

Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

County of Hawai'i

Friday, April 8, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O'Loughlin called meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Chairman O'Loughlin called the roll.

Present: Michael O'Loughlin, Chairman
James Lee, Kristy Cruz, Neva Supe-Roque,
Roselyn Molina, Matthew Terlep, Commissioners

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

Absent: Benjamin Agdeppa

A quorum was determined.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 8, 2022 AGENDA

Commissioner O'Laughlin introduced the item and Commissioner Cruz moved that agenda be approved, seconded the motion by Commissioner Terlep, it carried unanimously, 6 ayes. Agenda approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 17, 2021 MINUTES

Commissioner O'Laughlin introduced the item and Commissioner Cruz moved that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Terlep seconded, 6 ayes. Minutes approved.

V. PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman O'Loughlin opened the opportunity for public statements. Seeing no individuals present who wished to speak, Chairman O'Loughlin closed the public statement period.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

As there are two new commissioners, Deputy Corporation Counsel Keyra Wong asked that Mr. Andoh give a little background on New Certificate and revocations. Mr. Andoh proceeded with the following: Chapter 18 of the County Code, which was included in their packets, what the role is for the commissioners is, such as to review taxicabs applications for a new Certificate of Public Convenience. He summarized pages 7 through 37, which determines if they are fit to become taxicabs owners and that the commission members can grant approval for the certificates to be issued. He further discussed revocations, of which commissioners can determine to revoke their licenses due to applications not being submitted for renewal.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Commissioner O'Laughlin introduced the item and Administrator Andoh discussed the following:

1. Jhomel Baduadba, JB's Taxi applying for two certificates. Mr. Baduadba was present and had no statements. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded Commissioner Supe-Roque. 6 ayes to approve Certificate.
2. Rosito Pimentero is applying for one taxi certificates. Ms. Pimentero was present and had no statements. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded Commissioner Supe-Roque. 6 ayes to approve Certificate.
3. Aneterea Pogai is applying for one certificate. Mr. Pogai was present and had no statements. Motion to approve Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Molina. 6 ayes to approve the certificate.

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.

Administrator Andoh reported no revocations.

VII. DISCUSSION OF CHAPTER 18 AMENDMENTS

Administrator Andoh discussed the proposed additions and deletions to what is within Chapter 18. This includes Rules of the Road when riding Hele-On buses. This would also include what would happen if rider violated any of the rules; as of right now and how the police and prosecuting attorney would handle the impacts of these rules. Deputy Corporation Counsel Wong is working on reviewing the changes and advised that the proposed changes should be brought before the Commission for consideration. Administrator Andoh agreed to do so.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING UPDATE

Administrator Andoh introduced the item and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as enacted in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, authorizes up to \$108 billion for public transportation – the largest federal investment in public transportation in the nation's history. The legislation will advance public transportation in America's communities through four key priorities: Safety, Modernization, Climate and Equity.

- HDOT will issue 40% of funds to Hawaii infrastructure.
- Section 5311 Rural Grant Funds – The Agency will receive approximately \$1.4 million dollars.
- Section 5339 Grant will help us with purchasing buses and obtaining a Kailua Kona baseyard.
- Low-No grants will help us obtain electric and hydrogen buses.

- Working with HDOT to finalize grants and get them implemented for expending funds.

IX. MASS TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Andoh introduced this item and also the operational contractor teams from Transdev and Roberts Hawaii to the Commission. Sean Powers of Transdev talked briefly about Transdev and Intelliride. Randy Baldemor of Roberts Hawaii talked briefly about Roberts Hawaii. He further presented the following items as explained below:

- Made revisions to transit services on April 3 and on April 17 to add additional trip on Route 90, create a new route between Volcano and Ocean View, address on time performance in Kailua-Kona and Hilo routes, add additional trips, convert deadhead trips along the South Kohala coast to revenue trips between Hilton, Marriott and Kona International Airport and add Saturday service on Route 104
- Continue to procure transit buses. Two IFBs and one RFP has been released or in process of being released
- Working on procurement of a vendor to do bus shelters and bus washing
- Negotiating with Sustainability Partners
- Working on rebranding the transit fleet
- New website @ www.heleonbus.org in development
- Training mechanics and providing tools to maintain buses
- Starting hydrogen operations
- Ensuring Roberts Hawaii is compliant with RFP 3909
- Seeking consultants to assist with bus stop engineering projects and transit hub development
- Reviewing proposal for paratransit operations and eligibility
- Launched fare free
- Finalizing contracts with Commute with Enterprise, Lyft, and Uber and SSFM for Pahoehoe Transit Hub
- Working on changes to Chapter 18
- Transitioned paratransit operations to an interim operations contractor, Transdev
- Studying scooters
- Using County employees for customer service at Mo'ohau Bus Terminal
- Building relationships with other transit agencies in the State
- Working on expansion of HIBIKE using a TAP grant
- Continued to work on implementing Waikoloa Breakroom for operators to use
- Free HIBIKE rides for Hele-On riders
- Continuous training of staff to understand Mass Transit Agency administration, operations, and maintenance
- 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
- Planning and construction of transit hubs in Pahoehoe, Kailua-Kona, Waimea, and Hilo
- Additional maintenance staff to support maintenance efforts of a new fleet
- Increased marketing and community outreach about Hele-On and its services
- Formalization of bus stops and additional bus shelters added, Island-wide
- Training for Transportation Commission members about their role.

There was a brief discussion from the Commissioners on these activities. Commissioner Cruz asked about local paratransit providers on island. Administrator Andoh explained that there was no able provider on island to perform the services as quickly as Ace 1 Taxi declined to provide services beyond March 7, 2022. He stated that Transdev using local subcontractors to perform the trips that are from Hawai'i Island and also mentioned that as an FTA recipient, local preference can't be mandated.

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 – JULY, 2022

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cruz moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Molina. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. 6 Ayes.

Minutes prepared by:



Betty Alcover, Interim Transportation Commission Secretary

Approved by:



John Andoh, Mass Transit Administrator and General Manager