

KEAHOLE TO KEAUHOU ROAD SYSTEMS & PROJECTS UPDATE
(County of Hawaii Projects, Unless Otherwise Noted - Status as of August, 2001)

1. Realignment/Redesignation of Some of the Major Roads in the “K-to-K” Region:

The master plan for the Keahole to Kailua (K-to-K) region of North Kona calls for several new north/south arterial and collector roads. The proposals shown on the map suggest changes that slightly alter these roads due to archaeological, geographic and other features in the region.

Land use planning documents call for this area to serve as a residential and commercial center for the region. The intent of the mapping is to establish roadway corridors and work with affected landowners to plan for these alignments in their respective future development plans.

While still retaining three primary north/south roadways, there is realignment and shifting of the “Mid-Level Road” and a new alignment for “Main Street”. A recently updated traffic study supports these new alignments and designations.

2. New County Civic Center in Kealakehe:

The County has requested that the Governor issue an Executive Order to designate a property along Kealakehe Parkway as a Civic Center.

Once granted, the County intends to move forward with the planning, design and construction of a new County complex of offices and facilities on this site.

The proposed site is makai of the water tank at the intersection of Kealakehe Parkway and the access road to Kealakehe High School (Keohokalole Highway.)

3. North Kona Municipal Golf Course:

The Office of Corporation Counsel is working on canceling the prior agreement for a private developer to build a municipal golf course in North Kona.

Once that prior agreement is terminated, the County will be seeking another developer to build a municipal golf course on land makai of the Kealakehe High School and north of the Kealakehe Police Station.

4. Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements and Related Projects:

The County’s Wastewater Division is pursuing Federal support to create a ‘constructed wetland’ at the County’s Kealakehe Wastewater Plant. A goal is to provide additional wastewater treatment so that eventually the Kealakehe Treatment Plant will treat wastewater to “R1” quality. R1 quality wastewater can be used for irrigation.

Probable priority irrigation areas include the proposed Kona Municipal Golf Course and the Old Airport Park fields.

Future plans include installation of irrigation lines along the wastewater easement from Kailua-Kona to the Kealakehe Wastewater Plant. These plans include opening the easement as a pedestrian and bike trail.

5. Pedestrian Pathway from Kealakehe Intermediate to Kealakehe High School:

The County has requested that the State permit pedestrian access over a Water Department easement and other rights-of-way (all over State-owned land) connecting the mauka residential and school community of Kealakehe Elementary and Intermediate Schools with the makai section of Villages of Laiopua and Kealakehe High School.

The pathway will be monitored and maintained by the PATH and Kealakehe Neighborhood Watch organizations.

6. New Main Street and Service Roads North of Kealakehe Parkway:

The proposed "Main Street" and service road alignments just north of Kealakehe Parkway, connecting with the road system in the Kaloko Light Industrial Subdivision, are patterned after circulation plans proposed in development plans for the affected property owners.

Kamanu Street in the Kaloko Light Industrial Subdivision becomes "Main Street," (the service road proposed in the K-to-K Master Plan.) The alignments mauka and to the south of existing Kaloko Light Industrial Subdivision mirror landowner's development plans.

The extension of "Main Street" to the north of Hina Lani Street takes advantage of a road right-of-way reserve in the Kohanaiki Business Park. "Main Street" then extends north to Ka Imi Nani Street and on to serve the proposed University of Hawaii campus. (The slight jog just below Kona Palisade Subdivision addresses archaeological sites in the area.)

7. Holoholo Street (Kona Palisade and Kona Acres) Extension to Nana Street (Kona Coastview Subdivision) (Private):

A private developer is proposing to connect Nana Street in Kona Coastview Subdivision with Holoholo Street in Kona Palisade Subdivision as part of its proposed development.

In addition, two adjoining lots will be donated to the Kalaoa Community to be used as a regional volunteer fire station.

8. Hao Kuni Street - Kealakaa Street Connection:

The County is investigating the feasibility and practicality of extending and connecting Kealakaa Street and Hao Kuni Street. This is in the immediate vicinity of Hualalai Academy.

