

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

December 19, 2024

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:15 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Tom Cook, Chair
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair (arrived at 9:24 a.m., left at 10:21 a.m.)
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member (arrived at 10:49 a.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Samantha Tanck, Legislative Analyst
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
Lori Tengan, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office:

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Jordan Molina, Director, Department of Public Works (ALL)
Nolly Yagin, Civil Engineer, Department of Public Works (ALL)

OTHERS: Kathleen Chu, Project Manager, Bowers + Kubota Consulting (WAI-1(5))
Karlynn Fukuda, Munekiyo Hiraga (WAI-1(5))
Tessa Munekiyo Ng, Munekiyo Hiraga (WAI-1(7))
Glenn Adolpho, Waikapu Gardens Homeowner's Association (WAI-1(5))
Jasee Law (WAI-1(5))
Zandra Amaral Crouse (WAI-1(7))
Mike Moran (WAI-1(7))
Audrey Lester (WAI-1(7))

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

(17) additional attendees

PRESS: *Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Water and Infrastructure Committee, December 19, 2024, please come to order. The time is now 9:15 a.m. May I ask that all participants please silence all noise-making devices. Today I am your Chair, Tom Cook. Members, per the Sunshine Law, please identify by name, who if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today, exclusive of minors. Before we begin, I would like to ask the Department representatives who have joined online to please also turn on your cameras when it is your time to speak. It's greatly appreciate and helps. Now, I'd like to introduce the Committee Members. Committee Vice-Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura is running a little late. Good morning, Councilmember Tasha Kama and shalom.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Good morning, Chair and shalom to everyone out there in *Akakū* land.

CHAIR COOK: And then I'm going to jump to Council Chair Alice Lee to tell us the greeting of the day, the meaning, and origin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha, everyone. Shalom means peace in the Hebrew language and if you want to extend that a little bit, shalom aleichem means peace be upon you. So, that's what I wish for all of you today and everyone watching. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Member...Chair and hopefully for the entire holiday season. Member Paltin is not presently here. Councilmember Johnson is excused. Good morning and shalom, aloha, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Mai Moloka'i Nui A Hina. I'm at my private residence, alone here, and there are currently no testifiers at the Moloka'i District Office. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: And Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins is excused today. And good morning, shalom, aloha, Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Chair. Shalom, aluhia per date kākou. I'm here at my private residence also, and I'm here by myself, and no testifiers at the Hāna Office.

CHAIR COOK: And...okay, Chair Lee, question? You're on mute.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I forgot to mention that I'm home alone in my workspace and no one here is with me, and looking forward to your meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: So, I believe I've introduced all five Members. If I haven't missed anybody I'm going to move on. From the Department of Public Works, we have Nolly Yagin, Traffic Engineer. From Corporation Counsel, I believe online, we have Deputy Corporation Counsel Caleb Rowe. For today's first item we have Kathleen Chu, Project Manager from

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

Bowers and Kubota. For the second item, we have Tessa Ng and Karlynn Fukuda from Munekiyo and Hiraga. Members, without objection, I will designate Ms. Chu, Ms. Fukunaga [sic] and Mrs., Mr. Ng...Ms. Ng as resource persons under Rule 18A of the Rules of the Council because of their expertise on today's subject matter as both of their firms have been involved in the countywide projects.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. From our OCS...our Committee Staff, we want to welcome and appreciate Jarret Pascual, Sam Tanck, Pauline Martins, Lori Ann Tengan, Carla Nakata, Lei Dineen. Please see the last page of the agenda for today's information on meeting connectivity. Good morning, everyone. Today...and thank you for joining today's WAI Committee meeting. We have two items on today's agenda. WAI-1(5) and WAI-1(7).

WAI-1(5) WAI'ALE ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT

CHAIR COOK: Members, WAI-1(5) relates to the Wai'ale Road Extension Project. Members, we last discussed this matter at our Committee meeting on June 19th, 2023. Since then, a draft Environmental Assessment was published on November 8th, 2024. Members, you may find the Department's presentation on Granicus as Attachment No. 2. At this time, Mr. Yagin, please share your presentation and provide any opening remarks.

MR. YAGIN: Hi, good morning, Chair. Thanks for having us on...on these two projects. And so, just a brief summary. Wai'ale Road, it's...it's a proposed extension of the current Wai'ale Road from Waiko Road to Honoapi'ilani Highway. It's been on the plans for a while and it goes on to support things like housing and overall traffic circulation. So, we're here this morning to provide you folks an update and maybe a little background first to start off. So, I'll turn over the presentation to Kathleen Chu. Thank you.

MS. CHU: Good morning, Council Chair and Councilmembers. Thank you for allowing us to provide an overview of the Wai'ale Road Extension Project. Next slide. So, just as a reminder, this project is located in Waikapu and extends Wai'ale Road approximately 8,600 feet. That's about 1.6 miles from the terminus at Waiko Road to Honoapi'ilani Highway. Next slide, please. Oops, yeah. So, as some background, this project is expected to provide both regional and local transportation by improving regional access to Honoapi'ilani and Kuihelani Highways. It'll provide safe access for non-motorized travelers with a shared use path, sidewalks, and shoulder bikeways. In addition, this extension will provide a catalyst to support the surrounding land use and development projects, and this project also has been leveraged through a public-private partnership to provide additional affordable homes in Central Maui. On this project, the county was proactive and applied for a RAISE grant. That's a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity in fiscal year 2022. It's a highly competitive grant, and the county was selected and will receive \$25 million in additional funds for construction. Next slide, please. So, this slide represents the general site plan for Wai'ale Road. The yellow areas and the dash red lines represent the approximate limit of work. This is also called or known as the area of potential effect. It's the maximum area where there

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

could be potential land disturbance. The red dash lines also reflect two locations for temporary construction...temporary construction staging areas on the county's parcel. This map also shows where there will be two storm water detention-retention ponds, and there's going to be...this project includes a total of four intersections. There's also a bridge that's going to cross over Waikapu Stream. Next slide. This exhibit shows a typical section of this future extension. This roadway will be considered an urban major collector with two 11 foot lanes, shoulder bikeways, curb and gutter on the mauka side, that's the West side near the Waikapu Country Town Development, with a shared use path. On the other side, we'll have grassy swells and a sidewalk, and there will be a variety of new utilities under the roadway. Next slide. So, the roadway extension also includes a bridge crossing over Waikapu Stream. There were a number of conceptual bridge types and alternatives that were researched and considered, and this...this bridge crossing shown is a 60 foot long single span which extends over the entire bridge which would allow for this project to stay out of the stream. With this bridge type, the bottom of the bridge will be two feet above the 100 year water surface elevation mark, and the bridge would go up and over the stream so we would need to elevate the surrounding existing ground. Okay. And this is the preferred alternative right now for the bridge crossing. Next slide. This project is also serving...is also including and providing a bunch of infrastructure needs. And so, this project includes storm drainage which has grass swells, the storm water ponds and storm drainage lines. For utilities, it includes a water main, sewer mains, reclaimed water line, and telecommunications and broadband. This project will provide a stub for the future central...for a future connection to the future central water treatment facility. Okay. Next slide, please. So, a traffic...a TIAR stands for Transportation Impact Assessment Report, and so a comprehensive report and study was done for the entire area which extended from Honoapi'ilani and Ku'ikahi extension...I mean roadways...intersection, and Kuihelani and Maui Lani Parkway. So all the way to the north and all way to the southern limits of the project. And a baseline was established in 2022 and the project forecasted traffic growth for over 20 years to 2045 to make sure that any improvements that we did considered future growth and the current growth that's occurring in the area. So, the results that came out showed that the construction of the proposed Wai'ale Roadway would reduce total vehicle miles of travel in Central Maui and reduce delays at most intersections...well, all the intersections along Honoapi'ilani Highway. And the reason why there would probably be reduced total vehicle miles is this road would probably allow people to make more direct...direct routes and trips for vehicles so there will be less cars that would have to go a longer distances. Overall, with the new cumulative growth, most of the...all of the intersections except Wai'ale and Ku'ikahi would have reduced delays. Four new intersections will operate find in 2045, as signalized intersections or roundabouts. However, we are going to...we are recommending roundabouts because they would reduce the number of conflict points at intersections and also act as a traffic calming measure along the corridor. Next slide, please. So, the county does remain committed to addressing transportation concerns in the community, and they have started to review the Wai'ale corridor from Ka'ahumanu to Ku'ikahi Drive. In addition, the county is looking at planning improvements at the Wai'ale and Ku'ikahi intersections. They are looking at a Wai'ale shared use pathway and so, just overall understanding the traffic growth that has occurred in Central Maui. The county is addressing these...and these projects listed here are outside of the Wai'ale Road improvement projects. And now, I'm going to turn it over to Karlynn Fukuda from

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

Munekiyo Hiraga.

