

Hawai'i County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Monday, December 13, 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
Nathalie Santos, Department of Parks & Recreation

Guests

James "Dusty" Best
Doug Wilkerson

Absent

Geraine Hollins

CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Ron Reilly called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Guest James "Dusty" Best of West Hawai'i was introduced. (Doug Wilkerson arrived later during the meeting.)

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mauka Road between Waimea and Kona – Unsafe Conditions

James "Dusty" Best shared that the (upper) mauka road between Waimea and Kona is extremely unsafe especially for bikers, but also for pulling over with a vehicle during emergencies, car trouble, flat tires, etc. There is no roadside, the white and the edge of the road is the same.

Chairman Reilly said that road belongs to State Highways and suggested Dusty and Mary inform Stan Tamura of their safety concerns.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 9, 2004

- The Minutes of the August 9, 2004 meeting was approved as circulated. (October 11, 2004 Meeting Cancelled – No Quroum)

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

- **Kuakini Highway – Widening Project**
Currently working on tree removal.
- **Kaiwi Street**
Work order in for Installation of “Share the Roadway” signs for resurfacing because shoulders were not included in project.
- **Paniolo Drive**
Working on design of left-turn pocket for the condo. Expected to be implemented during the first quarter of this coming year.

VALUABLE TREES - REMOVALS

James Friday said if there are valuable trees such as Mahogany that would need to be removed, contact him as there are woodworkers that may be interested.

Director McClure shared that if project goes out to bid, then it becomes the contractor's responsibility to take care of trees and if it's in-house then the County would be obligated to contact everybody to avoid accusations of being unfair.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Chairman Reilly requested a list of all Future Projects. He said that there is a huge project in Volcano Village that people in the community were unaware of.

Director McClure will see what can be done.

VOLCANO PROJECT

Chairman Reilly said that white post delineators were installed between Kalanikoa and the Charter School on Volcano Road. He asked Stanley Nakasone if there is enough of a shoulder for kids to walk/bike to school and if so, are there enough funds to fill with gravel and pave shoulder. Director McClure will follow up.

KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY - Grates

At Chairman Reilly's request, Director McClure will check on status of installation of grates on roadway.

OLD BUSINESS

RAILROAD AVENUE – ONE DAY EVENT

No Action – Remove from agenda.

**LETTER TO MAYOR KIM
QUEEN KA'AHUMANU HIGHWAY**

Draft letter dated August 9, 2004 has not yet been finalized and released.

The committee reviewed letter from the Governor to Mary Osborne dated September 30, 2004 which is confirming that the State is against widening the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway for bikes and pedestrians in order to keep land available for future highway needs.

Mary said that alternatives for a path mauka of the Highway up through the Industrial area should be considered since too many developers already own areas on the makai side of Queen K Highway.

Action

Following a discussion, the following action will be taken:

Chairman Reilly will contact Director Haraga to inform him that West Hawai'i members of the Hawai'i County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee would like to be involved in the site selection and design phase of the West Hawai'i Multi-Use Pathway Project. He will follow up with a letter.

Laura Dierenfield and Kelly Burke suggested that the letter to the Mayor be revised to include: In light of Governor Lingle's invitation, we will be contacting Director Rodney Haraga to find out the status of the parkway project, request to participate in process and keep you informed.

Deputy Director Pam Mizuno reminded members to keep Mayor informed of committee's actions since it is an Advisory Committee to the Mayor.

Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway Widening Project – Phase I

Mary Osborne reported that the Design Contract for Phase I of the widening project (which includes changing from two lanes to four between Henry Street and the Airport) will be awarded on March 5, 2005.

NEW BUSINESS

PROJECT REVIEW – Comments – University of Hawai'i at Hilo Mauka Lands Master Plan – Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

On December 2, 2004, Deputy Director Mizuno transmitted comments received from Chairman Ron Reilly and Member Herbert Soloway to Vincent Shigekumi of PBR Hawai'i and copies to the Office of Environmental Quality Control, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Mayor Kim and Committee members. Comments were due on December 2nd.

Deputy Director Mizuno shared that Vincent Shigekumi will relay concerns and recommendations to consultant. He said there is a 2 foot gutter pan which is included in the 6 foot lane. In order to take advantage of a large flat area, they have proposed the pedestrian/bicycle court. There will be 8 foot parking on both sides, 12 foot traffic lanes, Rows A, B and C. If future needs warrant, they will remove parking area and replace with bicycle lanes, currently the demand is for parking. The Final EIS will address linking the bike lanes to the Puainako Street extension.

ANNUAL REPORT TO MAYOR

Richard Chamberlin will prepare the Annual Report for Mayor.
(See Bylaws, Article II, Section 1.b: An Annual Report will be prepared on progress made towards achieving the committee's goals)

NARROW ROADWAYS – SLOWING TRAFFIC

James Friday shared information regarding slowing down vehicles on straight, wide roadways – rather than narrowing roadways he recently heard of installing pinch points that would create a visual slowing down or as earlier discussed installing roundabouts which block a line of sight.

