

DEPT. COMM. NO. 205

December 24, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,
Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

FY2024-2025 Annual Report to the State Legislature

In accordance with HRS 279D-11, please find enclosed Maui MPO's annual report on activities conducted from December 1, 2023, to November 30, 2024.

Sincerely,

K. Kauanoë Batangan

Kauanoë Batangan
Executive Director

Enclosure

Cc: Maui MPO Policy Board (by email)
Cc: Richelle Takara, Federal Highway Administration (by email)
Cc: Ray Tellis, Federal Transit Administration (by email)



Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization

FY 2024 and 2025
(December 1, 2023, to November 30, 2024)

Annual Report to
Hawai'i State Legislature &
Maui County Council

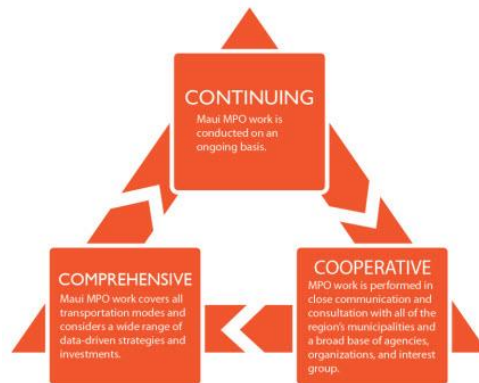
December 2024

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Introduction

The Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization (Maui MPO) was formed in 2016 and operates pursuant to a Comprehensive Agreement between the Maui MPO, State of Hawai‘i, and County of Maui pursuant to the federal requirements of 23 USC 134 and 49 USC 5303. Maui MPO coordinates a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) transportation planning process for federally funded or regional transportation systems on the island of Maui.



Our vision is for Maui communities to be connected by a safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation system. Using a data-driven approach, Maui MPO strives to direct federal funds toward projects that increase access to opportunity and prosperity, while promoting the health and wellness of Maui’s people and environment through improved multimodal transit options.

The Maui MPO Policy Board is the decision-maker on the use of federal-aid transportation funds on Maui. The Policy Board is served by an Executive Director and staff, as well as a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Participating agencies include the County of Maui and the State of Hawai‘i. Maui MPO is administratively tied to the County of Maui Department of Transportation. Federal planning grants from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) account for 80% of Maui MPO’s annual budget. The remaining 20% of funds come from the State of Hawai‘i and County of Maui highway funds.



Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) § 279D-11 requires Maui MPO to submit an annual report to the legislature of all activities conducted by the organization during the year immediately preceding the submission of the report.

This progress report details the activities conducted by Maui MPO in Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 and 2025 from December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024. Regular financial updates are provided to the Maui MPO Policy Board.

Program Administration

Maui MPO functions under a committee structure comprised of a Policy Board, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and Maui MPO staff. The Policy Board consists of one (1) state senator, one (1) state representative, three (3) Maui County Councilmembers, and various state and county department directors. The TAC consists of representatives from the County of Maui Departments of Transportation, Public Works, Planning, and Parks and Recreation, the State Department of Transportation (HDOT) Maui District Engineer, and HDOT Planning staff. Maui MPO Executive Director and one (1) full time staff person administer the Maui MPO to facilitate a comprehensive planning process for federal-aid transportation projects on Maui. The Executive Director prepares the agendas and meeting materials with approval from the Policy Board and TAC Chairs.

Maui MPO staff prepare financial reports, reimbursement requests, and supporting memoranda to inform Policy Board decisions, and to ensure timely expenditure and reimbursement of planning funds as approved in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Maui MPO Staff

Pamela Eaton, Executive Director (until August 2024)

Kauanoë Batangan, Executive Director (started September 2024)

Wendy Nathan, Financial Specialist

Maui MPO Policy Board

*Troy Hashimoto, Chair – Representative, Hawai‘i State Legislature

*Marc Takamori, Vice Chair – Director, County of Maui Department of Transportation

