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September 30, 2005

Mr. Bruce McClure  
County of Hawai'i  
Dept. of Public Works  
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Aloha e Bruce McClure:

I was at the meeting last night at the Waimea YMCA Town Hall when the Dept. of Public Works held a discussion on the project to connect Mamalahoa Highway with Kawaihae Road was held.

The two suggestions offered last night both feature connections to Kawaihae Road at a spot above the junction that branches off to the Kohala Mountain Road. In my opinion, that junction is an accident waiting to happen. A driver headed mauka on Kawaihae Road who wants to make a left turn to get to HPA or Kohala can hold back traffic for a long time. With the addition of an intra-village roadway increasing the traffic flow makai to the bridge area, the delay could be lengthy.

Public Works should consider making the Kawaihae/Mamalahoa connection from Ohina street, which is just below the 60 mile marker on Kawaihae road as suggested by a fireman/medic there at the meeting. This area is below the Hawaiian Homes Land development where some 400 homes are being planned. The land on the Kailua-Kona side of that section of Kawaihae road is pasture land with more than enough space to allow for a "T" type intersection with ample space for left turn lanes to facilitate the flow of traffic for those drivers who want to proceed into the village via the present roadway. The left turn lanes would also provide for a safer entry onto Kawaihae road from the feeder road..

The topography is such that construction of a bridge would be required which could increase the cost of the project, but as I recall bridge construction is also required with the other two suggested roadways. As for the connection at the Mamalahoa section, the site where the Parker Ranch roadway joins Mamalahoa would be my suggestion.

As a second thought, this roadway could be the basis for planning an alternate route in and out of Waikoloa Village, But that's another matter.

Mahalo,



cc: Waimea Community  
Development Planning

File: Kawaihae Mamalahoa Connection