

# KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY REALIGNMENT, VICINITY OF LANIAKEA BEACH O'AHU

## TASK FORCE MEETING NO. 1

### SUMMARY

**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 – 6 p.m.

**Location:** Sunset Beach Elementary School

#### Attendance

HDOT: Alvin Takeshita, Ken Tatsuguchi, and Darell Young

PB: Randy Urasaki, Dexter Eji, James Hayes, Reshawn Fields, and Rachel Adams

#### Task Force:

<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 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"/>	Kawika Au
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crizalmer Caraang	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Purdy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dale Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Luann Casey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ralph Inouye
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dolan Eversole	<input type="checkbox"/>	William Martin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Douglas Cole		

#### Purpose

The objectives for this meeting were to:

- Reach an agreement on the task force charter;
- Discuss measures of success;
- Develop the project purpose and need;
- Begin to identify community values or priorities; and
- Address and identify questions that need to be answered.

#### Summary of Discussion

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

Mr. Takeshita expressed HDOT's appreciation for the task force member's dedication to this process and for their attendance tonight. He also introduced the project team:

- Hawaii State Department of Transportation (HDOT) – Ken Tatsuguchi and Darell Young from the Highway Planning Branch.
- Parsons Brinckerhoff – Randy Urasaki, Dexter Eji, James Hayes, Reshawn Fields, and Rachel Adams.

Task force members were then introduced and each explained their interest in the project. 15\* of the 19 Task force members were present at the meeting. The following members were absent: Chris Gardner; Douglas Cole; John Thielst; William Martin.

\*Antya Miller was present, but due to meeting conflicts, was unable to remain after the introductions.

## 2. Project Background – Mr. James Hayes, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Mr. Hayes explained how the project was identified in the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan and the community's critical role in bringing it to its current phase. The task force's role in the project is to provide recommendations and advise HDOT. Task force representatives were selected from groups within the community and highway users. Meeting attendees from the general public were encouraged to talk to task force members as one way to provide input in addition to comment forms at meetings and the project website.

## 3. Public Comments

Before initiating discussion of the Task Force Charter, the Task Force voted unanimously to allow meeting attendees from the general public to voice concerns for 15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting. It was agreed that public comments must be solution-oriented.

The following is a summary of comments provided by attendees:

- Dr. Dilcher:
  - Expressed frustration and dismay with the project's focus only on long-term solutions.
  - Feels that the problem specific to Laniakea has only been around for the last few years when the tourists began stopping to visit the turtles.
  - Solution is to “Move business operation of turtles towards Haleiwa” to relieve congestion problems.
- Mrs. Patty Desoto:
  - Agrees with Dr. Dilcher. \$1 million dollar highway improvements are a band-aid solution that won't address the real problem.
  - The turtles are sick from tourists feeding them. Something needs to be done about them.
  - Move the turtles.
- Mr. Jan Pitts:
  - Mr. Pitts expressed concern for the loss of ocean views, indicating that we live in Hawaii where these vistas are important. He strongly opposes any

realignment of Kamehameha Highway that would take away the view of the ocean.

- A sanctuary for the turtles is needed.
- Anonymous:
  - I agree with Dr. Dilcher.
  - There needs to be some island-wide context. There are too many cars, and we can't keep bringing in more cars.
  - Wants to see alternative modes of transportation incorporated as part of the solution.
- Karen Gallagher:
  - The community provided alternative solutions in May and nothing has happened.
  - One solution, Sally Cole's idea, is to make a road from behind the bridge.
  - The situation is an emergency, and something is needed NOW. It used to be just on weekends and now it is all the time. Residents have no alternative routes.
  - Task Force is great but the meetings will be over the next two years, and the community cannot wait that long for a solution. We need something now.
- Richard Sterman:
  - In the 1970s and 1980s, the turtles in protection used to run away from surfers, now they come to humans.
  - The problem is that it is a tourist destination. Solution is to stop tour buses from stopping there. Tour buses create a lot of havoc.
- Reed Matsuura:
  - Suggest putting Task Force members in the North Shore News to let folks know who to address their concerns to.

#### Task Force Discussion:

- We need temporary solutions and to implement the quick-fixes to alleviate the frustration.
- Temporary or short term solutions are cheap and quick.
- Folks are willing to be flexible. Why not try them as test or trial solutions?
- Can HDOT tell us what IS and what IS NOT possible?

#### 4. Review of Task Force Charter – Mr. James Hayes, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Task force members that were present indicated that they reviewed the Charter and were ready to sign. Members decided that meeting in Haleiwa at 6:30 pm would be a better time/place to accommodate folks coming from town. End time would still be the same, just shorten the breaks.

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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.

The task force asked if they could meet between meetings. Mr. Hayes indicated that this is fine as long as HDOT remains informed of the discussion.