MS. FUKUDA: Good morning, Chair and Members of the Water and Infrastructure Committee. I'll be talking about the environmental assessment which our office was tasked with preparing. The Hawai'i Environmental Review Law, Chapter 343 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, along with the Environmental Impact Rules of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules, requires the review of projects which meet one of the triggers for Chapter 343. For the Wai'ale Road Extension Project, there is the use of State lands at Honoapi'ilani Highway and the use of county lands and funds that require compliance with Chapter 343. Additionally, as it was mentioned earlier, a federal RAISE grant was received for the project which also means that the project needs to comply with the Federal Environmental Review Law, or as it's known, the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA. In compliance with the Hawai'i Environmental Review Law, a draft EA document was prepared and the notice of availability was published in the November 8th Hawai'i Environmental Review Program's Environmental Notice. There was a 30 day comment period for the draft EA which ended on December 9th. Following their seat of comments on the draft EA, we are in progress on preparing a final environmental assessment document which will be prepared as a joint Hawai'i and federal document. Next slide, please. The draft EA document was two volumes and can be found at the Hawai'i Environmental Review Program's website. Additionally, there was a hard copy that was distributed to...of the draft EA to the Wailuku Public Library, and also at the Hawai'i Document Center in O'ahu. Briefly, we wanted to touch upon some of the findings of the various reports in the EA document, in addition to the traffic study which Kathleen previously shared. Regarding archaeology, the State Historic Preservation Division or SHPD determined that an inventory survey was needed. This is a study where there is testing of locations within the project area and documentation of finds. There were some previously identified archaeological sites found with the recent survey. A draft of the AIS is being prepared and will be submitted to SHPD and any mitigation measures identified by the SHPD will be followed. Regarding cultural impacts, a Cultural Impact Assessment Report was prepared which included historical background information on the project area, as well as interviews with people who have cultural information for the area or have long ties with the area, to discuss any cultural practices that may have previously or may currently be occurring in the project area. Among the recommendations from the CIA included archaeological monitoring during construction, notification to the project contractor once they are selected of the potential for iwi kūpuna in the area, and design considerations for the bridge crossing so as not to impact the flow of water from Waikapu Stream to Keālia Pond. Regarding flora and fauna, the biological study reviewed the project area and noted that there were no plants listed on the endangered species or threatened list occurring within the area. An assessment of the area of the Waikapu Stream was also conducted due to the planned bridge crossing. The report found that no Federal Critical Habitat was designated within the entire project area and recommended best management practices during construction if there is work within Waikapu Stream, as well as to avoid potential impacts to federally identified birds, mammals, and insects. As part of the federal review requirements, we are also coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to receive a determination on the project relative to the Endangered Species Act. A noise study found that there were no anticipated impacts for the proposed project, as there were no existing developments along the proposed roadway. Noise impacts may need to be

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

reviewed by future projects once development is implemented along the proposed road. I also wanted to share that we have had community outreach from early on within this project. We presented before the Council's Water and Infrastructure Committee in June of last year and met with the Waikapu Community Association in July of last year, and again in June of this year. A public meeting was held with the Waikapu owners and residents in June of this year and there was most recently a public meeting held on December 5th. At this point, I will turn the presentation back over to Kathleen.

MS. CHU: Okay. Thank you, Karlynn. So, as some of our next steps as Karlynn mentioned, the draft Environmental Assessment was published on November 8, and we had a public meeting on December 5, 2024. And technically our comment period closed December 9, but we did share with the public that we would take their comments on the draft EA through December 15, 2024 to provide them with additional time. We plan to publish the final environmental document in the first quarter of 2025. We're proceeding with construction documents and we hope to have them done by third quarter of 2025. And we hope to have this project advertised and go out to bid in the fourth quarter of 2025 or the first quarter in 2026. And the estimated construction cost at this time is \$72 million. Okay. And that concludes our update for this morning. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you both, and all, for a comprehensive overview and update on the project. And before we begin our discussion, Staff, is there anyone wishing to provide testimony?

MS. TANCK: Chair, the only individual looking to testify at this time is Glenn Adolpho.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. So, I'm going to read the...anyone wishing to testify, please sign up in the lobby of the County Council Chambers, or join online meeting, or call to the phone number noted on today's agenda. For online testifiers, please click raise your hand button. For those calling in, please follow the prompts via phone, star five to raise or lower your hand, star six to mute and unmute. Written testimony will continue to be accepted and can be submitted via eComment at maucounty.us/agendas. Staff will enable your microphone and video when it is your turn to testify. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. You can view the meeting on *Akakū* 53, Facebook Live, or maucounty.us/agendas. Decorum will be maintained throughout the meeting. Breaching decorum includes anything that disrupts the orderly management of the meeting. Violation of decorum may result in being removed from the meeting. Before we start that, I would like to welcome Vice-Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Sorry I was late this morning, and glad to be here. This is one of my favorite projects. I'm grateful that you put it on the agenda so we can all learn more. I'm looking forward to your meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: So, Staff, could you please call the first testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first testifier is Glenn Adolpho and he's here in the Chamber.

CHAIR COOK: Welcome.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WAI-1(5) . . .

MR. ADOLPHO: Aloha, Committee Chair Tom Cook and other Councilmembers, Committee Members. My name is Glenn Adolpho. I'm a representative of the Waikapu Community...I mean, I'm sorry, I serve on the Waikapu Community Board, as well as the Waikapu Community...Waikapu Gardens Homeowners Association. Today I'm speaking on behalf of our Waikapu Gardens Homeowners Association, which is right adjacent to this project. The Waikapu Community Gardens Homeowners Association appreciates the opportunity to give feedback on this proposed Wai'ale Road Extension Project by the County Department of Public Works. As a follow up to the Zoom presentation presented to the Waikapu community on December 5, 2024 this project...on this project we would like to submit the following comments for review and consideration. Number one, we support the idea of installing a one lane roundabout at the new proposed intersection of East Waiko Road and Wai'ale Road. This will become a very busy intersection and based on the previous roundabouts installed at Maui Lani, where Kamehameha and coming up towards Maui Lani Parkway onto Ku'ikahi, that roundabout has been very effective in making sure the traffic flows and keeps going and that will do the same for this intersection, which will be a very busy intersection. Number two, we would like to recommend installing flashing signals to help ensure that children and pedestrians can cross the East Waiko Road and Wai'ale Road intersection which will be the new intersection. The proposed Waikapu Country Town Project which will include an elementary and middle school and also about 1,400 units, resident units, commercial and business spaces as well, and other amenities that will be utilized by the children and pedestrians that frequent that area. Installing flashing signals will help safeguard the safety of the children attending the schools and pedestrians that will be crossing this intersection to go into the Waikapu Country Town to utilize the amenities there. As for our Waikapu Gardens Homeowners Association, we would like to recommend installing a speed table on the south side of the Wai'ale Road just before the intersection...just before the entrance of our Waikapu Garden Phase II. That particular phase has 57 homes in it, and Wai'ale Road is the only exit and entrance into that subdivision. Adjacent to that is the Waikapu Gardens Phase I, which encompasses 410 homes. And we would like some kind of traffic mitigation, whether it be a stop light . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . or a roundabout be placed there so that our people can get in and out safely. During the presentation of December 5, there were many concerns, and some coming down from neighbors that live in the Kealani Subdivision across from the prison. And their concerns was they have a hard time getting out in the morning turning left going to Waikapu...going to Wailuku. So, you know, what we need to do is look at it as a holistic thing, not just one area. What happens at the top of the stream comes down, feeds the people, and goes out into the ocean. It's the same with this concept with the extension of the road. We need to take into consideration the impacts that it will have on the neighboring communities. We...we recognize and support the affordable housing that's coming up. We just want to make sure things are done safely and we look forward to working together as a community with the officials from the Department of Public Works and Munekiyo. And we'd like to thank them because they've been very supportive coming to our meetings and explaining what's happening to our community. We appreciate the opportunity to give public testimony and look forward to working together with everyone. Mahalo.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Please wait to see. Members, are there any clarifying questions?
Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. I wonder if Staff would allow me to enter the meeting online? I'm still... Anyway, but more than that, thank you very much for being here and always being involved with the community. So, your Waikapu Gardens Project and the community is a separate organization than the Waikapu Community Association?

MR. ADOLPHO: Correct, yeah. Waikapu...our Waikapu Gardens Homeowners Association is just the Waikapu Gardens itself. Waikapu Community Association encompass all the communities that are in Waikapu.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so what you're saying...what you testified on for clarification, is consistent with what the Waikapu Community Association also said?

MR. ADOLPHO: Yes, yes. At the meeting we have our president and board members attend that as well, and we're all together on that. I mean we want to, you know, help with the affordable housing and this Waikapu Country Town. We've been in contact and discussion with Mike Atherton, who is the developer and he's part of our Waikapu Community Association. And he's even offered to help pay for some of the traffic mitigations in our public meetings.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you for being here always.

MR. ADOLPHO: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Members online...Chair Lee, clarifying question for our testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Thank you. Good morning, Glenn. Good to see you.

MR. ADOLPHO: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And yes, Glenn is very, very active in both associations, and very diligent in following all projects. Glenn, perhaps you could clarify what you meant by let's say, unintended consequences of this new extension to let's say the intersection. I think you talked about other intersections like Ku'ikahi and Wai'ale, you know how that area is backed up right now.

