

STIP Public Meeting, Round 2
Hilo State Office Building Conference Room A, B, C
August 9, 2007
6:00 pm – 7:15 pm

- HDOT needs to give the Commission on Transportation a heads up on what will be presented to the public.
- Based on the title, Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, everyone will come to the meeting to comment on all traffic issues, not just talk about the STIP. The title is misleading.
- Advocate all highway improvements include wide shoulders for bicycles. Hope to have a continuous bike path around the island. There are funds for this.
 - HDOT Bike facilities are a part of our normal design process. New cross section will always show for either a bike lane or wide shoulder that accommodates shoulder. For example, the Keaau-Pahoa Shoulder Lane Conversion project will be converting the shoulder lane into a traffic lane while widening facility for widened shoulder that will accommodate bicyclists. The Saddle Road does have a wide enough shoulder for bicyclists.
 - In Germany, difficult intersections had tunnels under major highways for bicyclists. All sidewalks had bike lanes with different colored bricks to outline bike lanes. There were continuous trails throughout the country.
- David Fukumoto: There has been a 52% population increase. He wants PMAR on the STIP. PMAR was in the STIP, but controversy over the route through Hawaii Paradise Park froze the project. He was told that earmarks are not possible. Although he was told the Puna CDP was the vehicle for community to provide input, the committee has been high jacked by no-growth people. Who do we contact regarding the LRP? Who is doing what plan? He is very frustrated, yet he would like to make a contribution to the plan.
 - HDOT response: PMAR needs to be functionally classified. Also, STIP projects must come from an approved LRP. Although PMAR is not listed on the STIP, it does not mean that alternative is dead. Earmarking is a very controversial issue. Timing for earmarks is important. The project needs to be ready to go or the earmark will lapse. The first thing to do is to update the County Long-Range Transportation Plan. HDOT will be updating it early next year, with the initial public meetings to begin mid-year. HDOT is already updating the traffic model to develop different priorities and scenarios. There is a planning consultant looking at alternative roads for Keaau-Pahoa access road to address the system demand. The community will have opportunities to input on the planning study. All information such as the controversy over condemned lots along Railroad Road should be brought up at the meeting regarding the planning study. The planning study is not only limited to highway widening. Everyone interested in the STIP will be notified about the LRP.
- HDOT would like to correct what has been written in the newspaper today. The highway program has not been affected by the war. The sources for the war and the highway fund are different.