

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
PLANNING COMMITTEE

April 10, 2012

Committee
Report No. _____

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

Chair and Members:

Your Planning Committee, having met on March 12, 2012, makes reference to County Communication 12-51, from Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "ESTABLISHING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI".

The purposes of the proposed resolution are to: (1) support the implementation of a Complete Streets policy, pursuant to Hawaii State Legislature Act 54 (2009) and the Countywide Policy Plan; (2) urge County agencies to incorporate Complete Streets concepts into all relevant County actions; (3) urge the Mayor to establish, by executive order, a Complete Streets task force; and (4) request that the task force propose a Complete Streets policy within 18 months of the adoption of the resolution.

Your Committee notes that "Complete Streets" is a term used to describe a set of design principles that promote safe roadways and access for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users.

Your Committee further notes that Act 54 (2009) requires the County to adopt a Complete Streets policy to be applicable to new construction, reconstruction, and maintenance projects.

The Planning Director informed your Committee that the Department of Planning is incorporating Complete Streets and other smart-growth concepts into the General Plan, and intends to identify specific areas of improvement in each community plan update, as necessary.

The Director of Public Works stated that the Department of Public Works is in the process of drafting legislation to revise Title 18, Maui County Code, which will incorporate Complete Streets concepts. He noted that the 18-month time period for the Department to propose legislation to the Council supporting the implementation of Complete Streets, should be adequate.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
PLANNING COMMITTEE

April 10, 2012
Page 2

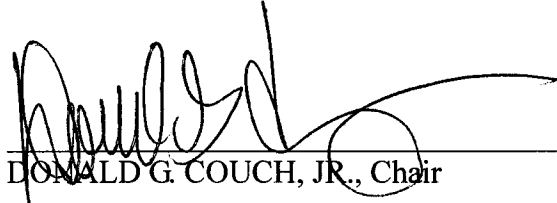
Committee
Report No. _____

Your Committee voted 7-0 to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution and filing of the communication. Committee Chair Couch, Vice-Chair Baisa, and members Cochran, Mateo, Pontanilla, Victorino, and White voted "aye.

Your Planning Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution _____ attached hereto, entitled "ESTABLISHING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI" be ADOPTED; and
2. That County Communication 12-51 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



DONALD G. COUCH, JR., Chair

Resolution

No. _____

ESTABLISHING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WHEREAS, "Complete Streets" is the term used to describe a set of design principles that promote safe access for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, streets that support and encourage multiple travel modes and include safe and ample space for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation are more conducive to community living and the efficient movement of people than streets designed primarily to move automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the integration of all travel modes in the design of streets and highways, especially in and around town cores, can help reduce traffic congestion by providing other travel options in lieu of single-passenger automobile travel; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of Complete Streets promotes public transit and non-motorized travel as alternatives to single-passenger automobile travel, thus helping to reduce greenhouse gas emission and personal transportation costs incurred by rising fuel prices; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have demonstrated that Complete Streets facilitates walking, bicycling and public transit use, thus increasing physical activity, which is an important component of a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of Complete Streets also develops a connected and complete transportation network that reduces hazards and improves safety for pedestrians and cyclists, especially vulnerable populations who may be unable to operate a motor vehicle, such as young children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, planning and development standards that incorporate Complete Streets are supported by the Institute of Traffic Engineers, the American Planning Association, and many other transportation, public works, and public health professionals; and

WHEREAS, Act 54 (2009) requires Hawaii counties to adopt a Complete Streets policy; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation and numerous municipalities have adopted Complete Streets policies in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the Countywide Policy Plan, adopted by Ordinance 3732 (2010), established the following objective for the County of Maui (at page 67): “Reduce the reliance on the automobile and fossil fuels by encouraging walking, bicycling, and other energy-efficient and safe alternative modes of transportation.”; and

WHEREAS, the Countywide Policy Plan, in support of the above-referenced objective, established the following policies (also at page 67), which appear largely consistent with Complete Streets:

- a. Make walking and bicycling transportation safe and easy between and within communities;
- b. Require development to be designed with the pedestrian in mind;
- c. Design new and retrofit existing rights-of-way with adequate sidewalks, bicycle lanes, or separated multi-use transit corridors;
- d. Support the development of a countywide network of bikeways, equestrian trails, and pedestrian paths;
- e. Support the reestablishment of traditional trails between communities, to the ocean, and through the mountains for public use; and
- f. Encourage educational programs to increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, the Countywide Policy Plan is intended to guide the Council in the enactment of the County budget and other ordinances, as stated in Chapter 2.80B, Maui County Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council would like to receive guidance from relevant County agencies on various possible actions to implement Complete Streets; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it hereby supports, as the policy of the County of Maui, the implementation of Complete Streets, consistent with Act 54 (2009) and the Countywide Policy Plan;

Resolution No. _____

2. That it hereby urges County agencies to incorporate Complete Streets into all relevant County actions, including budgeting, planning, and development services, unless prohibited by law;
3. That it hereby urges the Mayor to establish, by executive order, a Complete Streets Task Force with representatives from appropriate agencies, including the Department of Fire and Public Safety, the Department of Planning, the Department of Police, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Transportation;
4. That it hereby requests that the Complete Streets Task Force do the following:
 - a. Review Act 54 (2009), the Countywide Policy Plan, and the Maui County Code; and
 - b. Within 18 months of this resolution's adoption, (i) propose to the Council any budget amendments and ordinances necessary to support the implementation of Complete Streets; and (ii) provide any related findings and recommendations; and
5. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Fire Chief, the Planning Director, the Chief of Police, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Transportation, and the Corporation Counsel.