



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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June 16, 2017

**Memorandum**

To: Ms. Heather Murakami and Ms. Donna Chun

Fr: Councilmember Brandon Elefante 

Re: Travel Report for the 2017 NACDD Walkability Action Institute Step It Up Conference

Attached you will find my travel report for the 2017 NACDD Walkability Action Institute Step It Up Conference from April 3 to 6, 2017.

Thank you.

**2017 NACDD Walkability Action Institute Step It Up! Conference**

**April 3 – 6, 2017**

**Decatur Marriott and Conference Center, Decatur, GA, 130 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur,  
GA 30030**

**Report By: Brandon Elefante, Honolulu City Councilmember District 8**

**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this conference is to establish an action plan to pursue large-scale policy, system, or environmental changes in our respective communities. The conference offered training lectures from course faculty with expertise on ways to enhance walkability in communities from a health or transportation engineering perspective. The conference is formatted in a team oriented environment. The O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is one of 10 counties that was selected to participate in this year's conference. Each team consisted of an elected official from the city and/or county government, a member of the MPO, an engineer, a health official, and a community agency/community advocate. Our team comprised of six individuals from these various professions and I served as the representative as the elected official to our team.

This year's conference was held in Decatur, Georgia at Decatur Marriott and Conference Center. Majority of the conference sessions were held at this location and also walking tours/audits were conducted in Decatur and in the City of Atlanta from April 3 to 6, 2017.

I hope this information will provide you with a better understanding of national and international trends relating to best practices with emerging walkability trends and better ways to enhance better and safer environments for all modes of transportation.

**Sunday, April 2, 2017**

***Arrival Day in Decatur, GA***

I arrived in Decatur, GA which is approximately 30 minutes north of the City of Atlanta via their metro public transportation system.

**Monday, April 3, 2017**

***Welcome/Introductions and Why Are We Here?***

***5PM to 7PM***

The course faculty welcome all the teams from across the country and explained why we are here. Opening remarks by: NACDD's CEO John Robitscher, Walkability Project Lead: Karma Harris, other faculty also included: Jackie Epping and Dr. Ruth Petersen and Lead Course Director Mark Fenton. The opening session covered introductions from all team members as well as the historical background on why this Action Institute was established. Furthermore, Mr. Fenton reviewed the course agenda for the four days in Decatur and the overall goals.

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

***8:45AM to 9:30AM***

***Welcome/Role of MPOs in Mobilizing Community Health and Design***

***Ms. Leslie Meehan***

How do we build on the steps we have for more involvement with our pedestrian needs?

Ms. Leslie Meehan, Tennessee Department of Health

- ½ of all adults have at least one chronic condition
  - Including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity
  - Money spent on the following conditions/issues
    - \$245B – diabetes
    - \$147B – obesity
    - \$94.7B – transportation
  - Vehicle miles traveled in the United States (U.S.) is a direct correlation to the adult obesity since the 1960s
- Policy: Public Opinion Survey questions
  - What's most important for you?
  - What do you value the most?
  - Improve and have mass transit
  - Walkable and bike friendly area
  - Build new or widen existing roadways
  - Community thinking about how transportation impacts them
- Health priority areas
  - Strong correlation between lack of physical activity and chronic diseases
  - Low income
  - Minorities
  - Older adults (over 65 years old)
- Evaluation Tools

- Bike and pedestrian priorities
- MPOs Health Investment Strategies
  - Prioritization on Complete Streets (CS)
    - 70% Roadway projects that improve health
    - 15% active transportation program
  - Increase efforts and focus on CS, sidewalks, bikeways, and greenways
- Household travel survey every 10 years
  - Focus on transportation and health
  - 11,000 participants
  - Six questions
    - Height
    - Weight
    - Physical activity
    - Time spent sitting
    - Diet
    - Overall quality of health
  - Integrated transport and health impact model
  - Average time of walking and biking in Nashville, TN is three minutes
  - Savings of \$116M per year in healthcare costs
  - Tennessee's Big Four

Physical Activity	Excessive Caloric Intake
Tobacco and Nicotine Addiction	Substance Abuse Use Disorders

- Pitch to governor of Tennessee during budget hearings in March 2017 is that the state spent \$75M over the last three years treating diabetes
  - One chronic disease
  - Physical activity improves health
    - Loan money to folks to pay them to be involved in the policy making (school boards)
      - 3,000 employees
      - 2,800+ initiatives
      - Examples:
        - Built environment
          - Parks
          - Greenways
          - Sidewalks
          - Bike lanes
          - Playgrounds
          - Walking tracks
          - Walking school buses
          - Run clubs
    - Prescription for Park recreation by a doctor to a patient to:
      - Encourage walking
      - Rewards → free hikes with a park ranger

- Rural access to healthy active built environments
  - Competitive grants
  - Healthy coordinators
    - One in each county
    - Seven total in the MPO
    - [www.tn.gov/healthyplaces](http://www.tn.gov/healthyplaces)

**9:30AM to 10:15AM**

**Mr. Ian Lockwood**

***History of Transportation Planning and How to Change it Going Forward***



Downtown Oakland transformation (insert photo)

- Interstate 980
- Divided communities

The purpose of cities is to bring people together.

