

STIP Public Meeting, Round 1
Hilo State Office Building Conference Room A, B, C
May 17, 2007
6:00 pm – 7:45 pm

- Arnold Okumura, appointed by Senator Inouye to serve on the Saddle Road Task Force: Endorses HS 33, 34, and 35. Although HS 35 uses earmarked funds, HS 33 and 34 are essential to the completion of Saddle Road.
- David Legge: Has witnessed three dead bodies on Keaau-Pahoa Road. Endorses to install signals on Keaau-Pahoa now, not six years from now. Also endorses widening Keaau-Pahoa Road. There was a general agreement by other attendees.
- Judy Stenger:
 - Concerned that the Puna Community Development Plan has not yet been reviewed by Stan or Glenn. HDOT needs to better coordinate with various agencies, since the Puna Planning meeting was held the same night as the STIP meeting.
 - Concerned that there is no County representation at the meeting.
 - Wanted to know how many times within the last 25 years HDOT has come to do PI. Since 1992, HDOT has been mandated to do PI. Since 1991, HDOT has been visiting Hawaii and increasing it's PI for the STIP from two meetings in one round on Hawaii to four meetings in two rounds.
 - Wanted to know what how many people are on the STIP. How many groups are on the STIP?
 - Concerned there is no coordination between County and HDOT. Tried to get data.
 - Reported a hazardous driver weaving in traffic and the police department did nothing about it (due to shortage of staff and time), even after she determined the driver's automobile make and model, and current location.
- Some would like to see the State CIP list of projects. Need to look into this.
- Resident living on Puainako Street is concerned about the noise level of the various trucks passing by and used for construction, as well as the unsafe conditions trying to come out of her driveway. Hugh Ono, from SSFM explained that a community study would investigate the limits of the project and the impacts on homeowners. Then they will begin the process of acquisition and due compensation. Noise mitigation would also be looked at.
- Gentleman advocates for Hawaiian Home Lands (HHL) and inquiring if Waimea Bypass, Kawaihae Bypass and Puainako Widening goes through HHL. He says he cannot complete the STIP survey unless he knows whether HHL will not be used to benefit the public. He points out that there is no delineation on many of the location maps to indicate where HHL are located.
- Larry Black: Wants to know what it takes to get traffic signals installed.
- HC9: Need to implement deceleration lanes near the Mohouli and Kukuau intersection so drivers making the right-turn onto Kukuau do not cause a hazard for other motorists.
 - If it is warranted, it should not be difficult to implement. Suggested to contact the DPW Traffic Division.
- Endorsement of the traffic signal installation at Kahakai and would like it to be moved up to earlier years.

- Concerned about land conservation and rising gas prices. Encourages use of mass transit, like in Japan.
- Endorsement of the Keeau-Pahoia Road shoulder lane conversion project.
- Comment/Opinion: Kona has more needs than Puna/Hilo.
- Need a right-turn deceleration lane into Keaau from Volcano Road.
- Komohana has a good, adequate, posted speed limit. Commends County for its speed design.
- Entire Hawaii highway system is extremely primitive and not safe at any speed. We need a new session to discuss basic issues that are wrong with the system. These comments and input would be very appropriate at the informational meetings for the update of the LRP, expected to be held in early 2008.
- Signage along Pahoia Road does not make sense. There should be signs when approaching a turn lane. Abatement, noise buffers are not mentioned in projects. Through the project development process, specifically the environmental phase, noise impacts and abatement are analyzed and considered.
- Since the lack of funds seems to be the major issue, encouraged to spend more money on traffic safety and public education. Traffic safety is an attitude. HDOT should team up with other agencies on public education. DOT does sponsor many safety programs such as Walk Wise Kapuna and Click-it or Ticket.
- HDOT does budget for landscaping that is maintainable. HDOT's landscaping architect is currently updating the landscape manual.
- Hawaii attracts many for its beauty. Median sections should include trees. Since these landscaping efforts cost additional monies, maybe civic, rotary, or arboretum clubs are willing to help with funding shortage. Landscaping our highways is a must.