

KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY REALIGNMENT, VICINITY OF LANIAKEA BEACH O'AHU

TASK FORCE MEETING NO. 2

SUMMARY

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Haleiwa Elementary School

Attendance

HDOT: Alvin Takeshita, Ken Tatsuguchi, Darell Young, and David Zevenbergen

PB: Randy Urasaki, Dexter Eji, James Hayes, Jan Reichelderfer, and Paula Brooks

<u>Task Force:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antya Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gil Riviere
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Emmons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Desoto
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Philips	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Thielst
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Sandison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kalani Fronda
	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Malia Evans for</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Ward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kawika Au
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Purdy
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luann Casey
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dolan Eversole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ralph Inouye
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Douglas Cole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Martin

Purpose

The objectives for this meeting were to:

- Review and finalize project purpose and need;
- Identify the universe of project alternatives;
- Begin to identify project constraints;
- Develop methodology for screening alternatives.

Summary of Discussion:

Opening Remarks and Introductions – Mr. Alvin Takeshita, HDOT Highways Administrator

Mr. Takeshita expressed HDOT's appreciation for the community's dedication to this process and for their attendance tonight.

Task force members introduced themselves and each explained their interest in the project. 18 of the 19 Task force members were present at the meeting. Police Officer Caraang Grizalmer has been replaced by Officer Mark Ward, as the former has been transferred. Kawika Au was represented by an alternate, Malia Evans. Chris Gardner was absent.

Mr. Takeshita introduced the project team: Hawaii State Department of Transportation (HDOT) – Ken Tatsuguchi, Darell Young and David Zevenbergen from the Highway Planning Branch. Parsons Brinckerhoff – Randy Urasaki, Dexter Eji, James Hayes, Jan Reichelderfer and Paula Brooks.

Mr. Takeshita reminded everyone of the Waimea rock slide and explained how horrific a catastrophic loss of this road would be to the community.

Demonstration Project Briefing – Mr. James Hayes, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Mr. Hayes updated the task force on activities that had occurred since the last meeting including meetings with Parks and Recreation, Kamehameha Schools, etc. He also showed several drawings for possible short term solutions (see project handout). He briefed the group on potential issues with those solutions, including the production of environmental documents and permits, such as an SMA permit. Mr. Hayes said that the process can take several years to get an SMA permit. Gil Riviere cited examples of SMA permits being obtained in less than one year.

Public Comments

Eleven members of the public attended and were offered a chance to voice concerns for 15 minutes. The following is a summary of comments provided by attendees:

- Bob Schieve (North Shore Chamber of Commerce):
 - North Shore population is growing much larger.
 - Congestion at Laniakea is a daily event with tourists stopping to visit the turtles.
 - Cross walks will cause their own congestion problems.
 - Could have an under- or overpass.
 - Mark parking stalls.
 - Problems also occur with people parking and reversing into the highway.
- Ms. Nicole Correa:
 - Build a ramp over or under – cross walks and/or lights will make more issues.
 - Road should not impact the Pony Club.
 - Barriers would block the view.
 - We need sustainability and the Farmers market is important.
- Mr. Robert Robertson
 - The turtles should not be a tourist attraction at this location; other places exist for tourists to see them.
 - A wall can be constructed to block the view.

- There are many cultural/historic sites in the area.
- Keep the Country Country and DOT should fix this problem with a simple solution rather than pacifying the community.
- Mr. Gabe Watts
 - Reported seeing an advertisement in a tourist magazine showing the turtles. Remove the spot from tourist magazines and point them to another location to see turtles.

Mr. Hayes then said there were 5 website comments mostly focused on not blocking the view, having a solution soon and saying that traffic congestion was the most important issue. He encouraged the task force members to have their friends and colleagues log comments on the website.

Review of Previous Meeting Notes and Purpose and Need – Mr. James Hayes, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Mr. Hayes asked that the task force members approve the previous meeting summary. After some discussion about making sure the pedestrian underpass was referenced, the minutes were finalized.

Task Force members were asked to approve the project purpose and need after Mr. Hayes explained how purpose and need are used in an environmental document for evaluating alternatives. Discussion areas included:

- DOT's concern with shoreline erosion and how the natural shoreline is likely mauka of the roadway.
- How parking is not a purpose of the project but supporting the parking at the City & County of Honolulu parks would be part of the purpose.
- The shelf life of State EAs – there is none, currently.
- The need for a City and County of Honolulu representative at the meetings.
- Diane Anderson pointed out that Kamehameha Highway is called congestion free in the OMPO document and should be made clear that in the Laniakea area it is not congestion free – strengthen wording that it is not free-flowing.
- Task force focused on congestion while DOT is concerned with shoring up road.
- Reminders that we should be focused on the future for the grandchildren – long-term access to the area by residents.

After discussing how important Purpose and Need are for an environmental document, about one third said they had really reviewed it but all felt it was close to being final. The group will continue to review the document.

Roadway Planning 101 – Mr. James Hayes, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Mr. Hayes described how a road is planned and all the rules, laws and regulations with which we must comply (documented in meeting handout).

Constraints Break Out

Mr. Hayes discussed project constraints including budget, relocations, parklands, regional bike plans, known archaeology, species/habitat, streams, design standards and permitting. Kalani Fronda emphasized the previous studies and reports available for the project area and cautioned against rework.

The task force was then divided into three groups and given maps to discuss where various constraints exist and how those constraints may affect the variety of project alternatives. While there was not enough time to summarize each group's discussion after the breakout was over, the following remarks were noted:

- Concern that not all archeological sites are shown on the map (even already documented ones).
- It would be useful to have an aerial map underlay and a larger area view.
- The parks should be viewed as a great opportunity to use land already available rather than a constraint. HDOT reminded the task force that generally park lands are off limits to transportation projects.
- Kamehameha Schools would consider making available land between parks to move road mauka.
- There is a limited access mauka/makai road being constructed to go back to agricultural areas.
- Keep the parking makai so no crossing the road by pedestrians.
- Don't expect the police to do more enforcement.
- The task force could benefit from meeting in the field.
- The mauka Cane Haul road could be used for a bypass – view from that road is lovely.
- There could be a bypass for locals and retain the existing road for tourists – much like what was done in Haleiwa and that is working very well.
- Need to document shoreline erosion studies.

Homework

Participants were asked to consider alternatives and discuss options with colleagues and friends. At the task force's request, the project team will meet to see whether the next meeting can occur sooner than the scheduled 2 months. HDOT will also consider the feasibility of holding a task force meeting/field trip of the project area.