

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

August 1, 2022

Online Via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Alice L. Lee
Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Councilmember Tamara Paltin

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

STAFF:

Laksmi Abraham, Legislative Analyst
Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst
James Forrest, Legislative Attorney
David Raatz, Deputy Director
Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary
Jocelyn Moniz, Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lana'i District Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia District Office
Daniel Kanahele, Council Aide, South Maui District Office

Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Davideane Kama-Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember King
Ellen McKinley, Executive Assistant to Councilmember King
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Jordan Helle, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sugimura

ADMIN.:

Stephanie Chen, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Josiah Nishita, Deputy Director, Department of Management
Jordan Molina, Director, Department of Public Works
Gary Ambrose, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works
Marc Takamori, Director, Department of Transportation

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Lauren Armstrong, MPO Executive Director, Department of Transportation

OTHERS: Crystal Ellerbe, Consultant, Strategies 360
(3) additional attendees

PRESS: *Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Infrastructure Transportation Committee meeting. Today is August 1st and it is 9:00 a.m. Thank you, Mike Molina, for showing up first. I have to recognize you, always prompt, so appreciate you. Today's meeting is on *Akakū*, and I am your Chair of the Committee. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. This meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law, and as a reminder, when your...when your name is called, if you're not alone in the room, please identify who is with you...or if you're in the Mayor's Conference Room, which I think none of you are, please identify who is with you in the room, in the vehicle, or workspace with you. And minors do not need to be identified. Today, we have Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair. Good morning, Ms. Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, everyone. It's good to see all of you again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And I'm looking forward to having a wonderful discussion on our bipartisan infrastructure dollars that are coming in. So, thank you, Chair. Good morning, everyone. And I am in my workspace by myself, and the guys are in the other room, the kids. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How nice. Chair Lee, I said I was going to introduce you first so we can get our greeting of the day. Could you share it?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I'm sure Pro Tem Kama meant to say m'bolo, which is --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: M'bolo.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- from Equatorial Guinea in Africa. M'bolo means hello. And by the way, their main crops are cocoa and coffee. So, good morning --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You are so amazing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- to everyone. M'bolo. I'm here alone in my workspace with my trusty little puppy Koa right outside my door.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Koa. M'bolo to you. Thank you, Chair Lee. Next we have Mike Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: M'bolo and aloha to you, Madam Chair and my colleagues, this

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morning. Looking forward to a very productive IT meeting. And I'm transmitting from the Pā'ia District Office, and I'm accompanied by District Office Specialist Jade Rojas-Letisi. And at the moment we currently have no testifiers. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Next we have Tamara Paltin from the West Side.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: M'bolo and aloha kakahiaka kākou. Broadcasting live and direct from my home in Nāpili, and with me at my feet I got my pocket pit. And I've been notified that there are no testifiers at the Lāhainā District Office. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have a pocket pit...pip...pup. Is it a puppy? Is it brand new?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, no, he's going on seven years.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. All right. I don't see Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and I'm sure she'll join us if she would. Kelly King is excused. And also welcome, and I see their Staff on the line, is Shane Sinenci and Gabe Johnson's office. They can join us at any time. From the Department of Corporation Counsel we have Stephanie Chen. And Department of Public Works Jordan Molina, the Director. Department of Transportation we have Marc Takamori. And outside resource personnel is Crystal Ellerbe, and she is a consultant with Strategies 360. She'll be doing presentations for two of our items today. And we also have Lauren Armstrong, who is the Maui MPO Executive Director, joining us. Committee Staff, thank you very much. We would all not be able to do what we do without you. Clarita Balala, Committee Staff. I also see Jocelyn Moniz, her name is online, I think she's on the 9th Floor assisting. Laks Abraham, Legislative Analyst. Thank you very much. Lesley Milner, which is...she's also Budget Committee Analyst and my backup for this Committee. She is super. James Forrest, our Legislative Attorney. Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Thank you, Members, for attending today's meeting. And we have two items on our agenda, IT-1(9), Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Project Funding, and IT-1(5), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Do we have any testifiers, Laks?

MS. ABRAHAM: Good morning, Councilmember Sugimura. We have no testifiers at the moment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, as you know, with the new changes to the law, as we are all trying to navigate with this new process, we will not close public testimony until we go through the item. Then take any public testimony of anybody who would like to testify. And then hear the presentation, then we'll close public testimony. So...was that right order, Laks? Take public testimony after the presentation.

MS. ABRAHAM: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, here we go.

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**IT-1(9): CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING AND COMMUNITY
PROJECT FUNDING (Rule 7(B))**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, under IT-1(9), Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Project Funding. At this time we will have a presentation from Crystal Ellerbe from Strategies 360. And before we get into that, I just wanted to mention that the reason that we're taking these two items up, this is a continuation of the January 27th meeting, 2022, which you remember we had Senator Brian Schatz, as well as Ed Sniffen, State DOT Director, who presented...presented us information on the IIJA Act, as well as the community project funding, which we're going to talk about today. So, today will be...today's meeting is...I'm going to really turn it over to Josiah Nishita from the Administration, who has been working towards bringing in the funds that were talked about at the January 27th meeting, and we can see what the Administration is doing. And I...I also believe that because this is such a big subject, and you may have questions, that I'm interested in also taking this up on the January 15th [sic] meeting which is the next IT meeting, which will...we can dig deeper into where we are with...with this whole process...or with the projects that we are actually working on. So, today I would like to turn this over to Deputy Managing Director Josiah Nishita, who will be providing us opening remarks and introduce today's presentation on Congressional allocations. And this is going to be...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Sorry, Chair. Chair, sorry. I think Member Paltin had a question before we recognize --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- Mr. Nishita.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I didn't see. Sorry. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I was just probably clarifying, did you mean January 15th or August 15th?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, did I...oh, I'm sorry. I meant August 15th. I didn't mean next year. So, yes, thank you. It'll continue. Thank you. Okay. Go ahead, Josiah.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Aloha, Committee Chair Sugimura, Committee Vice-Chair Kama, and Members of the Infrastructure and Transportation Committee. Thank you for having us here today. For the record, my name is Josiah Nishita, Deputy Managing Director of the County of Maui. And here today with me we have one of our Federal funding consultants, Crystal Ellerbe, to discuss Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Project Funding requests. And these are also kind of formally known as earmarks. We also may use the acronym CDS for Congressionally Directed Spending or CPF for Community Project Funding, just for the Committee's info. Crystal will be providing an overview of this, and then I'll be highlighting the projects that we applied for and have made it through so far. And then discussion on where we would like to head for future CDS and CPF requests, and getting your thoughts and ideas on potential

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projects, or to give you things to think about for future discussions should CDS and CPF requests continue to be available in the future. With that, we have our Federal funding consultant with us today, and Crystal will be providing the overview. So, Committee Chair Sugimura, if it's okay, I'll now turn it over to Crystal for the presentation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, before we go into that, I...I didn't do the formal part of asking the Members if Crystal could be a resource for these two items under Rule 18(A) of our Rules of the Council. So, Members, I hope you will allow us to do that.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Go ahead, Crystal. Thank you very much for working hard on these two PowerPoint presentations that you have put together. Go ahead, Crystal.

MS. ELLERBE: Thank you very much. I'm going to share my screen. Actually, that's the wrong one. Hold on a second. So, this is an overview of the process of the appropriations and Congressionally directed spending 101. So, I want to talk about the House Appropriation Committee, their guidelines for this year. As you may recall, last year, that was the first time in over a decade that the House and Senate made the decision to bring back earmarks, but we do not call them earmarks, we call them, on the House side, Community Project Funding; and on the Senate side, Congressionally Directed Spending. So, on the House side, Members of Congress are only allowed to submit 15 requests to the House Appropriations Committee. Last year, it was ten and so they increased it by five. And so as you can see for Fiscal Year 2023, each Member of Congress is required to post every community project funding request on their official website, and this is because of transparency guidelines that the House and Senate appropriation committees agreed to, and under the House rules and the Senate rules as well. And so on the third point, they're going to provide...they provided 15 days between making a request and posting it on the individual Members' website to allow the Congressional Committee Staff to review each and every one of those requests. This is basically to...just to make sure that each of them are properly categorized as a community project funding request. And then also, a lot of this information is actually uploaded on a database, on the House Appropriations Committee internal website, so they can keep track of all of the over close to like maybe like 1,000 requests because there are 435 Members of the House. And also for this year, for Fiscal Year 2023, there were...there were guidelines for each subcommittee. And specifically, each subcommittee has jurisdiction over several...of...over programs. And I just want to make sure that everybody understands this, that the eligibility requirements for the funding is the same as competitively awarded projects through Federal grant programs. So, it's always very important, when you submit projects, that you make sure that under the eligibility for the request, that they're eligible. Just making sure that it is...everything is synced together, and then also remember, you can include a request for multiyear funding. The request is specifically for Fiscal Year 2023. And then also again, you know, want to reiterate that a lot of these community project funding requests, they require a State or local match. Some, like the Department of Transportation, they would

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do an 80/20, or sometimes they'll do a 90/10, or sometimes it's just 100 percent and the locality does not have to worry about that. But one of the things that we worked with Josiah on is ensuring that each of the projects that was submitted on behalf of the County met those requirements. And this is some of the basic project information that's required. The House Appropriations Committee Staff and the Senate Appropriations Committee Staff, they look at all of this because they want to make sure that they know the purpose of the project, what's the justification, what is the project budget, the financing, and the time of completion. Because they want to ensure that this is--I hate to say this term--shovel ready, but they want to make sure that all of this basic information is presented during the time that you submit your project requests. Now, here's the timeline. And so what we normally do each year, you have the individual Congressional offices will do their deadlines, their internal deadlines, but what is most important is the committee...the subcommittee deadlines. And this year it was April 27th through the 29th. And so we had to make sure that all of the projects were submitted by those dates. And then as you can see, again, this year, it was April 27th through the 29th, and then the Senate and the House Appropriations Committee, they reviewed those requests. And if they had any questions, they will always go back to the Member who requested the project on behalf of their constituent. And as I can tell you right now, last Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee released all 12 appropriation bills, and that included the Congressionally directed spending requests or, as you know, earmarks. So, they were all released last Thursday morning at 10:00. And right now, the House completed six appropriation bills. They're called...it's a small omnibus appropriations bill. We're waiting to see when they're going to finish the last six bills and...because they have to have those done by September 30th, which is the end of Fiscal Year 2022, and October 1st is the beginning of the new Fiscal Year 2023. And again, these are just some of the deadlines that were for the House appropriation subcommittees. Again, there are 12 individual subcommittees on the House side and on the Senate side. And again, we had to make sure that we had all our requests in by those deadlines. And this is actually very, very important. This year the House and Senate Appropriations Committee, they made the decision to provide guidance on the eligible accounts on each appropriations bill, which is very, very important. Because sometimes you don't...like, in these individual appropriation bills, not all accounts are eligible to be earmarked, and so they wanted to make sure that they provided some transparency with regards to the eligible accounts that you could actually submit a Congressionally directed spending request or a community project funding request. And this is just the deadlines that occurred for the Senate Appropriations Committee for Fiscal Year 2023. And again, this is just some guidance on the eligible agencies' accounts that you could submit your Congressionally directed spending request to. So again, this is just transparency on behalf of the Senate Appropriations Committee just to make sure that everybody is fully aware of the eligible agencies and accounts that you could submit your...your funding request. And the final slide, just want to let you know, these are the projects that were successfully included in the Senate Appropriation Committee...subcommittees this past Thursday. And Josiah will talk about overall the other...all the other projects that were submitted to the Hawai'i Congressional delegation, but we just wanted to make you aware of the fact that Senator Schatz was able to get funding in the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill for Maui's [sic] County West Maui Communications Center. And then in Homeland Security,