MR. ADOLPHO: Yeah, and that's something we're working on, Chair Lee, right now. We're trying to work as a community to bring the different departments, state, county, together. That intersection at Wai'ale and Ku'ikahi is very, very busy in the morning. Traffic is backed up and that's because there's a lot of traffic coming up from Maui Lani trying to take a right turn onto Wai'ale. There's traffic coming from Honoapi'ilani Highway down trying to take a left turn...yeah, a left turn onto Wai'ale and there's traffic

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

coming on both sides of Wai‘ale from Wailuku side to Ma‘alaea, and then from Ma‘alaea where we are, from Waikapu Gardens over. That traffic...that intersection is always busy. Traffic is backed up from that intersection going down past Long’s Drugs, past Hashi’s Car Wash, past the Wailuku bridge all the way down to Lower Main. So, it is very congested, so we’re just trying to be proactive and look at what we can do to help address some of the concerns of traffic and make it easier for our whole community.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you very much. Thanks, Glenn.

MR. ADOLPHO: Thank you. . . .*(echoing)*. . .

CHAIR COOK: Member Kama, clarifying question for our testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, thank you for being here, Mr. Adolpho. So, in...in your testimony, you said that the only way you all...the Waikapu Gardens, at least your folk’s unit, your 57 units I think you said, were able to go in and out is through that...that that’s the only road that from your intersection...from your subdivision, the only one is right out in Wai‘ale Road. So...

MR. ADOLPHO: There are two...oh, I’m sorry, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, no, go ahead.

MR. ADOLPHO: There are two phases to Waikapu Gardens. The first phase has 410 homes. There are three entrances, but the main entrance is Hā‘awe Street, because that’s the middle.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Right.

MR. ADOLPHO: So, all the other...the other two entrance, if we were to look at traffic mitigations, we are suggesting Ha‘awe Street, because everybody can come in from the inner street, come down Ha‘awe, and then onto Wai‘ale Road. The other phase, phase two has 57 homes. And yes, that...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yep.

MR. ADOLPHO: Wai‘ale is the only entrance and exit from their subdivision.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Have you folks ever looked at to see if there is another way to mitigate that, so you might be able to go out on Honoapi‘ilani?

MR. ADOLPHO: We have. Our roads in Waikapu Phase I, is private roads. It was done that way from the beginning. Those of you who have worked with the developer back then which was Spencer Homes, Jesse Spencer...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. ADOLPHO: You guys know the history behind that and why it’s private. We would have

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

preferred for it to be turned over to the county, but unfortunately it wasn't. So, that's a private road and that prevents some liability for us as Homeowners Association. There is the first entrance going up Kokololio which goes up to Honoapi'ilani Highway. It stops before it reaches Honoapi'ilani Highway in our subdivision. The problem with that is that if you open that road up, right above that is Wailuku Heights. There's the Hawaiian Homes which is being built right now, and there's going to be another phase above that and other developments underneath Wailuku Heights, which would make that probably another connector. Our people are going to be locked in. They're not going to be able to get out from the streets...the inner streets from Waikapu Phase I. So, that's why we decided to keep it private right now so that our people can get out at least on to the main exits and onto Wai'ale at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Members, any other clarifying questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Chair's questions. So, the two recommendations were: (1) a speed table?

MR. ADOLPHO: A speed table or whatever would help reduce the traffic speed on Wai'ale so that our people from Phase II can get out safely.

CHAIR COOK: That would mitigate...it would slow people down on both sides so that they would be able to get out. The other suggestion was flashing crosswalks at the roundabout.

MR. ADOLPHO: At the roundabout...and looking at a roundabout or a traffic signal at Hā'awe and Wai'ale Road for our first phase which has 410 homes.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you for your testimony and your participation.

MR. ADOLPHO: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Members, before we...any other clarifying questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MR. ADOLPHO: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Staff, any other testifiers?

MS. TANCK: Chair, there is no one else currently signed up to testify on this item. Oh, I do see Jasee Law making his way down to the podium.

MR. LAW: Aloha kakahiaka luna ho'omalua Cook and kā'aha Kalana O Maui. Aloha kākou. Aloha *Akakū*. O wau, Jasee Law. I'm in favor of this project. I was able to read the black binder packet from the Council Services Office and comprehend quickly what this agenda item was about. So, mahalo to Jordan Molina and na limahana for a nice slideshow. I'd especially like to report about the pedestrian use and the bicycle lanes and one condition I would like to see with any future businesses is no churches. Shalom.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

CHAIR COOK: Any clarifying questions, Members, for our testifier? Seeing none. Staff, any additional testifiers?

MS. TANCK: Chair, there's no one currently signed up to testify. We'll do a last call, three, two, one. Chair, there's no one signed up to testify at this time.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WAI-1(5) . . .

CHAIR COOK: Members, seeing that there are no more individuals wishing to testify, without objections, we have just shut down oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: Close oral testimony for WAI-1(5).

CHAIR COOK: Members, I am proposing two rounds of three minutes each per member. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Members. I would now like to open the floor for questions. We'll start with Vice-Chair Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you very much for having this item, Chair. Great work always. And I wanted to find out...sorry about I didn't hear if it was presented. Can you break down the cost of \$72 million. I don't know who it would be...whether...

MR. YAGIN: Hi, Chair. Unfortunately, we don't have a...a detailed breakdown of the 72 million. Yeah, it's something that we could submit if...if you guys have the questions could be forwarded.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I do know that this project got federal funds like a grant and that was what 25 million...and where is the significant rest coming from?

MR. YAGIN: So, every year we also do have STIP formula funds. I'm not sure of other sources...maybe some bridge funding as well. And there is...I think there is a share component with some...with developments. So, it's something that we've been trying to work out as we develop the project costs.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I guess because this is such an important project and serving a lot of the development projects that we're hoping to get done for the affordable housing...workforce housing components. So, you are...you will be then working with...are we going to be using our GET funds for roads...oh, we cannot use GET for roads, yeah, it's only water and wastewater. That's right, that's right. So, basically is your funding coming from through MPO sources?

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

MR. YAGIN: MPO meaning the...

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...extension ...yeah.

MR. YAGIN: I guess the federal...Yes. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the priority that...that it's on. And maybe if we could get a breakdown of what the finance...the \$72 million are, when it's needed, and if we are actually looking to get assistance from State funding and what that is when...and when would you need it. Because you're not going to...you're not going to finish this like all within the next fiscal year. But, you know, what does it look like going forward? Did you say you were going to start construction the fourth quarter possibly of '25 or the first of '26, right? So, then the funding would be needed significantly, you know, targeted towards that, so I wonder if you could give us an idea of what we can expect for the taxpayers on Maui.

MS. CHU: So, thank you, Council Vice-Chair Sugimura. . . .(timer sounds). . . I believe the...the goal is to get it advertised and bid in the end of 2025. And actual like ground...ground disturbing probably wouldn't occur until beginning of 2026. So, timing-wise, you know, once the...once the Public Works actually awards the contract, it will take some time before the contractor can actually do...get their NTP, Notice To Proceed. So, you won't actually see any construction activity likely until 2026, but funding wise probably by the end of 2025...2025-2026. This project will require PUC approval, so that's one of the big items that could take some time. There is some large transmission poles along Waiko that need to be relocated along [sic] as the transmission line along Honoapi'ilani Highway. So, those are also some of the big cost items that are leading to, you know, the \$72 million price tag...that in addition to the bridge. It's a...it's a significant bridge and part of the roundabout is also included with the bridge which makes it a little bit more complex.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, interesting. Okay, well we look forward to more detailed information, yeah, from Public Works probably. Thank you very much.

CHAIR COOK: Member...Councilmember Kama, you have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, thank you, Chair. So...so my question is regarding the infrastructure. So, in your presentation, you mentioned that the infrastructure that is being...is going to be put in is going to benefit and there's many benefits to that. So, who really...I mean aside from the traffic mitigation and the drainage and all that. I mean, are there going to be other people along the corridor that will benefit or other developments along that, that will benefit from that?

MR. YAGIN: Thank you for that question. Well, there's...there's...the road actually has a pretty large regional benefit. One is if you're coming from say some sections of Wailuku, right now your normal route is to go up into Wailuku Town and get into the mix of all the roadways with Main Street and Market Street possibly.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

MR. YAGIN: So, what...what this does is it provides those areas a more direct route back onto the highway without having to bypass Wailuku Elementary, the small town area of Wailuku. And freight wise it helps in the industrial area as well because now they have a more direct route through town through...through Wailuku Town instead of getting in the mix with everyone else as well. So, there are benefits regionally and in the opposite direction it's the same way. There are developments...the roadway supports housing as well and...and so, on new housing projects of course traffic is always a problem and what this road...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MR. YAGIN: Yeah, and so what this road does it kind of offloads some of those responsibilities, not all of it, I mean they all have their share of it, but it does help it as well.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right. And...okay, so also part of the presentation talked about the...the EIS and that I was looking at the flora and fauna portions of that. But I was also wondering about the...how would...how would or would the salt ponds over there at Keālia be impacted by this?