- Modernist ideas
  - Reward longer trips
  - Automobile focus
  - Speed is important
  - Congestion is bad
- Chattanooga, TN
  - A former highway existed near its waterfront area
  - Created a destination
- San Francisco, CA
  - Embarcadero area near Ferry building change land uses
    - Traffic evaporation

- Get over car-first mentality
- CS that comfortably support all users
- Measures of effectiveness
  - Slower and safer streets
  - Capacity of streets
  - Nurture businesses
  - Design curbless streets for drainage issues
  - Guide areas on the ground → wayfinding
- West Palm Beach, FL
  - Elected a new mayor
    - A valuable city
      - Contract was not to displace people
      - \$7,000 in city reserves
      - Make streets walkable
      - Did not widen streets
      - Put in CS elements in the community
      - Several billions of dollars in reinvestment
      - Prostitution and drug use were very high
      - Collaborated with local banks
      - Renters in the city became homeowners
      - Equitable renaissance
      - Low income people were part of the solution
      - Curbless streets
        - Festivals, markets, parades, etc.
        - Community had a want for flexibility with street areas

**10:45AM to 11:30AM**

**Mr. Charles Brown**

***Creating Walkable Communities for EVERYONE***

- People, Place, Power, Perspective, and Perseverance
- Mr. Brown began with an exercise:
  - Asked everyone to close their eyes
  - He asked a series of questions:
    - “Do we see certain people in our communities?”
      - Examples: Women, ADA, seniors, children, Christian, Muslims, Jews, LGBT, etc.
    - People are the most important
    - Black (African American communities were destroyed by freeways in certain cities)
  - Exercise concluded
- Have city pay people to attend meetings instead of consultants giving the answers
  - Pay for the food at the meeting and childcare services
- Communities with trees are in a higher income communities
- Continue to advocate for Complete Streets
- Think strategically with how we put information out there

- Barriers to walkable communities:
  - Crimes
  - Crime prevention through environment design
    - Example: Decrease of 60% on a block due to a street design
- New Brunswick, NJ
  - Cyclovia program
    - Open streets
- Reach consensus first and then move forward
- Know your “why?”
- Mr. Brown showed a photo of his mother and nephew who both suffered from chronic diseases in Mississippi.

***Ms. Amy Rauworth, Director of Policy and Public Affairs at Lakeshore Foundation***

- Breaking down silos
- Vulnerable populations (keep in mind)
  - Health should be a part of the conversation
  - Disability impacts all of us
  - People in the U.S. live with a disability
  - Involve the ADA community in every step of the process
  - Must change our viewpoint on disability for people with disabilities to have a chance on improving their health
  - Legislation is the only as good as it is enforced
  - Walkability measures a community
  - Universal design is important and for everyone
- Break out into team discussion
  - Conversation was with our Hawai'i Team
    - We discussed that there may be constraints with paying people to attend meetings
    - Important to go out to the community and find champions in the community

2017 NACDD Walkability Action Institute Step it Up! Decatur, GA

April 3 – 6, 2017

Trip Report by: Brandon Elefante, Honolulu City Councilmember, District 8

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**1:30PM to 3:30PM**

**Activity: Walk Audit**

The Walk Audit was with a mixed team and the goal was to analyze and make suggestions around the Decatur area.

Our walk audit facilitator was Mr. Hugh Morris, manager of the Smart Growth Program from the National Association of REALTORS.



**3:30PM to 3:45PM**

**Wrap-Up and Homework and Concluding Remarks for Day Two**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017**

**8:30AM to 9:00AM**

**Group Discussion of Walkability Integration Grid Homework and Potential Activities**

**Mr. Mark Fenton**

- How can we engage people?
  - Go to them and meet at their locations
    - Social media, videos, etc.
    - Provide alternatives
    - Be specific on the process for public meetings
- Zip code means more than your genetic code
- Have conversations with elected officials about issues for legislation (i.e., Complete Streets)
- Peer to peer support from other counties
- Community education
- Utilize connections with people

