

Hawai'i County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Monday, December 12, 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
James Friday
Ronald Reilly
Herbert Soloway

Members – Kona Mayor's Office Conference Room

Mary Osborne
Doug Wilkerson

Ex-Officio

Pamela Mizuno, Deputy Director, P&R

Also Present

Bruce McClure, Director, Department of Public Works
Nathalie Santos, Department of Parks & Recreation

Guests

Sandy Bonk
Ron Thiel, DPW, Traffic Division

Absent

None

CALL TO ORDER

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

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Swearing In Ceremony was postponed to the February 13, 2006 meeting; notary Barbara Kossow (Secretary to the Deputy Managing Director) was not available.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The only member of the public in attendance was Sandy Bonk who stated she attended to catch up on committee matters.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 10, 2005

- The Minutes of the October 10, 2005 meeting – Following a long discussion Member Richard Chamberlin requested the following corrections be made:

At the October 10th meeting, Richard requested corrections be made to the web page under the heading "QUORUM". The web page should be corrected so that the number for Full Membership is consistent with the By-Laws and also shows that there is one vacancy so people can apply.

CORRECTIONS TO WEBPAGE:

On the web page (Under Full Membership for Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee it states "No specific number" to comprise committee and under the number of vacancies it states "0"). Richard Chamberlin would like that to be corrected to (9) to be consistent with by-laws. By-laws state under Article III – Membership – Section 1. Composition of the Committee; a. – The committee shall consist of (9) members.

On the PDF File, Richard initially requested that under Full Membership: "No restrictions" be changed to "9", however, following a discussion members agree that the statement (No Restrictions) is referring to demographic of the committee.

QUORUM INFORMATION

Richard also requested to change the by-laws (Article IV-MEETINGS – Section 2-A) which states the majority of the voting members needs five (5) to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular meeting to instead state "a quorum would be the majority of the number of appointed members".

Deputy Director Mizuno explained that the number needed for a quorum cannot be changed through the by-laws, quorum number requirement is in the Hawaii County Charter - Section 13-4J:

"Each board and commission shall have the power to establish its rules of procedure necessary for the conduct of its business, which rules shall contain the time and place of all regular meetings, and which shall specify that a quorum shall be a majority of the members to which the board or commission is entitled."

Richard then requested more timely appointments so that committee can have full membership.

Ron Reilly said Suzanne Mayhew picked up an application and will remind her to submit it. She told him that she was still interested, but unable to attend today's meeting.

HAMAKUA HIGHWAY GULCHES

Richard Chamberlin requested the status of the draft letter dated August 8, 2005 he prepared and whether or not it was sent since he was unable to attend the August meeting.

Deputy Director Mizuno read edits recommended on Page 4 of the August 8th meeting minutes regarding the draft letter. She asked if the letter was sent out.

Action

Chairperson Dierenfield said she did not yet send it out and suggested that she and Richard communicate via e-mail on adjusting the letter per the August 8th minutes and distribute to committee for review and finalize at February meeting.

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

Waikoloa – Paniolo Avenue Bike Lane Plan
Public Informational Meeting Held with Councilmember Pete Hoffman
December 8, 2005, Thursday

DPW Director Bruce McClure said they shared the bike lane plans along Paniolo Avenue between Waikoloa Road and the first block of Paniolo Avenue during a Public Informational Meeting with Councilmember Pete Hoffman in Waikoloa. Community members in attendance did not like the plan as presented. They expressed their concern that due to extremely heavy traffic in the area, a bike lane would be hazardous at that location.

Herbert Soloway said the suggestion was made that the bike lane be discontinued at the first street near Gas Station because it is too difficult to have a bike lane where there are two driveways into the shopping center.

Director Bruce McClure said they would like to work with the community. People seemed worried that the lane would be too difficult for kids to use. Bruce feels that a 25 mph bike lane (Herbert corrected speed limit to 35 mph) would be more for adults and kids would probably still use sidewalk instead and asked if we should expect small kids to use lane?