MS. FUKUDA: Thank you, Councilmember Kama for the question. I think it's relative to the Waikapu Stream crossing and the stream when it does flow, you know, flows eventually to . . .(timer sounds). . . Keālia Pond. And so, that's the...the comments that were made in the Flora and Fauna Study and I believe also in the Cultural Impact Assessment, you know, in terms of any work within the stream being aware of potential impacts during the construction to the...the flows which may impact ultimately downstream the Keālia Pond area. So, that's...that's you know, that's the, I guess the connection if you will, to Keālia Pond.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, okay. I just want to make sure because we talk about the flowers and the stream and the endangered species, but I don't know how you would put salt ponds in there where that lies, but definitely that is a cultural resource. But, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Chair Lee, questions? You're on...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. I do have a copy of the testimony from Glenn Adolpho and I'll send it to the Committee. It was actually addressed to Public Works, so they have a copy and so does Munekiyo Hiraga. I wanted to...Mr. Yagin, get back to the cost. Now \$72 million is a lot of money, and that was the original requirement of the developer to provide this bypass...extension from Honoapi'ilani Highway to Waiko Road...the intersection of Wai'ale and Waiko. So, how did it turn into a public-private situation where the federal government, the state government, the county government sort of took over the responsibility of this requirement to zoning.

MR. MOLINA: Chair, if I may.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Jordan Molina popped up. Do you see him?

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

CHAIR COOK: Director Molina, would you like to answer that question?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Chair. Just checking, you guys can hear me okay? Okay.

CHAIR COOK: You're coming out loud and clear.

MR. MOLINA: For the record, Jordan Molina, Director with Public Works. So, to clarify, this road is not an explicit requirement of the development. It was one of the alternatives considered in their EIS, but there is a path forward for them to move on their project without the roadway. What ends up happening is there is a cost...or there's a share in this roadway because all the traffic is not exclusive to the project and so that is why the county is involved. It's because we hold a portion of this project which I think is over 50 percent of the traffic being attributed to existing development and not from the project. So, this is not exclusively a developer road. In addition to the road cost, what's been added that wasn't contemplated with the development is the extension of infrastructure. So, bringing in the recycled water, bringing in the sewer mains, bringing in the water mains through this new corridor to not only serve the future treatment plant, but also bring utility service to the county lands that'll be provided on this roadway.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, Jordan, Jordan, Jordan, okay. So, you're saying that the development and construction of this bypass was not a requirement of the project itself. Okay. That's what you're saying, right?

MR. MOLINA: They have a cost share.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Oh, they had a cost share. Okay, so...and then my understanding is that they also had a requirement to build a private sewer system. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Is that not true?

MR. MOLINA: That...so, in the private-public partnership which Council adopted when it amended the zoning conditions for the project, so the cost share on the road and cost share for the wastewater treatment plant were folded into that private partner...public partnership which effectuate...effectuated an exchange of additional affordable housing units to offset that infrastructure cost.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, how many more affordable housing units are there? What's the ratio?

MR. MOLINA: I would have to refer...but I believe it was somewhere 200 or so range of market units are now becoming affordable units in exchange for the infrastructure cost being taken on by the county.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, of the 1,400 units how many affordable and how many market?

MR. MOLINA: I don't know the final breakdown off hand I'd have to refer to the ordinance.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Thank you, my time's up.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. And Member Rawlins-Fernandez, questions for our resource people?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. No questions at this time.

CHAIR COOK: Member Sinenci, questions for our resource people?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just a couple of questions and mahalo for the presentation. So, when you guys are bridging...building the bridge over the stream, does that...CWRM, Commission on Water Resource Management, are you working with CWRM when you're either working within the stream or putting in the bridge?

MS. FUKUDA: Thank you, Councilmember for the question. So, as Kathleen shared in the presentation, there were a few alternatives that were being reviewed for the bridge. And so, depending on the...the...well, the preferred alternative maybe we'll just stick with that, is to not do any work within the stream. And so, if there is no work within the stream, our understanding...and we have included the CWRM, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers, they were all included in the draft Environmental Assessment Review. But there had been additional coordination with the Army Corps again, because of the Federal Environmental Review requirements, but if there was work in the stream for the bridge then that would trigger the additional requirements for permits from CWRM as you mentioned, as well as the Army Corps, and potentially others as well. So, but at this time the preferred alternative that the project is looking at is for no work in the stream.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you for that. And then for your consultation, 106 consultation, are there any groups within the area that you would have to meet with?

MS. FUKUDA: So, there was Section 106, consultation letter sent out to the Native Hawaiian Organizations on the National Department of Interior's approved list or Native Hawaiian Organization's list. And to date, I believe we...Public Works has not received any request for, you know, further consultation with...from any of those organizations. So, there was, though, consultation...sorry...letters that were sent out relative to that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And those would be local groups of the...from the area?

MS. FUKUDA: Whoever was listed on the Department of Interior's list. That did include Maui organizations and individuals, I believe, and also included I believe, even organizations on other islands and if I'm not mistaken, maybe the mainland as well. So, but they were all included on the Department of Interior's list. . . .(timer sounds). . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Members, second round of questions starting with Member Sugimura.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm just looking primarily for the information that we'll get from the Department on the funding sources and what the time schedule is so that one, if you could send a letter to them so that we could get that. And then I guess the presentation must be online, I'll check that out. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Staff, could you confirm that?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. We can send a follow up letter and then the presentation is Attachment No. 2 on Granicus.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. No questions.

MR. PASCUAL: I apologize, Chair. Director Molina's hand is up.

CHAIR COOK: Director Molina, welcome. Any comments.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Chair. To briefly address Member Sugimura's questions. The funding right now is 25 million from our grant and the balance is going to be county funding at this point, and we anticipate and requesting that in FY-26 in the upcoming budget to maintain the construction schedule. We had been in various coordination efforts with the state, unfortunately none have materialized in terms of state supported funding for this project. And then I guess just to note too, what added to the cost is the inclusion of the underground utilities. That is a little less than half of the cost of this project to get those improvements in as well, which are directly kind of county interests on those utilities that are operated by our county departments. Yeah, it's a huge...huge request coming to push this project forward in the coming year. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, may I ask Director a question then. So, state funding...what kind of state funding were you looking for that did not work past

MR. MOLINA: From my understanding the only state funding that would have worked is grant funding, and they were unable to make that offer. There was various loan proposals thrown out there. But again, you guys know our loan is better than their loan. So why would we pay for a more expensive loan from the state? And so that's where we currently stand with the project.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, how much were you asking for...for grant funding?

MR. MOLINA: Whatever we can get. I can't speak for the state in terms of what they deem reasonable or, you know, justifiable from their perspective to expend state funds on this county roadway. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, I was just...my question was how much did you ask them and they did not have a response? Did you have a number or are you just saying any of the 70...well, 50...50 million.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I'll take 50 if they're willing to throw 50 out, but you know, anything helps

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

at this point because it's a huge number.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so you didn't really have a number that you're asking them for, you're just asking for whatever?

MR. MOLINA: In the beginning there was a \$20 million number floated around by some of the state representatives. But again, those kind of commitments fizzled out . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . and so right now there's nothing in place.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Legislature is coming up so we can work on it. We can try. Thank you. No questions.

CHAIR COOK: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director Molina. Mahalo for your update and your comments. So, I remember the \$20 million number. Do you know why those negotiations or talks like fizzled out? Did it have to do with like the aftermath of Lāhainā and the rebuild? Like is...is...cause that, like all of that talks came with like HCF too. Like that whole discussion with Rep. Kyle Yamashita, like they were about it and they were like pushing all of this, like hard, with Hawai'i Community Foundation with their House Maui Program. And so, I'm...I guess I can't say I'm surprised that it's fizzled out, like you know, it's not super reliable all the time. But, yeah.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, it began from...back under Mayor Victorino's administration when we first started kind of bringing this project to the top of the list. I guess for me it was always unclear what funding source they were trying to propose. And then when it became to loan recommend or suggestions, obviously like I said, you know, we're not going to take their money, it's more expensive. And then again, I don't think they had clear justification to spend that money on a county facility. The other thing that came up of course is their consideration for the school component that's part of the development project and that's going to be a big ticket item for them which I think they're still working through their plans for that part of the project. But good intentions I think in the beginning but the devil's in the details and the details haven't been resolved yet, so it's on the county at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Molina. Meanwhile the Governor is holding what, over a billion dollars in his rainy day fund?

CHAIR COOK: Does that complete your question, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, sorry...1.5 billion reports Honolulu Star Advertiser.

CHAIR COOK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 1.5 billion in his rainy day fund.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

MR. MOLINA: Chair, if I could note one more thing. I believe also when the county was successful in getting the RAISE grant, that's when they kind of also further backed away feeling that we had kind of...we got the support we needed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Also, you know, I saw reports of the Finance Committee Chair, Rep. Yamashita wanting to end our County TAT and County GET surcharge. So again, unreliable when it comes to the certainty of funding that, you know, the state will, you know, support us in getting. Mahalo, Chair. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. That's the bell. Chair Lee, did you have your hand up for an additional question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I did. I did. Question for Mr. Molina. So going back to the Atherton project again, did you say that the county in exchange for 200 more affordable units, the project did not have to contribute to the...this project...Wai'ale project...the Wai'ale bypass.

