

Kahekili Highway Improvements Haiku Road to Kamehameha Highway

Public Informational Meeting

Wednesday, September 2nd, 2015
'Āhuimanu Elementary School



Welcome and Introduction

Ed Sniffen, Highways Deputy Director

Raymond J. McCormick, Highways Administrator

State of Hawaii Department of Transportation



Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Inform the community that the State has completed the re-evaluation of the 1990 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Kahekili Highway Improvements
- Summarize the results of the EIS re-evaluation and the Community Survey
- Provide information on Alternatives
- Explain next steps



Project Location

- Kahekili Highway from Haiku Road to Kamehameha Highway in Kahaluu



Project Description and Context

Cheryl Soon, Project Manager
SSFM International, Inc.

Project History and Overview

- Built in 1966 by the City & County of Honolulu
- Although constructed as a two lane roadway, a 120 foot wide right of way was acquired in anticipation of a wider highway
- Planned improvements included in each of the OahuMPO long range plans, updated roughly every five years, the most recent in April, 2011 - Oahu Regional Transportation Plan 2035



1990 EIS

- In 1990 an Environmental Impact Statement was completed studying alternate improvements to Kahekili Highway and a Record of Decision (ROD) was issued by FHWA.
- The primary purpose for the project was: to relieve existing and projected traffic congestion, and improve traffic operations and safety
- At that time, H-3 was being built, but had not been completed



1990 FEIS Preferred Alternative for Kahekili Highway

- Grade-separated Interchange at Likelike intersection
- Castle Hills Connector Road to Keeahala Road
- Widen Kahekili between Likelike and Kamehameha Highway in segments
- Elements would be constructed as funds became available in a sequence to “best facilitate traffic” and in a manner consistent with the Koolaupoko Development Plan



Actions Subsequent to the 1990 FEIS

- The Castle Hills connector road to Keaahala Road was constructed as an extension to Pookela Street; the on-ramp to Kahekili Highway from the Castle Hills Subdivision was eliminated.
- The intersection of Kahekili at Likelike Highway was constructed at-grade, with signals.
- The road widening of six lanes as far as Kahuhipa was constructed.
- The road widening to five lanes as far as Haiku Road was constructed.



Impacts and Mitigations Identified in FEIS

- Noise – mitigated by noise walls and barriers
- Floodplain – mitigated through design: ‘Āhuimanu Floodway (FEMA project)
- Water Quality – mitigated through design and adherence to permit conditions
- Erosion Control – mitigated through proper grading, slope rounding, contouring and berms
- Construction impacts – mitigated through Best Management Practices
- Social and Economic Effects – beneficial impact from reduction of traffic congestion



1990 FEIS Re-Evaluation

- A re-evaluation of an EIS is required under 23 CFR 771.129 when more than three years have passed since the last major approval action
- Re-evaluation of an EIS by state agency required under HAR 11-200-26 and 11-200-27
- The re-evaluation of the 1990 FEIS was completed in 2013



The FEIS re-evaluation considered changes since 1990 to:

- Project design
- Traffic
- Physical, natural, and social environment
- Legislative and regulatory requirements



FEIS Re-evaluation results

- Project designs proposed for future improvements are not substantially different from the FEIS conceptual designs
- The physical, natural, and social environment has undergone some change, in particular because of:
 - The partial construction of highway improvements proposed in the 1990 Final EIS
 - Completion of the H-3 Highway
 - New legislative and regulatory requirements since 1990



Federal Regulations and Laws Changed/Added Since the 1990 Final EIS:

