

Great Committee

From: maui@hbl.org
Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2023 9:19 PM
To: Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins; Tamara A. Paltin
Cc: 'Lee Chamberlain'; 'Donna Clayton'; Great Committee
Subject: We would appreciate your attention to following matters
Attachments: Streamlining Planning Efforts to Save Public Funds.pdf; Prioritizing the West Maui Greenway for Emergency Evacuation.pdf

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County Council Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee
Chair - Nohelani U'u-Hodgins
Vice-Chair - Tamara Paltin

Please see attached two letters:

- Streamlining Planning Efforts to Save Public Funds
- Prioritizing the West Maui Greenway for Emergency Evacuation

Mahalo for your efforts in helping to create a Bicycle-Friendly community on Maui.



Mahalo!

Saman Dias

Chair Maui Bicycling League

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Sep 30th 2023

Subject: Urgent Action Needed: Streamlining Planning Efforts to Save Public Funds

County Council Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee

Chair - Nohelani U'u-Hodgins Committee

Vice-Chair - Tamara Paltin

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to urgently address a matter of significant concern regarding our community's planning efforts, specifically the West Maui Community Corridor Plan and the West Maui Greenway (WMG) Master Plan.

As you may be aware, substantial public funds, in the form of grants, have been allocated to support these two critical initiatives. Approximately \$300,000 has been invested in the West Maui Greenway, and an additional \$500,000 has been directed toward the development of the West Maui Community Corridor Plan. These funds represent a considerable investment in our community's future.

However, despite the financial commitment to these plans, a striking disconnect persists between them, which threatens to undermine their effectiveness and jeopardize the prudent use of public resources. This concern has also been brought to the attention of the broader community through my recent communication with [Civil Beat Reporter's Name].

My involvement in both planning processes as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee has revealed a notable overlap in goals and objectives between the two plans. This redundancy not only consumes significant time but also results in the needless expenditure of public resources.

Moreover, it is disheartening to note that after these extensive planning efforts, we still find ourselves facing a lack of coordination and alignment. The WMG Master Plan is an integral component of the envisioned transportation corridor in the West Maui Community Corridor Plan. For the latter to succeed, the former must be implemented, particularly segments 3 and 4. The misalignment between these plans not only hinders their potential but also leads to a troubling duplication of efforts and an unnecessary expenditure of public funds.

Given the substantial investment of public funds and the critical importance of these projects to our community, I strongly urge the consideration of legislative action through the County Council Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee. Such legislation would aim to prevent the duplication of efforts in planning and ensure the effective coordination of related plans, ultimately safeguarding public funds.

It is my sincere hope that by addressing this issue promptly and effectively, we can maximize the impact of these crucial projects on our community while also ensuring responsible stewardship of the substantial public investments made.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and stand ready to discuss and collaborate on strategies to address this issue effectively.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Saman Dias



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Sep 30th, 2023

Subject: Urgent Action Needed: Prioritizing the West Maui Greenway for Emergency Evacuation

County Council Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee

Chair - Nohelani U'u-Hodgins Committee

Vice-Chair - Tamara Paltin

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to you as concerned members of our community, Saman Dias, and representatives of the Maui Bicycling League (MBL), regarding a matter of great importance related to the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and our community's vital project, the West Maui Greenway (WMG).

First and foremost, our hearts go out to those who have been profoundly affected by the recent wildfires that have swept through Upcountry and West Maui. These devastating events have brought immeasurable loss and heartache to many families, individuals, and our entire community.

We wish to express our concerns regarding the recent cancellation of several critical meetings by the MPO:

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings:

- 09/07/2023 - CANCELED
- 09/14/2023 - CANCELED
- 10/05/2023 - CANCELED
- 10/12/2023 - CANCELED

Policy Board Meeting:

- 09/21/2023 - CANCELED

The cancellation of these meetings raises significant concerns about the progress and priorities of the MPO, particularly in relation to the West Maui Greenway (WMG) project. We firmly believe that, even during challenging times, the MPO must continue its work and ensure that the WMG project remains a top priority.

While our community mourns, it is of utmost importance that the MPO takes swift action to expedite the process of securing funding and initiating the implementation of the WMG project. This project is not only vital for our community's safety, especially as an emergency evacuation route, but also a testament to our collective resilience and determination.

In the spirit of collaboration and community well-being, we would like to emphasize the urgency of prioritizing the West Maui Greenway project, which plays a crucial role as an emergency evacuation route. The WMG Master Plan, as highlighted on page 20, underscores the critical role this greenway can play in ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents during times of crisis.

Moreover, we are aware of various funding opportunities that could be leveraged to facilitate the implementation of the WMG project. With the current situation, there is a unique opportunity to engage with officials such as Senator Brian Schatz to explore new funding sources specifically earmarked for emergency evacuation routes. We strongly encourage the MPO to actively pursue these funding opportunities and collaborate closely with all relevant county and state agencies that are part of the MPO to expedite the realization of the WMG project.

Our community is more than ready to see the WMG implemented, and we believe it is needed now more than ever. It can serve as a crucial alternative transportation route, a vital emergency evacuation path, and a means to promote health and recreation for our residents while addressing climate change.

We kindly request that the MPO refocus its efforts to expedite the facilitation of the WMG project's implementation by working closely with all relevant county and state agencies, with a primary focus on its role as an emergency evacuation route, as well as its contributions to transportation alternatives, climate change mitigation, and health benefits.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to your commitment to prioritize the WMG project and ensure its rapid progress.

Sincerely,

Saman Dias



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