MR. MOLINA: That's correct. We took that contribution they would have made to the roads to offset the cost of that affordable and to get that 200 units. So that 200 units is roughly proportional to their contribution for most of the roadway and for the wastewater treatment plant if I recall correctly.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, essentially we're subsidizing 200 units with \$50 million?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, that was...that was what the PTP contemplated was that exchange for additional housing units.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thanks.

CHAIR COOK: Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I wanted to get back to the part where that the homestead...not homestead, but the client beneficiary list. Because I was just wondering, you know, that if nobody responded to that, that just kind of surprises me. So, I was wondering if...if...if I could ask who were the people or who were the associations on the list that were sent that notice.

MS. FUKUDA: Chair...Committee...Councilmember Kama, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. FUKUDA: Just to clarify, you're asking about the Section 106 consultation list?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. Yes, yes.

MS. FUKUDA: Yes, we could provide that to the Committee.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MS. FUKUDA: I don't have that with me right now today.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MS. FUKUDA: So, but yes, we can provide that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So, then my next question is what triggers...what triggers the 106 consultation?

MS. FUKUDA: So, for this particular project, it's the federal funding, the RAISE grant that was received for the project. There could be other federal triggers as well, but right now the trigger is the...the RAISE grant.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, okay. So, I'm going to look forward to that list coming to I guess, the Committee, Chair?

CHAIR COOK: Staff, could you confirm that?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. We can send a follow up letter. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you so very much, Chair. Because one of the...one of the names on the list is Paukukalo Hawaiian Homes and I'm surprised that they didn't do or send anything out. I'll just give them a call. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Sinenci, follow up question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Again, just a quick question about the SHPD requirements and the monitoring of the...of the project. Have you worked with our county archaeologist and...for any potential cultural inventory of the area? And has there been any subterranean, I guess, inspections of the area? Any red flags prior to beginning the project?

MS. FUKUDA: Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. So, yes the...as a Public Works project, very early on we did involve the county archaeologist, Janet Six, in the archaeological discussions and I believe she's been made aware of, you know, progress on the archaeology as the project has progressed. In regards to whether there was subsurface testing, yes. As part of the Archaeological Inventory Survey report, there was trenching done within areas within the project site. So, the findings of the archaeological testing did not find anything of significance. There were existing sites that had been previously identified by other reports, archaeological reports for projects in the area, such as the Waikapu Country Town Project that, you know, has been discussed as part of this conversation today. So they were reidentified as part of the study. There is a site that was identified near the intersection, the roundabout at Honoapi'ilani Highway and the Wai'ale Road extension, that intersection, which was an old ditch area. So, that is being further reviewed by Stanley Solamillo, who is a qualified historic architecture...I forgot what the designation is...sorry. But he is within the Planning Department as well, so...

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you for that report. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: And Members, any need for another round of questions before the Chair asks his questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez, it looks like you're going for your mic. No. Okay. Thank you resources for being here. Chair has a couple of questions. Regarding permits, what outstanding permits are required? And I understand you mentioned the PUC approval because of the power line relocation. Are there any county permits as far as grading, et cetera, and what is the status of applying and receiving those permits?

MR. YAGIN: Thank you, Chair. Yes, so there are county permits that's required. A grading permit of course is one of them. And our...our...so we will need to go to that review process. Once the construction documents are ready to be submitted, we'll go through our typical project permitting and review process.

CHAIR COOK: In your construction schedule, is there an estimated timeframe for permit review and approval?

MR. YAGIN: A timeframe for review...our typical process has been somewhere in the range of about several months to even quite a bit longer. It depends on the different agencies as well, so it varies.

CHAIR COOK: Okay, thank you. That kind of leads me up to my next question, is like the \$72 million budget and is there a contingency or with the proposed escalation due to time delays, and I think people are getting used to this particular Chair asking and pointing out that the permit review and approval process timeframe often is a delay which causes potential escalation and cost, and is there any contingency? I mean the \$72 million will be addressed once the bid is out. We know what the actual cost will be?

MR. MOLINA: Chair, if I may?

CHAIR COOK: Director Molina, thank you.

MR. MOLINA: I just want to note that one thing is in our advantage here is extensive prereview of this project. The area has been reviewed through the Waikapu Country Town process through their change in zoning, through their EIS process. We are also in that consultation for our EA... HEPA-NEPA process and so there's going to be a lot of prereview by those typical review agencies on this project. So by the time we've got to go pull permits, you know, those agencies will be familiar with this...with this project. And so, we anticipate that will be less problematic than some of other work that we've had in the past. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you for that update. Also it appears that there's been thorough outreach and communication with the communities and they're supportive which would be helpful. . . .(timer sounds). . . Chair's first round time is up. Members, is there any other questions or Chair can ask his second round? Okay. I'm curious...and this is for Director Molina, you might be more familiar with this. How many...how many...on a

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

project like this (1) is it going to be planned to be done in phases; and (2) how many qualified bidders are there projected to be available to do a project of this size?

MR. MOLINA: Phasing will likely be driven by the contractor. What's I guess advantageous for this project we're in open fields. There is no existing development in our way. So, beyond just managing how much open ground is a factor that one time, you know, there isn't really a need to phase beyond kind of the particular improvements like the intersections will be its own kind of component of the project, especially that highway tie in. And as far as bidders I mean we do anticipate because it's a large...large valued project, we'll get more bidders than we typically see for our smaller jobs. And yeah, I can't speak to how many will bid, but if I would have to guess probably in the range of six to ten, just given the, you know, the dollar value on it.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Thank you for that answer. It was one I was hoping to hear. Hoping it would be a fact. I want to thank...first, if there are any follow up questions from the Members, I'd like to thank our resource people. No objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: I'd like to thank, Mr. Yagin, Ms. Ng and Ms. Fukunaga?

MR. MOLINA: Fukuda.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. I can't read my own writing. For a very comprehensive presentation today and an update on this project. Your information has been very comprehensive and from previous presentations, it's obvious that you've been moving forward quite diligently and it's appreciated. Members, if there is no objections the Chair would like to defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Members and thank you to our resource people for joining us this morning. We will now move on to the next item. And seeing that it's 10:25, the Chair proposes we take a ten minute recess. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. We'll take...the time is now 10:25 and the Infrastructure Committee meeting is in recess until 10:35. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:25 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:41 a.m.

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Members, welcome back from our break.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

WAI-1(7) KIHEI NORTH-SOUTH COLLECTOR ROAD

CHAIR COOK: And we're now going to address WAI-1(7), the Kihei North-South Collector Road. Members, WAI-1(7) relates to the Kihei North-South Collector Road. We discussed this road extension project on July 31, 2023, and I've requested an update from the Department of Public Works on this matter. We also have Munekiyo Hiraga with us online to assist with our Committee's discussion. Members, you may find the Department's presentation on Granicus as Attachment No. 2. Mr. Yagin, at this point please begin your presentation and provide any opening remarks.

MR. YAGIN: Thank you, Chair, for having us present on this project. Perhaps I'll just get right into it. So, a little background about this project. So, the Liloa Drive extension, it was formerly...formerly known as the Kihei North-South Collector. And just to orient yourselves, the project is an extension of the current Liloa Drive which ends at Waipu'ilani Street. This extension proposes to extend this roadway all the way past Kulanihako'i up to Ka'ono'ulu Street, so a distance of almost a mile. Before I get into this, so the project is actually broken down in two phases. The permitting will be done as one complete process, but the construction would need to be done in two phases. Background...the North-South Collector was master planned quite a while ago, back in the eighties. It was identified in many of the...the Transportation Master Plans. Some shown here at the Federal-Aid Highway 2035 Plan, the South Maui Subarea Transportation Plan and even the MPO's Hele Mai Maui Long Range Transportation Plan. It's also identified in the South Maui Community Plan. The project did apply for a RAISE grant similar to our Wai'ale Road extension project and it was awarded \$25 million, and it continues to be a priority project for the current administration. Just to go over some benefits of this project, it is an alternative to South Kihei Road. And with the weather events that's...that's been reoccurring more often, an alternate route is important and so, this provides some outlet for some of the subdivisions below, especially in the areas between Waipu'ilani Street to Ka'ono'ulu, and so it's important for that. It's also an alternative for...to Pi'ilani Highway which if...if you've driven it it's a rather high speed...although signed at a 40 miles per hour I believe, the operating tracked speeds tend to be a lot higher. And so, this...this will allow some of the local trips to the center of Kihei an alternative route. It's also an undeveloped corridor so what this does...this project intends to beautify the area and if you know the area it is dry brush and so it reduces the hazards from fire. And I don't know how long ago that was, but there was a fire that affected one of the subdivisions there. I believe it was Pi'ilani Village...Pi'ilani Village...yes. It also consists of drainage improvements. The area does get affected by heavy rains, especially from Upcountry and so this...this helps to kind of clean up the drainage flows, not exactly mitigate it, but clean it up a bit. It's because of the multi-use path that's attached to it. It also provides some recreational opportunities and health opportunities as well. And because it is separated from the roadway, it does provide a safer more comfortable biking and walking route. So, what we have on screen is the general plan for the project. So, as I mentioned, it's to be done in two phases. So, the first phase starts just a little South of Waipu'ilani Street because of all the tie ins to the existing roadway, and extends to right around Heona Place, so which is just north of Kulanihako'i. And Phase II would continue all the way to Ka'ono'ulu Street. The proposed improvements are sidewalks, curbs, gutters, the multi-