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Senator Hirono was successfully able to get into the bill \$1.4 million. And then I know everybody is very excited about this, it's \$11 million that Senator Schatz was able to get money for the Community Center, and this is the largest earmark for the delegation for this fiscal year. And I'll turn it back...I'll turn it over to Josiah to wrap up. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Crystal.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Crystal. And Chair Sugimura, is it okay if I proceed?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please do. Please do.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. Thank you. I...yeah, I just wanted to provide some background to the Committee on kind of how we got here. So, in order to really prioritize our projects well and have a consistent message to our Congressional delegation, and you know, Crystal really highlighted some of the constraints, time and also, you know, the request constraints. You know, we started at the beginning this year to centralize our requests and come better prepared with specifically targeted and appropriate funding proposals. So, I mean we didn't have that much time, and I just want to really applaud the herculean efforts put forth by our departments, our Staff, and our consultant in really getting these vetted, prepared, and applied for properly. As we go through this, it's important to note too that Congressional Members as, you know, Crystal kind of highlighted, have limited capacity to earmark, both in funding amounts and then the amount of requests that they're able to make. So, proposals do really need to be strategic. After reviewing our Congressional Members' priorities, discussing with their Staff, and evaluating projects that could align with appropriations bills Congress has identified as available for earmarks, as well as projects that have a greater opportunity for inclusion in there, we identified the following seven projects to apply for. And primarily this is a means to get the Committee thinking about how we can...both the Administration and Council partner together for...and we...fingers crossed, the Congressionally directed spending and community project funding requests are available next fiscal year, how we can have a unified message in, you know, what the needs of Maui County are, given the constraints that are available at the Federal level. So, through Representative Kahele we applied for \$750,000 for a new fire tanker for West Maui, which would replace the existing 12-plus-year-old apparatus that is one of the most highly used in the fleet, and because of the need due to the many brushfires and occasional structure fires that the tanker is utilized all over the island, not just in West Maui. Additionally, we applied for \$1 million for axis deer fencing to be utilized as grants to local farmers and ranchers throughout the County as a resource to plan, construct, and maintain axis deer fencing on their properties. As an update to that, I know you saw on Crystal's last slide, we did not receive any funding from Representative Kahele in his community project funding request for this upcoming fiscal year. Through Senator Hirono we applied for three projects. The first was for the improvements and renovations at the former Hawaiian Telcom building, which would establish a resilient multiagency coordination center to prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from all types of hazard events. The renovation project will provide approximately 16,000 square feet of renovated building area with electrical, technological, audio-visual, and security system...systems incorporated into the design, and provide redundant power and

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communication systems. The total project scope includes interior demolition and remediation, HVAC system replacement, ADA improvements, roof reinforcement, waterproofing, facility hardening, and renovation of the interior. We asked Senator Hirono for approximately \$5 million for this request, and as you saw in Crystal's last slide, \$1.4 million of the request made it through that appropriations bill. The second request was for our Maui Police Department to be provided with better equipment, less lethal methods, and equipment for responding to situations where deadly force would be authorized, training for dealing with high-intensity situations and de-escalation tactics, and MACTAC training for them. We asked Senator Hirono for approximately \$500,000 for this request, and this request did not make it through to the appropriations bill. The third request through Senator Hirono was for our Office of Economic Development and Department of Agriculture to administer an access to ag markets program that would support critical infrastructure needs to provide locally-grown food and accessible fresh and healthy produce, meats, and value-added products across Maui County. Funding would go to farmers markets, food hubs, and individual farmers, ranchers, and value-added producers for acquisition of equipment, machinery, processing facilities, storage and refrigeration, ag-related vehicles, technological upgrades, energy efficiency measures, training or workshops in other related areas. And we asked Senator Hirono for \$3 million for this request, and this request did not make it through to the appropriations bill. And finally, through Senator Schatz, we requested funding for two programs through his office, the first being an \$11 million request for the Hālau of 'Ōiwi Art, whose goal is to create a center for our community through the mana'o of our island's kumu and hālau hula that will advance the cultural, social, and historical impact of Native Hawaiian 'ōiwi art and practices. That full funding request did make it through to the Senate appropriations bill. The second request was for approximately \$180,000 for our radio channel expansion in West Maui to ensure continuous communications for Police, Fire, Emergency Management, and other responding agencies to perform their essential life and property-saving efforts. And that funding request did make it through in its entirety to the Senate appropriations bill. Really, from the...you know, the limited time and resources that we had available, especially considering the deadlines that Crystal outlined with the funding requests, you know, we really focused a lot of our time and energy to this point on getting those funding requests through, answering questions, obtaining additional details, and you know, similar matters. Now that the Senate Appropriations Committee has reported out on their bills, we can pour more focus into future CDS or CPF requests, as well as upcoming IIJA notice of funding opportunities that will be coming down the pipe in future years. We would love to continue having discussions with Council on future requests to our Congressional Members, you know, because it's really important that Maui County presents a united front. You know, I've attended with you folks in the past to like the NACo Legislative Conference, and I know...and you meet with the Congressional Members, and one of the main things they ask is like well, what does Maui County need, or how can we help? And so having that unified message on hey, these are the, you know, few areas that, you know, Maui County is...is needing your funding assistance through...through the earmark process would go a long way in establishing that, you know, Maui County is united on that front. You know, one of the things I can remember for the...the first NACo Legislative Conference I went to, I remember sitting in the room with one of our Congressional Members, and the other

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counties being there, and Kaua'i coming forward and, you know, they asked Kaua'i well, what's your, you know, biggest request? And they basically said yeah...like all of your requests, what are all the funding opportunities that...that you need, and really they only had one thing that they wanted, and it was to try to figure out how to play night football games.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: And...and, you know, there was a little, you know, laughing in the room and everybody kind of joked around, but the simplicity and kind of conciseness of the request, and it was really consistent across everyone that...you know, from Kaua'i that had time with the Members, I think, you know, really kind of sent a strong message that, you know, they're unified in that sense and provide, you know, greater support for, you know, future funding requests that we make. The...as I mentioned earlier, the earmark process or the CDS/CPF request process is not guaranteed to be around next year, but we are hopeful that it will, and we're completely open to ideas for new funding requests next fiscal year, assuming they meet the funding requirements and availabilities. So, with that, you know, thank you very much, Chair Sugimura. That kind of concludes our overview presentation, and we'd be more than happy to answer questions or have further discussion about this at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Josiah. So, before we take questions from the Members...so Laks, do we have any testifiers who have signed up?

MS. ABRAHAM: No, Chair. No testifiers at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I'm going to close public testimony. Is that okay, Laks, with the new Sunshine Law?

MS. ABRAHAM: For that item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, for that item. Okay. So, Members, I'm going to close public testimony, and then we'll take questions from you. So, Chair Lee? Oh, with your approval, I want to close public testimony for this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, thank you. Alice Lee, you're first. Oh, I think you're muted.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's interesting, Josiah, how you talk about how the other counties were united in their requests. The thing is, as you probably know, and it's no fault of yours, is that we didn't get any requests for input at all from...from the Administration. The only time we got a request for input was after the request for the 'Ōiwi Art program was proposed. So, how much time did you actually have to prepare your list of requests for the Administration?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Chair Lee. We basically started...Crystal might have a

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better idea, but we basically started about maybe mid to ending of January of this year kind of learning about the earmark process. You know, the County...it got kind of thrown in kind of at the last minute, I think, last fiscal year, and so, you know, there wasn't really time or coordination in that sense to be able to, you know, get requests in. We were able to secure our Federal funding consultant to help us through this process in January of this year, and then, you know, maybe about ending of January we had to really rush and get projects in to them for consideration, including meeting with Congressional Members' Staff. So, yeah, given the short time constraints, there was really no, you know, time to be able to have a lot of public discussion on, you know, what kind of projects would be best to seek Congressional directed spending for. And that's why, you know, through this fiscal year portion, we wanted to make sure that Maui County got requests in so that we could get opportunity for...for funding, and then spend the time now to, you know, line up projects that we can all be united on for the next upcoming fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I appreciate that time...you have time-sensitive issues, but Josiah, please take the message back to the Mayor that we can always call emergency meetings, Council meetings, Committee meetings, whatever meetings, at the very last minute to meet these urgent deadlines. Because we were totally excluded from the process, like totally, and...and this is not the first time. We were also excluded from the CARES funds, from all the other funds that come down the pike, and it's always the same reason, we're excluded because there's no time. Well, let's make time. Because it's important that...you know, if Kaua'i can be united on...on lights for...for sports, certainly the County of Maui can...can have that same kind of relationship with the Legislative and the Administrative branch. I...I'm not complaining about the...the...the approvals that we got, the monies that are coming down from...from the Congressional monies and...and the community funding monies, but in the future...we have two branches, and...and you need to take advantage of getting the input from...from the Council. Because oftentimes, oftentimes the Council represents more of the community than the Administration. But thank you for your report. Thank you. I appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Josiah. Thank you, Chair Lee. And I guess next I see Mike Molina with your hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good morning, Mr. Nishita. Just kind of dovetailing off of Chair Lee's comments. So, you know...you know, how will the departments be reporting the expenditures of the Federal funds to the public, as well as us, so we can be assured of transparency? And will Council be given notice of the expenditure progress? I mean what...what's your means or mechanism as to how this will be done so we're all in the light, so to speak, we all kind of know what's going on as far as how the monies are being spent?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Committee Chair Sugimura and Member Molina. Yeah, the...those are great questions. The...in terms of the Hālau of 'Ōiwi Art funding, there is a provision in the budget for a quarterly kind of report to Council. So, obviously we'll be coming every, you know, four months or something along that lines to report to Council kind of on, you know, where we are and whatnot. So, there's kind of a built-in

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mechanism in...in that piece. Of course with any, you know, like grant opportunities and whatnot, you know, we'll notify Council of the receipt of the grant of those funds. The Council has actually already vetted and approved the Hawaiian Tel renovations, so we're...we're under that right now. What this basically is going to do...and...and Council provided funding already through County funds for that project. So, what this is doing is basically supplementing that to basically save on resources that our taxpayers are paying. So, you know, instead of the \$5 million that Council approved for it, you know, if we get the 1.4, then it's only 3.6 that our...our taxpayers will have to pay for that project.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. NISHITA: And then...oh, I'm sorry, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, that's fine, Mr. Nishita. I'll just get in one quick question so my...my fellow colleagues can ask you other questions. Sorry if I missed it. How long does the County have to spend the funds before they lapse?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Committee Chair Sugimura and Member Molina. There's...so the money doesn't have to be expended within the...the fiscal year. Agencies have until the end of their fiscal year, so I think it's like September time frame or so, to kind of get the funds out through the earmark process. Some of our projects, I believe the West Maui radio expansion project, probably would conclude within that Federal fiscal year. The Hawaiian Telcom project, I believe we're looking at an end date around the ending of 2023 to beginning of 2024 or so. And then, of course, the Hālau of 'Ōiwi Art project will take probably about three to four years or so to...maybe about three years to complete, you know, given everything. So, the...you're not necessarily under that specific time constraint to expend all the funds within the end of the fiscal year. But I'll let Crystal elaborate more if she has any additional information or clarification on that.

