

DOWNTOWN HILO MULTIMODAL MASTER PLAN



County of Hawai'i Department of Planning & SSFM International

The Downtown Hilo Multimodal Master Plan (DHMMP) was a multi-year planning effort undertaken by the County of Hawai'i Planning Department, assisted by lead consultant SSFM International and a team of technical consultants. Hundreds of Hilo residents, organizations, and agencies participated in the highly inclusive planning process with the collective goal of making Downtown Hilo a more vibrant, walkable and bike friendly community for people of all ages and abilities.

The DHMMP calls for complete streets improvements that elevate Downtown Hilo as a destination and gathering place through improvements that support walkability and increased transportation choices for all modes. To achieve the desired Downtown environment, the DHMMP intentionally shifts the modal priority away from the current vehicle-dominated paradigm, and adopts a new "transportation hierarchy" that prioritizes non-motorized modes (walking and biking), as well as transit, over single occupancy cars. The DHMMP identifies eight organizing themes and 46 specific recommendations across six transportation elements: pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, transit, vehicle circulation, parking, and streetscape. Looking toward results, the DHMMP includes an Implementation chapter that identifies potential funding sources, implementing agencies, phasing, and high level cost estimates for each recommendation.

The DHMMP provided multiple pathways for people to become engaged and share their input. The extensive community engagement process included formation of an advisory group called the Connectors' Forum, six focus groups with different types of Downtown users, stakeholder interviews and meetings, large community meetings, 'zoom-in zoom-out' workshops, and a public street festival event to demonstrate some of the features and qualities of a vibrant Downtown Hilo.

The DHMMP's approach is one that can be emulated and adopted by communities across the State of Hawai'i and beyond. It is particularly applicable to our historic town centers, many of which share similar opportunities and challenges as Downtown Hilo. The project also provided a useful precursor to the island-wide effort of adopting complete streets design standards, allowing the implementing agencies and the community an opportunity to learn about and test the various tools and approaches inherent in complete streets design.



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