J.B. Friday said he doesn't know that particular roadway, but does expect kids to ride a lane with a 5' bikeway with a shoulder.

Director Bruce McClure said there is no shoulder – there is a choice of kids riding on a sidewalk or a 4' bikeway with a 2' gutter next to it (total of 6').

Chairperson Dierenfield asked if they were opposed to it because of safety concerns for the children.

Herbert Soloway said they were only opposed to the first two blocks.

Ron Reilly said he's heard these concerns at several meetings and commented that you have to consider the source. You're usually dealing with people who have never ridden a bike, don't know how to ride a bike and would never allow their children to ride a bike. That's why you get that kind of reaction.

Director McClure asked if there was anything wrong with kids riding on the sidewalks.

J.B. Friday responded that statistically riding on sidewalks are dangerous and the main principal for riding bikes is to behave like a vehicle and do what other vehicle drivers expect of you. If you're riding on a sidewalk at a greater than

walking pace, you're not doing what is expected. The rate of accidents of kids riding on sidewalks is really high. Sidewalks are also dangerous because of the uneven grade, they tip for driveways, and are full of obstacles. For example, the sidewalks on Puainako Street have a telephone pole every 30 or 40 feet right in the middle of the sidewalk. Cyclists should learn to use the roads as soon as possible. A 3-year old using training wheels with mom or dad walking next to them is on a sidewalk, but a 12-year old should be able to go around his neighborhood using the roadway.

Herbert Soloway said road is really wide, probably one of the widest on the island with four lanes of 6' each with a 5' shoulder which DPW wants to make one foot wider and use 4' as a bike lane and 2' as a gutter. The traffic moves very fast, most people exceeding 35 mph. Herb's original request was to not include bike lanes in the first block because that's where the gas station and shopping center is. There are two driveways and a busy intersection at the corner with heavy traffic. People are making right turns, left turns, coming out of the side street and shopping center. The lane would end and people would walk their bikes for the next 100'.

J.B. Friday said that in principal he does not like that because bicycle transportation should enable people to get places. Does not know Paniolo Avenue, but feels that bicycle facilities that end before they get somewhere are going to either be useless or encourage people to do dangerous things.

Ron Reilly said he concurs with J.B. that the lane should go through the entire route, people will do something unpredictable when a bike lane ends. National Bike Safety Programs target 9-year old children. The expectation is they learn the skills at an age when they have depth perception, speed judgement and real life experiences to a level where they can judge if its okay to turn in front of a moving vehicle traveling toward them.

Kelly Burke shared that this is a very important issue as traffic congestion worsens on the entire island. He pictures area as very congested with lots of people turning unexpectantly into the shopping center. He asked if the argument changes if instead of experienced riders, there are a lot of novice bicyclists traveling that bike lane.

J. B. Friday responded that infrastructure which is planned well makes it safer for cycling and safer for everyone.

Mary Osborne agreed with J.B.'s statement and added when it is possible to get separated lanes primarily for children that's great, but due to costs and developer resistance its always been a struggle. When it's not possible for separate paths then the roads need to be improved for cycling.

Director McClure said DPW staff currently working on design and will continue to try to resolve issue. He just wanted to share his surprise at the community's

reaction, but there is time to discuss further and make changes. The timeframe is not set, trying to schedule in conjunction with Waimea paving project. Waikoloa paving could be done by itself, however, in Waimea paving will be done from Mud Lane to Don's Pake Kitchen and if there are bad nights, there will be no where to take the asphalt, tentatively looking at taking it to Waikoloa as an alternate site.

OLD BUSINESS

WAIKOLOA PROJECT

Ron Reilly received a message from Daryn Arai of the Planning Department that there have been discussions, but no formal resubmittals were received at this point on the Waikoloa Project.

Ron Reilly announced that the original developer for the Waikoloa project sold it to a new developer who is redesigning the previously approved PUD.

