

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

[Hyperlink to video](#)

Community Plan Advisory Committee

Attending: Chair Rob Weltman, Vice Chair Daniel Kanahale, Tova Callender, Everett R. Dowling, Lehua Huddleston-Hafoka, Vernon Kalanikau, Mike Moran, Cody Nemet, Wayne Nishiki, Jennifer Sullivan, Brian Ward

Absent: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, Keoki Pfaeltzer

County of Maui – Planning Department, Long Range Division (LRD)

Karen Comcowich, Planner

Caroline Pembroke, Planner

Brendan Conboy, Planner

Kawika Farm, Cultural Resources Planner

County of Maui – Planning Department, Administration

Michele Chouteau-McLean, Director

Jacky Takakura, Deputy Director

County of Maui – Department of Transportation

Marc Takamori, Director

County of Maui – Department of Public Works

Jordan Molina, Director

State Department of Transportation, Highway Division

Robin Shishido, Deputy Director

Call to order at 5:31p.m.

Opening, Introduction and Housekeeping (00:00 to 10:13 in meeting video)

Following member roll call and Chair Weltman’s opening in Hawaiian, Jennifer Sullivan stood up and spoke briefly about her upbringing, her move to Maui, and the business she helps run with her husband, Hawaiian Materials Recycling. She acknowledged the inevitable growth and development in South Maui, and expressed her desire to do it in a responsible and sustainable way.

Houskeeping items include status updates from planning staff on remote viewing/testimony; contact with potential guest speaker Kaleikoa Ka'eo and other speakers for the wahi kupuna meeting scheduled for January; and preferred methods of testifying during the meeting.

General Public Testimony (10:13 to 37:47 in meeting video)

Buck Joiner thanked members for their participation and spoke about his participation in various committees over the years. He noted his biggest regret, the North South Collector Road that he pushed for back in 1989, and compared his initial hopes for the road with its current state. He laid out the issues with the two exit roads out of Kīhei (South Kīhei Road and Pi'ilani Highway), as well as issues with access to each. He advocated for a walkway under Waipu'ilani Bridge for access to Kūlanihāko'i High School for students as well as neighborhood evacuees in the event of an emergency. He brought out a number of hard copy plans dating as far back as 1959 and offered members the opportunity to take a look during their breaks and after the meeting.

Questions for Buck included whether there was a line that connected the North South Collector Road all the way to Wailea originally; and how the line was broken up by land use development and why it wasn't kept intact. Chair Weltman noted that those questions are not clarifying questions for Buck, and would be better answered by the Planning Department during discussion for Agenda Item D.

Joan (no last name provided) spoke about past flooding on South Kihei Road, and how she saw three cars run into unmarked medians that were installed prior to the flooding. She also echoed Buck Joiner's concerns with being trapped in the event of an emergency. Questions included whether Joan or anyone in the Planning Department knows what the unmarked medians are, and whether they were covered with water during the flooding; Chair Weltman reiterated that these questions can be asked during related discussion later in the meeting.

Wayne Nishiki asked Karen Comcowich whether the concerns being raised in testimony is Long Range Planning's responsibility to deal with (the drainage problem); she responded that the type of drainage infrastructure CPAC prefers can be included in the Community Plan, but that it would likely be the responsibility of the Department of Public Works (to implement).

Larry Stevens wanted to follow up on Buck Joiner's comments regarding the North South Collector Road, and noted that the land between Wailea Alanui and Kauhale is undeveloped; he felt it would be pretty straightforward to connect those two areas.

Lauren Bertell noted that a lot of people are being hit and/or killed on Walaka (Street) and (South) Kihei Road and that no action has been taken by the County in addressing the dangers of that intersection; she also talked about older trees being cut at Hua Place (acknowledging that it was private property), and having private properties get permits before "decapitating" their trees. Karen Comcowich thanked Lauren for her testimony but noted that testimony on trees will be taken at the next meeting, and that she needs to stay on the topic of transportation, which is on the current agenda. Comments from members included agreement that lighting is an issue on South Kihei Road and something that the policies will address.