Angus McKelvey – Senator, Hawai‘i State Legislature

**Tyson Miyake – Representative, Hawai‘i State Legislature

Edwin Sniffen – Director, State of Hawai‘i Department of Transportation

Yuki Lei Sugimura – Councilmember, Maui County Council

Gabriel Johnson – Councilmember, Maui County Council

Tom Cook – Councilmember, Maui County Council

Kate Blystone – Director, County of Maui Department of Planning

Jordan Molina – Director, County of Maui Department of Public Works

**In November 2023, Chair Hashimoto was appointed to the Hawai‘i State Senate and Vice Chair Takamori became Acting Chair*

***In January 2024, Member Miyake was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Chair Hashimoto.*

Maui MPO Technical Advisory Committee

Rachel Roper-Noonan, Chair – State of Hawai‘i Department of Transportation

*Kauanoë Batangan, Vice Chair – County of Maui Department of Transportation

**Darren Kono – County of Maui Department of Transportation

- Ty Takeno –County of Maui Department of Public Works
- Annette Matsuda –State of Hawai‘i Department of Transportation
- Chico Rabara –County of Maui Department of Public Works
- Nolly Yagin – County of Maui Department of Public Works
- *David Yamashita – County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation
- **Wesley Bradshaw – County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation
- Phillip Anderson –County of Maui Department of Housing & Human Services
- Scott Forsythe – County of Maui Planning Department
- *Jacky Takakura – County of Maui Planning Department
- **Scott Curran – County of Maui Planning Department

*Members Batangan, Yamashita, and Takakura left the TAC throughout the reporting period.

**Members Kono, Bradshaw, and Curran joined the TAC during the reporting period.

Summary of Finances (Programmed Expenses)

The UPWP serves as the budget for Maui MPO transportation planning activities each fiscal year. Maui MPO continues to maintain compliance with federal regulations and ensure the continued availability of federal transportation funds for Maui. Cost categories follow federal standard budget information for non-construction programs. Work elements include Program Administration, Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Planning Studies. Details for each work element are provided in the following section. Table 1 and Table 2 summarize expenditures programmed by federal cost category and UPWP Work Element, respectively.

Table 1

Cost Category	FY2025	FY2026
Staff Costs	\$ 568,463	\$ 596,884
Travel	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Utility	\$ 2,760	\$ 2,760
Rent	\$ 15,674	\$ 16,457
Materials and Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Communication / Social Media	\$ 29,960	\$ 29,960
Professional Development	\$ 14,600	\$ 14,600
Consultant Services	\$ 753,383	\$ 250,000
Other*	\$ 9,640	\$ 9,640
TOTAL	\$ 1,399,480	\$ 925,301

* Includes photocopier lease and printing charges, memberships, subscriptions, other miscellaneous costs.

Table 2

Work Element	Match*		Federal Funds**		Total	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2025	FY2026	FY2025	FY2026
1. Program Administration	\$ 129,219	\$ 135,060	\$ 516,878	\$ 540,241	\$ 646,097	\$ 675,301
2. Long Range Transportation Plan	\$ 32,677	\$ -	\$ 130,706	\$ -	\$ 163,383	\$ -
3. Transportation Improvement Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4. Planning Studies	\$ 118,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 472,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 590,000	\$ 250,000
TOTAL	\$ 279,896	\$ 185,060	\$ 1,119,584	\$ 740,241	\$ 1,399,480	\$ 925,301

* Federal Funds 80% of costs with the State and County each funding 10% of costs.

** Federal Funds are from FTA, FHWA, and other Federal Funding Programs.

Maui MPO Work Elements

Long Range Transportation Plan

The current version of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is known as *Hele Mai Maui 2040*. The LRTP is a vision for Maui's transportation needs and opportunities over the next 20 years. Transportation projects must be identified in the LRTP to be eligible for federal funding. *Hele Mai Maui 2040* was developed using public input and adopted by the Maui MPO Policy Board on December 12, 2019. LRTPs are valid for five (5) years, so *Hele Mai Maui 2040*, is set to expire in December 2024.

