



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

BRANDON ELEFANTE
Councilmember District VIII
'Aiea, Pearl City, Waipahū
Chair, Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure and Sustainability
Telephone: (808) 768-5008
Email: belefante@honolulu.gov

March 22, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heather Murakami, City Council Administration

FROM: Mary Schmidtke, Senior Advisor to Councilmember Brandon Elefante *MS*

SUBJECT: 2018 National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference, Washington D.C.

Attached, please find my 2018 NACo Legislative Conference report which was held from March 3-7, 2018 at the Washington Hilton in Washington D.C.

Attachment

2018 NACo Legislative Conference Report
March 3-7, 2018
Washington, D.C.

Trip Report submitted by Mary M. Schmidtke
Office of Councilmember Brandon Elefante
City Council, City & County of Honolulu

Friday, March 2, 2018

Tech Town Hall, Part 1
PANEL DISCUSSION

Integrating Data to Improve Outcomes in Health, Human Services and Justice Systems

Data integration in counties is expanding in coverage and complexity:

- Communicate with everyone involved especially when the integration process starts, changes, or breaks down
- Carefully consider who to integrate with and the goals of each department/agency
- Easiest to integrate if you put data with the data that is hardest to move
- Need an organizational approach for the entire organization
- Note that there is some standardization for these data integrations (ex. ESRI) but very few exist, and many jurisdictions have developed their data systems internally and are unique
- There are “best practices” that have been developed and can be effective in helping develop needed data integration processes and can also be reviewed when establishing important security standards.

Connected and Autonomous Vehicles: Coming to a County Near You

Hon. Fred Payne

Commissioner, Greenville County, S.C.

- Automated Vehicles (AVs) are on their way and will have tremendous impacts on the built environment
- May be automated trucking (?)---what would be impact on rest stops...and parking?
- Bring AVs into county use by being proactive, begin with an end in mind (integrate with Green Villages?), think WIN-WIN (involve everyone, get partners, bring all disparate interests together).

Randell Iwasaki

Executive Director, Contra Costa County Transportation Authority

- The transportation agency is supported by sales tax revenues and develops projects to improve transportation
- Focus is redefining mobility
- Working on leveraging wireless technology to get transportation improvements

- 94% of accidents are due to driver error
- They are establishing a testing area for automated vehicle testing (shuttle buses)
- There are extensive issues in the use of the technology and numerous regulatory barriers
- Personal security needs to be addressed as well as storage and parking impacts

The Future of Truth and Misinformation Online

Dr. Alan Shark

Mr. Lee Rainie

- The use of technology has exploded as a venue for receiving information (internet, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.)
- Millennials are generally less trusting of large institutions, culturally liberal, have political/cultural identities that are being formed, are very racially diverse.
- Millennials have grown up using technology
- Have to note that technology structures incentivize the extremes of conversation, and information sharing---the middle ground is lost...
- Balance has been compromised/lost since extreme material provides financial gains through their partisan's support
- We are at a place where there is less interest in balanced materials/discussions, particularly on the internet and other technology platforms
- Other impacts: Political processes such as gerrymandering have resulted in elections being won or lost at the Primary, creating less interest/involvement by citizens in the entire election process
- Recommended The Seventh Sense by Joshua Cooper Romea and be aware that anything networked becomes more powerful
- Noted that we are all vulnerable through our interactions on the internet—even with all the cyber security we use

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Transportation Policy Steering Committee - Subcommittee Meeting

Hon. John L. Mica

Former Member of Congress and Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Regarding the reauthorization of the FAA—we are seeing “change by crisis” and there will be a reauthorization but not reform and not modernization
- Tips for working with House and Senate: be willing to educate them about your issue, explain your constraints and issues, explain your need for flexibility/exceptions, find partners in lobbying, and lobby hard
- Note that the Highways Trust Fund has been depleted. Increases are being considered. Electric Vehicles do not pay the tax and should pay a fair share
- May eventually look at tax amount based on vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- New technology available that adjusts lights to match actual traffic flow (grants available)
- Believes earmarks may come back after 2018 election

- TSA was supposed to be paid for by airlines, they never paid their share and airports can opt out. TSA had incredible failure rate and the cost burden is being shifted to local jurisdictions
- While everyone touts public/private partnerships they only work for bigger projects where there is a revenue stream

Larry Minor

Assistant Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

- Provided an update on Safety Initiatives (Truck and Bus Safety)
- In 2016, there were 4,300 deaths in truck and bus accidents
- They regulate safety for vehicles down to 10,000 lbs. and for the transit of hazardous materials
- Regulations can be found at www.regulation.gov and comments can be submitted at the website
- They have begun work to develop regulations for trucks and buses that will be automated
- Clarified that while Vehicle Log regulations have been a concern of the committee, especially as they relate to the transportation of Agricultural Products, Agriculture Products do have a partial exception to the time limits established by the rule

Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee - Business Meeting

D. Lee Forsgren

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

- Clean Water Rules (2015 rules) are currently being re-written and the deadline for the revisions is 2-26-20
- The administration infrastructure plan includes a \$20B increase proposed for water projects
- There will be a Notice of Funding Availability soon and they are hoping for an increase in the number of states who apply for the funds
- The "lead/copper" rules are undergoing consultation for possible changes/amendments
- They are developing toxicity values based on scientific validity
- Water "reuse" projects are called out for additional funding in the administration's infrastructure plan
- Realizes that the definition of "Waters of the United States" is of concern to many counties
- They will be looking for definition that average citizen can understand
- State/local submittals for funds/projects have best chance if they provide higher/better match
- Drinking water standards are also under review

Tech Town Hall, Part 2

Your County is Under Attack Part One: Lessons Learned from the False Missile Alert in Hawaii

Councilmember Riki Hokama, Kauai County Council

- While there was widespread concern and some panic the community, reaction was mixed in that some remained skeptical throughout the warning period because there was no confirmation from military sources
- Lesson learned is that there is no such thing as a nuclear-safe facility/area
- Need procedures that can be understood by the public
- Need effective notice to residents
- There should be consideration that natural disasters be handled by the state, and military disasters have national/military oversight

Balancing Security and Innovation- Panel Discussion

- Malware is turning our computers into proxy servers
- Counties must actively support and prioritize cyber-security efforts, empowering IT decision-makers, and providing them with the resources to address these issues
- No system is completely safe but minimum is having fundamental/ongoing/updated security presence which includes evaluation of any new uses for possible breach
- Now is the time to carve out employees dedicated to cyber-security, separate from those dedicated to IT, and they need separate budgets, authority, and leadership (IT personnel are like a DPW department handling daily working of computers and maintenance; cybersecurity officers are your “police force” in the virtual world)
- To innovate need to do some “fast failing”....figure out what does and does not work and move forward quickly---system attacks are becoming more frequent
- Important to talk about results with others since many issues are common to all, even though systems are all different---share lessons learned and what fixes work
- For any and all of your electronic devices (phones, pads, security systems, GIS, heating/AC systems, etc.) vendor has back door and is not told how to secure these systems (true for your personal equipment as well as government equipment)
- There is no regulatory oversight of IT equipment (basically for ALL your internet-connected equipment the front-door and all the windows are open for anyone....)
- New cyber-security frontiers: organizations need to have “threat hunters” looking at social media, dark web forums, internet chatter
- Need to create “cognitive security” for entire system with awareness and prevention paramount
- Also important to create awareness of users of the system (many breaches are employees sharing their sign-on credentials)
- Many breach attempts have been specifically directed at elected officials
- One user error can cripple your entire system so defenses need to be robust and constantly updated
- Have to also consider the security of the network (hardened?)
- To convince decision-makers educate them on risks and show value what’s protected
- Cyber-security no longer optional---everyone will have breach---just don’t know when and need to be ready to react quickly
- Should appoint a lead in cyber-security: this lead cannot be and should not be IT Director
- Cyber-security costs should probably be in the range of 5%-15% of the IT budget
- Everyone should always patch systems as soon as patches are available because they are specifically designed to address discovered vulnerabilities

IMPORTANT NOTE: Election security is the focus of the moment

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Resilient and Healthy Counties Lunch: Strengthening Counties' Resilience by Addressing the Public Health Impacts of Natural Disasters

Richard Waldhorn, MD

Contributing Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

Power Point link:

http://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/event_attachments/Resilient%20Public%20Health%20Presentation%20Slides.pdf

Phil Maytubby

Director of Public Health Protection, Oklahoma City-County Health Department

- To increase counties' resilience in addressing natural disasters:
 - Develop trust relationships with partners before incidents occur
 - Look at after-action reports to fill the gaps on what is still needed in the plan
 - Use an Incident Command System that includes communications with all partners, daily reporting/updates, annual plan reviews, communications protocols
- TIPS: Consider flexibility of functions in recovery mode (ex. Firefighters giving vaccinations)
- Have trained volunteers (NOT spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers)
Operations Planning needs to be continuously revised

Power Point link:

http://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/event_attachments/Resilient%20Public%20Health%20Presentation%20Slides.pdf

Jennifer Kiger

Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Harris County Public Health, Texas

- Hurricane Harvey disaster brought 1 trillion gallons of water to the area in four days (the amount of water that goes over Niagara Falls every 15 days)
- Necessitated 17,000 residents being sheltered in 2 facilities
- Used CASPER (Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response) program
- Critical that you have data needed to respond
- Look at mental health and at-risk populations and out-reach to the agencies that are in close contact with these groups (senior centers, chamber of commerce, insurance companies, medical equipment rentals, etc.)
- Consider pre-event removal contracts so companies ready to go to clear roads, etc.