MS. ELLERBE: Thank you, Josiah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Crystal?

MS. ELLERBE: Yes. So, what Josiah is saying, the Federal agencies, once...what they normally do is they will go on...they will publicize on grants.gov and it will say Congressionally directed spending, and it's the same as you're getting a grant, so you have to follow the rules and procedure. But the money is for Fiscal Year 2023, but once you receive...you have to receive that money within the fiscal year, and then after that, it's up to you when you...when you...when you spend the money. But the Federal Government agency has to obligate that money in Fiscal 2023.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Ellerbe. And thank you, Mr. Director. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, everybody. Anybody else has questions? Tamara? Tamara,

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and then Tasha.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Before I ask my question I just wanted to clarify. Are we only limiting the conversation to the CDS earmarks and the community projects, or anything Federal funding?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we're basically talking about earmarks, and then the next item is Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act, so I don't know what your question is, but it might fall under that...for the two items.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I guess my question was like, you know, we got the RAISE grant to start the moving of Highway 30 in...inward. Well, not us, but the State. But we have plenty road issues over here in West Maui. Like obviously Keawe Street is a big issue for people here, and you know, Hui F Road has been like long talked about. And you know, then there's the northern terminus of the bypass. And would any of those qualify for these earmark spending, or is it too specific to one district?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Committee Chair Sugimura and Member Paltin. I'm not going to get into the specifics of each of those requests because each one is like significantly different, and there's obviously longstanding issues with some of them. The...just in regards to CDS and CPF requests, generally they're looking for like a one-time infusion of...of capital to kind of, you know, get a project done or I...I forget the terminology that they use, but kind of like that last tranche of funding. So, they...you know, it definitely helps to see like County support or funding, or State support or funding available for specific projects, and then the Feds are coming in with kind of that last bit to get the project completed. You know, I think those kind of will, you know, score highly, I guess, so to say, as they're being evaluated. I'm...I'm not aware that road projects would be excluded from CDS or CPF requests, but you know, there...there are some complications with certain portions of the projects that...that you identified, including like the agency providing oversight and whatnot. And then, you know, they may ask in...in return instead to, you know, maybe seek out IIJA or...or other sources of funds for those types of programs. But I'll defer to Crystal if she has anything else to add.

MS. ELLERBE: Hi, Councilmember. Yes. With regards to Congressionally directed spending and community project funding, as Josiah said, you know, transportation projects can be submitted. And...and it...and local...and it can be local in nature because that...that's what Congress is trying to do is just bring back dollars to their districts and their states. But the one thing that I will tell you, when we do submit these requests, what the committee always likes to know if it's...if the MPO has been involved, and then also, if it's on the...on the TIP or the STIP. They want to make sure that it is included. Because I can tell you, with my other municipal clients, I had to go back and dig in and look at those lists to ensure that those projects were on the State list, and particularly if the State Department of Transportation was supportive of the project. And then also, one of the things that Josiah did very well was to get letters of support from the community. That is extremely important when you are submitting these requests because the Members of Congress and the House and Senate Appropriations

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Committee, they want to see whether there is buy-in from the constituents that will benefit from these projects.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can I do one more question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please...please do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One of my Staff went to that workshop by Iain DeJong, and it's...it's kind of I would say a similar idea to...not similar, but you know, parallel idea to the Hālau 'Ōiwi Arts, where it's like kind of like a homeless resource center kind of thing, and...and maybe that would be for our next round. Because they had...like the whole idea of it, like the first floor could be where they have, you know, all the resources and the offices for people, and then the second floor could have like laundry facilities and, you know, things for...for people who need those kind of resources. And then maybe on the top floor have like...like rooms, spaces for people, because we...we have kind of a big homeless problem. So, could that be like our next one after the Hālau of 'Ōiwi Arts, something like that? Because there was like the workshop with Thelma Kealoha, and...and so like, you know, all those guys know about that...that presentation from Mr. DeJong.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Josiah?

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank you very much, Committee Chair Sugimura and Member Paltin. Yeah, I mean we're...we're open...I mean this is the time now to kind of, you know, flesh out ideas, and if you have ideas for projects or whatnot, I think it would be helpful for us if, you know, you send those our way so that we can kind of compile a list of potential projects, go through and kind of evaluate, you know, whether it meets, you know, the...the current guidelines. Of course, they could change the guidelines next year, but if it kind of meets the current guidelines and, you know, stipulations set forth, as well we'll kind of want to try to align it to Congressional Members' priorities as well. Because if it kind of falls in line with what they're seeking to do or accomplish, you know, we can gain greater support in...in that manner as well. So yeah, any ideas or potential projects you have, please send them our way.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or even if it's already being done in...in another location. Like I think one of the Honolulu jails was issuing all the inmates IDs if they haven't already had IDs, and that helps them when they get out if they never had an ID. But it's already going on in Honolulu, but our jails don't have the capacity. I think only one jail can make the IDs. Like could that be something as well?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura and Councilmember Paltin. I think, you know, one thing is it would have to be up to the entity who administers the program, right. So, I mean I think we got to learn more about kind of what you're talking about there. It sounds like it could be into, you know, the Department of Public Safety's realm or whatnot, that maybe, you know, they should consider seeking out funding for, for that specific project. But it's stuff that we can kind of flesh out once we kind of get a list of, you know, potential projects to consider.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Tamara. Next, Tasha Kama, do you have any questions?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes. I just have just one. So, I'm...I wanted to know how...how are those...how are the projects deemed or determined that this is what we're going to ask Congress for? Like in terms of the Congressional directed spending, does Congress...I mean do our Congressional leaders have some idea about what they would want, and then they...they tell the states or the counties that this is what they're looking for, and then we just have to fit into that? Or is there some kind of a process that says okay, Federal funding is coming, what do you want to see? Let us see your priorities or what you folks want to do. How does that work?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura and Member Kama. I'll...I'll let Crystal kind of talk about at least the general nature of that, and then if we want to talk about --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. NISHITA: -- specifically for the County side, I can get into that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. ELLERBE: Hi, Councilwoman Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Hi.

MS. ELLERBE: Normally what happens when the House and Senate appropriation committees make their requests to the Members of Congress on...they're allowed to submit the Congressionally directed spending and the community project funding. Then each individual office sends out to their constituents in their districts or states to let them know that now is the time to submit. So, they're asking you to...you know, to submit your priorities. And as Josiah said, they...if it fits within the 15 requests for House Members, that is great. On the Senate side, it's a bit different. The Senate, they have more latitude in the number of requests that they can submit to the Senate Appropriations Committee. This is your opportunity to submit your priorities to the delegation. And...and again, just so that it could be vetted through Staff first to make sure that they clearly understand your priorities, and to find out whether or not that they would support it. And then also, again, having that local support, those external stakeholders that benefit from the project weighing in on your project's behalf, that does help out a great deal.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So, Ms. Ellerbe, when does this occur, at what point in time in the...in their legislature does this happen?

MS. ELLERBE: So, it starts at the beginning. So, normally the way that the appropriations process starts...so the first Monday of February, the President is supposed to submit

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his budget request to Congress. That doesn't happen most of the time, especially with a new administration. And those are the President's priorities for the fiscal year. And once that's sent up to the Hill, then the House and Senate appropriators, they start figuring out okay, we're going to figure out what is going to be the top line number for Fiscal Year '23, and then they divide it by 12. Normally that takes place in March. That's when the process starts, when the House and appropriation committees make the decision on providing the deadlines. But before that, each individual office has their own internal deadline, and that's the first deadline that we have to meet.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. ELLERBE: And that is based on the deadlines for the...each subcommittees on the House and Senate side. So, it normally starts in March. It'll start in late February or into early March, depending on when the President submits his budget request.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Last question, and I think this would probably be for you, Ms. Ellerbe. So, when...when...when Congress authorizes money for tribes, how does that come down to the states, how does that get to the tribes, including the Native Hawaiians here in Hawai'i?

MS. ELLERBE: So, it kind of depends on each program. I will tell you this, and I'll speak about this in my next presentation. Under the IIJA there are competitive grant programs that are specifically for Native American tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. There are carveouts in each different program, and also in the appropriations process as well. There is actually a guidebook that the White House put out back in May that really tells you all the programs that Native American communities can apply for.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you, Chair. Looking forward to the next discussion. I think you're muted, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks. Does anybody need a second round, or are we fine to move on to the next item, yeah? I think so. You know, I'm...I'm just thrilled to hear the results that we got because I know that...I call them earmarks still yet, but I'm glad to see it back. And we're grateful to have Senator Schatz. You can just tell...you know, he's in the Appropriations Committee, and for him to get the 11 million for the Hālau of 'Ōiwi Arts Resource Center is kind of huge, right. So, I did run into him in May, and he did say he was committed to help, and he certainly has delivered. So, my last question before we move on, so this is...this is not going to be final until when? I mean the results that were published or that you're talking about, could it change at some point, or can...do we...can we consider it pretty much what you...what you presented?

MS. ELLERBE: Well, what will happen, Chairwoman, is this. So the House completed the first part of the...of their appropriations. It was six bills. Then they had to complete the last six. I don't know when the Senate is going to take up their bills. It has to go through committee first, and then it goes to the floor where it can be further amended, and some...some Members actually do offer amendments to strip Congressionally directed spending and community project funding, but that...that normally fails. What I'm

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hoping for is when they come back in September that they will complete their business on the appropriations and have it done by October...by...before October 1st, which is the new fiscal year. So, I'm hoping that the House and Senate will complete its work on the FY'23 appropriations by September 30th. If they don't, in all likelihood, when they come back from the midterm elections, and we call that time between the...before the end of the session until the new Congress, lame duck, they could complete their work then, and then it will be final. And...and we will definitely let you know. And also, under House and Senate rules, everything has to be transparent. It is on the individual Members' websites. So, we will find out either on the websites, or we'll find out directly from each of those offices.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we don't need to lobby or do anything, we'll just wait, I guess.

MS. ELLERBE: Well, it's always nice to go back and remind them to support the projects. If there is a conference committee between the House and Senate to reconcile the differences between the bills, it's always good to do a soft touch with Staff and...and with Senators Schatz and Hirono, just letting them know that, you know, we appreciate everything that they've done for the County, and then if they could just continue to support the projects that they were able to get into the Senate appropriations bill. That is always very, very helpful.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good advice. Thank you very much. So, Members, I'm going to...this is...I'm going to close this item, and with your approval I'm going to --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- with your...yes? Yes?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Josiah has his hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Hi, Josiah. Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Oh, thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura. Just one final thing. In addition to, you know, the coordination in the specific request proposals that we apply for, it would be helpful, too, for the nine Members of the Council to have the same message amongst yourselves as well. I know we've heard from, you know, other Congressional offices that they hear different things from different members about like what, you know, funding priorities are or whatnot. And so in addition to kind of coordinating that response between the Administration and Legislative Branch as well, it would be helpful if, you know, the nine Members of the Council could be in coordination, too, as well in terms of, you know, what the priorities are. Thank you very much, Committee Chair Sugimura and Members. And please, you know, during this time, think about some projects that may be relevant or applicable in your areas or, you know, throughout the County of Maui that you can think of, and please send them our way, you know, over the next month or two as we kind of start trying to prepare for the...the next round of funding. Thank you very much.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excellent. Thank you very much, Josiah, for educating us on this, and Crystal. I think it's really important, and it's kind of exciting to see...to see this happen, right? And...and the requests that were sent in and what the results were is very exciting. So, I...I gather then you want us to be unified in terms of our messaging back to Senator Hirono and Senator Schatz in our appreciation. So, I will talk to Chair Lee about that after this meeting. So, with...with your approval, if no...if there are no objections, I'm going to defer this item to enable future Committee discussions, Members.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KTK and KRF)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, next, the one that maybe Tamara is talking about, which is IT-1(5), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. At this time, I'd like to find out if there's any testifiers for this, Laks?

MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you, Chair. No, we have no testifiers at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

IT-1(5): INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AND JOBS ACT (Rule 7(B))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I am going to, at this time, turn the floor over again to Josiah to ask him to do a presentation about this. And again, to thank him very much for the information on the earmarks, as well as now we're going to hear about the bipartisan infrastructure bill. And I think Lauren Armstrong from Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization was going to join us. Is Lauren on the call? Oh, she is.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes, good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Hi, Lauren. Thank you. So, before I turn this over to Josiah and Lauren, I just want to announce that Lauren--thank you very much for joining us--and that on...sadly, on August the 26th is her last day with us for the County, and she's moving on. But she definitely is...has left us in good hands as we find out what the next steps ahead for the MPO are, as well as what...you know, how we interface with this. And I think Josiah will explain it as we talk about this item, but the interface between the MPO and the IIJ Act and the projects that are being initiated are really important. Wait, one second. Okay. I'm going to come right back. Sorry, I'm not used to my driveway in the back, my husband's going to start his truck, so have to close the door. Sorry about that. At this time then I want to turn it over to Josiah. Thank you very much, Lauren, for joining us. And take it away. I guess we have Crystal again with a presentation.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Committee Chair Sugimura. And aloha to Members of the Infrastructure and Transportation Committee again. Just for the record, my name

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is Josiah Nishita, Deputy Managing Director of the County of Maui. And here today with me we have our...one of our Federal funding consultants, Crystal Ellerbe, as well as our departmental and agency resources, Director of Public Works Jordan Molina, Director of Transportation Marc Takamori, and Executive Director of the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization Lauren Armstrong. As Committee Chair Sugimura indicated, that is such a huge loss for us. I mean, you know, for...to see Lauren kind of move on. We're...we're, you know, excited for her future opportunities and, you know, wish her well and everything, but that is a...you know, definitely a tremendous loss for our County. You know, coordination with the MPO is extremely important with IIJA funding as we kind of go through this process here. So, I just want to publicly thank Lauren for all of her help throughout the years. She's been a great resource for all of us. And I know my limited time on the Administration, I've really appreciated working with her. So, thank you very much, Lauren. The Infrastructure and Investments Jobs Act, also known as the IIJA, was signed into law on November 15th, 2021, by President Joe Biden. It does provide baseline and additional funding for existing programs, and establishes some new programs as well over the next five years. I just really wanted to highlight for the Committee that it's important to note that it will be over five years. I have heard some kind of misunderstandings in the community about when funding might be available to receive or apply for, or that, you know, much of the funding will be flowing through the State or through existing formula programs already in place. So, you know, and they talk about the...kind of the full extent of IIJA funding. It's, you know, spread out over five years, and there's different programs and notices of funding opportunities that will be coming down in future years as well. So, you know, it's not just like one shot, you know, over the next, you know, six months or so, and then there's no opportunities. Following that, you know, there's a lot of opportunities over the next five years, and a lot of the competitive opportunities, at least, haven't even been released yet. The IIJA does focus on, you know, transportation infrastructure, broadband, cybersecurity, energy, disaster response and other areas, and Crystal will kind of go into a lot of that. You know, Council has passed legislation before that's been extremely lengthy, but really, Congress has you beat on this one. I was on a webinar with the National Conference of State Legislatures a while back, and they were discussing how long it took them to read all, you know 2,700-plus pages of the IIJA. So, needless to say, there's a significant amount of information in here to unpack this bill. And in full disclosure, I have not read all 2,700 pages of the IIJA. And it will take a lot of time to do so, and you know, we really won't be able to cover everything today. To date, only a small handful of notices of funding opportunities, and we'll maybe, you know, refer to them as NOFOs, have become available, and Federal agencies are still setting up programs, fact sheets, and you know, additional information to provide to states and local governments. You know, even with CARES Act and...and ARPA spending, they're...they're still to this day updating guidance and providing more information and whatnot, so I'm assuming the same will take place with IIJA over the...the coming years as well, especially as more and more communities have similar questions or concerns. Just in May of this year, the White House, you know, as an example of this, kind of released guidance documents for Federal agencies, covering projects under the IIJA and, you know, over time, more guidance will become available. So really, for this item today, we're just kind of trying to set the groundwork for Council for future discussions on this, kind of to establish an overview of the IIJA, what it is, what it isn't. Hopefully get

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some of those, you know, basic questions answered so that, you know, as we move forward in the future to start looking at or talking about specific projects that, you know, everyone off...is starting...starting off on the right foot. Admittedly, you know, Federal agencies...Federal agencies will continue to provide more guidance and direction over time, and as well as more and more questions arise from...from states and local municipalities. So, you know, if we're unable to address everything today, just please understand that there's a lot of different communities in the same boat, including also the Federal agencies tasked with administering these programs. They're still, you know, trying to develop their own internal guidance on how things will be run. And so the various, you know, programs and information provided will become further refined over time. Following this meeting, I really encourage you to, you know, digest the information, read up on IIJA more and, you know, compile, you know, any additional questions you may have, or that constituents have provided and, you know, you can send them our way so we can get them addressed at future meetings as well. I know, you know, through Crystal and her team, we can even try to send specific questions to Federal agencies in the event that, you know, we don't know the answer or it's not clear, and providing questions ahead of time will, you know, allow us to try to seek those answers directly from the source as well. With that, we have Crystal here with us today who will be providing an overview of the IIJA. And Committee Chair Sugimura, if it's okay, I'll turn it over to Crystal for the presentation. Thank you.

MS. ELLERBE: Good afternoon, everyone. We're going to talk about the bipartisan infrastructure law, and this is legislative analysis for counties. So, first want to talk about, as Josiah said, this is an opportunity for...over the next five years for the County of Maui to seek Federal dollars. And as Josiah said, on November 15th of last year, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law. And just so you know, there are 375 programs in this law, and 125 of those programs are new. And so that means that the Federal agencies are actually going through the implementation process through rulemaking to try and figure out how to shape these new programs. And this is actually an opportunity for the County to provide comments to those Federal agencies so you can shape the program the way that you want it to, that it'll benefit you the most. But again, this is five years. I'll just remind you of this, is...is what I'm sure every one of you on the Council is familiar with this, the highway bill. So, this is the highway bill, which is a five-year authorization, but also, in addition to that, there's infrastructure monies for broadband, for wastewater treatment facilities, and for other things that have been neglected for over the decades. So...and this bipartisan infrastructure legislation, it's \$973 billion over Fiscal Year '22 through '26. And there's additional new investments of \$550 billion. And then I just want you to make aware...make you aware of that because a lot of the money is coming from the gas and...gas tax and the diesel tax, but also, there's advanced appropriations that are included in this law as well. And actually, the White House put together a *Building a Better America*. It's a guidebook on every provision in the law. And as Josiah said, this is actually a physical copy of the law. And at some point I will dig through it and flag everything, and to make sure that I can just go back to this and use it as a guidepost, but the White House has already put together a guidebook for you and your constituents. And there's actually a database where you can just type in energy or transportation project or transit projects, and then you can find out which agency is

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providing those dollars, what is the eligibility, when...if there's cost share or match requirements, and also when the NOFO will come out. And as Josiah said earlier, the Department of Transportation has already put out the notice of funding opportunities for their programs under their jurisdiction of the law for this calendar year. And the Department of Energy has done the same thing. So, this is by the numbers. So, this is all the money that is spread out through the different Federal agencies. And as you can see, the Department of Agriculture \$4.28 billion, the Department of Commerce 48.15 billion, Department of Energy 36.45 billion, Homeland Security 3.4 billion, Department of the Interior 19.76 billion, Department of Transportation \$567.46 billion, and EPA \$60.84 billion. And this is the overall funding, so this is how the funding is distributed. And Josiah actually mentioned this at the beginning. Again, there's authorizations from the Federal highway trust fund for the highway and transit programs. And then there's authorizations of appropriations from the General Fund through the Department of the Treasury and it's subject to annual appropriations process. And then there's advanced appropriations over five years, and that's independent of the regular appropriations process. And again, here is just the...the breakout again of the dollars that are in...that are in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. And then, as you can see, the IIJA directs \$284 billion of the 550 billion in investments and to modernize our communities' roads, bridges, rail, airports, ports and waterways, electric vehicles, electric buses, and reconnecting communities. So, as you can see, for under roads and bridges, is 110 billion in the new Bridge Replacement, Rehabilitation, Preservation, Protection, and Construction Program, and that's a formula dollar program. So, this is all the money that has...that's going to come out of the IIJA. And remember, it's over five years. So, this is how counties can access the transportation funding, and as you can see, it's competitive. And remember...I know one of the Councilmembers had mentioned the RAISE grant, and that NOFO was released back on January 14th of this year, and then INFRA was...was released as well. And again, there are other Department of Transportation funding opportunities that are coming out. And then also, there's some suballocations that are based on population, and that's the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. And then again, the formula dollars for transit formulas, and those are for entitlement cities, and then the Airport Improvement Program. So, this is the new Bridge Replacement, Rehabilitation, Preservation, Protection, and Construction Program, or as it's conveniently called, the Bridge Formula Program. So, this is going to be administered by the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. And as you can see, they're going to be providing \$26.5 billion to states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico over the next five years, and then also, you can see there's a carveout of \$825 million for tribal transportation facilities. So again, there are carveouts for tribal communities. So, this is the other one that I wanted to talk about. So, this is...again, we're talking about the Bridge Formula Program that's going to help repair a lot of structurally-deficient bridges, rehabilitate them, preserve them, but this is a really good program that has been in the bipartisan infrastructure law. And counties can apply for these dollars, but also remember it's an 80/20 match, and sometimes it's just 100 percent and you don't have to provide cost share if it's 100 percent. Or again, it's...it's...it's originally 80/20, which means counties will have to come up with a 20 percent match of the...of the dollars. And again, this is just some more additional information with regards to the Bridge Formula Program. And then, as you can see, Hawai'i will be receiving \$67.8 million, but over the five years they will be

