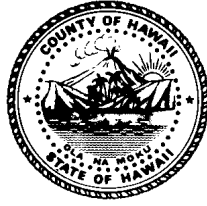


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MĀMALAHOA BYPASS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As of December 2007

What is the Māmalahoa Bypass?

The Māmalahoa Bypass is a two-lane roadway in South Kona that is being constructed to give motorists an alternate route between North and South Kona. It runs North-South and is located midway between the shoreline and Māmalahoa Highway.

Where does it start and end?

- The bypass will start at the end of Ali'i Drive in Keauhou, intersect with Haleki'i Street and continue on to end at the Napo'opo'o Junction.
- Total length of the bypass is 5.42-miles.

When is it opening?

The Northern portion of the bypass – approximately three miles of roadway from the end of Ali'i Drive to Haleki'i Street in Kealahou – is proposed to be open in the Summer of 2008. The remaining portion, from Haleki'i Street to Napo'opo'o Junction would take approximately 36-months to complete.

Why was it built?

This roadway has been envisioned by the State since 1979 in anticipation of a growing population. Currently, a large portion of the South Kona community works in either North Kona or South Kohala and commute daily along Māmalahoa Highway.

Why is only a portion of the Māmalahoa Bypass finished and opening?

- As part of its development agreement with the County of Hawai'i, Oceanside 1250 – developers of the Hokulia resort community – is nearing completion of construction of the portion of the bypass from Ali'i Drive to Haleki'i Street. Oceanside's estimated completion is scheduled for April 2008. This portion of the road and the newly constructed portion of Haleki'i Street will be dedicated to the County for potential use which may take an additional two to three months.
- The County believes opening the northern portion of the Māmalahoa Bypass, from the bottom of Haleki'i Street to the end of Ali'i Parkway will reduce traffic volumes for southbound travel on the mauka and makai roads.

What will it take to open only a portion of the Bypass?

- The Planning Dept. will present to the Planning Commission on January 11, 2008, "a change of zone condition" to amend the ordinance, allowing for use of the Northern portion of the bypass and Haleki'i Street in the Summer of 2008.
- Existing County ordinance does not allow use of Haleki'i Street until the entire (5.42-mile) Māmalahoa Bypass is completed from the end of Ali'i Drive to the Napo'opo'o Junction.
- The Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 11, at the King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel on Palani Road. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. to discuss whether to recommend approval of this proposed partial opening of the bypass to the County Council.

What has the County done to expedite the Coupe appeal before the Courts?

The County of Hawai'i now has possession of the Coupe land and the right to use it. The administration will be speaking with Oceanside 1250 regarding a construction time line. Oceanside's current construction schedule of the Sothern portion of the bypass is anticipated to last 36-months.

What do we hope to accomplish?

- Better distribution of traffic to alleviate traffic jams and allow traffic to flow more smoothly between North and South Kona.
- An alternate route to the Kona Community Hospital.
- Quicker response time for Police and Fire personnel.
- During storms, this becomes an alternate route.

What can we expect will happen along Ali'i Drive and on Haleki'i Street?

- Initially, three-way stops are planned for three intersections along Ali'i Drive – Lunapule, Royal Poinciana and Kaleiopapa. The County will ask for \$3 million in the next fiscal budget to install traffic signals at these intersections.
- On Haleki'i Street, 10 speed humps, placed 300' apart are being planned as a traffic calming measure to minimize speeding.

Why the change in the use of Haleki'i? We never knew our road would be a connector.

The General Plan Facilities Map was amended in 2006 showing Haleki'i as a collector road when the Northern section of the Bypass was completed.

What are the impacts to Haleki'i Street?

- The County anticipates a certain percentage of the current traffic flow going through Kainaliu Town will divert to Haleki'i for the first several months during the peak hours of travel. Once motorists experience the good and bad points of using Haleki'i Street as an alternate route, some will revert back to using Māmalahoa Highway through Kainaliu and the traffic on Haleki'i Street will level off.
- Possible speeding up and down-hill on Haleki'i Street.
- When the Northern portion of the bypass opens, extra police will frequent the area and enforce the speed limits on Haleki'i, Ali'i Drive and the bypass.

The traffic backs up in Kainaliu.

A second municipal parking lot adjacent to Standard Bakery has just been completed to accommodate up to 12 cars. A third parking lot is scheduled to start construction in the Summer of 2008. When this third parking lot is completed, Public Works will be implementing a test restriction of on-street parking on the makai side of Māmalahoa Highway through Kainaliu Town during the afternoon peak hours of 3 to 6 p.m. to improve traffic flow.

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(808) 557-6437 After hours, Noelani Whittington