## 5. Project Delivery Process Overview – Mr. James Hayes, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Mr. Hayes described the timeline and process for project delivery and focused on the planning portion of the process. The process must be successfully completed in order to fulfill the long-term solution and obtain funding. The task force will need to be mindful of keeping with the process.

Task Force expressed concern and frustration that the process will take too long when many of the solutions, like putting guardrails, traffic lights, or crosswalks are capable of being implemented in two months and should not take two years just to plan.

The task force asked whether actions like putting up walls or other “quick-fixes” would require the process. Mr. Hayes explained that when you use government funds or have a project on State lands, depending on the action, there are three tiers – activities that are exempted, activities that fall into the Environmental Assessment level (EA), and then activities that are controversial or have severe impacts that are in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) level. This project is looking at an EA level. Mr. Hayes explained that the process may seem long, but we want to avoid a “Superferry” situation. We must follow the process. It is going to take some discussion within the HDOT regarding if and what can be done in the short-term that would fall under the exempted level of activity.

## 6. Purpose and Need Break Out

The “purpose and need” of a project describes the need that the project is being developed to address. Mr. Hayes presented a list of “purpose and need” ideas that were identified from the public meeting in May 2011 and the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan.

The Task Force was divided into three groups and asked to consider the following:

- a. What do you do in the project area and is there a need that relates to that activity?
- b. Do we agree that the list of “needs” in the purpose and need statement is complete?
- c. Clarify the meaning of each statement. (Safety for whom? Parking for what?) Does everyone agree?
- d. Prioritize the needs.

Table 1 provides a listing or summary of what was reported from each group’s discussion. As the groups reported on their discussion, these were some of the common themes:

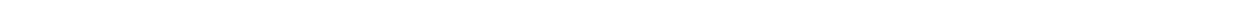
- Need short-term or interim solutions.
- Congestion is the priority, safety is secondary.
- Surfers and Tour Buses not as big a problem as the individual rental cars.

Each group had similarly identified and prioritized the Project's purpose and need as follows:

1. Congestion;
2. Safety;
3. Reliability (emergency response, disaster management, etc.)
4. Parking and Access;
5. Alternative Methods of Transportation (pedestrian and bicycle);
6. Shoreline retreat/climate change considerations.

The task force discussed other potential short-term solutions. A comprehensive listing of short-term ideas that were presented through-out the meeting is provided in the next section.

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**Table 1: Summary of Purpose and Need Break-Out**

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
A. What do you do in the project area?	Much of the group travels through the project area. Some surf.		We travel.
B. Additional "needs"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relieve Congestion NOW</li> <li>• Pedestrian Safety</li> <li>• Beach Access</li> <li>• Emergency Response</li> <li>• Archaeological Site Protection</li> <li>• Traffic Circulation for Parking</li> <li>• Pedestrian Walkway by Quasi-Park</li> <li>• Bikeway/Bike Path/ Shared Path</li> <li>• Passing on Shoulders</li> <li>• Two Step Process. Relieve Congestion, then others.</li> <li>• Short-Term and Long-Term Fixes</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• City Park</li> <li>• Shoreline Protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and <u>Manage</u> Safety and Accessibility.</li> <li>• Consider Impact of Future Needs – Primarily Traffic and Public Access.</li> <li>• Consider Projected Climate Change Impact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking for turtle observation.</li> <li>• Adequate parking for surfing.</li> <li>• Pedestrian Safety</li> <li>• Need for signage</li> <li>• Improve traffic flow</li> <li>• Address shoreline retreat</li> <li>• Speed of delivery</li> </ul>
C. Clarify the statements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relieve Congestion – it used to be only during certain times. Now it is all day during the summer and winter. Without addressing residential needs, we cannot go beyond to address how to take care of the visitors. Congestion caused by:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ocean Attraction;</li> <li>- Buses;</li> <li>- Rent-A-Cars</li> <li>- Parking and Pedestrian Conflicts</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pedestrian Walkway by Quasi-Park – A crosswalk is needed to funnel pedestrians.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all bus tours cause the problem.</li> <li>• Safety for pedestrians</li> <li>• Roadway reliability in case of emergencies and disasters.</li> <li>• Parking for surfers and visitors.</li> <li>• Access for shoreline and the visibility of the ocean.</li> </ul>

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
D. Prioritize the needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relieve Congestion (Short-term and Long-Term Solutions)</li> <li>2. Everything Else.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Reduce Traffic Congestion</u></li> <li>2. Improve Motorist &amp; Pedestrian Safety</li> <li>3. Maintain/Improve Roadway Reliability</li> <li>4. Consideration of Environmental and Cultural Assets</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Congestion</li> <li>2. Safety (pedestrian)</li> <li>3. Roadway reliability in case of emergencies and disasters.</li> <li>4. Parking for surfers and visitors</li> <li>5. Access for shoreline and ocean views</li> </ol>
E. Short Term Solutions	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crosswalk</li> <li>• Underpass at existing roadway bridge</li> <li>• One way in, one way out for parking</li> <li>• No makai parking with physical barrier</li> <li>• Enforcement of no makai parking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement during 3-day weekends</li> <li>• Run tests</li> <li>• No stoplights for long-term solution.</li> </ul>

