

Hawai'i County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Monday, April 12, 2004
P&R Conference Room
3:00 P.M.

Present

Members

Kelly Burke
Richard Chamberlin
Laura Dierenfield
James Friday
Mary Osborne
Ronald Reilly
Herbert Soloway

Ex-Officio

Pamela Mizuno, Deputy Director, P&R

Also Present

Bruce McClure, Director, Department of Public Works
Alan Simeona (Department of Public Works)
Nathalie Santos, Department of Parks & Recreation
Carlton Stout

Absent

Geraine Hollins
Carolyn Irvine

CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Ron Reilly called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Guest Carlton Stout was introduced to the committee.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2004

- The Minutes of the February 9, 2004 meeting were approved as circulated.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BRUCE MCCLURE, DIRECTOR
UPDATE ON PROJECTS

- **Kuakini Highway - Kona**
Kuakini Highway Project will be put out to bid from Palani Road to Hualalai. Project will widen road to four lanes and include left turn lanes.

The standard lane width should start at 12 feet, but the minimum is 10 feet.

DPW Project Engineer Alan Simeona and Director McClure shared an overview of the plans for Kuakini Highway.

There are 4 foot bike lanes plus 2 foot gutters on both sides throughout parts of the project, however, there is not enough room to include bike lanes between Sorona and Hualalai Streets.

Mary Osborne attended meetings during the initial stages and attendees were assured that there would be bike lanes throughout the entire project and landscaping in the median.

Alan said that he wasn't involved in the initial planning stages, however, he believes that the consultant took public comments into consideration when developing the plan, however, because of space limitations and driveways there are standards to adhere to and plan could not accommodate bike lanes throughout. There will be no median, instead there will be left turn lanes. Project includes some landscaping.

Alan stated that the RFP (Request for Proposals) for Construction Management would be going out to bid the next day and could take approximately 3 to 4 months. Project will be federally funded and the federal contact person is Clifford Chu.

Committee members shared their concerns about the hazard of having a bike lane that ends and merges into traffic. A meeting (brainstorming session) will be set between DPW staff and committee members to discuss these concerns, possible alternatives or explain why things can or cannot be done.

Mary will take copies of plan to Kona and discuss with Ann of PATH who was part of the pre-planning stage.

- **Kaiwi Street - Kona**
Striping should be done shortly after repaving is complete.
- **Kamehameha Avenue - Hilo**
Striping is almost done – there was a rain delay.

SPEEDING ON STEEP ROADWAYS IN KONA

Director McClure reported that in the Traffic Calming article in the County newsletter they requested input on steep roadways and received five (5) email recommendations. One recommendation came from a resident of Royal Poinciana that travels roadway daily and likes the traffic humps. The humps have slowed people down.

KILAUEA AVENUE – REVIEW OF DRAFT STUDY

Director McClure shared that the Kilauea Avenue Study is very general and does not even scope lane uses. Traffic model shows what kind of traffic road could handle if there are so many lanes traveling this way versus if roadway is turned into a couplet and the 1-way lane is extended into town. Information may not be needed for another 10 years.

The benefit of the couplet is that there are no left turns, no opposing traffic and it flows better.

WAILOA STATE PARK – PROPOSED BIKE PATH

Committee received copies of two letters of support for the proposed bike path project sent to Mayor Kim.

- 1) March 19, 2004 – From Jeffrey Mermel, President, Hilo Downtown Improvement Association (DIA) (Letter also requests that bicycle plan be closely examined to ensure no loss of parking spaces —particularly in the area of Kamehameha Avenue and Ponahawai Street.)
- 2) April 5, 2004 – From Gerdine Markus of Pacific Academy of Music

Chairman Reilly said that during part of February's meeting there was no quorum so he will again ask for members input on concept of proposed bike plan. During February's meeting a few members expressed their concern that project was not included on Bike Plan which Chairman Reilly said was an oversight.

In response to Kelly Burke's question about exact path location, Chairman Reilly said that details would need to be drawn up by an EA or Consultant. Flooding, soft ground, community input and other matters would affect the final location.

Input on Proposed Bike Path from Committee Members

- Mary Osborne – Feels that members from the Hilo area should comment since they set priorities for the district and if they want to make changes she is okay with that as long as it wouldn't affect any Kona projects.

Mary also does not want funding for a path to take away from projects that will improve safety on roadways. Priority should be to first improve roads for bicyclists that are currently riding on the road.

- James Friday – Feels project should be given a low priority.