**9:30AM to 10:15AM**

**Getting the Private Sector on Board**

**Mr. Hugh Morris, Manager Smart Growth Program, National Association of REALTORS**

- 50 State Associations
- 1,200 local associations
- 1,250,000 members
- Smart Growth Program
  - Grants
  - On Common Ground Magazine
  - 800 members on the board of directors
- All generations prefer walking
- ¾ of Americans indicate that neighborhoods are more important than size of home in deciding where to live
- Millennials and Baby Boomers prefer smaller yards in walkable neighborhoods
- People with places to walk to are most satisfied with community
- Walkscore.com sold to Redfin
  - Realtors are also using this in their pitch to sell homes
- What makes a community walkable?
  - Short blocks
  - Narrow intersections
- Transforming neighborhoods → some barriers can be zoning laws
- Suburbs are made for walking
- Investing in public realm → inducing private sector realm
- Linear parks
- Walkability and affordability
  - Involve realtors
  - They can be advocates
    - Connection to development community
  - People's need for affordable housing for more housing
  - Bus may not induce private investments along those lines
  - Research around less parking and no parking for development around rail station
    - Urban Land Institute

**10:15AM to 10:45AM**

**Team Work (O'ahu MPO)**

- Do you have private development stakeholders you can reach out to? Do you have a plan for reaching and engaging the buy-in of the private community, particularly around issues of gentrification, affordable housing integration, etc.?
- Our team discussed about collaboration and current issues in Honolulu. In addition, we prepared for the next session on table topics so that each member of our six person team attended a different session from another team member to maximize our learning.

**10:45AM to 12 Noon**

**Rotating Resource Tables**

***I attended the following table topic resources***

**Taking a Walk on the Private Side with Development and Real Estate, Mr. Hugh Morris**

- Five people were in our session
- Easier to build on a greenfield than an infill
- National Realtors Association does not like the “stick” method for inclusionary zoning
- Does not like the allocation of “x” units for affordability
- Parking spaces separate from units
- Discount parking if one lives in the Downtown area
- Community Land Trust → creation for affordable housing
- No perfect solution for affordable housing
- Taking parking and land out of the equation will assist with cost reduction

**Retrofitting Sprawl Development and Neighborhoods towards Active Transportation, Ms. Leslie Meehan**

- Opportunity to look at the land use policy
- Chicago sprawl → In the metro area (incentives and disincentives)
- Session began with me sharing about sprawl and challenges with addressing the issue
- Federal programs re: flooding for redevelopment (i.e, Iowa)
- Nashville, TN → looked at greenway areas to improve
- Messaging has to be appropriate and sensitive
- Form based coding
- Those who show up at town hall meetings on new proposals and developments tend to have an interest, concerns, or are opposed and may not be a true representation of the community wants
- Creating safe spaces for key stakeholders
- Bi-monthly call with various stakeholders
  - In Tennessee this occurs with: Transportation department, Health department, Parks department, YMCA, and over 100 people
  - Transportation department sends out their spring road repaving and asks for comments and priorities
- Federal safety dollars are heavily underutilized
  - Highway safety

**Changing Your Transportation Planning Paradigm, Mr. Ian Lockwood**

- Mr. Lockwood shared transformational photos of communities he assisted with to change the landscape to improve the area with better visibility and for communities to be more walkable

**1:30PM to 2PM**

***The Three P's – A Simple Man's Ecology Model!***

**Mr. Mark Fenton**

- Pop up opportunities
  - Reverse diagonal parking
  - Better blocks
  - Walkyourcity.org

***Group Session on Goal and Barriers to It  
O'ahu MPO Team***

- 1) Complete Pedestrian Master Plan
- 2) Barriers: Cost + matching sources and political will

***Thursday, April 6, 2017***

***8:45AM to 10:00AM***

***How to Make Walkability Truly Matter to Municipalities***

***Panel Discussion***

- 1) Traffic safety
- 2) Public health
- 3) Social justice
- 4) Cost of roads and highways
- 5) Economic development
- Goal is to reduce vehicle miles traveled per person
- Peggy Merriss, City Manager of Decatur, GA
  - 24 years in her position
  - Population of Decatur in the past was 16 people to now 22,000
  - Walkability as an economic tool
  - 1982 Town Center Plan
    - Connect residential to downtown area
    - Today in phase five of that plan
- Private development had to improve areas
- Engineering intern one summer did an inventory of sidewalks
- Bond referendum passed in the city before the recession
  - Had a plan
- Community pedestrian plan
- Health impact with transportation plan
- Level of service for pedestrians and cyclists
- Rebranded → Recreation department to active living
- Looking at integrating all modes of transportation
- Water hose solution
  - Too expensive to design and build
    - People got together and bought a water hose and sprinkler and made a water park
    - Invest in planning portion