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

use path that I mentioned, street lighting. There will be railings, fencing, landscaping. Of course, because of the grades in the area, they will also be retaining walls. There's going to be overhead and underground utility work, installation of underground storm drainage systems, and at all the major intersections we're proposing roundabouts, and two bridge crossings, one at Kulanihako'i Gulch and the next one at Waipu'ilani Gulch. So, what we have is, it's a typical section of the roadway. Basically retaining walls on one side where as needed. And as we go towards the right, the two travel lanes...sidewalks...travel lanes, and then the greenway with multi-use path. And shown here is just a typical section of the bridge crossings. Again, we'll have two bridges, one at Kulanihako'i...Waipu'ilani and the other one at Kulanihako'i Gulch. And just an example of how roundabouts will be used at major intersections...I think this one is at Kulanihako'i Street. And so, we are currently in the environmental phase. We did publish a draft Environmental Assessment. We did receive comments and we...we are now developing the final Environmental Assessment, which we hope to publish in the first part of next year. We will also need an SMA permit which we will take on in the latter part of that year. We will need to get some land rights so things like easements. We may need to acquire some small portions of property. We...construction is in initiation so we...we're kind of controlled by the RAISE grant that was awarded to this. So, we do have an obligation deadline of the fall of '27 and so we are targeting construction documents in the later part of '26. And our current construction cost is in the range of about 50 million, so this is another large project as well. And current progress and next steps. So, we've met with the Kihei Community Association, we've also had meetings with different homeowners associations and individual property owners as well, and we continue to welcome meeting with those property...with any property owners or anyone who has concerns on this project. As I've said, we're working on the final Environmental Assessment and we are...we do have extensive coordination with federal highway. HDOT are our funding partners and electrical utilities as well, they're on...we've been in discussion with them on this project so we have started that coordination process for the construction documents. We are preparing for the processes after the environmental assessment, so...which includes things like land rights. And let's see...design work is approaching about 50 percent. So, that's our current status. So, thank you and welcome any questions. We...we do have our consultants online I believe, I can't really confirm it here, but we do have Tessa Munekiyo Ng from Munekiyo Hiraga. They're handling our environmental and permitting and we...I think we might have Brad Wright from our engineering consultant too, for any technical questions as well. So, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you for your presentation. Staff, do we have any public testimony?

MS. TANCK: Chair, the first individual signed up to testify is Zandra Amaral-Crouse, to be followed by Mike Moran.

CHAIR COOK: And I'd like to welcome Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WAI-1(7) . . .

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

MS. TANCK: And Ms. Amaral-Crouse is in the Chambers.

MS. AMARAL-CROUSE: Crouse.

CHAIR COOK: Crouse...okay.

MS. AMARAL-CROUSE: Aloha, Committee Chair and Members, and for those of you who are in Chamber, thank you very much for being here for us. My name is Zandra Amaral-Crouse. You guys can remember my name because if you say house, I'm the Crouse. I had a hard time with this name also when I married my husband so I don't blame you guys because it's spelled as differently. But I'm testifying on behalf of Līloa, the old North-South Collector road. I want to first of all thank you, Member Cook, Committee Chair Cook and Hiraga, for being at all of our community meetings for many, many, many years regarding this project. My only hopes is that...I realize that there was a problem with land rights with owners and I'm so glad to hear from Hiragas to date to know that that is being addressed and it has been for a long time...you've been working with the owners for which I'm very grateful. However, as stipulated earlier through your testimony, this project has been on the book for 24 years and I can recall testifying on almost every of those hearing for the past 15 years since I've been home from the mainland. And I think it's important because as stipulated by the representative of the county for the development of this road, we saw what happened to Lāhainā and within the Lāhainā project a fire...I am sorry...myself and my neighbors were left with the task of getting on our roofs and hosing down our homes because the Pulehu fire came down through the ranch to our backyards. And we know that this escape route is really needed and I see the urgency in the council...I see the urgency that's being put forth by Hiraga. I am seeing the urgency put out by so many mayors and administrators, but my only request is...I'm sorry... that's okay. My only request on...are we good? Okay.

CHAIR COOK: We're good.

MS. AMARAL-CROUSE: Okay. I'm sorry. The only request I think that there has been...I cannot even begin to count how many public meetings there were with the Community Association in Kihei for over 24 years and again, thank you for being there. But for somehow, some way, this is not something that can be put or delayed any further than it has been for whatever reasons, for whatever reasons, because our lives and the lives of my neighbors and the lives of my neighbors' children . . .(timer sounds). . . means a lot to me as they do to you. So, I humbly ask and I thank you for doing as much as you all have done thus far and I humbly ask, continue, press forward, and let it happen. Not in two years, 20 years, but in a year or two. And I was glad to hear that this is in the plans for exactly that timeframe. Mahalo.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Members, any clarifying questions for the testifier? I would like to thank the testifier for being consistently involved and supportive over the years. Thank you.

MS. AMARAL-CROUSE: Thank you, Chair.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next and currently last individual signed up to testify is Mike Moran.

CHAIR COOK: Welcome, Mr. Moran.

MR. MORAN: Thank you, Committee Chair Cook and Committee Members. Mike Moran for the Kihei Community Association. I'm familiar this is not a question and answer session, but I would ask you to in your deliberations, to please clarify with decision makers on the shared path. The current shared path of the existing road that's just south of this, that shared path is clearly marked for no motor vehicles. And when that was originally constructed that was not in place, and we had the challenge with that, that we did have motorized vehicles on there. Now of course, that was decades ago and today what are considered motorized vehicles has changed quite a bit with the e-bike and e-scooters and so forth, so we would like clarification at some point. Is this shared path going to have that same restriction of no motorized vehicles, if that could be in your deliberations. On the project where we are immensely supportive of this project and Chair Cook, you often bring up that issue of delays increase the expense, and this is a perfect example of that happening. When we hear that this was considered back in the eighties and dubs and drabs were built, but look how much...now we're looking \$50 million for one mile, and granted it's gulches and bridges and stuff, but how much less would it have cost a decade ago. But water under the new bridge on that, but something to keep in mind. Yeah, we are as I said, are in complete support of it for all reasons that are...have been stated and this particular segment for the multi-motor transportation is so key. The second phase which will open up south of Ka'ono'ulu. For decades we have had that challenge with our neighborhood. For those that were walking and cycling, that once you were going south and you got to Ka'ono'ulu, there was no way through except South Kihei Road or the highway. Other areas have neighborhood streets where...where cyclists and walkers can go, but once you reach Ka'ono'ulu it's...you're locked. And when we've had tragic instances where South Kihei Road was closed for some reason, pedestrians were told about it...we're always going to charge you. You have to go up and walk along the highway. So, this road is such a key road to second phase, but this is the key portion in many of our opinions. . . .(timer sounds). . . And in closing, I will just remind folks that while...yes, this is additional transportation infrastructure, not for long because pretty much by the time this road...this segment of this road is open, South Kihei Road will be gone. So, we're not really gaining anything, we're just keeping pace, but better keeping pace, than falling further behind. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Mr. Moran. Members, any clarifying questions. I see Member Paltin's hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Moran for your testimony. I just wanted to clarify on the shared use path that you were referring to. This is the already...an already constructed shared use path that you were referring to or a to be constructed shared use path?

MR. MORAN: Well, the current shared use path does prohibit motorized vehicles and we're hoping that this, which is really just an extension of that, that that will apply as well on here. But, as we said, times have changed and there may be considerations well, is

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

a...an electric bike, an e-bike, is that considered a motor vehicle? So, we would just like clarification. We have at least two years before the road is open. But so we're clear when it opens, what is going to be permitted on that shared use path and the shared use path is both bicycles and pedestrians. So, it's not a dedicated bicycle path it's shared by both, even though there is a sidewalk on the other side of the street...street just for pedestrians, but that's our concern. What we have now in the existing one has no motor vehicles, and our question is, is that going to be the same on the newly constructed portion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And to clarify the existing one with no motorized, they don't allow electric bikes or electric scooters and such...the one wheel people mover?

MR. MORAN: Well, of course there is...I've never seen any enforcement of the rule. And as a...as a old goat cyclist, I use that as often as possible and I have occasionally seen e-bikes on it...e-scooters on it. I haven't seen any real mopeds on it, but that's...and that's understandable and unfortunately that little strip doesn't get much use because it's so short. It connects right to our...to two of our schools, so it would be outstanding as this goes across how many more children can cycle or walk along that path from further areas instead of parents having to drive them because as parents have told us consistently, "I'd love my kid to be able to walk or bike, but it's not safe." And this will be safe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Me too. Last clarification. Is it your preference to have e-bikes and electric scooters or to not have those?