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receiving...the State will receive \$339 million. And as you can see, there are 84 bridges that are in poor condition in Hawai'i. So, here's some of the major provisions that are in the infrastructure law that you would like to...that you possibly would like to look into further. There's a new long-term surface transportation authorization. There's a set aside for all service system bridges. And then there's money for Secure Rural Schools Program for three years. And there are competitive grant opportunities that will...you know, that...that will be supplemented from appropriations for the Department of Transportation. And there was an increase in the capital private activity bonds from 15 billion to 30 billion. And then the EPA, they...under the EPA, they're authorized \$14.65 billion for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund over the next five years. And FEMA, through their Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program, the BRIC program, this has actually become a very important program for the Biden-Harris Administration because it's going to help with their climate change goals to reducing greenhouse gases. And they have actually sent out some additional information with regards to this to help out with that target. And then also, there's some...it fully funds the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation, the STORM Act, which allows state and local governments to utilize low-interest loans for pre-disaster mitigation activities. And then it creates a new population band within the Surface Transportation Block Program for communities between 50,000 and 200,000 in population to allow...to allow for more equitable distribution of funds. And so there are some new programs, it's to eliminate at-grade crossing...rail crossings. That...actually that NOFO came out early last month. Also, this is a really big issue for our country, the Buy America requirements. So, those have been expanded under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. And then the "One Federal Decision" to expedite under NEPA because this is very, very important because we know municipalities, if they have to go through the NEPA process, that actually increases the cost of the project. So now, it's codified in IIJA to make sure that it's expedited. And then there is the last one, increasing project cost thresholds for categorical exclusions, thereby making more projects eligible for streamlining. So, here's some other major provisions that were included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Unfortunately, it didn't address the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. That has always been an issue. Congress tends to kick that down the...kick it down too far, but again, as a lot of you will realize because there are alternative-fuel vehicles, and a lot of people don't need to go and...to the gas station to fill up, that reduces the Highway Trust Fund because it comes from gas taxes and diesel taxes. And then also, within IIJA, there's an authorization of 3.5 billion for Weatherization Assistance Program for Fiscal Year '22. And then it includes \$5 billion over five years for a new grant program to support activities that reduce the likelihood and consequence of impacts to the electric grid due to extreme weather, wildfire, and natural disaster. And then there's a new State and Local Cybersecurity grant program. So, here is some key IIJA notice of funding opportunities. And as you can see, this is just some of the programs that are still open for competition. The EPA Clean School Bus Program, the deadline is next week, August 9th. The Department of Commerce's NOAA Enhancing Fish Passage and Technical Assistance, that deadline is August 15th. And then the Department of Commerce's...the National Telecommunications Information Administration, enabling the Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program. That's \$980 million, and the deadline to submit applications is September 30th. And then the Department of

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Transportation's Federal Highway Administration program, Reconnecting Communities Program, has \$50 million, and the application is due October 13th. And then also, under the Reconnecting Communities Program, its Capital Construction Grants, 145 million, the deadline to apply is also October 13th. And then the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration, the Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Program, \$50 million, and that deadline is set for September 6th. So, this is what the Department of Transportation has put on its website to let everybody know, for the Calendar Year 2022, all of the NOFOs under the IIJA. And so these are the notices of funding opportunities that have already come out at the beginning from...from March 16th until last month, and then we're still waiting for the rest of those programs to be released this year. And as you can see, it's...the Rail Vehicle Replacement Program is supposed...was supposed to come out last month, it may likely come out this month. Then there's the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program. And then the Thriving Communities. Then there's...this is a specific program for tribal communities, the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Project Program. And then there's the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvement Grant Program. And then Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Program. And then there...the Federal Highway Administration programs for Federal and State partnership, national. And then the Federal-State Partnership program for the Northeast Corridor. Here are some additional key IIJA notices of funding opportunity. This is through the Department of Energy. This is the one that it's still open. There were quite a few that closed, but I wanted to make sure that you were aware of this particular NOFO that's out there and that's open. And the deadline is...is September 20th for the full application, and then the submission deadline is December 6th. And this is something that I wanted to make you aware of as well. This is key IIJA set asides for tribal communities. And again, the White House had released on their website the bipartisan infrastructure law tribal playbook. It actually tells you all the programs that a tribal community can apply for, and that can be for Native American tribes in the lower 48, it can be Native Alaskan corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations. So, this is just an overview of some of the things that are included in the IIJA. And if you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Crystal. So, Members, I'm going to ask if there are any testifiers that are waiting to testify or have questions regarding this. Laks?

MS. ABRAHAM: Chair, we have no testifiers at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, with your permission then, Members, I'm going to close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I see a thumbs up. Thank you very much. Again, this is Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, IT-1(5), and we are receiving a presentation from Josiah Nishita, as well as Crystal. Members, do any of you have questions regarding this? I think Tasha probably will, she asked it in the beginning. Member Molina, then Tamara Paltin, and then Tasha Kama. Member Molina?

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank...thank you, Madam Chair. I believe was it Member Kama that raised her hand first, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Question...you know, she had a question in the previous item, so I thought this...it --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- applies now. So, Member Kama, you want to go first regarding your...your question regarding the tribal?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. I was trying to check it out, the...the playbook. But I think...I think my question was, who actually has to apply for this? Is it the tribes themselves, or is it the County that puts in...because it's a competitive grant, right? So, who actually applies for that, and how does that process work?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Nishita?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura, and Member Kama, for the question. You know, it...I think the IIJA is so broad, so I think it kind of is depending on which specific opportunity you're talking about. But the one specific to the like "tribal organizations," you know, those specific funding that are set aside for those organizations, in most cases that I've seen, or in maybe all cases that I've seen anyway, and I can have Crystal elaborate more later if needed, but it would be like the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands or Office of Hawaiian Affairs, entities like that that would apply on behalf for those programs. And Crystal, please, you know, provide any additional information if needed.

MS. ELLERBE: Yes. Because as Josiah said, that's correct, but also like for the Native American tribes and for Alaskan corporations, I mean they could apply for it directly, but for Native Hawaiians, it's a bit...it's...it's a different process.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. So, that would mean having to go through either Office of Hawaiian Affairs or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands itself?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. For...for many of the projects that...I guess opportunity is available, I think that would be the most appropriate route. Crystal, do you mind sharing the...I don't know if it was a handout or whatnot created by Senator Schatz's Office. I think that could be of use to the Committee as well, maybe if you could share your screen on that.

MS. ELLERBE: Yes. Hold on one second. Yeah, this was something that he put out on the...the Senate Indian Affairs Committee website back in November, right before the infrastructure law was signed into law.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh. Yeah.

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MS. ELLERBE: So, let me...because it was...he put together a resource document.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so whatever those priorities are that is listed there is what the tribes can apply for; is that correct?

MS. ELLERBE: Can everybody see...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can see it.

MS. ELLERBE: Okay. So, at the beginning, Senator Schatz put together a little bit of information under IIJA and --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. ELLERBE: -- these are just some of the programs, you know, not all of them, but there are quite a few. But these are some of the things that he...he put out in his press release last year...late last year with regards to IIJA, and also some appropriation dollars as well. But again, you know, he...they can...so tribes and native-serving organizations can access more than \$11 billion to support transportation projects, energy development, broadband deployment, climate resiliency, natural resource management, environmental remediation, and water and sanitation facilities constructions. And so these are just like the major highlights that he's presenting right now, but there...there are more opportunities in the IIJA, but these are just like the major ones that he put out in this particular document.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, can we have a copy of that?

MS. ELLERBE: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. ELLERBE: You're welcome.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much, Members. Next we have Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Sorry for the delay. Just a quick couple of questions as far as the use of the funds. Can...can these funds be used to hire temporary help, especially for projects that are experimenting [sic] delays with permitting? I don't know, maybe Mr. --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nishita.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- Nishita or Ellerbe.

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MR. NISHITA: I'll defer to Crystal on that question if she has info.

MS. ELLERBE: Councilmember, I will tell you, it depends on the program that you're going after, to be perfectly honest. If you can provide like maybe a little bit more detailed information because it does depend on which program that you're applying for. Are...okay. When you talk about permitting, are you talking about a specific transportation project that's going through the need for process...permitting process?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, I was thinking more in line like, you know, Public Works projects or something that's experiencing delays where they need more...you know, to hire more help. So, just wondering if you know. Maybe I guess both, Transportation or Public Works, just...just wondering how far...you know, as far as the use of these funds can be, you know, applied towards hiring temporary help.

MS. ELLERBE: That can probably be...it would have to be included within your application for the particular program dollars. To weigh...what you have to do...you have to be really, really specific about the project, and what the timeline is, and what resources that you need. So, potentially if you do need temporary help in order to push the project forward in the timeline where you get the money obligated, then I don't think that that will be a problem. But again, it depends on...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's like if you walk out to the road to the right...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, one second. I hear voices.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Sorry. I...I...I couldn't quite hear the last part of your answer, Ms. Ellerbe, there was some conversations going in the background.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. *(audio interference)*

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- if somebody could mute please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, mute your...mute your mics.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: But anyway, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: *(audio interference)* proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair, I just got one more question for maybe Public Works, I see Mr. Molina is on the line...or Director Molina is on the line. Does Public Works anticipate contracting out a lot of the...some of these funds to local companies to help expedite any roadway improvements?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Molina?

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. For the record, Jordan Molina with the Department of Public Works. In response to Councilmember Molina's question, we are subject to State procurement rules as far as who we...or how we spend public monies. And some of those firms may be local, but it's all contingent upon the requirements of the Procurement Code.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And as far as paving companies, and I'm just using roadways as an example, we only have what, one or two paving companies locally at this point?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. So, the...we...for all our bigger pavement projects, there's essentially two companies that we award contracts to.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Anybody else have questions? Tamara Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Ellerbe. I was focusing in on the Reconnecting Rural Communities, as well as the ferry program. You know before time, we used to have the Moloka'i Princess that would bring people in between of Moloka'i and West Maui, and that's no longer an option anymore. So, they're kind of dependent on private boats, or not so guarans [sic] airlines and their whims. And I just was wondering if that would be an eligible thing if...to bring back on either of those line items or line programs?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Nishita or Crystal?

MR. NISHITA: Well, be...I guess before Crystal talks about the...the ferry program in general, I just note for Crystal that those are private enterprises running. So, there...there's other communities across the nation that, you know, might operate as the municipality or state, you know, a ferry service as part of its public transportation program. And just so Crystal knows, when...I guess addressing the kind of overview of the program, those are private ferry services that used to operate. They...you know, they weren't County managed or run.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Crystal?

MS. ELLERBE: Councilwoman, I'm going to share my screen with you. I'm going to show you what I sent to Josiah with regards to this program because it spells out eligibility and...for applicants and everything so you could get a better sense.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, we can't see it yet. Oh, now we can.

MS. ELLERBE: Okay. So, as you can see, so for eligible applicants, it's actually based on the Urbanized Area Formula Program, which means it has to come from a state or territory or a tribal government. So, if...if anyone...if any...if any of those entities have ever gotten

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any money through the FTA, and they're an urbanize area grant...the formula dollars, they're able to apply. So...but if...as Josiah just mentioned, that since this was a private entity, and this is...it wasn't, you know, public from...through the state or territory or tribal government, in all likelihood it won't...it would not be eligible to apply for those dollars. The County...the State could apply for these dollars, but they have to have had money through the Urbanized Area Formula Program in order to be eligible.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Even the Reconnecting Rural Communities needs to have --

MS. ELLERBE: No, that's...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- money? Oh.

MS. ELLERBE: Ma'am, that's separate. That's a separate program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would...would it be eligible because the rural community of West Maui and the rural community of Moloka'i are not connected at all? And that *(audio interference)*.

MS. ELLERBE: So, under...under the Reconnecting Communities pilot discretionary program, city governments are...they can...they're eligible to apply for funding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, maybe we can go that way? Because what we saw too during the pandemic was it was kind of difficult to get our workers to like fix the pump. Like we've had instances where Ocean Safety has been asked to drop off equipment with a jet ski to Moloka'i. You know, that's not really an ideal situation, but you know, in terms of making it work. The...the rural communities are not connected. And then I had...

