

Resolution

No. 24-50

AUTHORIZING THE COUNCIL CHAIR TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND CONTRACT FOR THE PREPARATION OF A ROAD AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN CONSISTENT WITH THE WEST MAUI COMMUNITY PLAN FOR THE WILDFIRE-AFFECTED AREAS IN WEST MAUI

WHEREAS, the Council is authorized to conduct investigations on any subject on which the Council may legislate, under Section 3-6(6) of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended; and

WHEREAS, the West Maui Community Plan, which became effective on January 31, 2022, notes the need to “[i]dentify additional emergency evacuation routes to access West Maui and isolated neighborhoods” and to “implement safety improvements to Kaheliki Highway and Honoapi‘ilani Highway as alternate routes for West Maui residents during times of emergency”; and

WHEREAS, the wildfires of August 8, 2023, devastated Lāhainā, caused the death of 101 persons, serious injury to many members of the community, and catastrophic damage to property, roads, and other public infrastructure in Lāhainā, as well as in portions of Kula and Olinda; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works’ Development Services Administration Division issued Request for Proposals No. 23-24/P on post-fire recovery and rebuilding assistance, with a scope of services focused on building permit application plan review, permit processing, inspection services, community outreach, and design standards development; and

WHEREAS, Request for Proposals No. 23-24/P is focused on providing the County with permit review and processing services specific to the wildfire-affected areas and does not include the preparation of a master plan, consistent with the West Maui Community Plan, that would inform various agencies on where infrastructure improvements are desirable or necessary prior to rebuilding; and

WHEREAS, in response to the wildfires of August 8, 2023, and based on community input, the Council adopted Resolution 23-194 on December 15, 2023, which recommends legislative topics to be addressed

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in the development of a post-wildfire comprehensive recovery and resiliency plan; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 23-194 identifies emergency egress routes, general public infrastructure, and public water system needs as legislative opportunities to aid in the recovery and resiliency of Lāhainā; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Police Department's January 2023 Preliminary After-Action Report on the August 8, 2023, wildfires, notes the challenges that residents of the wildfire-affected areas experienced with certain evacuation routes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works is continuing to compile information identifying substandard roads and additional road needs for future emergency evacuations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Fire and Public Safety, using satellite imagery, site visits, and geographic information system data, has identified numerous substandard roads that should be improved to meet the 20-foot clear pavement required for fire access standards and road extensions to facilitate ingress and egress for emergency evacuation needs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Fire and Public Safety has preliminarily identified opportunities for the placement of additional fire hydrants to ensure compliance with hydrant spacing requirements and maximize hydrant coverage; and

WHEREAS, to prioritize which roads should be extended or widened first for emergency access as part of rebuilding process, both the Department of Public Works and the Department of Fire and Public Safety are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to generate computer models, using software called LifeSim, to identify roads that should be widened and extended as alternative evacuation routes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has proposed legislation to expedite the issuance of building permit process within the West Maui burn zone, but the identification of infrastructure needs prior to the issuance of building permits in areas where capital improvements are necessary for the rebuilding and resilient recovery of Lāhainā has not been comprehensively addressed or presented to the Council; and

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WHEREAS, to comprehensively identify and plan for public infrastructure, road improvement, road extension needs, the Council finds that the issuance of a request for proposals for the preparation of a comprehensive West Maui road and public infrastructure master plan, consistent with the West Maui Community Plan and West Maui residents' input, will assist the Council with legislative proposals to address the redevelopment of a resilient Lāhainā; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That the Council authorizes the Council Chair to issue a request for proposals and contract for the preparation of a comprehensive West Maui road and public infrastructure master plan, consistent with the West Maui Community Plan resident's input; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, Managing Director, Fire Chief, Director of Public Works, Director of Water Supply, and Corporation Counsel.

INTRODUCED BY:

Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

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