Maui MPO has been working to update the LRTP through the drafting of *Hele Mai Maui 2045*. This update, however, is slightly different than past LRTP updates due to the August 8, 2023, wildfires that devastated West Maui and parts of Upcountry Maui. Given the trauma and ongoing challenges posed by the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and numerous other issues, it was determined that the community of West Maui was not ready to fully engage in the exercise of updating the LRTP. As a result, rather than conduct outreach specifically tailored to the transportation needs in West Maui, Maui MPO is integrating the relevant projects and programs from the County of Maui's *Lāhaina Long-Term Recovery Plan* into *Hele Mai Maui 2045*.



Transportation Improvement Program

The Maui MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) identifies how investments will be made to improve the transportation systems within the island of Maui over a six (6) year period. The TIP identifies transportation projects and strategies planned for a four-year cycle, which must be fiscally constrained, and an additional two-year cycle, which is not fiscally constrained. The TIP lists the immediate program of investments that will go toward achieving the performance targets established by the Maui MPO Policy Board through the LRTP. All projects receiving Federal funding must be included in the TIP and be consistent with the goals identified in the LRTP.



The FFY 2025 – 2028+2 TIP was approved by the Policy Board on August 28, 2024. On September 12, 2024, the TIP was reviewed and approved by HDOT Director Sniffen for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP was then reviewed and approved by FTA and FHWA on November 20, 2024. Information about the Maui TIP and the latest TIP Report are available online at: <https://www.mauimpo.org/transportation-improvement-program-tip>

Unified Planning Work Program

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) lists the transportation studies and tasks that Maui MPO staff and member agencies will perform to support the metropolitan transportation planning process over the next two years. It must identify the funding source for each project, the schedule of activities, and the agency or agencies responsible for each task or study. Once approved by the Maui MPO Policy Board and the FHWA and FTA, the UPWP enables Maui MPO to encumber federal planning funds provided under 23 U.S.C and 49 U.S.C. 53. UPWP work elements carried out by Maui MPO, including creating or updating the LRTP and TIP, enable Maui to receive federal transportation funds for bus transit, highways, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

The FY 2025-26 UPWP was adopted by the Policy Board on July 30, 2024, and approved by FTA and FHWA on November 4, 2024. The FY 2025-26 UPWP can be found online at: <https://www.mauimpo.org/maui-mpo-fy25-26-upwp>

Public Participation Plan

In September 2023, the Maui MPO Policy Board approved updates to the Public Participation Plan (PPP). This post-pandemic version of the PPP provides recommendations and strategies to

engage the public throughout the transportation planning process. It emphasizes reaching underserved and underrepresented communities, utilizing visuals to enhance accessibility, encouraging continuous engagement and dialogue, and incorporating performance measures for evaluation. No changes were made to the PPP in this reporting period.

The current PPP can be found on the Maui MPO website at: <https://mauimpo.org/public-participation-plan>



Planning Studies

Hāna Community Pathway Study

The Hāna Community Pathway Study is an effort to envision a multimodal, shared-use path connecting Hāna High and Elementary School, Hāna Health, the farmer’s market, and other resources. This pathway aims to not only enhance the current travel experience for local pedestrians and bikers in Hāna, but also to allow residents to safely connect with health services, social services, and the natural and cultural aspects of Hāna town.

The Hāna Community Pathway was originally envisioned several years ago when Hāna Ranch made a generous offer to donate easements for a walkway along Hāna Highway. Hāna Ranch, Hāna Business Council, Maui MPO, and others are working together to ensure these easements are used to increase connectivity, accessibility, and safety by evaluating potential paths for pedestrians separate from the highway.

Community engagement is crucial to the design process. A series of in-person and online meetings are planned to hear community desires for the pathway, solicit feedback on design ideas, and create a tool kit that outlines how a pathway could be built in a manner that is compatible with the character of Hāna. The first community meeting occurred on Monday July 22, 2024, at Hāna Tropicals. This meeting focused on introducing the study to the people of Hāna, identifying the preferred pathway, and discussing various design concepts. The second community meeting was held virtually on Monday, October 7, 2024, via Zoom. This meeting focused on sharing the initial public feedback that was received, research that was done on proposed routes, and soliciting comments on conceptual plans. Additional meetings next year will focus on implementation guidance. Information on upcoming meetings will be distributed by the Hāna Business Council and posted on the Maui MPO website.