BRIEF BREAK TO ADDRESS SOUND ISSUES

General Public Testimony Cont. (38:40 to 48:50 in meeting video)

Rory Frampton provided reasons (as he understood them) regarding the North South Collector Road alignments and delays. Regarding a mauka bypass, he noted that State and Federal funding for long bypasses are hard to come by, and felt that members should consider a shorter, multimodal transportation corridor within the urban growth boundary area. Questions from members included whether there is any map that includes a mauka bypass road, and what the specific map ID is.

An unnamed testifier (identified as Zandra Amaral Krause in later testimony) asked that members study the contents in their binder so as to not waste the County's and community's time. She apologized for being rough, but said that it is the Kihei Community Plan; she expressed sadness and anger that some members are representing South Maui despite not being residents of South Maui. Regarding transportation, she expressed concern at developers building "truck and industrial areas" in neighborhoods, and stressed that more roads needs to be built before affordable housing.

Presentation - Overview of Policies and Actions (49:00 to 1:07:34 in meeting video)

Karen Comcowich gave an overview of Community Plan policies and actions and the differences between them (49:15 to 58:42, [link to PowerPoint presentation](#)).

Discussion included members' concern over the effectiveness of policies within a community plan, specifically regarding the historical lack of implementation from the previous Kihei-Makena Plan; how to come up with better, stronger language and better placement within the document; and finding ways to make the South Maui Community Plan more effective.

10-MINUTE RECESS

Goal 2.1 | A Complete, Balanced and Connected Transportation Network - Presentation by State Department of Transportation (1:07:55 to 1:24:36 in meeting video)

State Department of Transportation (Highway Division) Deputy Director Robin Shishido gave a presentation on the current and upcoming projects in South Maui (1:09:02 to 1:17:40, [link to presentation](#))

Questions and comments from members included clarification about the lighting at Pi'ilani Highway/Moi Place; clarification on the use of rapid flashing beacons/hawk system at the Pi'ilani Highway/Kūlanihāko'i High School roundabout; concerns with pedestrian safety when crossing the roundabout; whether the State is addressing issues with flooding on South Kihei Road; clarification on the widening of Pi'ilani Highway from Kilohana Drive to Wailea 'Ike Drive; and requesting that the PowerPoint presentation to be uploaded online.

Goal 2.1 | A Complete, Balanced and Connected Transportation Network - Presentation by County of Maui Department of Transportation (1:25:10 to 1:59:53 in meeting video)

County Department of Transportation Director Marc Takamori gave a presentation on the Maui Bus system and the services provided in South Maui. (1:25:10 to 1:43:35, [link to presentation](#))

Questions and comments from members included expressing support for running bus routes into North Kihei; clarification on commuter bus routes in South Maui; clarification on bus routes to and from the airport; why there are no bus stops along the coastline; the reason for drop in ridership; the possibility of higher fares for non-residents; expanding bus service to Hana (for tourists) to alleviate traffic; verifying that Route 15 is funded for implementation in 2023; expanding bus service into Maui Meadows; and whether the South Maui hub needs to be on County or private property.

Goal 2.1 | A Complete, Balanced and Connected Transportation Network - Presentation by County of Maui Department of Public Works (2:00:32 to 2:22:56 in meeting video)

County Department of Public Works Director Jordan Molina noted that he did not have a presentation, but that he was at the meeting as a resource to answer any questions.

Questions from members included a status update on the next segment for the North South Collector Road; what the raised islands (the “unmarked medians” brought up in earlier public testimony) are called, and how to solve the issue of them being a hazard during flood events; a status update on the mile of sidewalks promised for South Kihei Road; whether drainage infrastructure was built to deal with flooding in South Kihei and in the wetlands; ways to mitigate wastewater (subsequently clarified by Jordan as stormwater) from going into the *muliwais* (rivermouths); whether there is a drainage master plan to intercept water coming down from the mountain and redirect it to drainage basins; Director Molina’s thoughts on the mauka roadway discussed earlier in the meeting; and if there are any other major Public Works projects outside of South Kihei Road and the North South Collector Road.

In his closing comments, Director Molina stressed the importance of making policies more specific and less redundant, and prioritizing the projects Public Works is expected to deliver in the next 20 years.