MR. MORAN: Well, actually our association didn't really decide that when it got down to that aspect, so I can't say that what the Community Association position is on that. I personally...I have no objection to people...even though I still pedal...I have no objection to others using more modern...as long as it's done safely. That's the whole key. We all know that...the traditional thing is a bicycle is they...they estimate it goes an average of ten miles per hour where the e-bikes...the medium range e-bikes will go about 20 miles an hour and when you have pedestrians walking, that's a big difference. We all know the faster the speed when the collision occurs, the more damage is done. So, I can't say what the association's position on it is, but it really would be the perfect world...it would be a separate road for bicycles as opposed to pedestrians, but we're very happy to be getting what we're getting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you so much.

MR. MORAN: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Members, any other clarifying questions for our testifier Mr. Moran? My clarifying comment Mike, is gratitude to you over the years for basically continually keeping this...advocating for it and I agree with you that the next two years it needs to happen. Fortunately, I think we have a financial deadline that is going to push it forward, but the community really needs it. The sections that are done are wonderful and pleasant to use and so anyway, thank you for your testimony and for your continued support.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

MR. MORAN: Mahalo, Chair and happy holidays to all.

CHAIR COOK: Staff, any other testifiers?

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next and currently last individual signed up to testify is Audrey Lester.

MS. LESTER: Let me turn my light on. Good morning, council and thank you for letting me testify. After listening to Mike, I think he captured most of what I wanted to say. I am a member of the KCA and I also live on Ka'ono'ulu Street. And I just wanted to say how important this connector road is, especially to our community. You know, my husband and I, you know, we were living in Portland, and you know, we could get around quite easily but it's very difficult for us to go further south, and this connector road is, you know, it will be a huge asset to the community from a walkability point of view. And with the high school on Ka'ono'ulu...on Kunia Kau [sic], those students coming from the north, they'll have a much safer way to get to school. So, I look forward to it as a way to be able to walk around through town, because right now we're pretty isolated. You know, we've taken some of the, you know, South Kihei and Pi'ilani and they're really unsafe, in my opinion, for pedestrians. And, you know, giving us a way to move around through town would be much healthier for us as well. And then, just to kind of pipe in on the electric bicycle part, now I don't...I don't know what other people will think about it or what the community opinion will be, but having traveled in London and in the Netherlands where, you know, in Netherlands the bikers actually rule. I think seeing all the kids, you know, getting out of school and jumping on their electric bikes and going home, you know, I think electric bicycles and other types of electric assisted devices will make it a lot more appealing to the kids to get their way to school on their own. And of course, you know, kids are kids, but I'm sure...when we were walking around and the kids got out of school and they were just, you know, everybody was just taking off, you know, it was a little chaos to begin with, but as a pedestrian, I didn't find it to be a problem. So, that's just my experience. But I really appreciate the council continuing to push this through. Of course the section that goes from the gulch to Ka'ono'ulu is key for making this, you know, a true connector to the North part of Kihei. And so, I guess what I wanted to add was to continue to try to push the second phase through as fast as possible because I think that's going to really be the part that makes a big difference.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Ms. Lester.

MS. LESTER: So, again I wanted to thank the council...this is a big project and, you know, there's...you know, I look forward to it coming to fruition. I think it's just getting it past the...past the final hurdles. So, and I wanted to thank the MH for all the work they're doing and the Department of Public Works...it's, you know, an exciting project for the community. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR COOK: Members, any clarifying questions for the testifier?

MS. LESTER: I think Mike said it all. . . .(laughing). . .

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

CHAIR COOK: Member Kama, can you turn your camera on? Or we're going to have to recess.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, Member Sinenci turned his camera on so we now have five members present.

CHAIR COOK: Okay, excellent. Thank you for doing that. So, members any clarifying questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much and let's all push forward to make this project a reality. Thank you. Happy holidays.

MS. LESTER: Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Staff, any other testifiers?

MS. TANCK: Chair, there are currently no individuals signed up to testify at this time. We'll do a last call, three, two, one. Chair, there are no individuals signed up to testify.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WAI-1(7) . . .

CHAIR COOK: Members, seeing there are no individuals wishing to testify, without objection I will now close oral testimony on WAI-1(7).

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: Close oral testimony for WAI-1(7).

CHAIR COOK: Members, I'm proposing...and of course, written testimony is...will be continued to be accepted. Members, I'm proposing two rounds of three minutes per member. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you, members. I would like to now open the floor for questions and discussion starting with Vice-Chair Sugimura who is currently absent. Councilmember Kama, who is currently absent. Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hey, Mr. Yagin. How many properties do we need to acquire or portions of property still yet?

MR. YAGIN: That's a good question. I don't have the count with me. Maybe...okay, hi, Tessa. I'll defer to Tessa from Munekiyo Hiraga.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Sorry. Go ahead, Tessa.

MS. MUNEKIYO NG: Aloha, councilmembers. Tessa Munekiyo Ng from Munekiyo Hiraga. So, in total there's about 38 properties that will require a temporary right of entry, permanent easement or partial land acquisition. Those land rights will not...processes will not start until the EA is complete next year and it'll start with the process of a cash offer letter to the owners. What has proceeded in advance of that is requesting letters

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

of authorization from these 38 owners for the County to apply for the Special Management Area use permit because a requirement of the SMA permit is to have written authorization from all of the affected properties to apply for the permit. So, that process has been ongoing and to date we have...let me just make sure I have the right list here. We've received 25 letters of authorization so far, missing 13 letters, so those are the final 13 that we need to have clearance to be able to proceed with filing the SMA permit application. So, that's kind of where things stand.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are you aware of the 13 outstanding, if they're owner-occupant or non-owner-occupant or what the status if they live on island?

MS. MUNEKIYO NG: It's a mix. Seven of them are from the Kamali'i Alayna Subdivision and so, we've...the project team with the Department of Public Works and the engineering firm, Warren Unemori Engineering, and ourselves have been continuing outreach with them having individual meetings. KCA was kind enough to also coordinate a meeting with some of the homeowners, so there's been ongoing coordination and effort to try to get these. I think the majority of them are actually...do reside on island and I think the understanding is that if some of these owners do not sign the letter of authorization, if, you know, the County is going to also then proceed with the land rights in the new year after the EA . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . is complete with the, you know, cash offer letter, but if the negotiations of the land rights are not successful, then the County is prepared to proceed with eminent domain proceedings and with that, then that would allow the SMA to be filed without a letter of authorization.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, shoots. So, the 13 remaining require eminent domain...would require eminent domain, it's not just easements or temporary right-of-way?

MS. MUNEKIYO NG: It's a combination and Nolly can jump in as well, but, you know, the cash offer letters have not been presented yet, so it's...it is still possible that they could agree, but to date we have not had authorization for the SMA specifically.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I think I heard the bell.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Members? Member Rawlins-Fernandez, do you have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I guess I will ask Mr. Moran's question regarding the use of motorized vehicles in the new section. You heard his question, yeah?

MR. YAGIN: Yes, I heard his question. Thanks for the question. So, the regulations in place for the existing section, we would...we would naturally extend it to this new section. His comment about e-bikes and how they...how they're handled, that's something that we would need to discuss with the enforcement agencies. So like police, since they have a better feel for I guess the...what type of signage we would need and how we would go about supporting their enforcement activities. So, in short we hope to put some controls...some safety controls on that section of multi-use path as well. Yeah, thank you.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo for that clarification. And then I kind of heard some motorized and then I heard some like speed. On Moloka'i we have some of, you know, the senior citizens that use the rascal. You know, the motorized...kind of motorist wheelchair-ish, you know? But they use, you know, they can't drive, so they use that to go to the store. Is that something that is allowed on the current path?

MR. YAGIN: Yeah, so we would...so devices like those I think they're like...I forgot the term, personal assistant device or...but I know what you're referring to. But they're allowed on sidewalks and so they would be okay as well on this multi-use path.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, great. Yeah, I don't think they go very fast, maybe like ten miles per hour or something. Not like e-bikes and scooters.

MR. YAGIN: Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The e-scooters go really fast. They're fun. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, and if I can get...sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, what was that Chair?

CHAIR COOK: No, no, no. Thank you. I had to clear the screen because it was doing that scan thing, so I couldn't see anybody. I...Chair Lee, I see...there you are. Do you have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I just wanted to know from Mr. Yagin, could you repeat what the total anticipated cost will be?

MR. YAGIN: Yes. So, our current estimate is in the range of about 50...50 to 55 million.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And that's to finish one...a little over a mile?

MR. YAGIN: This estimate is actually for the first phase of this segment. So, this segment is...I have the distance...so, less than half a mile.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, how much for half a mile...50 million?

MR. YAGIN: We're in the range of about 50 million at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. That's all I have, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I was just curious if...are there any gulches within the connector road that would either require like a bridge construction or I know

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

some areas where there are streams, you just kind of go through the stream because they're intermittent streams.

MR. YAGIN: Yes. So, for this section of the project there are actually two major gulches, Waipu'ilani Gulch and Kulanihako'i. And so, they are intermittent, but I guess in the past when they do flow they do flow pretty full. And so, these are major crossings for this project. In this first phase of the project there will be one, that's Waipu'ilani Gulch.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, and then for Kulanihako'i I know that there's...is there an access from the...from the existing road up to approach and go over Kulanihako'i Street?