- Be willing to divide project into portions

Input from other panelists

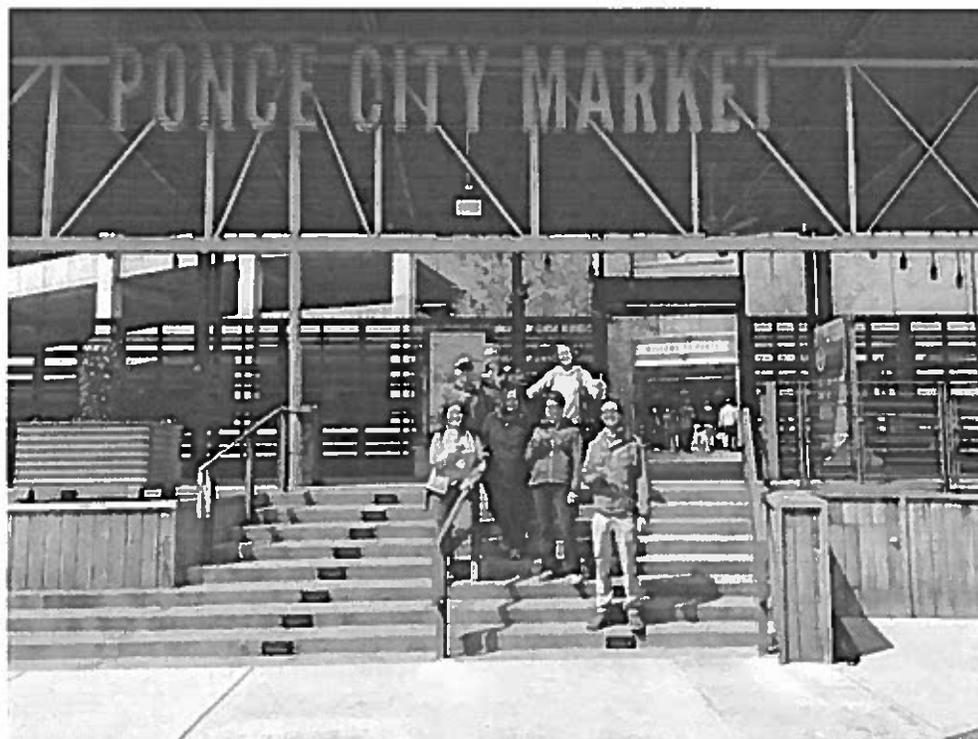
- Have enthusiasm
- One person had a vision for a trail around Carrollton for 18.2 miles
- Partners
- Faith based coalition
- Work with people
- Safe routes to school from seven to 200 people
- Added 50 bikes and 10 stations
  - 1,500 members
- New Jersey averages 150 pedestrian fatalities a year
- Collaboration
- Biennial Complete Streets Summit
  - Excellence awards
  - 300 people annual attend
  - Engage advocates
  - Regional Complete Streets Training (Four years)
  - Pedestrian and bike safety enforcement workshops
    - Put law enforcement on the roads
    - Mentoring the youth
- Celebrate small victories
  - How did you successfully integrate MARTA rail stations into a walkable community?
    - MARTA stations were here back in the 1970s, however, there were surface parking lots
    - Everything changed from surface to mixed use
    - Decatur has three rail stations

**Thursday, April 6, 2017**

**10:30AM to 1:45PM**

***Beltline Scavenger Hunt Activity***

The idea of the Beltline started from a thesis paper from a graduate student at Georgia Tech University. Our O'ahu MPO team did this exercise and we were given a list of items to find in the neighborhood during our scavenger hunt (i.e., wayfinding signs, bike lanes, signatures from bus operators, etc.). Our team found the most items and took first place out of all the teams. 138 points out of 150 total.



**1:45PM to 3PM**

***Closing Remarks and End of Conference***

- Mark Fenton, Jackie Epping, and Karma Harris concluded the Walkability Action Institute with closing remarks and thank you comments! In addition, they shared information about follow up coursework and action steps for our team.
- In conclusion, this was an excellent conference that brought our Honolulu team from multiple sectors (an elected official, transportation engineer, public health officials, a metropolitan planner, and a non-profit advocate from the Hawai'i Bicycling League) to collaborate for the key issues to improve walkability and safety in the City and County of Honolulu. I created meaningful partnerships and learned a lot from my team members, the course faculty, and other participants. Moreover, I was truly grateful to attend to learn about best practices across the country.

City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

# CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: May 22, 2017

Traveler: Brandon J.C. Elefante

Event: 2017 Step It UP! Action Institute to Increase Walking & Walkability

Location: Decatur, Georgia

Dates: From April 3, 2017 To April 6, 2017

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	0	
2. Airfare	1164.60	paid for by Hawaii Bicycling League; Reso 17-58
3. Hotel	931.30	paid for by Hawaii Bicycling League; Reso 17-58
4. Meals	74.97	paid for by Hawaii Bicycling League; Reso 17-58
5. Ground Transportation	0	
6. Tips	0	
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment	-2170.87	paid for by Hawaii Bicycling League; Reso 17-58
<b>TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT</b>	<b>0</b>	paid for by Hawaii Bicycling League; Reso 17-58

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:

  
Signature of Traveler

05/22/2017  
Date