PUD Process – Circulation List

Chairperson Dierenfield would like to improve PUD review process to avoid problems that occurred with Waikoloa Project and to submit comments before plans are finalized.

Ron Reilly asked Director McClure to look at possibility of adding Bike Committee as part of circulation list during the review process. Bruce said he would look at possibility.

Chairperson Dierenfield requested information from Doug Wilkerson because of his expertise.

Doug said it would be good to be part of the process from the beginning. Developers submit plans to the County for approval, which include a traffic sheet or signage sheet, which would describe how traffic issues would be handled and if they will incorporate bike lanes into the project. Committee members could have an opportunity to review and give input or suggestions for developers to consider at that point. He described the review process used mostly in other states.

Director McClure said in Hawaii the two main types of projects are a Change of Zone, which requires a legislative action by the County Council. It goes through the Planning Department and Planning Commission, conditions are added and ultimately goes to the Council. The Council passes the ordinance, which states you get the new zoning from what it was and you have to do the following. Vice Chairman Reilly asked if the volume of requests would overwhelm committee.

Director McClure said to ask for PUD's only, subdivisions are already addressed because the roads are detailed in standard details. DPW will continue to embrace committee and request that on site staff member Ben Ishii attend these meetings.

DPW Traffic Division Head Ron Thiel brought Waikoloa plans for committee to review. He said bike plan states bike lane "not shared roadway" for Paniolo Avenue, however, the community rejected the bike lane at the public meeting.

J.B. Friday said that we are unable to redesign roadway, however, Bruce said that's not what is expected. Its just for review and comment. Ron Thiel suggested if members recommend approval of the lane, that could help reassure community members of plan.

**Motion – Paniolo Avenue Bike Lane
Committee Recommend Plans As Submitted – Inclusive of Bike Lane
(Motion Passed)**

Ron Reilly made a motion for DPW staff to follow the plans for a bike lane on Paniolo Avenue including at the shopping center intersection (for the entire length of Paniolo Avenue). Kelly Burke seconded the motion.

Kelly summarized motion and recommendation to DPW. The committee understands the public's concerns and after weighing all safety issues, we recommend staying with the original plan with the dedicated bike lane rather than having bicyclists travel on sidewalk.

Ron Thiel said at public meeting, attendees shared they had other concerns on Paniolo Avenue they wanted to address before the bike lane, but DPW would like to go ahead with the bike lane and still address those other concerns.

Committee voted unanimously in favor of motion.

Motion - PUD Review Process - Not Passed - Postponed to Next Meeting

Ron Reilly made a second motion for Bike Committee to be on circulation plan for all PUD requests to the County. Richard Chamberlin seconded the motion.

J.B. Friday asked the volume of PUD requests received by the County.

Director McClure said they receive approximately 3 PUD requests per year.

Kelly asked Bruce McClure if this is something that can be done at our request? Bruce responded that you can make your will known and he will check on it. Kelly said the motion should state we request to be inserted.

Deputy Director Mizuno asked how are you going to let them know.

Chairperson Dierenfield suggested drafting a letter reflecting committee's desire to be a part of PUD approval process fulfilling our duty to keep bike and pedestrian issues in mind for Hawaii Island development and submit to Mayor for approval.

Kelly asked Bruce McClure how to handle this request and Bruce responded that if you trust him, he will continue to keep committee informed and request input informally.

Ron Reilly said he felt comfortable with DPW just adding another box in the circulation part of the plans for committee to review.

Bruce said we can't wait for meetings, timely reviews are important.

Due to time and item not being on the agenda, the motion was not passed and subject will be placed on the next committee agenda.

Old Volcano Road

Ron Reilly thanked DPW for improvements to the Old Volcano Road adjacent to The Volcano School of Arts and Sciences, which is being prepared for repavement. The mud has been dug out and rocks have been put in and waiting for good weather to pour asphalt.

