

PUAINAKO STREET EXTENSION

The Puainako Street Extension Project widens, partially realigns and extends Puainako Street in Hilo, Hawaii.

Along the 1.5-mile long section between Kilauea Avenue and Komohana Street, Puainako Street (Lower Portion) will be widened from two to four lanes. The 120-foot right-of-way also accommodates dual sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

Puainako Street will be extended approximately 4.5-miles between Komohana Street and the Saddle Road (State Highway 200, also designated Kaumana Drive) (Upper Portion) as a two-lane road.

The eastern project terminus is at the intersection of Puainako Street and Kilauea Avenue, and the western terminus is at approximately the 6-mile marker on the Saddle Road. Along the westernmost (0.6-mile) section, Puainako Street will be routed north of its current alignment.

The Project's purposes are: 1) to improve arterial traffic flow of the State Highway system by providing a direct link between the existing Puainako Street and the Saddle Road (Highway 200), and 2) to alleviate congested and unsafe traffic conditions on the existing Puainako Street and Kaumana Drive.

LEAD AGENCIES

The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) and the Hawaii State Department of Transportation (HDOT) are serving as joint lead agencies, with the assistance of the Hawaii County Department of Public Works.

The Project was developed out of separate efforts to extend the County's portion of the roadway and to widen the State's portion. These projects were then integrated to optimize planning and design.

COST AND SCHEDULE

The Project will cost an estimated \$29.5-million. Construction is expected to be completed by January 2004.