanics to transit vehicle mechanics.

Upcoming elements:

- Launching of a vanpool program
- Studying a fare free implementation for two years
- Replacement of the entire Hele-On fleet with new battery electric, hydrogen, and diesel-hybrid buses
- Restructure of the shared ride taxi program
- Additional trips added on Route 90, a new route in Kailua-Kona, a new route from Volcano to Ocean View
- Conversion of Route 60 to flex service to allow bus to flex one mile off route, like Routes 301 and 403 do
- Planning and construction of transit hubs in Pahoehoe, Kailua-Kona, Waimea, and Hilo
- Additional maintenance staff to support maintenance efforts of a new fleet
- Continuous training of staff to understand Mass Transit Agency administration, operations, and maintenance

- Increased marketing and community outreach about Hele-On and its services
- Free HIBIKE rides for Hele-On riders
- Formalization of bus stops and additional bus shelters added, Island-wide
- Training for Transportation Commission members about their role.

X. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Chairman O'Loughlin stated he was pleased with the direction of the Mass Transit Agency and appreciative of their involvement in being able to assist. The other commissioners each echoed their comments on this matter.

XI. NEXT MEETING – MARCH, 2022

Interim Administrator Andoh announced the next meeting will be in March, 2022.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Agdeppa moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. 5 Ayes.

Minutes prepared by:



Betty Alcover, Interim Transportation Commission Secretary