FUNDING OPTIONS – COUNTY AND STATE BIKE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS – Federal Transportation Bill

Chairperson Dierenfield shared a West Hawaii Today article dated December 12, 2005 called "Wielding Greater Clout" – Cycling Lobby Brings Home Federal Funds. (Article was also published in the Hawaii Tribune Herald)

NEW BUSINESS

STATE BICYCLE PLAN – BIKE PLAN HAWAII 2003

Action – (3) Top Priorities from Priority 1 of Bike Plan

J.B. Friday shared that the Bike Plan has approximately 160 desirable projects for the Big Island. Suggested that committee members review the Priority (1) Projects and come up with a list of approximately (6) projects.

List of Recommended Projects:

(HILO DISTRICT)

Committee Member	Project Number	Project Description	Estimated Cost
J. B. Friday	21	Manono Street – E. Kawili St. – Bayfront Hwy	\$1.5 Million
Kelly Burke	21 and	21 is his first priority,	\$3.9 Million

	12a	Second Priority: 12a: Komohana Street; Waianuenu Ave. – Ainaola Drive	
Ron Reilly	2	Ron agrees with both 21 and 12a and adds 2: Kilauea Avenue; Waianuenu – W. Puainako Street	\$3.1 Million

(PUNA DISTRICT)

Committee Member	Project Number	Project Description	Estimated Cost
Kelly Burke Ron Reilly	29b	Railroad Avenue Bikeway; Kaaahi Rd/RR Avenue (end of pavement) – Hawaiian Paradise Park Subdivision	\$2.1 Million

Guest Sandy Bonk requested committee look at project that has a bike path around the Kea'au Village, however, project number not identified and members plan to stick with Priority 1 projects.

(KONA DISTRICT)

Committee Member	Project Number	Project Description	Estimated Cost
Mary Osborne	65	Ali'i Drive Improvements; Palani Rd – Keauhou Rd.	\$5.7 Million

(WAIMEA-KOHALA DISTRICT)

Chairperson Dierenfield said that the main project in that district is the Waimea Trails and Greenways, which is already underway. Project is very close to becoming a reality.

(HONOKAA-HAMAKUA DISTRICT)

Richard Chamberlin stated there are no Priority 1 projects in the Honokaa-Hamakua District.

Mary said to keep in mind estimates were from a few years ago and are probably much lower than actual costs due to recent increases in construction costs. She said that many of the Kona projects are already being done such as widening of Kuakini Highway and widening of Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway from Henry Street to Kealakehe Parkway. Unsure what is already scheduled and what is being done.

Herbert Soloway suggested Project #65 – Ali'i Drive Improvements; Palani Road to Keauhou Road.

Chairperson Dierenfield reported that there was a Bikeshed meeting with Deputy Planning Director Roy Takemoto, members of the Kona Traffic Safety Committee and PATH. They have \$320,000 for bicycle safety funds and they've determined that the best use of those funds are basically to improve Ali'i Parkway which is below the Keauhou Shopping Center. (Reconfigure and restripe) Ron Thiel said they would be striping a shoulder line.

Mary wants to first find out from Bruce which projects are left. The Walua Road extension is ruled out because we lost the land for that project. Doesn't feel this is something Kona can accomplish today and requested more time.

Ron Reilly asked Director McClure when funding projects need to be designated to make it in the CIP budget. Bruce responded that February is too late, also if committee selects the 2 million project, he doesn't think its going to happen, because cost is too high.

Members asked if they should either select just one project or select one that costs less. Deputy Director Pam Mizuno suggested breaking cost down and utilizing funds for design first.

There was some discussion about possibility of requesting design funds for large projects. Ron Reilly said that's a good recommendation to have a project design ready and if funding becomes available there is a project ready to go. Bruce McClure concurred that is a possibility.

