

Hawai'i County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Monday, June 13, 2005
Hilo DPW Conference Room & Kona Mayor's Office (Via Teleconferencing)
3:00 P.M.

Present

Members – DPW Conference Room

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

Members – Kona Mayor's Office Conference Room

None
(NOTE: No one was present in Kona for this meeting)

Ex-Officio

Pamela Mizuno, Deputy Director, P&R

Also Present

Bruce McClure, Director, Department of Public Works
Roy Takemoto, Deputy Director, Planning Department
Nathalie Santos, Department of Parks & Recreation

Guests

Dave Hein, District Engineer (DOT – Airports Division)

Absent

James Friday

CALL TO ORDER

- Chairperson Laura Dierenfield called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. David Hein, District Engineer for the Department of Transportation, Airports Division based in Kona who is also a former long distance cyclist stated that he strongly supports a bicycle thru lane striping at the Kona Airport/Queen K Highway intersection. Queen K Highway is highly utilized by training triathletes and recreation cyclists. If there is a red light, he notices many south bound bicyclists will swing down towards airport and then swing back up and continue south bound. The probability of accidents because of that action is high.

Mr. Hein believes a little striping redaction and channelized striping could at least remind cyclists where they are suppose to be when they go through a three legged intersection and could also potentially save a life. Kealakehe and Hinalani (Costco) intersections are striped that way and the Airport may have been missed. Mr. Hein also clarified that the road right-of-way between the airport and highways ends around the stonewall, so it isn't a project that he can take on, State Highways Division has to do that.

Deputy Director Mizuno suggested that this project be requested and coordinated by two divisions within the State Department of Transportation.

Mr. Hein will send Mr. Tamura of State Highways a sketch of what could be done.

Ron Reilly referred to the April 11th minutes (Page 3), where Mary Osborne requested temporary measures be done to make bike lanes at Queen K intersections consistent. Mr. Tamura was made aware of this concern and will look at photo logs of intersections and depending on how much striping would be needed it may not be possible.

Based on Mr. Dave Hein's recommendation (District Engineer of the Airports Division), Members of the committee made a motion to support the urgent need of through striping in the southbound direction at the Airport and Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway Intersection and all other intersections that have adequate space and request that Mr. Tamura investigate possibility of striping and report to committee at the next meeting (Add to next agenda).

Ron Reilly confirmed that copies of minutes are regularly sent to Mr. Stanley Tamura of State Highways.

Mr. Hein did say that some of the intersections will have lane width concerns such as Ka'imianani and Kohanaiki, but the airport will not because there is 14 foot wide travel lanes.

Ron Reilly said if there isn't the minimum lane width requirement, another option would be to paint Symbols within the lane for a shared lane rather than a dedicated lane.

Mary said an example of that kind of signage would be at the Kukio intersection.

Action

Committee voted in favor of a motion that Chairperson Dierenfield write a letter to Mr. Stanley Tamura of State Highways stating the following: The committee supports the need for appropriate through striping and/or signage to indicate either dedicated or shared bicycle lane use (depending on minimum lane width available) at all major intersections from Kona to Kawaihae on the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway. For safety reasons the airport intersection has been identified as a high priority.

Kelly Burke also suggested that a note of appreciation for the intersections that have been done be included in the letter.

Ron Reilly requested that Mr. Hein's name and title be made a part of the letter (Dave Hein, Hawaii District Engineer (DOT – Airports Division)).

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 11, 2005

- The Minutes of the April 11, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

BIKE COORDINATOR POSITION – Status of Filling Vacancy

Chairperson Dierenfield sent a letter to DOT Director Haraga and has not yet heard of any progress, but will call and check on the status.

Deputy Director Mizuno requested a copy of the letter and stated that copies of all correspondence from the committee must be sent to P&R and the Mayor's Office.

BIKE SHED ZONE CONCEPT - Update

Roy Takemoto, Deputy Director of the Planning Department reported that this project hasn't moved much since the last time he attended a Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Project will begin by putting the DOT's Bike Plan in GIS format and adding an overlay of a hillshade background which gives a feel of contours. Will focus on how to expand existing bikeways such as connecting Walua Road to downtown Kailua. Will also look at what it would take to implement high priority bikeways identified by a Working Committee. Will organize the Working Committee with the assistance of PATH and Ann Peterson during their annual meeting on June 23rd.

Roy continued by stating that the Working Committee would need to take Bike Plan to another level. For example it identifies a "Shared Roadway" on Ali'i Drive, how feasible is that in terms of engineering, what would it take to complete that project, questions such as is there enough right-of-way, etc. were not considered in the plan. The approach is not to spend too much time planning, but instead to quickly identify projects and get those underway. Grades of bikeways should not be too steep, but instead easier and safer for most people to feel comfortable riding. Funding for this project will lapse in three years (2 ½ years are left), however, funds could also be encumbered if there is a contract or funds could be reappropriated, but the goal is to move quickly and expend funding towards projects. Kona's allocation is \$323,000 from the 40 million dollar bond Council floated for transportation.

