ALA PONO: AN ALA WAI CROSSING ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

City and County of Honolulu, Department of Transportation Services

Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc.

PBR HAWAII & Associates, Inc.

Austin Tsutsumi & Associates, Inc.

The purpose of the Ala Pono: An Ala Wai Crossing Alternatives Analysis is to identify , develop, and evaluate opportunities for access over the Ala Wai Canal that will provide inter-neighborhood pedestrian and bicycle ciculation.

Several innovations were incorporated into the Ala Pono: An Ala Wai Crossing Alternatives Analysis community engagement process that elevated standard engagement beyond best practice. The engagement team sought to hear from a diversity of voices to ensure that decision-makers were well informed of the community's desires and concerns related to transportation infrastructure in the Waikiki and McCully/Moiliili neighborhoods. DTS and their consultant team endeavored to deliver data to the public with informative, high quality, and engaging graphics throughout the alternatives analysis. At the outset of the project, a graphic scheme was established that set the course for all subsequent materials.

Public meetings were held both on weeknight evenings as well as on a Saturday to encourage participation. These meetings were also broadcast on Facebook live, augmenting the 304 in-person attendance to over 800 views. Expecting large turnouts, public meetings were designed to capture information from the greatest number of people. The meetings included live cell phone polling, engaging activities, and key staff available to talk one-on-one.

Concurrently, UH Manoa Fall, 2018 Site Planning Class and the Jefferson Elementary 3rd grade STEM unit participated in the process by using the crossing as a case study. The college students attended public meetings as part of their data collection, and the elementary students used the project to understand bridge design and had space at a public meeting to present their work to the public.

Finally, to help decision-makers (City and County of Honolulu, OahuMPO) understand user demands and needs for pedestrian and bicycle circulation, travel and crash data was augmented by an on-line survey and with an on-the-streets intercept survey that reached 890 individuals. The robust community engagement employed for the Ala Pono Alternatives Analysis provides a solid foundation for the preferred alternative (a new pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the canal) to advance. Recognizing a radical new transportation infrastructure is not without community concerns, decision-makers at the City level and federal funders can have confidence that a pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the Ala Wai Canal is desired by the public. The City and County of Honolulu is currently moving forward with the design and environmental review for a new crossing.

2019 APA AWARDS PROGRAM

HAWAI'I CHAPTER

APA HI

Sponsored by

HonBlue

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH AWARD