

DRAFT SOUTH KOHALA TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE DRAFT
Minutes
November 13, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Mike Price called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. at the Waimea Civic Center Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE: George Baybrook, Ardis Hoppy Brown, Tom Brown, Anne & David Gomes, Murray Gardner, David Greenwell, Sheila Goo, Leslie Hall, Cheryl Hirayama, Bets Lawrence, Tim McCullough, Robert Nakamoto, Mike Price, J. William Sanborn, Bill Simonsma, Fran Tabor, Ronald Thiel, Sherman Warner, Carol Yurth.

MINUTES of October 9 were accepted as circulated.

STATE: Stanley Tamura was unable to attend, so sent the following by email to Bets Lawrence:

Hwy 190 Resurfacing Project - Although DOT now has the environmental permit and Best Management Plan, they want to maximize the shoulder widening done by State forces, therefore the resurfacing likely will start in early 2008.

Queen Ka`ahumanu/Kawaihae Road Intersection - Topographic surveys have been completed. Design work continues. Right-of-way acquisition is necessary. Construction is anticipated in early 2009.

Kawaihae Road Resurfacing East End to Wai`aka Bridge - The DHHL timeline for the waterline installation to their 400-lot subdivision is now 2010, therefore the waterline work will not coincide with the resurfacing. Notice to proceed with the resurfacing is now anticipated in December 2007.

To the question: Why can't they put the waterline in now? Chair Price replied that the plans are not far enough along.

COUNTY: Ron Thiel reported:

WAIKOLOA AREA:

Smart Speed Signs on Paniolo Avenue - DPW is continuing the design process for these signs. They are talking to HELCO.

WAIMEA AREA:

La`e La`e Road Traffic Calming - DPW is now looking at installing the specific measures in-house, and has a few loose ends to tie up before a schedule can be set. Their insurance doesn't allow using a contractor.

Mud Lane Extension - The owner of TMK:4-3-012:006, Waimea 660 LLC, on November 8, 2007 submitted their archaeological inventory survey to DLNR's Historic Preservation

Division for their review. The DPW's stop work order to the owner remains in place and DPW awaits SHPD's recommendations.

Chair Price said the Waimea Circulation Study and the General Plan that came out last year have Mud Lane as a road going to Waipi`o as part of their plan.

Bill Sanborn said there is an alignment all the way down to Kukuihaele. The road on the maps may be a different alignment because the sugar company had it for many years. Waimea 660 would have to reclaim a lot more road if they accessed their land from Kukuihaele instead of from the mauka end. The mauka approach will be more economical for them. In the long term the road should be opened all the way to Kukuihaele to serve for emergencies. But the real issue is that there wasn't supposed to be any representation to Waimea 660 that there was access when Waimea 660 bought the land. The County paved most of Mud Lane, and the question is, what is the benefit to the public?

Chair Price explained that the reason he put this on the agenda is that Larry Johnson asked at the October 9 meeting what the County's plans are. Thiel responded that he doesn't know.

David Gomes asked whether, if the road is continued down to Kukuihaele, it would be one lane all the way which would be very dangerous. Gomes received an email that a biker was almost hit by a speeding vehicle on Mud Lane. Thiel read the same email. Thiel will try to get an answer about what the County's plans are.

Sanborn stated that Mud Lane shouldn't have been paved by the County as it serves only 16 homes, that Waimea 660 should have done the paving. Thiel responded that the County is trying to pave as many roads as possible to reduce upkeep costs. Lawrence said that in a previous meeting DPW had said that they have identified "roads in limbo" and were going to pave as many as they could, when they could. Sanborn responded that he feels there needs to be more transparency in what is going on on Mud Lane.

Chair Price pointed out that this discussion had moved off task and is not about traffic safety, except for the issue of speeders on the road and other safety concerns. The meeting moved to the next order of business.

Waimea Circulation Study - A special public meeting hosted by SKTSC will be held next week on Tuesday, November 20 in this room. One session will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m., and another from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Lalamilo Connector Road EA - As soon as the Waimea Circulation Study is finalized DPW will refine the EA scope and hope to have the draft ready by the spring of 2008 with the final completed in the summer of 2008. Thiel added that it is difficult to set timelines.

