

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
PLANNING COMMITTEE

September 21, 2001

**Committee
Report No.**

01-175

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Planning Committee, having met on September 6, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-183, from Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, requesting consideration of a "Transportation Infrastructure Planning Workshop." The purpose of the workshop would be to provide creative, visionary, and innovative alternatives for the planning and funding of infrastructure projects.

Your Committee notes that County Communication No. 01-183 contained a proposal that the workshop be conducted by Mr. Joseph J. Kracum, Vice President, Washington Infrastructure Services, Glenwood Springs, Colorado; and Ms. Susan L. Baker, President, Aedilis Corporation, Issaquah, Washington.

Mr. Kracum and Ms. Baker, each with more than 24 years in the transportation field, were eventually retained by the Council for the purpose of conducting the workshop.

Prior to the workshop, Ms. Baker surveyed and interviewed various transportation "stakeholders" within the County of Maui. The survey and interview responses were developed into a "Strategic Assessment" focusing on the transportation planning issues specific to the County.

By memorandum dated August 30, 2001, the Chair of your Committee transmitted a copy of the "Mayor's Transportation *Action* Committee Report and Recommendations" for review and reference.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Mayor; the Planning Director; the Director of Public Works and Waste Management; the Deputy Director of Public Works and Waste Management; Joseph J. Kracum, Vice President,

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Washington Infrastructure Services; and Susan L. Baker, President, Aedilis Corporation.

The meeting consisted of a six-hour presentation by Mr. Kracum and Ms. Baker, followed by public testimony and Committee questions.

Ms. Baker submitted a packet of documents entitled "CHART YOUR OWN COURSE". Included in the packet was Ms. Baker's "Strategic Assessment" containing approximately 67 transportation choices for the County.

Ms. Baker explained that "CHART YOUR OWN COURSE" was a decision-making model which utilized the "strategic planning process" to assist in making decisions when faced with a multitude of choices. Strategic planning involves a managed process of answering basic planning questions. This helps in identifying unique characteristics, prioritizing needs, and developing long-range vision.

Ms. Baker illustrated "CHART YOUR OWN COURSE" by examining hypothetical answers to the one question she believed to be the critical transportation question facing the County of Maui. That question was: "Which investments are the right investments (for the County), and why are they the right investments?"

Ms. Baker emphasized, however, that the final answers should depend upon the decisions of the local community. Although decision-making models are very good at analyzing different perspectives, it is the input of the community that will ultimately determine whether decision-making models fail or succeed.

Mr. Kracum then submitted various documents and made a presentation on the various transportation technologies and alternative transportation systems that had been used in Colorado. He attempted to provide an overview of what had been successful and what had not. He also provided information on the details of various solutions to transportation problems.

Mr. Kracum categorized transportation solutions into two broad categories: (1) increasing capacity; and (2) managing demand. Increasing capacity included methods such as expanding roadways, creating bypasses,

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timing traffic signals, designing better intersections, and adding rapid transit. Managing demand included reducing the need for more roads, offering transportation alternatives, and establishing transportation incentives and disincentives. Mr. Kracum's presentation indicated that the most effective transportation solutions were those that utilized a combination of techniques.

Mr. Kracum expressed a belief that the County of Maui already has much of its answers to its transportation problems. He praised the "Mayor's Transportation *Action* Committee Report and Recommendations" as being more comprehensive than similar documents he had previously seen.

Mr. Kracum noted that Maui, being an island, has some advantages in the field of transportation. First, it is easier to control how many vehicles are on the island. Second, Maui has only one county, making it easier to implement transportation solutions. Mr. Kracum indicated that reducing demand may be the most viable solution for Maui in the short term. Buses, especially those feeding into some sort of fixed guideway, would probably be the most effective technique. However, work needs to be done to increase the number of people who would ride such a system. The goal should be to slowly increase the amount of people who would be willing to use alternative transportation--and buses will be a good first step. Then, in the longer term, more people would be willing to use more exotic forms of alternative transportation as they become available.

Responding to Committee requests, Mr. Kracum agreed to provide the following from other jurisdictions: (1) copies of transportation impact fee ordinances; and (2) information on the percentage appropriated for transportation in annual budgets.

Your Committee received public testimony from 11 persons who provided various ideas and comments to improve the traffic situation on Maui.

With the workshop portion of this matter complete, your Committee voted to recommend that County Communication No. 01-183 be referred to the Public Works and Transportation Committee for further review and discussion.

Your Planning Committee **RECOMMENDS** that County Communication No. 01-183 be **REFERRED** to the Public Works and Transportation Committee.

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Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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