MR. YAGIN: So, the second phase will require a bridge as well. Right now there's really just a footpath, I guess, the way people use it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. And then, the connect south...the North-South Collector Road is also included in the MPO STIP...it's one of the projects?

MR. YAGIN: Yes. Yes, Councilmember Sinenci, it is identified in the current STIP.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: I want to welcome back Member Kama and ask if she has any questions for our resource.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, thank you, Chair. So, I just wanted to ask just a couple of questions. One, the presentation said that there were going to be some roundabouts. How many roundabouts are we...are you going to be?

MR. YAGIN: Thank you, Councilmember Kama. So, for this...the overall segment between Waipu'ilani to Ka'ono'ulu, a total of three roundabouts are proposed...so all at the major intersections. For this phase it'll be two, Waipu'ilani Street and Kulanihako'i Street.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. And then...so the...you're doing this in phases, how many phases do you anticipate doing this, because this is Phase I, right? The first half a mile.

MR. YAGIN: Yes, so this segment will be done in two phases.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. YAGIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, if the Phase I that we're talking about right now for a half a mile is the cost of 50 million, what is the cost for the other half a mile because it's south...it's one whole mile, right...the two phases?

MR. YAGIN: Yeah, so as we develop the project, I recall the figure for the second phase at a little less than this phase, mainly due to the length of the bridge crossing. It's maybe

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

just a little bit shorter I believe.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right. Yeah, yeah.

MR. YAGIN: But still kind of in that range, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. So, when do you anticipate the completion of Phase I and then when do you anticipate completion of Phase II?

MR. YAGIN: So, based on the construction start of say fiscal year '27, where we're looking at construction of Phase I to be about 18 months plus, so '29 for completion or opening of the first phase. As far as the next phase, that's something that we're trying to coordinate in our budget...in our future plans as well. So, at this time we can only give a timeframe of probably after 2030.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So, then my last question is, this project has been in the books since the eighties. What takes so long for that to occur? Because now we're looking at the completion of this maybe sometime...well, we're not sure, right, but at least Phase I, 2029. So, what...I'm just thinking how much more longer do we need to wait and what's that going to be like.

MR. YAGIN: Yeah. . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Thank you for that question. So, that's...this project has been in different design...I guess criteria throughout the years. And so, at one point it was...it was... a four-lane road actually was proposed at one point, which wasn't really warmly received. And so, there was...there was some issues with keeping this roadway on the master plans and as it became more important, to you know, to fit...to be more context sensitive. And so it goes...all of a sudden the design goes on to like a two-lane roadway with the community's wishes. And so, master plans need to be updated and then of course there's funding issues, and so all of that just played into a pretty long delay. So, at this point this is the closest we've been to moving forward with this road and it's at a pretty good point right now.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Member Kama. Members, any other questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Just following up on Member Kama's question and I know it's after the fact and late, we're not going to do anything about it now, but I was wondering in the eighties, I don't know if those 38 properties or the rest of the properties were houses and stuff back then, but was there efforts made when it was first envisioned to secure the right-of-way or the easements or the properties that were needed?

MR. YAGIN: Thank you for that question, Councilmember Paltin. I believe there were some efforts to try and secure the right-of-way. So, things like designating easements with subdivisions back when they were...when they were approved. So, that was...reserving the right-of-way was put into play as well. And so...so, there were efforts, but as far as individual efforts with residences, not from my knowledge there weren't many extensive efforts at that point. Mainly just overall planning efforts.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then going forward into the next phase, is there a lot of easements that needs to be secured still yet as well?

MR. YAGIN: There are quite a few easements and so we've actually started the outreach with those residents as well. So, there...they've been kept in the loop through this process and so they understand that the phase that affects them will be coming along as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the...like, so the 13 that Ms. Munekiyo Ng had said is still outstanding, is there...like do they understand that it's trying to benefit all of them that live alongside of it to have an alternate route for when it floods and things like that,? Or, I guess I can't understand why people...why people don't want it in its current form. Or is it that they just don't want to give up any piece of what they own?

MR. YAGIN: So, the reasons we've shared all of the benefits on this project with them, especially like the emergency route...the emergency serve purpose.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean like what if there is a fire and they need a way out, you know?

MR. YAGIN: Yeah, exactly. And then so, the reasons for kind of going against the project, they vary. Everything from personal reasons to they don't want it...basically what they have right now is peace and quiet and of course when you introduce a roadway . . .(timer sounds). . . you introduce some vehicle noises. So, they like that current environment they're in and they don't want it to change.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: A lot of people in Lāhainā felt the same way until they died.

MR. YAGIN: Oh, I see. Yeah, so their reasons are very varying.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. But the eminent domain would be possible for safety as an additional evacuation route?

MR. YAGIN: Yeah, so that process is...I mean from the beginning it's not a process that we would look to, but at this point we feel that the road is important and so we are gearing up for that process as we finish up environmental.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. YAGIN: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Members, before Chair asks final questions are there any other... desire for another round of questions? Thank you. So, my question, \$50 million sounds like an awful lot of money for half a mile, but am I...am I correct that that consists of two bridges and two roundabouts?

MR. YAGIN: So, for this phase that 50 million covers one fairly large bridge crossing, two roundabouts, the roadway, some drainage improvements, and there are these

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

transmission lines that are currently on wood poles and some of that cost will also go to upgrading those symptoms to more wind-resistant...I believe they're hurricane-resistant type poles, and that's...we've always shared it as an overall benefit to the roadway and the area as well.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. So, although it's a relatively...it sounds like a short distance, there's a lot of complexity and cost in this particular length of road.

MR. YAGIN: There is a lot and part of the improvements I forgot to mention, there are things like reclaimed waterline. There are some aging water infrastructure in the area that we need to look at as well.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Anything that we can do to...I believe...I'm speaking for...as a representative from South Maui, anything that the community can do to facilitate, and speaking as a councilmember, anything I can do to help facilitate the department and move forward, the section that has been completed is a remarkable addition to the community. It's wonderful...I think that's also part of the cost is it's not simply a road, it's a multi-path landscaped community artery and I just want to thank the department's persistence on it, I want to encourage it and cheer it on, and hopefully I'll still have hair when we get it done. So...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, Member Paltin did have...Chair Lee did have a question.

CHAIR COOK: Chair Lee, I acknowledge you for your question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I'm sorry. I just thought of something. You know, for \$50 million is it possible to actually start on the highway that was never really, I don't know, proceeded with. It was above...parallel and above Pi'ilani. Rather than going below which is the North-South Collector Road, what about the highway above. Because with the North-South Collector Road you end up in a log jam, right? Yeah, well, where all the new highway would have a brand new escape route. Is that correct, Mr. Yagin?

MR. YAGIN: Yeah, I mean so there have...there have been I guess some preplanning of a future highway above Pi'ilani Highway. Again, to do that there haven't been anything like securing right-of-way, so it would almost be starting from scratch again. And so, the cost to do that and to go through all the zoning processes and acquisition processes and the cost to...we'll still cross those same gulches.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, okay, Mr. Yagin, what about...because I'm thinking escape routes, right...escape alternatives. I don't think the North-South Collector Road would necessarily provide that, but it'll help with the circulation of traffic. But as far as escape routes, what about the road that goes up to...connects to Pukalani or Kula?

MR. MOLINA: Chair, if I may.

CHAIR COOK: Chair Lee, I see Member...Director Molina available to answer the question.

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

Director Molina.

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Chair. Just to reclarify, you know, where this project came from, you know, this has been a community plan project for a long time. The road you mentioned is not in any community plan, so Public Works, as an implementing agency, our first charge is to follow the plans that are on the books. I know there is some contemplation in the upcoming South Maui Community Plan update about that bypass road, so that could become part of our plans and then just to clarify that those are two different intents, yeah. If you build a road above the highway all these neighborhoods in the North-South Collect Road don't really get to benefit from that because there's no access to that road. So, you would be providing this bypass function, but that doesn't give you the connectivity within the community between residents and commercial areas that this road is serving so there's two different objectives being discussed right now. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Right, I realize that. I realize that. But, you know, we weren't faced with a fire a couple years ago to where people were trapped, so that's why I bring up the subject. Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Members. Thank you, Director. Thank you, Mr. Yagin. Is there any further questions? If not, Members, if there are no objections, the Chair would like to thank everybody and defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion

CHAIR COOK: Okay, anybody? Thank you, Members. Staff, any additional work that needs to be addressed?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's no further business before your Committee. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Members, this concludes today's Water and Infrastructure Committee meeting. Thank you, Director Molina, Bowers and Kubota, Munekiyo and Hiraga for being here this morning. I would like to give a big thank you all to the committee members for your hard work during this council term. I hope everyone enjoys the holidays and I hope everyone will see each other in the new year. The time is now 11:36 a.m. and this meeting is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

December 19, 2024

ADJOURN: 11:36 a.m.

APPROVED:



TOM COOK, Chair
Water and Infrastructure Committee

wai:min:241219:

Transcribed by: Terianne L. Arreola

**WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui**

December 19, 2024

CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne L. Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 36 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 28th day of December 2024, in Makawao, Hawai'i.



Terianne Arreola