

Waimea Trails and Greenways

MEETING NOTES

August 10, 2009

PRESENT: Clem Lam, Avi Okin, Peggi Kamisato, Leningrad Elarionoff,
Laura Dierenfield

1. Last week we spread the remainder of the wood chips on the trail during our regular meeting time.
2. Last week we were informed that the Trail could not meet the deadline for obligating Stimulus funds and so DOT was going to drop the project from the STIP in it's next revision. We were also told that if any part of the trail is built prior to getting an environmental assessment for the entire trail, then federal transportation enhancement \$ cannot be used in the future. With that information Parks and Recreation put the consultant (Imata and Associates) on hold to stop their work on Increment One until the County figures out what is going to do.
3. Laura came to the meeting armed with Title 40 (Protection of the Environment), Volume 31, Chapter V Part 1508, Sec. 1508.4 Categorical Exclusion. This states that a certain category of actions that do not have a significant effect on the human environment do not require an environmental assessment. Section 771.177 goes on to list these categorical exclusions and (c) (3) is Construction of bicycle and pedestrian lanes, paths, and facilities. Further, (c) (8) Installtion of fencing....
Laura will draft a letter and Clem will send it to Bob Fitzgerald with copies to Mayor Kenoi, Pat Phung, Mazie Hirono, Brennon Morioka, Pete Hoffmann, Patrick Tom.
4. Kauai has been successful in getting fed TE funding for trails - Laura will talk with Thomas Noyes who heads the Kauai trail.
5. Meeting with Mayor - try to get a meeting next week or as soon as possible:
 - Wide community support - as evidenced by work day turn out, desire for another work day, use of the trail, landowner support.
 - Funding - the community secured the first funding 11 years ago, the County through it's mismanagement has lost the money.
 - First consultant quit after 8 years and hundreds of thousands of

dollars. Current consultant was put on hold just before submitting final drawings because County did not have federal requirements correct. there is no visible oversight, no schedule updates, poor project management.

- There is \$2 million bond float - how is this going to best be used so it is not lost?
 - if the EA must be done, is this to be used on more studies and nothing on the ground?
 - could this be used to put in 2 stream crossings critical to the connectivity of Increment One? Would this jeopardize future federal funds?
 - Would it best be used to secure future Federal TE funds for an 80-20 match? Put the County in a readiness position for the next call for TE funds. Future of TE funds may be precarious.
- Project manager - Parks and Rec has failed the trail - otherwise it would have been built by now. Is there another County project manager available that could better serve this project. We want results - not excuses!

6. Pete Hoffmann offered to go see the Mayor with us. Leningrad does not think that is a good idea and that it would be better to ask Councilman Hoffmann to support our case through the Council and put pressure on the Mayor through that avenue - a multi pronged approach.

cc. James Komata, David Imata