

S. KALAHEO AVENUE AND KAILUA ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS



City and County of Honolulu
Department of Transportation Services
&
SSFM International, Inc

The intersection of Kalaheo Avenue and Kailua Road serves as the gateway to Kailua Beach Park and provides the sole vehicular access to the Lanikai neighborhood. Traffic congestion, delayed emergency response, and multimodal safety/accessibility had long been concerns. The Kalaheo Avenue and Kailua Road Intersection Improvements project was initiated by the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Transportation Services (City), under contract with SSFM International, with the goal to address operational and safety concerns at the intersection.

The input of key community groups and residents received during meetings and listening sessions was instrumental in the project’s success. This enabled a greater understanding of the conflicting demands and showcased how the preferred solution would provide a balance to competing needs and concerns, particularly between multimodal safety/accessibility and automobile delay. To arrive at the preferred alternative, the team presented traffic simulation models and realistic plan- and street-view graphical representations.

A “Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper” interim pilot project was implemented to reconfigure the stop-sign controlled intersection into a non-standard single-lane “triangle-about” roundabout. The interim pilot project enabled an expedited solution to the traffic concerns while further testing the preferred alternative.

The success of the interim pilot project improved the community’s understanding of how roundabouts work. It also enabled the City to pursue full reconstruction that will result in a more standard modern roundabout that includes geometric, drainage, and lighting enhancements to improve automobile operations while continuing to prioritize multimodal safety/accessibility.



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