There was a discussion on types of roads affected by nationwide movement to build narrower streets and Kelly Burke clarified that Deputy Planning Director Roy Takemoto was referring to neighborhood streets and not major roadways.

Chairman Reilly suggested following up with Planning Department on their decision of what future roadway standards will be. He also said that it's a very complicating matter because it could depend on traffic volume and other factors.

Roadway standards will be put on the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

James Friday suggested that slowing down traffic is such an important subject that it should be revisited and discussed often. Matter can be researched while visiting different cities and thought about after riding in various areas.

QUEEN KA'AHUMANU HIGHWAY - Widening of Shoulders

Mary Osborne reported that she attended a meeting during widening project with personnel from the State and Glover Engineering to discuss safe routes for bicyclists through the construction site. They also discussed types of signage for roadway upon project completion to keep motorists from using the shoulder as a passing or driving lane.

Mary suggests that the striping for the wide shoulder be marked as bike lanes as there have been dangerous situations between motorists and bicyclists on the shoulder.

Herbert Soloway said that Stanley Tamura of State Highways assured him that signs would be erected upon completion of project.

Both Herbert and Mary will call Stanley Tamura urging him that signage or pavement markings be installed as soon as possible due to major safety concerns.

MEMBERSHIP

Hawai'i County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Membership is co-terminous with the Mayor and members received letters asking them if they would continue serving on the committee for the next four years.

Mary Osborne has many work commitments and recommended someone else from Kona fill her slot on the Committee. She said that both guests from Kona (Doug and Dusty) are interested in becoming members and the only way she could continue serving is to attend via teleconference from Kona. She works next door to the Kona Mayor's Office. She also recommended increasing the number of members representing her district and would like to be an ex-officio instead of a regular member.

Richard Chamberlin displayed the Council District map and said that most of the cycling is done in District 8 and Mary has been the only representative from that area, he suggested having more than one representative serve from District 8.

Deputy Director Pam Mizuno announced that there is an additional vacancy on the committee since Carolyn Irvine resigned due to medical reasons. She also said that applications should be submitted to the Mayor's Office for consideration.

Chairman Reilly said according to the Mayor's letter you only need to contact them if you cannot serve, so the assumption is if there is no response, then members will return. He also suggested that if anyone decides to resign to submit a letter to Mayor.

TELECONFERENCING FUTURE MEETINGS

Committee members would like to teleconference future meetings to Kona. Mary Osborne may be able to continue to serve if she can save travel time.

Pam Mizuno shared concern about advertising or holding a teleconference/videoconference meeting, if the connection fails, the meeting must be cancelled. Members would like to take that chance.

Kelly Burke suggested that West Hawai'i members travel to personally attend meetings at least once every third meeting. He did research on this subject and found that it is important to have personal contact.

The P&R Conference room is not set up for teleconferencing, Public Works Director Bruce McClure will tentatively reserve the Public Works Conference Room in Suite 7 of the Aupuni Center (next door to P&R) for future meetings.

Mary Osborne works next door to the Kona Mayor's Office and will check on availability. (Nathalie Santos has reserved the Kona Mayor's Office Conference Room for 2005).

MAPS - PROJECTORS

Laura Dierenfield requested that wall maps be available during meetings. Richard Chamberlin also asked if there is projection equipment available.

Deputy Director Mizuno said that equipment can be made available, but it will take a lot more time to plan and prepare for presentations. Presenters can contact Nat or Pam at P&R in advance to check on availability and set up.

KA'U DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Reilly shared copies of CD's received from community activist Julia Neill with an emotive plea for support to preserve the lifestyle in the Ka'u district. CD's were transmitted to committee for information only.

VIDEO ON TRAFFIC CONGESTION – CRITICAL MESS BIKERS TAKE ACTION

Chairman Reilly loaned a video on critical mess to be shared by members, Mary Osborne will view first and pass it to another member at the next meeting. The video shows what happens in New York when thousands of bikers frustrated with traffic decide to clog the road on their bikes. Ron participated in the Critical Mess set up in San Francisco.

TAIRA YOSHIMURA

Letter to Police Regarding Witness in Dooring Incident

James Friday reported that he spoke to Taira Yoshimura who is recovering from the March accident he wrote the committee about.

Action

Chairman Reilly apologized about not writing to the Police Chief to request his assistance to notify officers that the person who is involved in the accident, (in this case the person who doored Taira while he was riding his bike) should not be a witness in the case as noted on police report.

LAWS INVOLVING BICYCLES AND VEHICLES ON ROADWAYS

There was a discussion on whether or not Cyclists or motorists have the right of way on right turns. The general law needs to be researched. Members also discussed various locations that have different traffic laws.

Director McClure explained that the law regarding lane transitioning to disappear states: the cyclist needs to pull over to the left side of the right turn lane.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathalie Santos, Secretary