9. Kealakehe Parkway Extension (State):

The first section of Kealakehe Parkway was completed by the State and runs from Queen Kaahumanu Highway to Keanalehu Drive. Previously, the State called for the balance of the road project, extending to Palani Road, to be completed as a single phase.

Recently, the State agreed to split this remaining length of roadway into two phases: the first extending from its terminus at Keanalehu Drive to the elevation of the Kealakaa Street Extension, and the second, from that point to Palani Road.

The Kealakaa Street extension to the north is one of the three north/south roadways that are part of the proposed K-to-K road system.

10. Queen Kaahumanu Highway Improvements (State):

The State Department of Transportation (DOT) has an island-wide number one priority to improve Queen Kaahumanu Highway from Kealakehe Parkway to Henry Street in Kailua. Improvement designs call for widening to 4-lanes with designated turning pockets and pedestrian walkways.

Traffic signals are to be added at the intersection that leads to the Kealakehe Police Station/Kailua Transfer Station. Construction is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2003-2004.

In addition, State DOT has increased the priority of the planning phase for improvements to Queen Kaahumanu Highway/Kuakini Highway from Henry Street to Kamehameha III Road.

11. Palani Road Safety Improvements:

The County Department of Public Works is working on plans to improve the intersection of Palani Road and Kealakaa Street.

These intersection improvements have been identified by the County Department of Public Works, Kona Traffic Safety Committee and others as the highest priority for safety improvements along the Palani Road right-of-way.

In addition, through a consultant, the County is investigating other areas along Palani Road to determine safety concerns and priorities for improvement.

12. Heritage Corridor Improvements:

In cooperation with Pulama la Kona Heritage Preservation Council and the Kona Historical Society, Hawaii County Departments of Public Works and Research and Development are investigating safety improvements on Mamalahoa Highway between its northern intersection with Palani Road and south beyond Honalo.

Contemplated action includes improved roadways and creation of turnouts; these should help the local community, as well as support the Kona Heritage Stores in the mauka section of Kona. These general merchandise stores have been in business for over 50 years and continue to serve the community.

13. Hienaloli Road Extension:

A new north/south roadway is planned to extend over the existing Hienaloli corridor from Hualalai road (at the south end) northward to intersect with Palani Road and continue to Keanalehu Drive in the Kealakehe area. This alignment needs additional evaluation of archaeological, geographic and other physical features.

14. Hualalai Road Safety Improvements (County and State):

County and State agencies are looking to future improvements of Hualalai Road. The State is considering realignment and intersection improvements with Queen Kaahumanu Highway (to align with the proposed Kahului-Keauhou Parkway) and the County is considering improvements from Queen Kaahumanu Highway to the proposed improved Hienaloli Road and beyond.

15. Kuakini Highway Safety Improvements:

Kuakini Highway, from Palani Road to Hualalai Road, will soon be under construction to include various safety improvements. The road will be widened to accommodate 2-lanes of traffic in each direction, designated turning pockets, bicycle lanes in each direction and pedestrian sidewalks.

Improvements include synchronized traffic signals in this area. Ololi Road will be extended and opened to Kopiko Street. Efforts will be made to retain the existing trees along the route.

16. Kailua Village Improvements:

The County has requested that the Governor issue an Executive Order to designate a property in Kailua Village for additional parking. The site adjoins the existing County parking facility and is situated between the Kona West Condominium and Emma's Square.

An unrelated proposal relates to pedestrian facilities fronting Emma's Square and the Kim Chong Building on Alii Drive. The area of existing rock walls is being considered to be converted to open, level pedestrian and related use that includes the prospect of permitting adjoining property owners to use part of this space for tables and chairs, much like other communities' sidewalk cafes.

17. Alii Drive - Oneo Bay Roadway Enhancement:

A County consultant is working on the planning phase of improvements to Alii Drive in the vicinity of Oneo Bay. Project specifications call for a pedestrian walkway to be cantilevered over the existing seawall, under-grounding of all utilities and other beautification features. The project runs from Bubba Gump's Restaurant to Huggo's Restaurant.