MS. ELLERBE: That's something that you should...yeah, I mean...again, I mean that's one of the main purposes is to...connect communities that have not been connected. And just you know, there is no match or cost share under this program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Nice. And then...

MS. ELLERBE: \$195 million.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's get it.

MS. ELLERBE: *(audio interference)* and Councilwoman, just so you know, I mean we have been discussing this, but again, you know, as Josiah has said, you know, presenting, you know, what you will like to see so we can discuss about it, and then make sure that internally that you have the resources and the manpower in order to put together a successful application. And then also remember, there is technical assistance that is being provided by the Department of Transportation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had one other follow-up question on, you know, the last agenda

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item when you were talking about this agenda item, and the...the need for it to be on the STIP or whatever. I believe like Vision Zero is...is kind of a part of the STIP in the MPO policy. However, Councilmember Molina and Lee and myself trying to get pedestrian improvements is kind of difficult, and would that be eligible? Because, you know, everybody wants flashing crosswalks and things like that, but then, you know, highway funds are for like projects which obviously are needed. And I'm not sure I understand why we need to use highway funds for pedestrian improvements because it's to help the walkers who wouldn't necessarily be paying gas tax because they're walking, or a car registration. So, I'm...I'm...I'm baffled.

MS. ELLERBE: So, Councilwoman, there is actually transportation enhancement dollars through the Federal Highway Administration. And those can be used for pedestrian uses, for walkways and everything. So...I mean, so that is a set aside within one of the formula programs within the Department of Transportation that can be utilized.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is that a competitive one as well?

MS. ELLERBE: I would have to go back and check, but I know it's a subset of one of the formula dollar programs. But I think it will probably in likelihood go through the State Department of Transportation first, and then it'll be distributed to the counties. But let me...let me double check on that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is that part of the Safer Routes to School as well?

MS. ELLERBE: No, that's separate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, are you done, Tamara? You have any more questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...if we could just hear Josiah, I don't know if he wanted to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- chime in on the question that I asked.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Josiah?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. No, thank you very much, Committee Chair Sugimura, and Member Paltin. I just wanted to kind of put that...you know, give the Committee information about the Federal funding process because it...it is a pretty tedious and difficult process. I know...I know through IIJA they're trying to streamline some things and make things a little bit more seamless, but you know, we really have to...you know, given the limited personnel and resources and everything that we have, we really need to be strategic and focused in what we're applying for, and making sure that, you know, we have the highest chance of success. We can't just go, you know, chasing every little thing. The...just to give the Committee a sense, we spent probably about the past two years going after

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hazard mitigation grant money for Ukumehame area to do hazardous fuel removal and...and things of that nature in that area, and then, of course, as well as environmental protection efforts, given kind of some of the things happening on those properties. And you know, under that program, the maximum that they would award is about \$500,000, and you know, up until, you know, recently, when the State was awarded the...the RAISE grant for the realignment of the highway then, you know, we had to abandon that project given...you know, just to make sure that it coincides with the...the realignment project. But the...up until now basically, for two years, we've been spending a tremendous amount of Staff time and resources and follow up and getting data. And you know, at the end of the day, we might not...even if we were awarded those funds, which we haven't been, we wouldn't...we might not even, you know, break even on that in terms of the amount of personnel and...and resources that it took to get it. So, it's typically why the County doesn't, you know, go after like planning grant money because it takes a significant amount of time, and then the amount awarded is...is fairly insignificant in the total amount of the project. And so, you know, we really want to be strategic in what we're going after, making sure that it aligns with the resources and time we have available, and then that it'll be worth it to our community in the end so that we don't seek out a lot of, you know, small projects that we may not have much of a chance at getting, but instead focus on, you know, projects that, you know, we...we could be able to secure for...for our community. And make sure that we have the appropriate resources available to make that happen so that nothing falls through the cracks on those.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Tamara, are you...are you fine? Okay. So, I'm going to ask Chair Lee for questions. And I would like to hear from Lauren Armstrong. I notice we haven't taken a break yet. So, I'm going to take Chair Lee, and then if it's okay, ask for Lauren Armstrong to present after the break. Is that all right, or you want to just continue?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I will happily forgo my questions if we take a ten-minute break.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Let's take a...I hope you don't mind, Lauren, I'm going to take a ten-minute break. So Members, it's now 10:40, and we'll come back at 11:50 [sic]. Meeting in recess. Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:41 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:53 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome, everybody, to the Infrastructure Transportation Committee. It is now 10:53 a.m., and this meeting is called back to order. Thank you, everybody, for being here. And so what I'm going to do now is...I guess if Chair Lee had any questions, I never did get to Chair Lee. You don't...okay. Then we'll ask Lauren Armstrong for her participation, and then any of the departments. So, Lauren, thank you very much for being here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura, and Committee Members. Nice to

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be with you today. I'm Lauren Armstrong, Executive Director with the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization. And I can share a little bit of background on the coordination that's been happening between Maui MPO, the State Department of Transportation, and the County of Maui regarding some of the IIJA funding. So, as Executive Director, I attend quarterly coordination meetings that are convened by the State DOT to look at all of the funding coming down through the Federal Government for transportation in Hawai'i. We focus on surface transportation. So, as Crystal has mentioned, there is a lot of extra money coming through formula funds. These are the regular apportionments that come down to the County and State just by right. There's also a lot of competitive grants. And so these are the areas where we're looking at which projects make the most sense from...based on our community need, the technical priorities that are coming out of our agencies, and looking at the funding opportunities that are a good fit for those priority projects. So, as you know, the MPO has its Transportation Improvement Program, that goes into the Statewide STIP, and that is our publicly vetted list of projects that are eligible for Federal funding. And so looking at that list, some of the projects that match up with funding notices that have come out recently for competitive Federal grants, the Safe Streets and Roads for All program, this is money to implement a Vision Zero program which we, thanks to your...your efforts, adopted last June, the Vision Zero Maui Action Plan. And so the project that fits well with that funding is the West Maui Greenway. This is a multiuse path proposed for 25 miles of West Maui. This would provide a safe alternative for bicyclists, pedestrians, people with wheelchairs, jogging, strollers, to be separated from vehicle traffic. And so we're looking at applying for the Safe Streets and Roads for All funding to move forward with the next phases of that project for the priority segment. So, this is building off of work that's been done with the MPO to develop the West Maui Greenway master plan, and that's really helped get us to this point where we're ready to apply for some of the detailed permitting, design, and construction funds. Another opportunity that we have just been talking about, the Reconnecting Communities program, and that's to...you know, among eligible projects are those that mitigate streets that are creating barriers to connectivity. So, anything that's dividing the communities. A project that's on our Federal list that would improve safety is the Kanaloa Avenue complete streets project. That really ties in nicely to the Kaahumanu Avenue community corridor plan, just providing more ways for the community to get safely across Kanaloa Avenue, looking at reconfiguring some of the vehicle lanes to provide more space for...for bicyclists and pedestrians, and with street parking as well. So, that's an option for the County to consider applying for discretionary grants. The final piece of funding I wanted to highlight today is through the PROTECT, the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation. Now, this program has two elements, it has a formula as well as competitive program. And so we will be coordinating with the State DOT on...on these funds. A project on our Transportation Improvement Program that seems to align well with the criteria for this grant is the South Kihei Road. So, that's coming up in about five years, and because this funding can address resilience improvements, at-risk coastal infrastructure, the segment of South Kihei Road kind of up in the northern area of the community seems like a really good fit that could use some additional resilience and complete streets planning. And finally, I just wanted to note on the transportation alternative funds. So Crystal had mentioned there are some new suballocations based on our population size on Maui,

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which is between 50,000 and 200,000. One of those is the Transportation Alternative Program, and that's a formula...you know, it's a set aside from the Surface Transportation Block Grant that goes to State DOT. New this year is that Maui gets a suballocation of those Statewide funds. So, every year we have access to a certain amount, and that's specifically for bike and pedestrian improvements. So, something to consider, you know, coordinating with the County and State on the use of those funds. But other than that, I'm happy to answer...answer any questions, and thankful for the opportunity to have worked with all of you. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Lauren. So, before I turn it over to the Members, a question for you then. The Transportation Alternative Program, do you know how much Maui would get in the funding?

MS. ARMSTRONG: This year it was around 360,000 that's available to Maui and not necessarily to the other islands, but there's additional discretionary within that. So, we can apply to the State for more, but at least 360,000 is available to Maui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we still need to apply for it?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we can...and it doesn't have to have...does it happen through the MPO, or does it happen through the Department of Public Works?

MS. ARMSTRONG: *(audio interference)* would apply to the State DOT, and then once the project is awarded, then the MPO should list it on the TIP.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Very good. Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Lauren. I was wondering about the...what you were saying about Reconnecting Communities. Would it also apply for like large subdivisions, including schools that only have one way in and one way out *(audio interference)*. When the fire came right up to the entrance at Lahainaluna, if it would have been during school time, like how do you evacuate all those kids, and then all the whole subdivision? Like those kind of situations. Or because there's already one way in and one way out, is it connected?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Lauren?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Thanks for the question. I would have to do further research on the...the NOFO for that one to know if that would be eligible. The way that it's...just the summary that I've read, it's really geared toward things like removing freeways or, you know, making it safer to cross major streets. So, as far as applying to other types of projects, I would have to look into it further.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, kind of like the Pi'ilani Highway bifurcating the makai side of Kihei and then the high school, that one might qualify?

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MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes, that's something the State DOT could look at.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then what you were saying about the PROTECT grant and the South Kihei Road, and the anticipated sea level rise and resilience, would the South...North South Collector Road not be a better option to focus on if...you know, I mean 82 years, 3.2 feet of sea level rise, we're not stopping that. So, like you know, in terms of managed retreat, put the monies into the North South Collector Road because that's outside of the SLR-XA?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Lauren?

MS. ARMSTRONG: I think that's a really great consideration, and I...I have heard discussion about applying for other competitive grants for the North South Collector Road. So, that is a good...good idea.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Josiah popped up. Josiah, you have a comment?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Lauren kind of covered it, but I just wanted to note that, you know, we are considering additional competitive, you know, grant opportunities for the North South Collector Road. So, it doesn't have to be, you know, mutually exclusive. Obviously with sea level rise, you know, we...I guess all of us as a community really have some difficult conversations we're going to need to undergo to decide kind of how to deal with that as well as, you know, other coastal hazards and...and mitigating factors for that. But they don't need to be mutually exclusive in that sense. We can seek both projects through different sources of funding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I just wanted to share too, one thing that I learned at Denver was that the USDA rural grants can help pay for utilities moving. So, like Ka'opala Bay, the road fronting that falling into the ocean has the sewer and the waterline. So we could try apply for USDA rural grants to move those utilities around behind the houses. Because they said that those cover utilities, and just that portion was like 15 million for like a 200-yard stretch.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Josiah?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, I mean there's...there's definitely a lot. I think the need is greater than the...the resources that we have available. So, yeah, it's...it's going to come down to really kind of strategically, you know, identifying what we have good chances at...at getting and can dedicate the...the resources to. And additionally, there may be, you know, different agencies that will have to apply for certain things. Like we've talked about Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, or Office of Hawaiian Affairs, or maybe even State DOT that, you know, some of these programs will be flowing through. So, yeah, there's going to be kind of a multipronged effort on a lot of fronts to address a lot of different issues happening in the community. But from...from the County side, just

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given the...I mean five years does sound like a long time, but to actually get a lot of these construction projects going, it's really not that much time. And so, you know, really got to stay focused on what is, you know, on our Transportation Improvement Program, on the STIP, and then as well as what's on our six-year CIP program. Because we have the resources and personnel and whatnot, you know, already planning for and anticipating these projects coming down the pipe. And so hopefully we can switch out some of the County funds in essence for those projects for Federal dollars. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah. To be focused is what I hear you say. Thank you. Thank you very much, Josiah. Any other questions for Lauren Armstrong? So...okay, I see none. Thank you, Lauren. I know you'll still be here and...oh, Mr. Molina, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh no, my questions were going to be for maybe Director Takamori or Director --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- Nishita.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Marc, are you on the call? Oh, there he is. Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Mr. Takamori. Just a quick question, does the Department anticipate using any of these funds to buy more buses? And if so, roughly how many do you anticipate, and how soon?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mister...