- The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)
- The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century of 1998 (TEA-21)
- The Safe, Accountable Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) of 2005
- Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) of 2012
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Executive Order 12998, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” (1994)
- Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species” (1999)
- Executive Order 13148, “Greening of Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management” (2000).
- Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency” (2000).
- Executive Order 13274, “Environmental Stewardship and Transportation Infrastructure Reviews (2002)
- Executive Order 13287, “Preserve America” (2003)
- Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
- Other Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) changes to the Clean Air Act
- Changes in National Ambient Air Quality Standards since 2000 (40 CFR 50), under continuing review by US EPA
- Transportation Conformity Guidance from 2006 (71 FR 12468)
- Mobile Source Air Toxics (66 FR 17235) and FHWA interim guidance (December 2012) on evaluating Mobile Source Air Toxics
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service)
- Changes to FHWA policy (2005) on timing and information requirements for implementing agency consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act, (16 USC 1531) with US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Changes to FHWA rules on Implementation of Section 4(f) (23 CFR 774)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 13101–13109
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (2006)
- Federal Facilities Compliance Act of 1992 (FFCA)



State of Hawaii Regulations and Laws Changed/Added Since the 1990 Final EIS:

- Act 50 (2000) which seeks to “promote and protect cultural beliefs, practices, and resources of native Hawaiians and other ethnic groups
- Act 183 (2005), relating to the protection of important agricultural lands
- Act 294 (2006), which called for HRS Chapter 343 process to consider Environmental Justice in the context of Hawai‘i’s unique ethnic composition
- 13 HAR 275 (2002), Rules Governing Procedures for Historic Preservation Review
- HRS Chapter 128, Hawai‘i Environmental Response Law (2009)
- HDOT Noise Abatement Policies (2011)



The FEIS Re-evaluation indicated several resources should be re-assessed:

- Traffic and Transportation
- Laws and Regulations
- Socioeconomic Environment
- Water Quality and Wetlands
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Cultural Resources



FEIS Re-evaluation Community Outreach Activities

- Stakeholder Interviews
- Dedicated Project Website
- Mail Survey to 4,750 Area Households
- Kahekili Community Workshop
- Kahekili Community Charettes



Types of Alternative

Developed with Community and Stakeholder Input:

- Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Options
- Contra-flow system in AM and/or PM to enable a three-lane-wide corridor for all or a portion of the corridor
- Widen all or a portion of the corridor to a four-lane divided roadway between Ha'ikū Road and Kamehameha Highway



Transportation Systems Management (TSM)

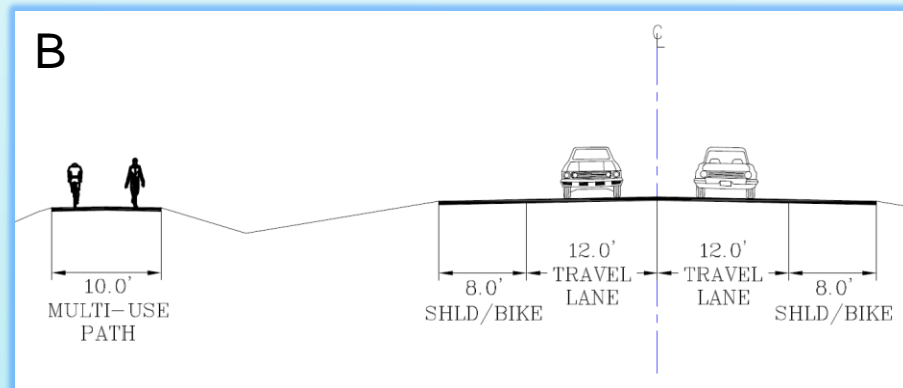
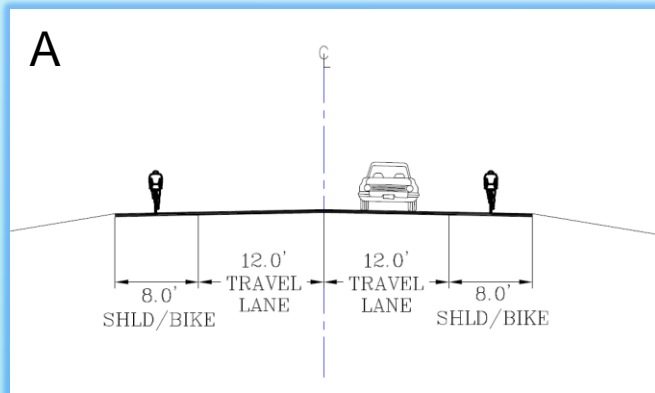
Examples include:

- Addition of TSM measures in the corridor (transit improvements, High-Occupancy Vehicle provisions, Park and Ride facilities, travel demand reduction strategies, etc.)*
- Provide pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities in various sections between Ha'ikū Road and Kamehameha Highway*
- Signal improvements at intersections, particularly Hui Iwa Street (East) and Hui Iwa Street (West)
- Improvements to intersections at Hui Iwa, 'Āhuimanu Road and 'Āhuimanu Place without full widening of the entire roadway corridor

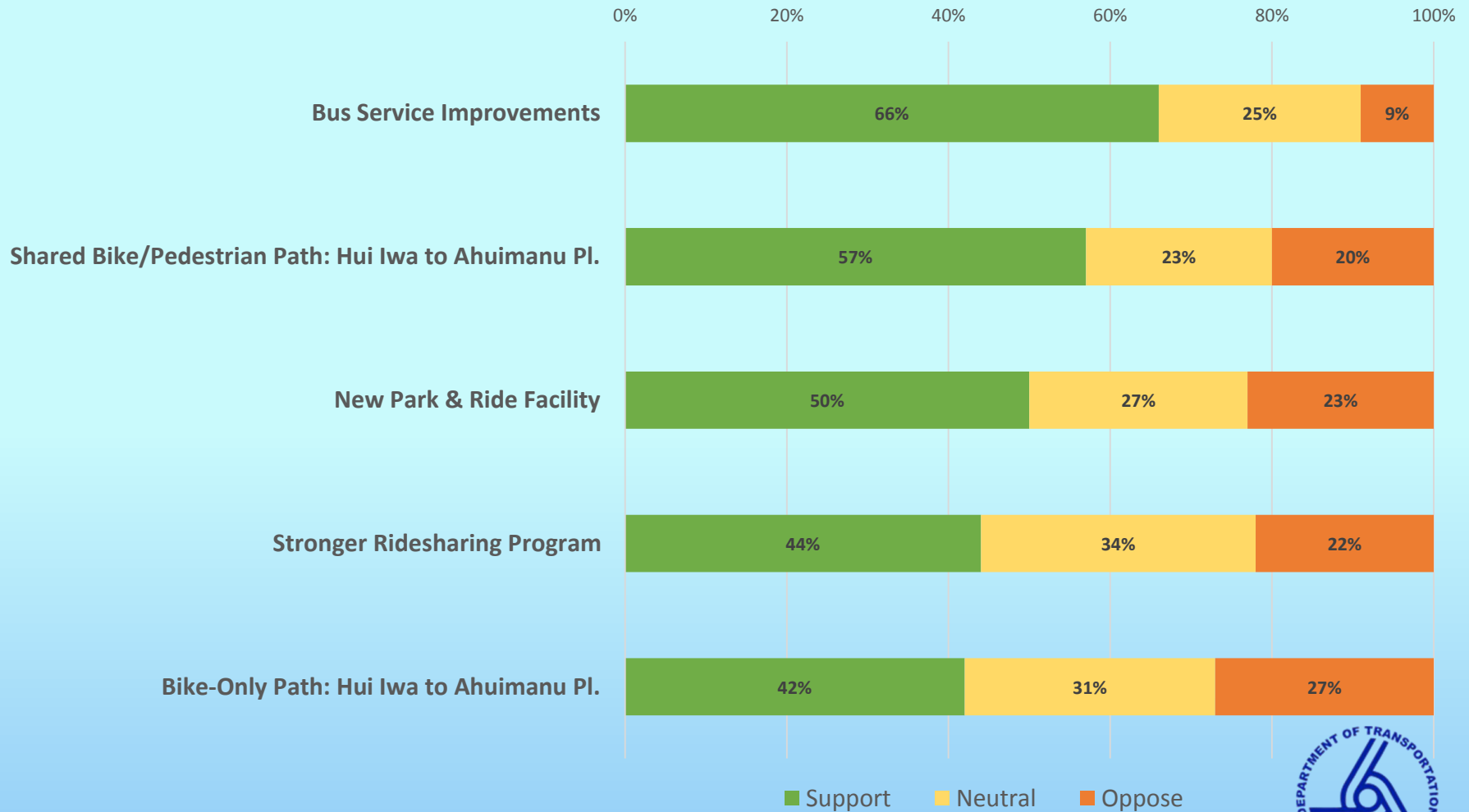


Bike/Pedestrian Examples

- Shared shoulder for a designated bike route (Example A)
- Striped bike lane; both directions
- Shared shoulder for designated bike route with separated pedestrian path
- Shared multi-use path; one side or both (Example B)

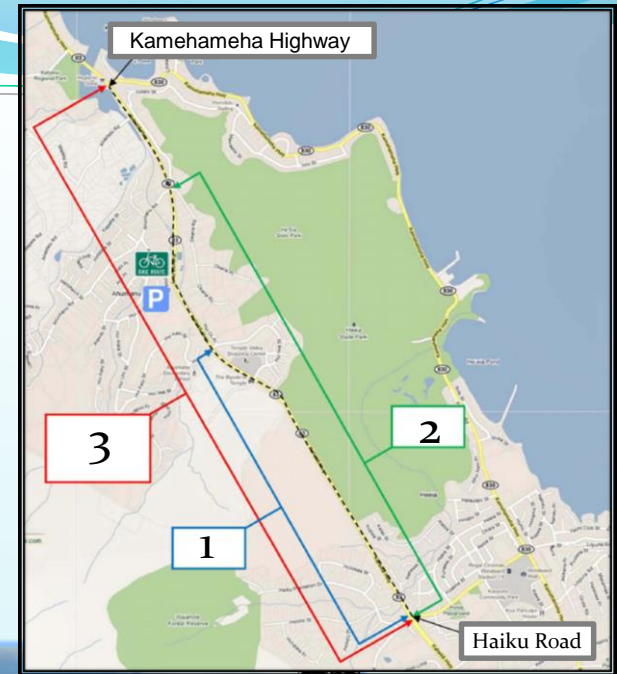


Public Opinion Summary for TSM Options



Contraflow Alternatives

- Shortest Length - Haiku Road to Hui Iwa Street West (1)
- Middle Length - Haiku Road to 'Āhuimanu Road (2)
- Longest Length - Haiku Road to Kamehameha Highway (3)