Bus Service in Waimea - Tom Brown said the routing for the proposed Waimea Shuttle is set. The diesel buses are in and drivers are being trained. Polynesian Adventure

Tours provides drivers for the County. Service may be able to start in one or two months. The service has been budgeted. The service is planned for ten hours per day starting at 6:30 a.m. from Kamuela View Estates to town, then out to Mud Lane, because there's more traffic coming from the west side of town. A round trip should take about an hour. Peak traffic is from 6 to 8 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Bus stops are planned for back of the Civic Center and back of Parker Ranch Center because County buses don't have the legal right to stop traffic as school buses do. Other stops will be at Kanu o ka `Aina, HPA Elementary/Middle, Parker and Waimea Elementary and Middle Schools. Brown will have exact start dates to report to SKTSC at our December 11 meeting.

David Greenwell asked if the DOE will assist financially, but it was explained that school buses charge students to ride, which can cost a family a lot if they have several children. Chair Price brought up STIP which has about \$300K per year which goes to mass transit. Brown said the State gets 10% of that for administration fees. The three neighbor island county Mass Transit Directors agreed to split the fund three ways evenly between Kaua`i, Maui and Hawai`i. Thiel said putting buses on the road removes many cars from the road. Price agreed that it is good for traffic safety and saves the roadways. Brown said the County Council recently extended free bus rides through at least December 31, 2009.

The County got bids for what the service would cost just in case they couldn't provide the service. The bids came in at \$900 to \$1000 per day, by a private company.

The Mass Transit Agency started new bus runs connecting east and west Hawai`i on Labor Day. They now have runs later in the day and evening to accommodate evening and graveyard shift workers at the resorts. Brown recognizes that about one third of traffic accidents seem to involve hotel workers, some of whom work more than one job. To publicize the new runs Mass Transit informed the resorts and passed out flyers. Brown noted that within a week and a half after the addition of the new bus runs, buses were and continue to be running at capacity, 53 passengers, on work days, and are 80 to 85% filled on weekends.

Anne Field-Gomes suggested that Mass Transit inform *Hawai`i Tribune Herald*, *West Hawai`i Today* and *North Hawai`i News* of the new Waimea Shuttle. Carol Yurth will be the contact for *HTH*. Lawrence suggested info also be sent to Patti Cook for her weekly e-newsletter. Chair Price suggested a map, showing the routes. WCA's next meeting will be on Thursday, January 10, 2008. This will be a good venue at which to pass out flyers with maps.

Chair Price asked for a show of hands of those present who would like to have a district-wide bus service going from Waimea to Waikoloa, to the beaches, to Puako and Kawaihae, then returning to Waimea. Almost everyone raised their hands. Brown said many Waikoloa residents work at the resorts, so this would help them too.

(See also SKTSC 6/12/07 minutes for more information on buses.)

POLICE: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Letter to Civil Defense for better coordination of resources and identifying alternate routes for emergencies.

In the recent fires at Puakô the Fire Department used a caterpillar to put in a fire road. The Puakô community is working on getting an emergency road from Pani`au Park to Mauna Lani. Chair Price told them of his previous letter to CD, asking that old roads be identified be made serviceable. Price has written a second letter, but needs more information from the Puakô community to finish it. He hopes, now that Mayor Kim is taking over Civil Defense, we may get a response. There are many cul-de-sacs in our district, which need to be addressed.

Queen Ka`ahumanu/Kawaihae Intersection Light - Jay Ignacio of HELCO explained in an email that HELCO usually gets lights energized within a few business days of being informed, but in this case there were communication mixups between HELCO's dispatch office, Waimea office and Waimea crews. A "trouble ticket" is opened and remains open until the reconnect is completed. Ignacio is working with the supervisor of the dispatch office to modify the process, or coach/correct personnel to prevent future slips.

Kawaihae State Bypass - Brennon Morioka wrote Chair Price on 10/23/07. He shares our disappointment with the new projected starting time of mid-2009 for the design phase. Price read paragraph three to the committee. It explains the process that leads to completion of the project design. (Letter attached.) Barring unforeseen controversies and processing delays, all NEPA documents (Draft EIS, Final EIS and the Record of Decision) should be completed by late 2008. Early completion of the project design may allow an earlier, initial construction project, if construction funds are available prior to 2012.

SKTSC Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer - Chair Price read Bylaws Article 5 Section 2, and Article XI Sections 1 and 2.

Chair: Mike Price will run again.