Monday, March 5, 2018

NACo General Session

Hon. David J. Shulkin
U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

- Their 2017 accomplishments include allowing veterans to use doctors outside the VA system
- They have increased the benefits available to veterans to now include 100% mental health benefits
- They are changing the appeals process to process appeals more quickly
- They are modernizing their computer systems
- Working to approve timeliness of services
- Focusing resources more efficiently
- Prioritizing suicide prevention #BETHERE
- The highest incidence of suicide is within 12 months of leaving service so they are increasing mental health benefits to all service personnel who are leaving service (extend to “other than honorable” discharge)
- Working to reduce homelessness—have seen a 50% reduction in last five years—still have 45,000 homeless

Hon. Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Secretary of Transportation

- County’s infrastructure is aging and needs revitalization
- Administration’s infrastructure plan intends to stimulate \$1.5B in investment
- Administration commitment is \$200M (rest of investment will be private and state/local governments)
- Federal dollars are intended as seed money
- Also intend to streamline permitting and reduce regulations
- Hope to empower decision-making at state and local level
- Want private company involved and financial partners for state and local
- NOTE: 26 states do not allow private sector to participate in public projects)
- TIGER grants will be awarded soon
- Looking at technology to improve safety
- Studying automated vehicles, drones, etc.
- Would like to increase mobility for underserved, seniors
- Have Drone Pilot Program
- Administration’s Infrastructure Program proposal is now before U.S. Congress

Building Citizen Buy-In

Pat Farr

Commission Lane County, Oregon

- Rural county in Oregon where they needed a revenue levy to address public safety issues such as youth jail beds and youth counseling
- Loss of timber revenue strained county resources
- Trust had been lost in County Commission
- Did small group/community outreach throughout 100 mile-wide county and established firm parameters about what the levy would fund
- Included sunset date on levy, annual audit, and refund to residents if amount exceeded need
- Popular sheriff was face of the campaign—built trust one resident at time
- Passed with 60% YES vote, audits proved efficiency of program, extra revenue was returned to residents, first levy reached sunset date
- When County needed new levy, it passed with 72% vote

Hon. Catherine E. Pugh

Mayor, Baltimore City, MD

- Had a vision to rebuild neglected neighborhoods (crime, drug/opioid crisis/unemployment/homelessness)
- Convinced staff and departments that everyone had to go out to the neighborhoods and really talk to residents and ask their needs—and then immediately send resources to address their most pressing issues
- Had to be about accountability and transparency
- Included a commitment to increase recruiting for Police Department
- Needed to improve technology
- Created an Office of Sustainability
- Meet people where they live and work---walk down their streets
- Assess your community by seeing where they live and work, what they are interested in and what their day looks like
- Reconfigure government to meet their needs at the time they need it
- Interdepartmental communication is essential
- Integrate service delivery (city services delivered by mobile van)
- Learn how to say “I’m Sorry” sincerely—admit that you don’t get it right every time
- Reach out to surrogate groups to give messages (churches, business organizations, homeowners meetings)

Hon. Michael L. Thurmond

Chief Executive Officer, DeKalb County, Ga.

- 750,000 residents, part of Atlanta metro area
- Serious black/white divide in county
- To re-establish trust had to build alliances across boundaries (listen, learn, leap)
- Needed consensus for new infrastructure

- Under a consent decree for water and sewer upgrades
- Needed to get funding through General Assembly but county needed to be united behind the effort
- Worked with groups separately and with “bridge” groups in touch with both communities
- Had to establish trust face-to-face
- Acknowledge if there is no trust
- Have to be honest and direct and listen and always be respectful
- Get participation, engage them with ownership

Dena R. Diorio

County Manager, Mecklenburg County, NC

- Community engagement is critical and has to be a priority
- It is time to tap social media to reach public
- Twitter, Instagram, Facebook all can make a contributions
- Document your organization’s work plan and be accountable for it
- Citizen buy-in depends on trust
- Can develop trust by using hard data, reporting, and auditing
- Face to face contact is invaluable
- Find trustworthy individuals and have them be the face of your message
- Communicate at all levels and in any forums acceptable to your community
- Involve community members as part of the “call to action” to have their ideas and help to address community issues together
- Have to look at language, culture, and race and communicate in ways they receive information

Link to conference information:

<http://www.naco.org/events/2018-naco-legislative-conference>

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: April 4, 2018

Traveler: Mary M. Schmidtke

Event: ²⁰¹⁸ National Association of Counties-Legislative Conference

Location: Washington D.C.

Dates: From March ~~8~~³, 2018 To March 7, 2018

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare		
3. Hotel		
4. Meals	96.27 46.19	Meals
5. Ground Transportation	67.02 57.10	Super Shuttle to and from Dulles Airport
6. Tips	20.01	
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	163.30	

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:

Mary M. Schmidtke
Signature of Traveler

4-4-18
Date