Once completed, the Hāna Community Pathway Study will provide the County of Maui a blueprint for developing a multimodal, shared-use pathway that reflects the wants and needs of

the people of Hāna. The study will also help identify strategies for project delivery including a budget, scope of work, and timeline.

West Maui Greenway Master Plan

The West Maui Greenway is a proposed 25-mile, multi-use trail that will one day connect Ukumehame to Lipoa Point. The project vision is to create a safe, comfortable, and joyful greenway path through West Maui that serves as both a recreational ribbon and a new transportation facility, connecting people to destinations while highlighting the diverse history, landscape, and culture of the region.

The Master Plan was completed in September 2023, and it provides a preferred route alignment, proposed trail types, and a brief overview of possible implementation strategies for the greenway. The next step for the Master Plan is for design and construction to occur for each of the segments. However, the Maui MPO is not an implementing agency. Therefore, Maui MPO staff is supporting the efforts of the County of Maui Office of Recovery to ensure that the greenway is incorporated into the rebuilding of Lahaina town.

The West Maui Greenway Master Plan can be viewed at: <https://mauimpo.org/west-maui-greenway-plan>

Other Long-Range Transportation Planning Initiatives

South Maui Quick Build

Quick-Build projects serve as a response to the lengthy, and often expensive, process of planning, designing, and building transportation infrastructure. Simple traffic calming measures can often take over five years from approval to construction. Quick-Build projects employ semi-permanent transportation materials that can be installed rapidly. These low-cost materials, such as paint, signage, and delineators, are used to help the community reimagine how roadways look and function.



The South Maui Quick Build is a demonstration project aimed at addressing the poor network of sidewalks and bicycle pathways that limit healthy mobility alternatives in Kihei. The project, sponsored by Maui MPO and the Ulupono Initiative, aims to create street art within the unused space outside of the traffic lanes at the intersection of Alulike Street and Kenolio Road. Additionally, delineators along the art installation will be installed by the Department of Public works to provide additional safety. These Quick Build treatments will be installed with the intent

to improve safety, promote the use of alternative transportation modes such as walking and biking, and encourage better health outcomes through safer community design.

Maui County Complete Streets Implementation Project

While Maui County adopted a Complete Streets ordinance in 2017, implementation of actual Complete Streets projects has not followed as quickly as intended. Complete Streets projects programmed on the Maui MPO TIP have been repeatedly deferred to later years and TIP cycles. Additionally, Complete Streets elements (such as sidewalks and connections, multiuse lanes and paths, transit stops adjacent to affordable housing) are repeatedly exempted when affordable or workforce housing developments are proposed.

What is needed is for the Complete Streets program to be institutionalized the County of Maui. From June to October 2023, Maui MPO worked with the County of Maui Departments of Public Works (DPW), Planning, and Transportation (MDOT), as well as FHWA to create the goals, objectives, outcomes, and a scope of work for a Maui Complete Streets Planning Study.

The planning study aims to update existing County standards, ordinances, and policies; create a Complete Streets checklist; update the standard details for construction to support the County's Street Design Guide; develop an outreach and communications toolbox and a training program targeted to those individuals responsible for land use and future development decisions; complete a Maui Complete Streets Prioritization Plan and a County Complete Streets Ordinance.

In her transition memo, Director Eaton noted that the budget for this project needs to be adjusted. The Maui MPO anticipates taking up amendments to the UPWP in January or February of 2025 and will address the budget for this project at that time.

Coordination with the Office of Recovery

As recovery and rebuilding efforts evolve for West Maui, it is important for Maui MPO to work alongside the County of Maui Office of Recovery, particularly the Community Planning and Infrastructure Recovery Support Functions (RSFs), to ensure compliance with federal transportation planning processes and the appropriate distribution of federal transit investments. Maui MPO is working to incorporate relevant elements of the *Lāhaina Long-Term Recovery Plan* into *Hele Mai Maui 2045* and is preparing amendments to the TIP and UPWP to better support the Office of Recovery activities. These amendments are anticipated to be taken up in the Spring of 2025.