



Kihei Community Association

"e mālama pono"...dedicated to protecting,
sustaining and enhancing our 'āina, kai and 'ohana

To: Daniel Orodenker, Executive Officer, Land Use Commission
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From: Kihei Community Association

Date: August 10, 2021

Subject: LUC Docket No. A11-794 re: Kihei High School

The Kihei Community Association is requesting that the LUC mandate the DOE to provide an **updated and accurate GSPC Feasibility Study and updated Traffic Studies (TIAR)** as required by LUC conditions 1a and 1b.

We believe the Fehr & Peers Kihei High School Grade Separated Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study, submitted Oct. 25, 2016 **is outdated and underestimates pedestrian use by more than 200%** per DOE bussing policy. **The DOE-commissioned traffic study only measures pedestrian students coming from a "half-mile radius", whereas the DOE bussing policy reads, "students in Grades 6-12 must reside 1.5 miles or more, from the school within their attendance area to qualify for regular school bus service."** There will be pedestrians coming from a 1.5 mile radius, not .5 miles as the study assumes. This is inaccurate data and includes poor assumptions submitted by consultants who are not familiar with our community and its needs.

Furthermore, in its petition, the DOE/Fehr & Peers study cites an outdated traffic study from 2015, based on a previous traffic study from 2010. The study estimated a school opening in 2018, across from "low density" neighborhoods. This information is outdated and obsolete as it does not reflect the planned round-about and many nearby developments completed in the past 6-years. This includes a 200-unit affordable apartment complex across the highway from the school, a nearby 400-unit Hilton Timeshare (old Maui Lu) and the new Kihei Charter School on Lipoa St.

The 2015 traffic study contains misinformation and misguided assumptions, suggesting low estimates of student pedestrians.

The original study subjectively states that only 20% (or less) of the 800 students would walk/bike to school in 2018. This equals 160 students, not enough to trigger the 300 student mark that would justify a GSPC per this study. Even with a low 20% estimate, the study does show that a GSPC would be warranted in 2028 when the student population is estimated to be 1650.

Messrs. Orodener, Scheur
August 10, 2021
Page 2

We believe that the correct data would show that approximately 80% of the students who will attend Kihei High School reside within a 1.5 mile radius (Kaiwahine St. to Welakahao Rd.) and will not have bussing, Therefore a much larger percentage of students will walk/bike to school – triggering the 300 student mark that would justify a GSPC at opening, per this study.

The Kihei Community Association is asking for assistance from the LUC to acquire annual updates from the DOE in accordance with LUC condition 22 re: Annual Reports. The last annual update we can find on record is from 2019. We are seeking the annual reports from 2020 and 2021. If these documents exist on record, please let us know where we can access them.

Timely annual reports provide critical updates to the Kihei Community Association to help us understand the DOE's compliance with fulfilling LUC conditions related to Kihei High School.

We are specifically looking for an update on LUC condition 1b. *Petitioner shall complete a pedestrian route study for Phase 1... approved by HDOT.* HDOT rejected the original WALC Safe Routes to Kihei High School Study, "HDOT did not approve this Pedestrian Route Study due to incompleteness". – see Exhibit 3, HDOT's letter of October 1, 2015". However the WALC study was then supplemented by the Fehr & Peers Kihei High School Grade Separated Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study, Oct. 25, 2016.

We are also looking for an update on LUC condition 1d. *Petitioner shall install paved shoulders along Piilani Highway fronting the high school and provide accommodations for bicycles to the mutual agreement of Petitioner and DOT.*

We believe there is additional due diligence to be done by the DOE regarding these LUC conditions and studies before this topic should go back on the LUC agenda.

Please let us know your thoughts on this request and if there are any further actions KCA can take to help move the LUC motion forward.

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