

Pā'ia Relief Route Project

Pā'ia, Island of Maui, Hawai'i

HDOT Project No. STP-036-1(11)



What is the Pā'ia Relief Route Project?

The Pā'ia Relief Route Project (formerly known as the Pā'ia Bypass project) is the proposed widening of Hana Highway and/or construction of a new roadway around Pā'ia Town. Improvements would alleviate existing congestion and accommodate future travel demand.

Context Sensitive Solutions

The Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) is using a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process for this and other HDOT projects. CSS is a new approach to traditional transportation planning. The unique surroundings of an area are taken into consideration, not just traffic safety and efficiency. The goal is to achieve a balance between the project's goals and the community's values.

Why can't improvements be made now?

This study must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that mandates extensive evaluation of environmental effects and public input regarding transportation projects. Performing the necessary studies and collecting public input takes time. Taking the necessary time now will ensure a better result for everyone.

The Study Area

The east-west length of the study area is approximately 7 miles between the intersection of Hana Highway with Haleakalā Highway and Hana Highway with Hamakuapoko Road. The study area extends approximately 2.5 miles upslope between the intersection of Hana Highway with Baldwin Avenue to the intersection of Baldwin Avenue with Holomua Road. The study area also includes the area makai of Hana Highway. (See study area map.)

Public Involvement

A Pā'ia Relief Route Advisory Group (PRAG) will be formed to identify and study issues and alternatives. See back side for PRAG application details. Public information meetings will also be held to update the community on the status of the project. All of these public meetings are part of the study's initial and on-going data collection process. In addition to gathering technical information about the study area, the project team will gather input from the public, local agencies and elected officials to aid in developing the best possible alternative to serve the community's needs.

Environmental Review

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will evaluate potential impacts from construction and operation of the proposed alternatives on residents, businesses and property owners; transportation; air and noise quality; water quality; historic, archaeological and cultural resources; flora and faunal resources; as well as other areas that may be identified during the public involvement process. The following are the basic steps of the EIS process.

- **Scoping** – this is a public process to help define the purpose and need for the project, and identify issues to be studied.
- **Data Collection** – collecting transportation, environmental, land use data and other technical information.
- **Development of Alternatives** – identifying a wide range of alternatives, then narrowing to a reasonable range for detailed study in the EIS. The EIS will include a “No Action” alternative.
- **Analysis of Alternatives** – transportation, social, economic, historic and cultural, and environmental impacts of the reasonable range of alternatives are studied in detail and comparisons are made.
- **Preparation of a Draft EIS** – the Draft EIS is a printed report for public review and comment documenting the need for the project, describing alternative courses of action, analyzing likely impacts from each alternative and describes steps to avoid impacts or mitigate impacts.
- **Public and Agency Review of the Draft EIS**
- **Public Hearing for public comments on the Draft EIS**
- **Preparation of a Final EIS** – the Final EIS documents preferred alternatives and provides responses to comments made on the Draft EIS.
- **Record of Decision (ROD)** – this documents the decision and commits to mitigation of impacts.

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How do I get involved?

Pā'ia Relief Route Advisory Group (PRAG)

A Pā'ia Relief Route Advisory Group will be formed to identify and study issues and alternatives. To join the Advisory Group, please fill out the PRAG questionnaire on the website or contact Wayne Kawahara at the Hawai'i Department of Transportation. PRAG meetings will be open to the public.

Public Information Meetings

Active public involvement is an important element of this process. Public information meetings will be held throughout the process. The meetings will provide updates on the study's progress and provide a forum for ideas and concerns to be expressed. A schedule of meetings is being developed and will be posted to the project website.

Project Website

You will be able to access information on the project status, upcoming meeting dates and locations, as well as view reports at the project's website.

www.paiareliefroute.com

Contact Information/Submit Comments

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