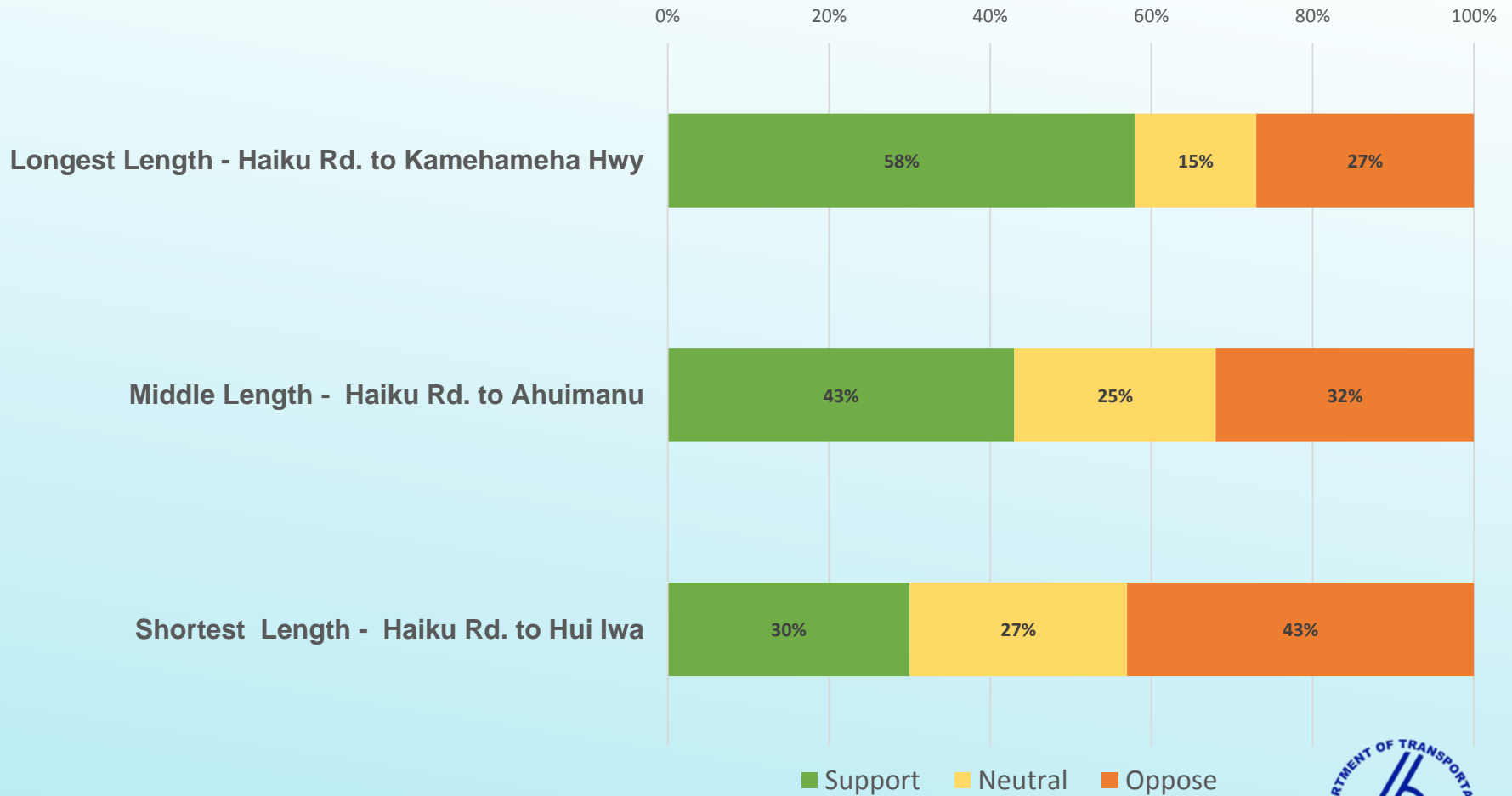
AM
Two Lanes South



PM
Two Lanes North

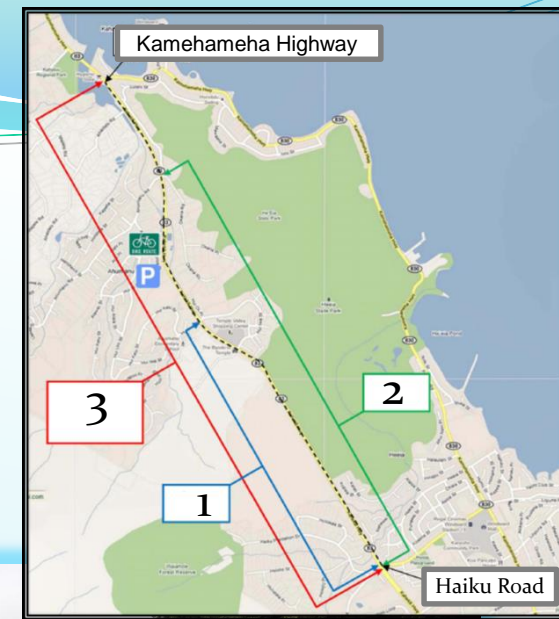


Public Opinion Survey Results for Contraflow

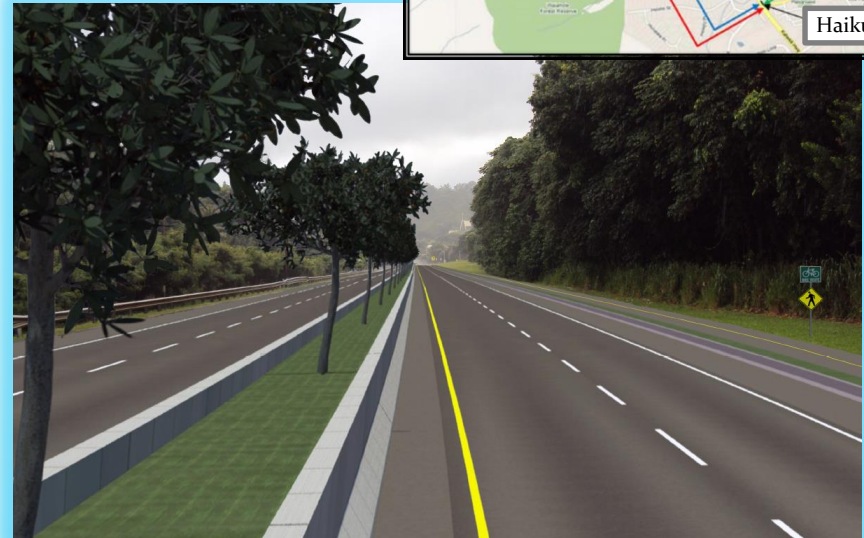


Widening Alternatives

- Shortest Length - Haiku Road to Hui Iwa Street (1)
- Middle Length- Haiku Road to 'Āhuimanu Road (2)
- Longest Length -Haiku Road to Kamehameha Highway (3)