Members expressed an interest of becoming a part of the Working Committee to identify and help select possible bikeway projects. Some are members of PATH and will attend annual meeting.

Chairperson Dierenfield asked if it would be possible seek other grants/funds for these projects and Roy Takemoto responded that the funding may not be enough to complete projects, but instead take them as far as possible and additional funds would need to be sought after.

RAILROAD AVENUE PROJECT

Ron Reilly asked how the Railroad Avenue Project is going following the recent meeting regarding the scope of work. Roy Takemoto responded that he wrote it in the Scope of Work descriptions as part of the Puna Circulation Action Plan. Then that Scope of Work needs to be put in the County Track for the \$200,000 in the next phase. The rationale is that the County needs an Emergency Bikepath.

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

- **Paniolo Drive – Ho'oku Street**
Installing a pedestrian asphalt sidewalk on one side of roadway using special funds received from Councilmember Hoffman.
- **Paniolo Drive – Status of Shared Roadway Signage**
Director McClure said that project should be progressing soon since Engineer Aaron Takaba will be returning to his position from another division on June 16th.
- **Bike Racks – Kona and Waikoloa**
Chairperson Dierenfield reported that she and Marie of the Kailua Merchants Association would go through Kailua Village this Wednesday at 6 pm to identify possible locations.

Director McClure requested map of proposed locations for review and approval by Public Works prior to installation. Public Works employees would need to take into consideration width of sidewalk, etc. and they would also install racks.

These racks were designated for properties under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works.

Deputy Director Mizuno said to let her know if there are parks that members feel bike racks should be installed at.

- **Ali'i Drive - Accidents and Making Areas Safer**
Richard Chamberlin suggested using accident statistics provided to identify problem areas and fix locations where traffic accidents and fatalities involving pedestrians and bicycles have occurred. DPW Director McClure said that he's reported to the Kona Traffic Safety Council that all of those fatal accidents were analyzed and all involved at least two elements of pilot error such as driver didn't have a license and was drunk, the driver didn't have a license and crossed to the other side of the road, etc. At this point, its not considered a road issue.

- **Road Between Palani and Makala Streets**

Dave Hein, District Engineer (DOT – Airports Division) stated that the road between Makala and Palani has heavy pedestrian traffic and two safety concerns. The roadway is dark at night and only roadway is paved, there isn't even an asphalt shoulder, however, the road is privately owned.

- **Manono and Kekuaaoa Streets**

Ron Reilly again requested that Kekuaaoa Street be paved and improved since it's a link from the college down to the beaches and roadway is getting really bad.

Director McClure will follow up on that roadway.

NEW BUSINESS

WALUA ROAD EXTENSION

Ron Reilly said there is no discussion on this matter since the right-of-way was sold to an adjoining landowner (4) years ago and nothing can be done unless this becomes one of the bikeshed projects and is bought back. Mary Osborne believes that there are condos already being constructed in that area.

HAMAKUA HIGHWAY GULCHES

Richard Chamberlin shared concerns about the traffic hazards caused by the rocks which fall on bikes and vehicles on the roadway and shoulders at the gulches. He feels that cutting back the weeds would be better than using herbicide which he understands is used because of economics. He also has concerns about the signs and cones used during roadwork which force bicyclists into major traffic.

Director McClure recommended that committee write a letter to Stanley Tamura of DOT, District Engineer with their concerns and questions.

Action

Richard Chamberlin will draft a letter regarding the signage and rock issues to State DOT and present to committee at the next meeting. He will e-mail letter out prior to the meeting for members review.

ANNOUNCEMENT

BIKE TO WORK DAY

Chairperson Dierenfield announced that the Mayor proclaimed May 20th, Bike to Work Day.

Mary Osborne said there was an article in the West Hawaii Today, plans were for people to meet in the morning at the Kona Pool before work and then ride from there. There were approximately 4 or 5 participants that showed up at the pool that morning. Next year bike shops will take the lead and print fliers to get the word out.

WAIKOLOA MA LAI/ WAIKOLOA HEIGHTS

Herbert Soloway would like to confirm what the final decisions are on the Waikoloa Heights Project. He's concerned that the developers may have ignored the discussions during the meeting that he and Ron and Bruce McClure attended.

Deputy Director Mizuno read portions of Pages 2 thru 4 of the February 14, 2005 Minutes relating to this project and the actions to be taken. Herb Soloway was to write a letter and send a copy of the marked diagram to the Planning Department for their review. Mr. Soloway asked Ron to send, however, both the letter and diagram were not submitted.

Deputy Director Mizuno also said that the committee can make recommendations, however, it doesn't have to be followed. The Planning Director is the negotiator with the Developer.

Herb Soloway requested that this project again be placed on the next agenda and will check and make a short report which may even be one sentence stating yes, this is what it is.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on August 8, 2005 at 3:00 pm in the DPW Conference Room at the Aupuni Center/Teleconference at the Kona Mayor's Office.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathalie Santos, Secretary