18. Kahakai Road Safety Improvements:

Kahakai Road is in Kailua Village and runs from Huggo's Restaurant at the north end to the Kona Reef Condominiums at the south. Several property owners have expressed safety concerns in this area. The County is discussing these issues with the property owners/users and is investigating various alternatives to address them.

19. Lako Street - Mauka and Makai Extensions (County and Private):

Developers of Kona Vista Subdivision plan to submit final drawings of their proposed development, including the mauka extension of Lako Street for County review. Included in the development will be drainage improvements in and around Queen Kaahumanu and above Royal Poinciana Drive.

Hawaii County Public Works Department is working on planning, design and eventual construction of the Lako Street extension makai to Alii Drive. Community meetings have been held and consultants are reviewing the findings and recommendations.

20. New Mauka-Makai Connector - Kailua to Keauhou:

The County is discussing with different affected landowners the prospect of building another mauka-makai connector road from Alii Drive to Kuakini Highway between Kailua and Keauhou.

Initial discussions focus on the road system in the Keauhou View Subdivision development above La'aloa White Sands Beach Park connecting through neighboring properties to Kuakini Highway.

21. Kahului-Keauhou Parkway (The Parkway):

The Parkway extends from Queen Kaahumanu Highway, in the vicinity of Hualalai Road, to the traffic signal below Keauhou Shopping Center. It runs generally parallel to Alii Drive.

Design characteristics of The Parkway include: a single automobile lane in each direction, bicycle lanes on either side, pedestrian sidewalks and landscaping. Intersections with mauka/makai connectors are typically roundabouts.

Emphasis of priority for phased construction called for Phase I (from the north terminus with Queen Kaahumanu Highway to the Lako Street extension) to be constructed first.

The present priority is now to work on Phase 2 first (from the Lako Street Extension to Keauhou.) The estimated \$30 million for construction of this section of roadway is expected to be funded next fiscal year (2002-2003).

22. Kamehameha III Road Improvements:

In anticipation of increased traffic along Kamehameha III Road, connecting Alii Drive in Keauhou to the mauka intersection at Kuakini Highway, County Public Works Department is investigating widening and other improvement issues.

A probable improvement design is to add an additional lane to the existing lanes and use it for peak-flow traffic on the roadway.

23. Alii Drive Improvements (Kailua to Keauhou):

Several improvements are being considered for the Alii Drive corridor between Kailua and Keauhou. Restroom and shower facilities are being considered for Honi's and Banyan's surf spots at the County's wastewater pumping stations.

Parking facilities are being considered for Honi's (moving the County's wastewater treatment pumping station perimeter fence mauka to add on-street parallel parking,) Banyan's (possible acquisition of land mauka of the County's wastewater pumping station for use as a daytime parking facility,) Lyman's (additional grading, paving and fencing of the County's site for daytime parking) and La'aloa Beach Park (paving of the parking area at the park.)

24. Alii Drive Improvements (Keauhou Resort Area):

The County is looking into improvements to Alii Drive in the Keauhou Resort area as they relate to the transition of the Kahului-Keauhou Parkway (The Parkway) to the north and the Mamalahoa Highway Bypass Road to the south.

In addition to the transition details, traffic studies will help determine the capacity and design needs for this section of roadway as it relates to its role with these neighboring regional roads.

25. Mamalahoa Highway Bypass Road (Private):

As part of development requirements, the developers of the Hokulia project, at the North and South Kona districts' boundary, are required to build a Mamalahoa Highway Bypass Road from the Napoopoo Junction to Keauhou. Grading permits have been issued, acquisition of the road corridor is being finalized and construction will soon be underway.

Traffic studies indicate that one-half of the existing mauka traffic along mauka Mamalahoa Highway will use the bypass road when it is completed.

26. Mamalahoa Highway - Honalo to Captain Cook Safety Improvements:

Once the Mamalahoa Highway Bypass Road is completed, the County will initiate safety improvements along Mamalahoa Highway from Honalo to Captain Cook. Improvements include road widening, improved sight distances and other safety improvements.