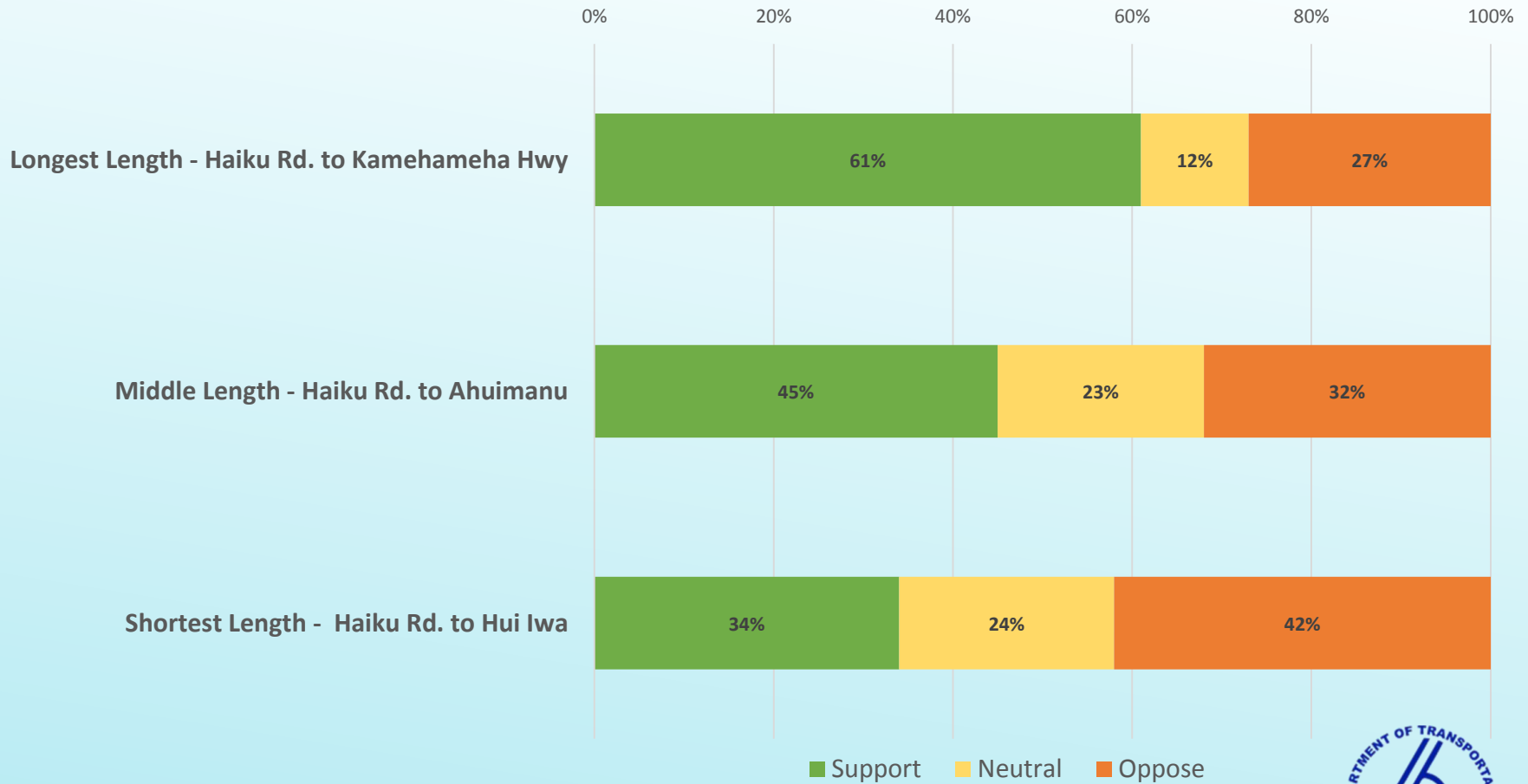
Present Day
Looking south towards Hui Iwa Street



Widening to 4 Lanes
Shared use path on mauka side*

*All widening alternatives can include a shared use path 24

Public Opinion Survey Results for Widening



Summary of Community Outreach and Survey

- Safety and mobility were cited as reasons to widen Kahekili Highway.
- Widening of Kahekili Highway is supported by a majority (61%) of the survey respondents - if the highway is widened from Haiku Road to Kamehameha Highway. At the same time, the longest widening option was opposed by 27% of the survey respondents.
- Many of the Community Meeting attendees stated that the longest widening option would be most likely to improve traffic flow and should be the preferred option.
- Many residents are of the opinion that the traffic is unacceptable, and HDOT should spend their time and money on full widening rather than looking at other options such as contraflow or Transportation Systems Management (TSM).



Next Steps

State of Hawaii Department of Transportation

Resources Currently Undergoing Re-assessment

- Traffic and Transportation
- Laws and Regulations
- Socioeconomic Environment
- Water Quality and Wetlands
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Cultural Resources



Technical Studies:

SSFM International

- Traffic and Transportation
- Socioeconomic Environment
- Laws and Regulations

CENSEO AV+

- Noise Impact Analysis

Cultural Surveys Hawaii

- Archeological and Cultural Resources

SWCA

- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Streams and Wetlands
- Water Quality
- Air Quality



Schedule

- September 2, 2015 - Public Informational Meeting - 'Āhuimanu Elementary School in Kaneohe
- October 2015 – National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Consultation Meeting
- November/December 2015 - Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Comment
- February/March 2016 - Final Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)



Questions?



For More Information:

Visit:

www.kahekilihighway.com

Or Contact:

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