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you. And good morning, Committee Chair Sugimura, and Committee Members. And thank you for your question, Member Molina. For the record, I'm Marc Takamori, Director for the County Department of Transportation. And...and that's a perfect segue, I guess, I was going to provide an update. So, just to kind of answer your questions, you know, after kind of watching this presentation, the Department would be applying for funds, but either formula and/or competitively for a few of our projects, and those projects would include purchasing new transit vehicles, in addition to applying for construction funds for a future baseyard maintenance facility for the Maui bus system, once we're able to secure land. And so I guess just to answer your questions, we would be...for our bus procurement, those would most likely fall under the FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Grant. And for the construction costs for a maintenance facility, that would...that could fall under buses and bus facilities, in addition to RAISE grant, as well as possibly applying for funds through the earmark process through our Congressional offices.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. All right. Thank you, Mr. Director. And just one quick

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last question. Have you guys considered maybe using some of these funds as it relates to implementing your long-term bus expansion plans?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Takamori?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Or would these funds even be eligible for that? I don't know. Any thoughts on that, Mr. Director?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you, Member Molina, for that question. Yes, it...it could be done a few ways. Again, we could apply for funds competitively, but the...the County does receive funds on a formula basis, so some of those funds could be applied for. We would still have to apply for the funds because we would have to let the...the Federal Government or FTA know what we plan to use the funds for. So, it could be applied for to start different pilot programs to...to test things out before we move forward with it as a full project.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Well, very good. Thank you, Mr. Director. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. At our last Council meeting, Chair Lee gave us the opportunity for the MPO to meet, and State Department of Transportation through Ed Sniffen notified us that there were \$5 million, I think, available to...to us by freeing...I don't know what the category is, maybe Lauren can explain it better, but...and Marc, but additional \$5 million that would be available to the County of Maui to use for electric buses; is that right? That is right. So, expand...

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes, that's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, but is...is this part of the IIJA, or what...is it part of this process, or was it another funding source?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. Thank you. And...and maybe Lauren Armstrong might have to jump in and...and correct me if I'm mistaken. But my understanding is that the funds were allocated from the Federal Highways Administration side. I'm not quite sure exactly where in Federal Highways those funds were sitting, but...but in order to move the funds quickly, the State decided that they would like to work with the counties to transfer funds to the...the various counties. So, City and County of Honolulu, Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i, and...transfer it to the transit side. So from Federal Highways to the Federal Transit Administration side for the transit agencies to use it for...for...for...like for Maui County, I think Kaua'i and Hawai'i County is using it for electric buses and...and charging infrastructure. But again, I'm not quite sure...I don't believe it's part of this IIJA funds. Maybe, yeah, Lauren might be able to answer that question specifically.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Lauren.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Sure, Chair. So, the funds are Federal Highway Administration Surface Transportation Block Grant for Fiscal Year '22, and the purpose of transferring to FTA, in addition to allowing for more transit improvements, was to reduce the Statewide obligation pipeline...so, just ensuring that funds are obligated to be spent so that the State DOT can request the maximum amount of August redistribution. So, these are funds nationally that are available to states that can demonstrate they're going to be able to spend it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. ARMSTRONG: So, that was the brain child of State DOT, and we all participated.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Sorry, I'm getting us off the agenda item because I thought maybe it was connected to this. But thank you, Lauren, for the explanation. Any other questions for Mr. Takamori? Seeing none. Any questions --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for any of the departments? I heard...I just heard...yes, Tamara? I'm sorry, Tasha?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, Mr. Takamori. So, you know, my question is, you know, the...the transportation funds, and I was just starting to read what's available to tribes in terms of transportation buses, in terms of bridges, and rail, and stuff like that. So, you know, as you expand--if you decide to expand your routes--and you expand, and...and I know you guys aren't going into the homestead areas, Waiehu Kou 1, 2, 3, 4, Paukukalo, Waiohuli, Keokea. So, do you folks would have plans...because we've got DOT dollars and you have tribal dollars, could you use those dollars to go into the homestead to expand your routes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Takamori?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you, Member Kama, for that question. So, with...with our route study that we...we are --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, I remember that.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- completing soon, one of the proposals --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- is to...to change that service from a...a fixed route service to a micro transit one. So, if we do a micro transit one, most likely we would have a smaller vehicle going out to service that area. So, most likely, as long as the homes are within the service area, which they would be included, the bus would be able to go into those internal

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streets where...where possible. We just have to make certain that the buses are able to access those internal streets. I know...I know that a lot of those streets in those subdivisions, either they have some thru streets, but a lot of them are dead end cul-de-sac so --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- we'll have to take a better look. But if we do have a smaller vehicle, most likely the vehicles would be able to go in and pick up at the curb or at...at maybe at the intersections within the subdivision.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, yes. Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Good answer. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, maybe we can apply for some of these funds. Anybody else have any questions for the Department? Seeing none. Thank you...thank you, Mr. Takamori. Any --

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- questions for Jordan Molina? Seeing none. Okay. So, Members, I think that we are coming to the end of this item, and I wanted to ask Mr. Nishita if he wanted to share with us any pertinent information.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura. One of the things I wanted to just kind of, in closing here as we're ending, to highlight for the Committee is, you know, a lot of the funding opportunities are kind of looking at serving disadvantaged communities, you know, and the...the White House did put together a...kind of like a rural handbook for the IJA funding. But, you know, they...they do look at serving disadvantaged communities across all 50 states. They created the climate and economic justice screening tool, and I know we're looking at kind of some other areas as well maybe that will help us identify what would be Federally classified as like disadvantaged areas. But I...I did want to share that tool briefly with you folks. I'll share my screen now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. NISHITA: I think it'll be a little, maybe in some senses, surprising to the Committee of the...what is classified. Are you able to see my screen?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, can see it.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. So, this is the climate and economic justice screening tool. It's a map used to see communities that are identified as disadvantaged, and it uses a lot of Federally and publicly available datasets. For...in the State of Hawai'i, I guess the

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County of Maui, there's only a couple of areas that are actually identified currently as disadvantaged. And there's, you know, updates that the Federal Government will make along the way and whatnot. But the kind of primary areas identified is the West End of Moloka'i. It doesn't include Kaunakakai, which could be important for...you know, Councilmember Paltin was previously talking about the ferry and connecting services and whatnot. Kaunakakai area is actually not identified as a disadvantaged area. All of Lāna'i is identified as a disadvantaged area, although obviously, we know kind of the land ownership structure there, and then kind of how that can complicate things a little bit as we look for, you know, future projects. And then Maui, there's only two areas currently identified, it's actually a small portion in Wailuku near Īao River area, and then in Kahului, kind of surrounding the Kahului Community Center park area. So, you know, as...as these tools and information become updated, I think, you know, it'll be really important for us in our application for Federal opportunities. But wanted to make sure the Committee knew kind of the datasets that are available now that, you know, the White House and...and Federal agencies are kind of looking at as...as we look at these disadvantaged areas.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, are you saying then that if we apply for certain grants, there is then more advantage to apply in these areas or...or...

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, and...yeah, and I'll...I'll open up too, to Crystal, if she has, you know, further clarification or information on this. But the...there are some competitive grant opportunities that look specifically to kind of prioritize disadvantaged areas. And then there are some opportunities that look to provide, you know, prioritization on technical assistance and other support to disadvantaged areas. So, it kind of really depends a lot on the opportunity that's available, but they will look at, you know, some of those things. Additionally, recently for some of the Federal funding opportunities, they've kind of announced that they're also looking at kind of the application to, you know, affordable or workforce housing, and how the Federal dollars can be utilized to also kind of maximize those efforts. So, you know, we...we kind of take a look at everything holistically in terms of determining kind of the right opportunities to, you know, seek after.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much for that additional information. Chair Lee, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you for your presentation, Josiah. When can we begin to start working with the Administration on identifying and prioritizing? And...because it appears that some of these grants are so complicated that we need...we need more experts working on them, not only to...to track them, but to then apply for...for the grants. So...and this...this will have to be a joint effort. And knowing that how these things come down quickly, I'm suggesting to you that you ask the Mayor, so let's start working together now so that we have a lot of lead time. Because there's nine of us, of course there's going to be competition for...for which areas we want to apply for, but there's some of us, and I'll say it, at least half of us are more broad minded...in other words, we realize certain areas of Maui really need the help. And because...let's say for South Maui, North Kihei Road, it floods a lot, yeah, it floods a lot, it...it impedes

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transportation, and...and luckily for other areas, we don't get the volume of traffic, yeah, as North Kihei Road or South Kihei Road or even West Maui. So, that's the reason why I think we need a lot of lead time to work out, okay, what are the priorities, what do we need to achieve. Because just...just identifying priorities is not enough. We need the resources to...to quickly respond because I'm sure that that's a factor. You know, when...when...when the grant approvers see the County of Maui is not only organized, but it's ready to go, shovel ready and technically, that should raise our points very high. And that's what we want, you know, in the long run. So, I...I realize that you folks get late notices, but...but in the long run, you...you do expect the late notices, and maybe working closer with the Congressional offices we can get a little bit more a heads up in the future. But...but thank you for your efforts because we really appreciate what you do. Thank you.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. You know...and before Josiah makes a comment, I just want to say that that's where the MPO Office, which has projects that have been prioritized for these funds to come through, that's how the communication links with the actual funding that comes...comes to us. So...but Josiah, you can...you can comment on that.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, just kind of building off of what you mentioned, Chair Sugimura, is...one of the reasons why I mentioned, other than she's just such a great person and, you know, wonderful to be around, why you know, Lauren leaving is going to be a huge loss to us. But yeah, the MPO is a...a critical component of this. The...the way that we're kind of, you know, looking at this process and, you know, obviously open to further discussion and, you know, the...the Council providing further feedback and whatnot, but the...you know, as outlined earlier, the...the Transportation Improvement Program, the STIP, and then our six-year capital improvement program all are publicly vetted. There's different agencies, organizations, and it's all available, you know, that...that review these and vet these, including the Council. For...for example, like the six-year CIP program you guys just included in the budget this past year. So, you know, those are kind of the major areas that we're looking at since it has gone through public review, and either Council or State agency determination that this, you know, will be kind of either a priority level or future projects that we're going to undergo in the coming years. So, in terms of kind of like what we're first, you know, focusing on, I think that's kind of where the...the main focus needs to be. And then, you know, any additional considerations or whatever I think, you know, we'll continue to have through, you know, future discussions. And of course, at any time, feel free to...to reach out to us as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Tasha, you have a question?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, thank you. So, you know, Josiah, the map that you had showed us with...with the low income for the Island of Maui. So, there were...there was two areas you showed us. So, is that map available to us? Can you send it to us? And can you reiterate again what those areas were on Maui?

