

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

September 15, 2006

**Committee
Report No.**

06-113

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

Chair and Members:

Your Public Works Committee, having met on September 12, 2005, June 19, 2006, and August 21, 2006, makes reference to County Communication No. 05-280, from Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, transmitting correspondence dated August 2, 2005, from Mona Harris, regarding a proposal to install a temporary four-way stop sign at the intersection of Vineyard and Market Streets in Wailuku for the safety of persons crossing the street.

At its meeting of September 12, 2005, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management, an Engineer from the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received public testimony from six people in favor of the proposal to increase pedestrian safety at the subject intersection. Your Committee received written testimony from one person in favor of the proposal to increase pedestrian safety at the subject intersection. Your Committee also received photographs of the subject intersection from another individual.

The Director noted that there are pedestrian safety concerns at the subject intersection. He said the Department proposes to collect traffic data for the area after the temporary four-way stop is installed, pursuant to Section 10.28.130, Maui County Code (Code). This section of the Code allows temporary traffic control devices to be administratively installed for a period not to exceed eight weeks. During the eight-week temporary traffic control device period, additional data would be collected and a report on the temporary traffic control device would be provided to the Council.

Your Committee discussed other possible short- and long-term measures to improve traffic safety at the subject intersection, including raised crosswalks, traffic lights, and increased signage. Your Committee expressed support for the implementation of the Director's proposal, and encouraged the Department to initiate action as soon as possible so that the temporary four-way stop could be installed prior to the end of 2005.

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Your Committee deferred discussion of the matter pending installation of the temporary traffic control device and receipt of the related report.

By correspondence dated May 22, 2006, the Chair of your Committee transmitted correspondence dated May 16, 2006, from Richard I. Dan, attaching a petition signed by 36 individuals, requesting the removal of the temporary flashing stop light and signs from the intersection of Vineyard and Market Streets because the traffic control devices are causing traffic congestion.

By correspondence dated May 26, 2006, the Chair of your Committee transmitted correspondence from John S. Rippy, opposing the removal of the temporary stop signs from the corner of Vineyard and Market Streets due to pedestrian safety concerns.

By correspondence dated June 15, 2006, the Chair of your Committee transmitted correspondence dated April 27, 2006, from Richard Dan, and Anthony L. Ranken, Ranken & Drewyer, L.L.C., respectively. Both pieces of correspondence recommended that the temporary four-way stop be removed because it is creating a dangerous, congested situation, where none previously existed. They further recommended that the previous three-way stop be restored.

At its meeting of June 19, 2006, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management; a Lieutenant and a Sergeant from the Wailuku Patrol, Department of Police; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received testimony from seven individuals. Five individuals spoke in favor of the temporary traffic control device to increase pedestrian safety. One individual opposed the temporary traffic control device, and also spoke on behalf of another individual who also opposed the device due to traffic congestion along Market Street, which has encouraged drivers to take alternate routes, thereby creating an impact on commercial interests.

Your Committee received written testimony from three individuals supporting the temporary four-way traffic signals for increased pedestrian safety.

The Director shared his preliminary comments regarding the temporary four-way traffic control device, noting that the formal report would be transmitted shortly along

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with final recommendations. He indicated that the Department supported the traffic control based on preliminary results.

The Police Lieutenant provided informal observations made regarding pedestrian safety at the subject intersection and the attempts of the Department of Police to ensure public safety through proper law enforcement. He stated that pedestrian safety had dramatically improved, and that vehicular traffic from all four directions seemed to benefit from the four-way stop.

Your Committee discussed various other observations related to the subject intersection in anticipation of the receipt of the report from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management. These observations included the improved safety of pedestrians and a more civil climate for vehicular traffic.

Your Committee deferred consideration of the matter pending further discussion.

By correspondence dated July 3, 2006, the Chair of your Committee transmitted correspondence dated July 3, 2006, from Elaine S. Wender, supporting the temporary four-way stop at the intersection of Market and Vineyard Streets.

By correspondence dated July 24, 2006, the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management transmitted a copy of a report entitled, "VINEYARD STREET AND MARKET STREET INTERSECTION ALL-WAY STOP ASSESSMENT JULY, 2006". The report concludes that the four-way stop installed by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management on December 13, 2005 at the intersection of Vineyard Street and Market Street has provided pedestrians with improved opportunities to cross the roadway. It further recommended that the current four-way stop remain in place, provided that development of alternative vehicular routes is pursued. The report recommends that the four-way stop is consistent with future plans for the beautification of Market Street and that it provides a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

By correspondence dated August 11, 2006, the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management transmitted a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.44.030, MAUI COUNTY CODE, TO ESTABLISH A FOUR-WAY STOP AT MARKET STREET AND VINEYARD STREET".

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The purpose of the proposed bill is to permanently establish a four-way stop at the intersection of Market and Vineyard Streets.

At its meeting of August 21, 2006, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management; a Civil Engineer from the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Management; a Captain from the Department of Police; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received testimony from one person supporting the findings of the report from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management.

The Director briefly reviewed the findings of the report. The Civil Engineer also provided general comments on the report. The Director stated that the Department is recommending that the four-way stop be made permanent due to the increased pedestrian safety. The Director noted that the Department's recommendation includes a suggestion to continue to develop and expand alternative traffic routes across Iao Stream to alleviate traffic congestion in the area.

Your Committee discussed the findings of the report and the comments received from the public over the past year, as well as related issues involving development plans for the Wailuku area.

The Police Captain informed your Committee that while occasional traffic backups have occurred at the subject intersection, the Department of Police is of the opinion that the temporary four-way stop has greatly increased safety at the intersection and supports the proposed bill to make the temporary traffic control device permanent.

Based on the information received and the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management, your Committee voted to recommend passage of the proposed bill to establish a four-way stop at Market Street and Vineyard Street on first reading and filing of the communication.

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Your Public Works Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Bill No. _____ (2006), attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.44.030, MAUI COUNTY CODE, TO ESTABLISH A FOUR-WAY STOP AT MARKET STREET AND VINEYARD STREET", be PASSED ON FIRST READING and be ORDERED TO PRINT; and

2. That County Communication No. 05-280 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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JOSEPH PONTANILLA **Chair**

G. RIKI HOKAMA **Member**

MICHAEL J. MOLINA **Vice-Chair**

DANNY A. MATEO **Member**

ROBERT CARROLL **Member**