

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

November 21, 2014

**Committee
Report No.** _____

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

Chair and Members:

Your Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee, having met on October 27, 2014, makes reference to County Communication 14-113, from Councilmember Don S. Guzman, relating to the Central Maui Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan for 2030 (“master plan”).

By correspondence dated October 15, 2014, Councilmember Guzman transmitted a proposed resolution entitled “URGING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTRAL MAUI PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN FOR 2030 AS A GUIDE TO INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN CENTRAL MAUI”.

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to urge the Administration to implement the master plan.

Your Committee received a presentation from the Nutritional and Physical Activities Coalition of Maui County (“NPAC”), a community organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Maui County residents by reducing obesity and chronic disease. NPAC promotes healthy eating and physical activity through environmental and policy changes, and is responsible for facilitating the development of the master plan.

The master plan was funded by the State Department of Health through the Healthy Hawaii Initiative and focused on Central Maui as the study area. The purpose of the master plan is to achieve greater pedestrian and bicyclist mobility within Central Maui and establish a model that can be used in other communities throughout the County.

Community surveys conducted during the master planning process revealed a majority of residents feel their community is unsafe for pedestrian or bicycle trips. Improving the accessibility and safety of walking and biking infrastructure, and establishing development patterns conducive to walking and bicycling would encourage residents to take more pedestrian and bicycle trips.

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NPAC highlighted several of the short-term capital improvement project priorities identified in the master plan that should receive consideration for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget:

- Initiate a comprehensive signage and stripping program to properly identify areas of the roadway reserved for biking.
- Identify the gaps, or areas lacking infrastructure, within the study area that prohibit walking and incorporate projects to close the identified gaps into the Capital Program as part of the annual budget.
- Initiate Papa Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Path and Waiale Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Path studies to further scope these projects and design improvements from an engineering, planning, and community perspective in order to develop the framework for future environmental assessments.

NPAC informed your Committee Waiale Road and Papa Avenue are corridors significant to the master plan. These corridors provide substantial opportunity for improving the walkability and bikeability of Wailuku and Kahului.

The Director of Public Works informed your Committee the Department of Public Works was involved in developing the master plan and has initiated projects to address some of the gaps identified in the master plan. He expressed support for adopting the resolution as a means for supporting the continued implementation of the master plan by the Department.

Your Committee noted the Maui Island Plan established a policy supporting implementation of the master plan when consistent with the provisions of the Maui Island Plan.

A Deputy Corporation Counsel informed your Committee adopting the resolution will not create a legal requirement to implement the master plan. Only through enactment of an ordinance could the master plan become law. The predominant way to implement the master plan is through an appropriation in the Capital Program approved as part of the County's annual budget.

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Your Committee noted concern that future administrations could discontinue implementation of the master plan if it is not a legal requirement.

The Planning Director informed your Committee that a review of the County’s zoning and subdivision ordinances should occur to identify how the master plan and similar types of plans can be integrated into development requirements. He expressed support for adopting the resolution and developing similar pedestrian and bicycle master plans for South Maui and West Maui.

Your Committee voted 4-0 to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution. Committee Chair Cochran, Vice-Chair Crivello, and members Couch and Guzman voted “aye”. Committee members Carroll, Hokama and White were excused.

Your Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution _____, attached hereto, entitled “URGING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTRAL MAUI PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN FOR 2030 AS A GUIDE TO INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN CENTRAL MAUI”, be ADOPTED.

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This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



ELLE COCHRAN, Chair

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Resolution

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URGING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTRAL MAUI PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN FOR 2030 AS A GUIDE TO INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN CENTRAL MAUI

WHEREAS, an epidemic of obesity and disease brought on by inactivity and dependence on automobiles exists in Hawaii and much of the rest of the nation; and

WHEREAS, those who do not drive, including children, seniors, and those with physical challenges, have been effectively designed out of using their bodies to move around their communities safely; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control first identified this epidemic in 1998 when it called on local jurisdictions to provide residents with the necessary facilities to safely move around their communities without the use of an automobile; and

WHEREAS, a survey presented in the 2002 Hawaii State Bicycle Plan reported that 85 percent of Maui respondents said they would use safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities if they were provided; and

WHEREAS, the following objective is part of the Countywide Policy Plan: “Reduce the reliance on the automobile and fossil fuels by encouraging walking, bicycling, and other energy-efficient and safe alternative modes of transportation”; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Island Plan includes goals for making the island’s communities more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, and for connecting communities via non-motorized paths; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 12-34, Maui County has a policy of creating “Complete Streets” that would include pedestrian and bicycle facilities in their design; and

WHEREAS, the Central Maui Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan for 2030 (“Master Plan”) was prepared by the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, Health Hawaii Initiative in March 2012; and

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WHEREAS, the Master Plan used community input and professional planning standards to set out priorities for infrastructure improvements to facilitate transportation by foot and bicycle, and a strategy to implement these priorities; and

WHEREAS, one of the Master Plan's priorities is the creation of an independent, non-motorized path for pedestrians and bicycles from Wailuku to Waikapu, along Waiale Road; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan was a supporting document to the Maui Island Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan provides important guidance that can be used by the Department of Public Works in creation of truly complete streets in Central Maui; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Administration to implement the Central Maui Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan for 2030 as a guide to infrastructure improvements in Central Maui; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Director of Public Works, the Planning Director, and the Director of the State Department of Health.