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MR. NISHITA: Yeah, I'll...I'll send it to maybe the Committee Staff or whatnot, and then they can make it available through Granicus and to the Members. The two areas that's kind of by like Imi Kala Street area up through around...you know, towards kind of the top of Bailey House Museum side. And then the second area kind of runs along...and...and surprisingly I'm not sure how they determined this, but it includes Kaahumanu Shopping Center. Maybe that...I mean they did announce, I guess, bankruptcy proceedings or whatnot, so maybe they are a disadvantaged area. But it includes the Kahului Community Center park area, you know, where Hale Mahaolu is located, Hale Makua facilities, and then some of the surrounding neighborhoods in that area.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else have any questions...any other questions? Ms. Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I have a question...a comment for you, Chair. You know, regardless of the fact that there may be notices from time to time spread out all over the place, for Public Works, for DEM, for any other major department having to do with infrastructure, we need a cohesive plan. We can't be looking at everything in an isolated way. We need, as a Council, a cohesive plan. In other words, the...the certain grants that are from the...the Federal Government where we contribute 20 percent should be, let's say, an example...a priority for the...the larger...the larger projects on Maui. The smaller projects on Maui, we can use our own funds, yeah, our own bond funds, our own cash funds, or whatever funds for those. But once we start mixing them all up, the little projects with the big projects, we're going to end up with nothing because we're not going to have consensus. But once we reach consensus, if we reach consensus, okay, all these big projects, we're going to set aside for X, Y, Z. And for the other projects in East Maui, West...you know, Central Maui, whatever, we could use other funding. But we...we...somehow, some way, we're going to have to reach consensus. Of course that's your job, being Chair of the Infrastructure Committee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This is perfect, okay. So, this is perfect, and I see Tamara has her hand up. And Josiah, if you could come back on because this is exactly what is...we were thinking about for the next meeting, the next IT meeting, which is going to be August the 15th, not...not January...yeah, August the 15th...so to look at this more in detail. But Josiah brought up the CIP, which we approved in the budget, as well as what's happening with the MPO. So, Josiah, for the next meeting, you think we can look at this and bring in all the different elements so that the Committee can see where we're going?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura. I think what...well, one of the considerations, I think, just for our availability is...I...I got to check our schedule on...we have our bond sale coming up around that time period, so I just need to make sure that we're available. But assuming that, you know, we can coordinate this for the August 15th meeting, then, you know, we can look at some of the specific projects that at least the notices of funding opportunities have already been made available. And Lauren highlighted, you know, most of those already. And then we can talk kind of more

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specifically about those projects. You know, as I mentioned, the...you know, the items that are on the TIP, STIP, and the six-year CIP plan, you know, we're going to assume that those are, you know, supported since it's been passed by the...the Council at least, you know, six-year CIP plan, and then vetted by Maui MPO and other State agencies. So, we're going to definitely focus our attention and...and detail on those projects since, you know, they've already gone a significant amount of review and vetting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Excellent. It...it's...please...we will send you a request, but please check your availability for August 15th for Josiah, of course the bond counsel or it...it's super important. So, Members, at this time I'm going to defer this item. I'm...I'm taking all of your comments and considerations to develop...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Tamara has a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Sorry, Tamara. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, thanks, Chair. I just wanted to clarify with Mr. Nishita, I heard what he said, and about the focusing it in, and it makes a lot of sense to pull from our six-year CIP and the TIP and the STIP and all of that because it's been vetted and we're going to do it one way or the other, so might as well go after Federal funds. I just wanted to clarify then if...if...I mean that sounds very logical and everything. I just wanted to clarify what the other part, where he said like work together, is that what we're working together? Like we're not looking at...like to focus, we're not just going to pull out Hui F Road or Keawe Street or...or things like that, we want to look at the TIP, the STIP, and the CIP only, or what did he mean in the first part? Because I was like Moloka'i Princess, North South Collector Road, and all these other things, so I just wanted to make sure I'm not spinning my wheels in the wrong direction.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, North South Collector Road, Tamara, is definitely on the MPO, right, is...is one of the projects that I...I wanted to talk about at the next meeting. But go ahead, Josiah. Tamara's question.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura. Yeah, I mean, you know, as we kind of outlined throughout this, you know, there's...there is going to be a significant amount of limited, you know, personnel and resources to go after this stuff. So, you know, we're...we're going to have to be really judicious and strategic in what we're pursuing. You know, if we're...we're just doing, you know, shotguns, applications kind of into the dark and just hoping that something sticks, you know, it's not going to be successful. So, you know, as kind of Council Chair Lee, you know, brought up, kind of understanding the different projects at play, the...the, you know, understanding of the timeline of capital improvement projects, especially, you know, large undertakings, that five years is really, you know, not a significant amount of time. So, we need to look at stuff that kind of has already been kind of going through, you know, either the community process, or Council review, or things of that nature so that if we have to start from ground zero on something, especially considering the size of the potential project, you know, it then...it just...given the time constraints, it might not be able to...to happen, given all of the different, you know, personnel and agencies and community

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outreach and whatnot that would have to be done for those things. So...so, yeah, I think, you know, any ideas that you guys have, I think, are...are welcome and we can evaluate whether those are going to be feasible, just kind of given the constraints that we have. But for the most part, we do want to keep everyone focused kind of on those things that have already been vetted and reviewed, and that we have a high likelihood of...of receiving funding for.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then...so my follow up in...in...along the lines of what Member Lee was talking about. Like for example, the West Maui communications, I think the 180,000 from Senator Hirono, or the MEMA Emergency Operations Center, I think, was like 1.4 million or something along those lines. If we've already budgeted for that, then those monies that we appropriated, if it was bond funded, then we just don't apply for the bond? If it was general funded, it goes back into the General Fund? Or even like the...the 10 million appropriation for *The Maui News*, how do we and the public get an accounting of those monies that were appropriated for things that weren't needed to be expended? Like is there a list of...I know there's like the lapsed bond situation and like that, but can you help us to point the public in the direction of where to find that accounting? Like say the close of the...the last fiscal year, there were a lot that wasn't spent or encumbered. And is there like a newsletter or...or an accounting of what...what was and wasn't encumbered, and where it would go to, or if it would just, you know, evaporate because it wasn't real money, and it was like a credit authorization through a bond or something? Is there a comprehensive place to look that stuff up?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Committee Chair Sugimura, and Member Paltin. Yeah, so there's a...you know, a few different areas. I guess first, kind of getting back to, I guess, what happens with the funding was kind of one of the original premises of the question. So, those that are, you know, authorized by the Council for...like, for example, general obligation bond funding, that we either...you know, let's say, it comes in cheaper than expected, or we receive Federal funds to cover like a portion of the project, or...or things of that nature then, you know, we just...that wouldn't be included in, you know, the general obligation bond float that we would do, or would be included in, you know, lapsed bond proceeds that the Council would consider, you know, at a future fiscal year where, you know, you reappropriate that money to other, you know, capital improvement projects. In terms of like the general funds, you know, that would turn into essentially Carryover/Savings that, you know, would either come before you in terms of budget amendments, or would be included in the next fiscal year's bill, an accounting of all the Carryover/Savings that was incorporated, you know, through the...I guess, not full expenditure of that which was, you know, allocated and appropriated. In...in terms of like for CIP projects, I mean we have...I think it's quarterly to the Council, the CIP, you know, status report essentially, so you can see kind of where projects are, where they're going, and then, you know, kind of what's happening with that. Of course, you know, we'd always be open to questions on specific things. I know some of the Councilmembers from time to time in their committees will pull out specific projects to kind of get more detailed information about those areas. So, I hope that kind of helps answer some of those questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, just to follow up on the Carryover/Savings portion of it, it's

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not like an itemized account of what gets carried over from fiscal year to another, it's just a lump sum and...and we're left to figure it out or not?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura. I guess is the question like the Council wants a breakdown of the Carryover funding...Carryover/Savings, and how that...the makeup of, you know, whatever X amount of dollars is? Is that what you're kind of asking?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean kind of, because like how do we know what gets done and what doesn't get done? Like, you know, in 2019, I appropriated 500 grand for the cleanup of the Ukumehame Mile Marker 14 area. I...I know it hasn't been done, I don't know if that 500 grand went back into the General Fund, or what happened to it, or if it's still planned. I didn't know that *The Maui News* purchase fell through until I asked during budget, like where is that CIP? It was in last year's CIP, and now it's not in this year's CIP. Like do we need to individually ask on every single thing like to track if it happened, or didn't, or what happened to the money if we don't see it happening?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You know...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or is there just like a list where we could go and see, like this was what was approved from Fiscal Year '19, and all of these things weren't spent as it was in the budget, or as you saw in a budget amendment, and so they didn't move forward. Or...or I mean, it's not only my personal funded things that I'm...like I mean if somebody asks me what happened to this, and I'm like oh, well, we funded it, and then they're like well, it never happened, and I was like oh, shoot, I didn't know, you know?

MR. NISHITA: Okay. And so, Committee Chair Sugimura, if I...if I may, I'll just note we're probably kind of getting out of the realm --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- of the IIJA funding and whatnot, but I think this is a great discussion maybe we could have at a future Committee meeting and have, you know, our Department of Finance and maybe Budget --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Michele.

MR. NISHITA: -- Director and other resources available so we can kind of, you know, discuss what would be most helpful to Council --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- in, you know, reviewing these funding expenditures and future appropriations. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Perfect. I was...I was going to say that. Yeah, we can invite Michele and Scott Teruya to a future meeting just to kind of give us then the over...overview of where

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we are in all of this. So, great discussion. Anybody have any more questions for anyone? Okay. Seeing none. So, I'm going to defer this item with your approval, and then I'm going to try to bring it back at the next IT meeting, which is on August the 15th, just to look at more details of this discussion and where we're going and what projects. I would like to talk to Chair Lee based upon this about doing a resolution or something so that we can send a joint voice to our Congressional team, Senator Hirono and Senator Schatz and who else we need to include, I'll get that from Josiah, just to get a unified voice from the Council of our appreciation for the appropriations that were mentioned from the...from the earmarks. Is that all right? No comment? Okay. So, I'll explore that. Okay. So, at this time, Members, I'm going to defer this item, and we'll bring it back again, including the information or the questions that you had. So, at this time I'm going to defer Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, IT-1(5), and we can bring it up again at a...at another meeting.

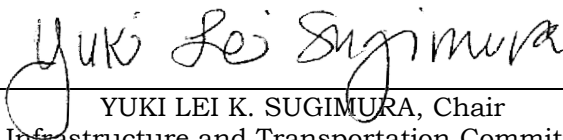
COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KTK and KRF)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And thank you very much. At this time, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everybody. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 11:42 a.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Infrastructure and Transportation Committee

it:min:220801:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 44 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 2nd day of September 2022, in Kula, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel Schoenbeck", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Schoenbeck