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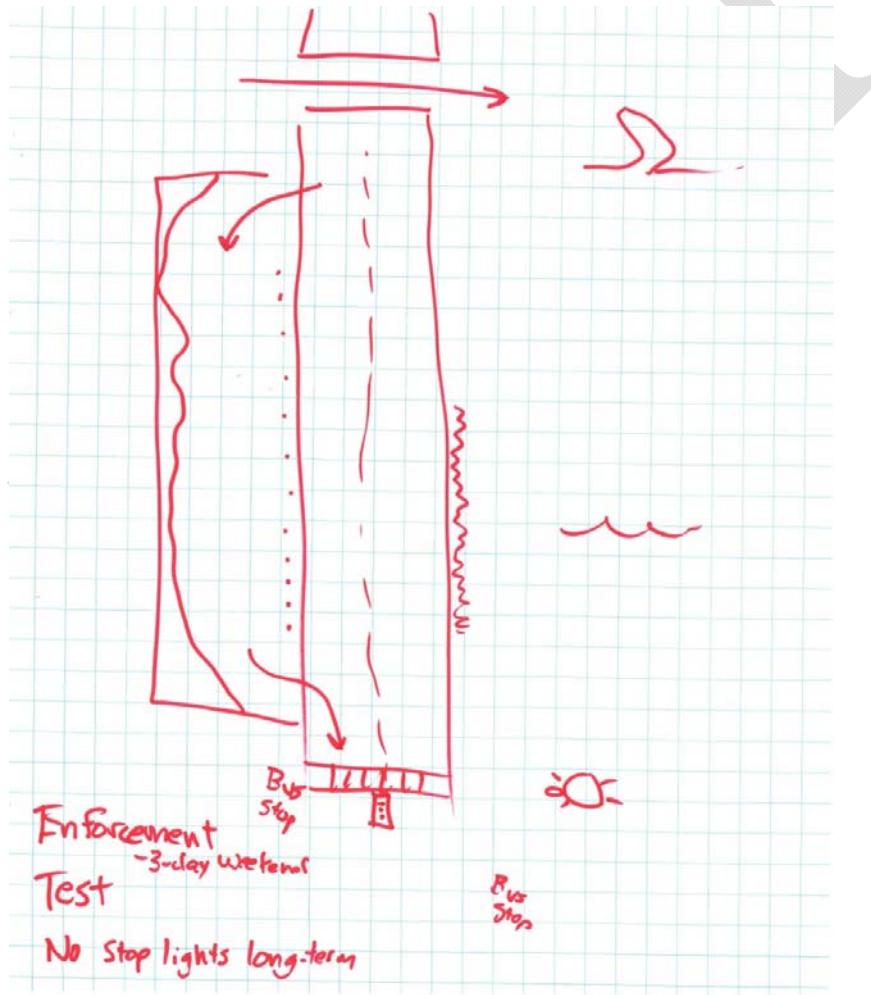
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## 7. Short-Term or Interim Alternatives

The speed of delivery for this project to address congestion is of great concern to both task force members and the general public who attended this meeting. Short-term or interim alternatives were discussed throughout the task force meeting as potential solutions that would provide some immediate relief. The following is a listing of ideas that were brought up throughout the meeting:

### *Pedestrian and Parking Solutions:*

- Barriers; guardrails; or gates to funnel pedestrian traffic;
- Crosswalks with police enforcement;
- Barriers; guardrails; or gates to impede cars from parking and to funnel pedestrians;
- Use of culverts or bridge as an underpass for pedestrians. Lifeguards would close when it is raining or the surf is too high;
- Management of dirt or gravel parking lot so that cars can only access at limited location and peds can only cross at cross walks (see below);



- Police enforcement of parking restrictions; and
- Use test or trial runs of these alternatives to see if they could work.

*Turtles:*

- Ask tours to take “turtle viewing” business to Haleiwa or other destinations on North Shore, where there are adequate facilities (parking, bathrooms, etc.);
- Move the turtles; and
- Create a turtle sanctuary.

### **Action Items and Next Task Force Meeting**

As requested, HDOT will consider whether it would be possible to meet earlier than the 2-month schedule. At the next task force meeting, the task force will finalize the Purpose and Need, and talk about project constraints like historic and archaeological resources. We will also discuss the parks that are planned for the area.

Action Items for Task Force:

- Homework: Take photos of traffic-related problems or issues. Photos of what makes the North Shore so special, as well as issues that the task force should be addressing.
- Talk to folks around you to get their ideas and opinions for the next meeting.

Action Items for HDOT and Project Team:

- Evaluate the potential for short-term solutions. What’s possible?
- Identify the Highway right of way and setback.
- Send out information about the beach support parks that are planned for the area.
- See if the next meeting can be sooner.