J.B. Friday said that since there is uncertainty in Kona, the fact that projects in Waimea and Paniolo Drive are underway and Railroad Avenue is being dealt with under another plan, we're back to three projects to prioritize for the County. One is (#21) Manono Street which goes from Hawaii Community College and UH Hilo to Bayfront, another is (#2) Kilauea Avenue which goes through the middle of Hilo town (Kino'ole is parallel) and the other is (#12a) Komohana which is on top of Hilo, which serves the University and the University expansion.

Motion – Priority Projects

Kelly Burke made a motion that committee recommend to DPW Director Bruce McClure that Project #21 is the highest priority.

Mary Osborne said that might be the priority for Hilo, but wants to keep district priorities separate.

Kelly responded that it's all from the same pot and with the information we have, we need to move forward with a recommendation to DPW.

Mary said they couldn't determine which projects are ongoing, can't tell from the list what is underway and requested more time.

Chairperson Dierenfield said that the bike shed funding could be utilized for Kona projects since it will already be available and focus on Project #21 as a high priority project which has no funding attached.

J.B. explained that recommending a particular project now does not hamper committee from recommending another project later. There is a deadline for the CIP budget and if we don't make a recommendation, there are so many projects and so many choices that they may all get away.

Chairperson Dierenfield asked if there is enough money available for the Manono Street project? Bruce responded that there is no money available.

Deputy Director Mizuno explained that the CIP Budget is listing an appropriation with a list of projects, whether or not the funding will be there is uncertain.

Director McClure said that the point that Laura brought up is good, there is the bikeshed funding already appropriated for Kona and many of these improvement projects are currently underway.

Mary Osborne responded that she knows, but most of the bike riding is done in West Hawaii.

Hilo members mentioned that there are lot of bikers traveling in East Hawaii too and that we're not only serving the triathletes.

Motion – Recommendation – Priority (1) Project

Kelly Burke made a motion to recommend to DPW Project 21 – Manono Street and as the committee's top priority. JB. Friday second the motion.

More discussion as West Hawaii members wanted to add at least another project. Chairperson Dierenfield requested the motion be amended to include at least one more project. Mary recommended Project #67 – Hualalai Road, however, that is a Priority II Project and members wanted to look only at Priority I projects. Laura recommended Project #65 – Ali'i Drive Improvements; Palani Road to Keauhou Road. There was concern that work is already underway, however, DPW Engineer Ron Thiel said there is so much that can be done on Ali'i Drive, areas can be widened, etc.

Kelly amended the motion to include Project 65.

Amended Motion – Project Priorities

Kelly Burke made an amended motion to recommend to DPW both Projects #21 (Manono Street) and #65 (Ali'i Drive Improvements) as the Hawaii County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's two top priority projects. Herbert Soloway seconded the amended motion.

All members present voted in favor of the Amended Motion and the motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2006 MEETING

Sidewalk Needs

J.B. Friday requested that Sidewalk Needs be added to the next agenda, he prepared a priority list of sidewalk needs for Hilo. (Orange is where sidewalks are needed and green is where they are currently located.)

Bike Paths Organization – Invite Representative

J.B. Friday said there is a parallel planning process on the web (www.bikepath.org) proposing Hilo bike path locations in Hilo. Group is not working from the Bike Plan.

Sandy Bonk said that she started that group because she wanted to be off the streets when riding. She also said that many of the projects listed on the Bike Plan are unrealistic such as Kilauea Avenue, where there is no room, but there is room on Kino'ole Street. Although it currently has information for Hilo only, the webmaster is open to adding a proposal for any parts of the island.

Sandy suggested that she, Peter Kubota and the webmaster attend the next meeting. An official invitation could be done through an e-mail from the website. Chairperson Dierenfield will invite a representative to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2006 Meeting Schedule

Secretary Nathalie Santos distributed the revised memo with the 2006 Meeting Schedule. June 12th is a holiday so the meeting will instead be held on **June 5th** (the first Monday of the month in June).

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2006 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