Public Testimony for Goal 2.1 | A Complete, Balanced and Connected Transportation Network (2:22:57 to 2:32:40 in meeting video)

Zandra Amaral Krause noted that the gas station near where she lives (in North Kihei) is would be “the perfect place” for a County transit hub. She spoke about the inability of fire trucks to come through the narrow residential roads in case of an emergency, and how she would be trapped in the event of a fire. She stressed that before more housing and industrial areas are built, more roads and sidewalks need to be built, especially in the North Kihei area where most of the growth is happening. Questions from members included whether there is development planned for the area she lives in, and whether sidewalks are a requirement for new developments.

Ellen McKinley addressed the issue of Public Works being overworked, and asked if it was possible to take advantage of federal funding and hire outside engineers and contractors to get some of the larger projects done. She also provided some minor suggestions for the Draft Plan, such as adding user-friendly accommodations to Goal 2.1.

Review and Recommendations for Goal 2.1 | A Complete, Balanced and Connected Transportation Network (2:32:42 to END)

Before going into page-by-page review and recommendations, Chair Weltman noted that any unfinished business from the previous meeting will take place at a catch-up meeting on December 21.

For page 30, and also in the beginning of the Actions section, Chair Weltman noted that “West Maui” should be changed to “South Maui.” Before moving on, he stressed the importance of reviewing the homework items prior to every meeting, and asked members to raise their hand to acknowledge if they had reviewed each of the four homework items for the meeting.

There were no proposed changes for page 31.

For page 32, **Vice Chair Kanahale made a motion to change the second half of the final sentence of the “Why is it important section” to the following: “...from keiki to kūpuna, walking to running, wheelchairs to bicycles, and cars to public transit.” Jennifer Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passes with no objections.**

After some discussion, **Lehuanani Huddleston Hafoka proposed changing the first part of the final sentence of the “Why is it important” section to the following: “With this Plan, the community intends to change that paradigm, focusing on creating a user-friendly transportation network...” Members agreed by consensus.**

Before going into policy discussion, Chair Weltman reminded members to consider Director Molina’s comments about focusing on creating specific policies, and to avoid being redundant.

POLICIES

2.1.1 | Improve South Maui’s active transportation network by implementing a multimodal transportation system that includes a bus transit hub and incorporates Complete Streets, greenways, multi-use paths, and sufficient public transit coverage that allows residents and visitors to move more safely, effectively and comfortably within South Maui. **(2:44:56 to 2:45:58)**

- Discussion:
 - Chair Weltman noted that for members to do their review and recommendations well, they need to compare the policies and actions to each other for redundancies.

2.1.2 | Support increased access to micromobility solutions such as bike share, electric scooters, shuttles, etc. **(2:45:58 to 2:47:22)**

- Discussion:
 - Vice Chair Kanahele noted that a lot of people are already using electric scooters and asked what the thinking is behind the policy. Karen Comcowich replied that the person who put the policy into the document is no longer with the Planning Department, and suggested “To support land uses with micromobility solutions.”

2.1.3 | Support adoption of mechanisms to fund transportation improvements such as special districts, increases in car rental surcharges for visitors and traffic impact fees so new projects pay their fair share of transportation system improvements. **(2:47:26 to 2:51:54)**

- Discussion:
 - Members discussed the issue of fees generated by the rental car surcharges not staying in South Maui, and that any policy created should ensure that fees created in South Maui benefit South Maui, not the island as a whole.

2.1.4 | Establish “safe routes” interconnecting South Maui. Safe routes are primarily street networks that safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages to get from homes to schools, parks and beaches, shops, jobs, and other services. **(2:51:58 to 2:53:11)**

- Discussion:
 - Members discussed changing the wording to “support the establishment of.”

At this point Karen Comcowich apologized, as some editing had apparently been done to the section after staff’s final review, and she needed time to go through the document again to make corrections and ensure policies and actions are in the right locations. Chair Weltman shared his concerns with falling behind, but noted the importance of getting policies and actions right. Members agreed without objection to coming back to 2.1 policies at a later date.

NEXT MEETING IS ON NOVEMBER 16, 2022. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:30 PM.