Vice Chair: Gunner Mench was nominated by Murray Gardner, seconded by Bets Lawrence. Gardner read reasons Mench will be a good Vice Chair. Mench was away, but stated in an email to the Chair prior to the meeting that he would be honored to accept the nomination.

Secretary/Treasurer: Leslie Hall was nominated by David Greenwell, seconded by Cheryl Hirayama.

M/S/C: Anne Field-Gomes/Robert Nakamoto to close nominations.

Election will be held at the December meeting. Candidates for election are:

Chair: Mike Price Unopposed

Vice Chair: Gunner Mench Unopposed

Secretary/Treasurer: Leslie Hall Unopposed

NEW BUSINESS: Waikoloa - Hulu Hulu Street - Jennifer Grossart emailed Chair Price that six of the ten residences there do not want Hulu Hulu Street to become a connector road because connector roads and main arterials shouldn't go through residential neighborhoods.

Saddle Road Extension from Mamalahoa Hwy to Queen Ka`ahumanu Hwy - Chair Price received a letter dated 10/4/07 from Brennon Morioka saying that the DOT, in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration, has initiated planning studies for the westernmost portion of the Saddle Road, and a connector to the proposed Saddle Road Extension will also be developed. Because the U.S. Army acquired the Keamuku parcel in 2006 which would be nearly bisected by selected alignment W-3, the State DOT will try to establish an alternative alignment W-7, not shown on the enclosed map, which would be infrequently disrupted by military activities. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared which is intended to modify the Final EIS for Saddle Road which was published in 1999. (Letter and map attached.)

U.S. Representative Mazie Hirono and State Representative Cindy Evans were asked to talk to Senator Dan Inouye to provide DOD money for the extension instead of FTA money due to heavy usage by military convoys and shortage of FTA money for Hawai`i. Chair Price will invite Brennon Morioka or Ronald Tsuzuki to a future meeting to explain the project and alignment W-7, and let them know that we want to be kept in the loop.

PATH/WEA Grant for Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) - Bill Sanborn presented information about a \$249,520 grant submitted by the DOE and PATH to improve traffic safety around Waimea Elementary school, Thelma Parker Library and Gym. (Handout attached.) This is an interim solution until the County improves Mamalahoa Hwy fronting the school, which will eliminate the parking stalls there. It will show the DOE and BOE that the community is proactive about safety for our children. The BOE will meet at Waimea School Cafeteria at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 6. Everyone is urged to attend to ask the BOE to cooperate with the County to open Roadway A behind the schools which will eventually connect with the Parker Ranch Connector Road via Lindsey Road. ***Bill, the tape ended here. Anything else?***

Thiel will bring a video to show what is happening now.

Sanborn added that the DOE has agreed to fence off the front entrance to WES.

Chair Price wrote a letter of support from SKTSC for this grant.

Kawaihae Road Pedestrian Walkways Unavailable - Ernestine Martinson wrote Councilman Hoffmann, who forwarded her letter to Chair Price. Martinson is concerned about 1/10 mile of Hwy 19 between La`e La`e Road and where the State highway begins. She points out that two areas are too narrow, and another has space, but the newly paved highway's edge is too steep. She asks that the two narrow places be widened and the other be filled to that it is level ground. Martinson's letter will be forwarded to Bruce McClure.

Waimea Circulation Study Public Meetings will be held on Tuesday, November 20 in this room. One will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and the other from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Please send your questions and concerns to Price prior to the meeting so he can consolidate them and give them to the panel to respond to. Wayne Yoshioka of Parsons Brinckerhoff will make a half hour presentation, followed by Q/A. Price will act as moderator. *West Hawa'i Today* should be invited to this meeting. Lawrence will send the agenda out tomorrow. Price asked that all committee members help keep order. Committee members may be asked to read the consolidated questions.

December 11, 2007 Agenda - Vice Chair Gardner asked that the Police be asked to comment on Roadside Fines and Arson - what should we be looking for, and who to call. What can the public do to assist? Should teams of Police and Fire personnel go to middle and high schools to talk to students? Should they go to the resorts? Gardner and Bill Sanborn will talk to Captain Sanborn and Officer Feliciano. They also need to find out from CPO Feliciano what specific help he provides, so we can let the Police Department know how badly regular CPO services are needed.

NEXT MEETING: December 11, 2007 at 4 p.m. at the Waimea Civic Center Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:40 p.m. **Drive safely, Drive defensively!**

Respectfully submitted,

Bets Lawrence, Secretary