James agrees with Herbert Soloway's comments from the last meeting, if project is complimentary to Bike Plan and doesn't affect funding for any of the projects listed he would be okay with it. He has serious safety concerns relating to road crossings especially at Pauahi Street and would like to be sure that plan is well designed and does not create hazardous situations.

Bike paths on Oahu have created hazards by merging cyclists who only wanted to ride on a path onto a busy street. He also said that the overall vision of the Bike Plan is that cyclists belong as equal users of the transportation system. Feels that the idea of driving to and from somewhere to cycle on a pathway is a bad way to go. Path would be shared with pedestrians which means moving bike along path at a walking speed such as sidewalks at Liliuokalani Gardens.

Kamehameha Avenue has nice wide shoulders, does not want to add more pavement parallel to roadway.

JB also shared that Manono Street improvements is an example of an important priority that is already on the Bike Plan for UH Students to get to Downtown Hilo and Bayfront.

- Laura Dierenfield – Needs more specific information and time to review Bike Plan to see if proposed path conflicts with the existing Plan and how they will address crossing intersections. Offered to request from Sandy any updated maps on behalf of the committee. Feels it's a great idea, but doesn't understand enough about it.

After hearing more information, expressed support conceptually for project.

- Chairman Reilly – In favor of Bike Path. Shared some background information on reason for proposed path. It started at Wailoa State Park – parts of which are not very accessible or used. Glenn Taguchi of State Parks encouraged access improvements to underused areas of Wailoa. Students attending UH Hilo and owning bicycles as the only source of transportation around the community and to the beaches and cruise ship travelers could benefit from this plan.

(However, other members felt that cruise ship travelers are not in town long enough to utilize a bike path. Deputy Director Mizuno said that the current plan calls for a pedestrian path from the harbor into town.)

Chairman Reilly credits Sandy for her creativity and also agrees that more information is needed. He recommends approving Plan in concept that it will be a well designed Bike Path.

- Kelly Burke – Needs more information and shares JB's concerns. If pathway in Wailoa Park is at least 10 feet wide, it can be shared more easily by both pedestrians and bicyclists. If the path is safe, more people would be on bicyclists and some would eventually feel comfortable to get into traffic and use as another form of transportation. Recommends a long path, if its too short, it will just be a loop and will only be used by children. Wailoa as a hub could be complimentary to Bike Plan.

- Herbert Soloway – In support of the concept of a recreational path for both pedestrians and bicyclists for people who are afraid of getting out to ride on busy streets. Riding in this type of path could build their confidence to ride bikes as a form of transportation.

In support, but unable to give stamp of approval unless it's properly designed and that project will not interfere with funding of Bike Plan Priorities.

Letters of Support – Bike Path

Kelly Burke said that if the issue is for the committee to write a letter of support for the grant request of the conceptual plan, in order to take it to the next stage of specific implementation, design and funding issues then he would be in support.

Deputy Director Mizuno referred to Page 1 of the February 9th Minutes, Sandy Bonk requested a letter of support be sent to the Mayor.

Kelly Burke responded that would be a different request and feels that committee could not support path without the specifics. When a consultant is hired, committee could work with consultant on specifics and then send a letter of support to administration at that point.

Members Herbert Soloway and Mary Osborne also said that sending a letter of support to the Mayor could seem like committee would be bypassing the bike plan.

Chairman Reilly asked if committee could send letter to Mayor expressing conceptual support of the plan, but include concerns such as interfering with bike plan projects, funding and design concerns and recommend that Mayor send a letter of support to Ad-Hoc Committee as part of grant application.

Members agreed that Chairman Reilly could prepare a draft letter to Mayor and send to committee members ahead of time for review and discussion at the June meeting.

STATE BIKE COORDINATOR

Laura Dierenfield will call Stan Tamura's Office (State Highways, Hawai'i District) to find out who the current State Bike Coordinator is. Chairman Reilly suggests committee send him a letter informing him of committee's existence.

RAILROAD AVENUE – ONE DAY EVENT

No Update – Pending absent Vice Chairman Gerain Hollins Report.

NEW BUSINESS

SADDLE ROAD PROJECT

Mary Osborne looking into Saddle Road Project to ensure that wide shoulders is a part of the plan. Would like to know funding source for the middle section fronting the Pohakuloa Training Area. The two ends are being funded by the various levels of government.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Reilly informed guest Carlton Stout that Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meetings are held every second Monday of the month at 3:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 14, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathalie Santos, Secretary