

Traffic Solution: Would You Mind Stepping Out Of Your Car?

BY DEREK FUNAYAMA

Past articles I've written primarily addressed Kapolei's infrastructure, the potential impact of fixed rail, the landfill, and Hoku Scientific. Each focused on various aspects that affect our city. The first two cover the vital role of any city: transportation. Walking and running, while recommended as exercise, cannot cover the mileage we conduct on a daily basis. The solution is the automobile and public mass-transit. In spite of years of planning, Kapolei has traffic problems. This city is a one intersection town. We're built around it and it connects us with Makakilo and Kalaeloa. Traffic from Waianae uses the Kalaeloa Avenue interchange where the H1 ends and

Farrington Highway picks up. Other traffic comes and goes via the freeway by the Makakilo Drive overpass. These two points of ingress and egress constitute the main flow of vehicles. Guess what? It's not enough. We're not getting smaller, mind you. So don't expect rush hour to get easier. What can we do? If we knew that Kapolei was destined for this parcel of land, the first thing that should have been in place is a comprehensive road network. At first, it would appear like an overabundance of roads leading nowhere. Even now, it should still appear that way. Unfortunately, a long-term vision cannot anticipate unforeseeable changes and unlike a video game, we don't have a reset button.

In the here and now, what solutions can resolve or at least ease this chronic issue? How about roundabouts, additional off and on ramps to the freeway, or a local shuttle-bus system? As each has merit, I believe the "mixed plate" option is preferable. Roundabouts are something prevalent in other places and countries. In England and Australia, they're commonly used. Basically, they are used at principal intersections to control traffic flow by placing an obstacle in the center of the intersection and force vehicles to go around one way to get across or onto the intersecting road. Thus, the circumnavigating begets the descriptive name of "roundabout."

The nice thing is that it's a more natural process without the need for traffic signals. Since cars and people don't do well in collisions, we do our best to avoid them. The physical nature of the obstacle forces drivers to slow down to go around it. Roundabouts can work, but there must be guidelines. I liken to a four-way stop and who goes first, second, etc. Such guidelines must be stipulated otherwise the slowing down will end up stopping traffic, making things worse. While the roundabout remains somewhat foreign to us, off and on ramps are straightforward. We use them wherever the freeway is involved. Kapolei has them placed at the Makakilo Drive overpass and at the Kalaeloa Avenue and H1 interchange.

These are the only two currently in place. We need more. Consider the Makakilo Drive and H1 interchange. Both added lanes to accommodate flow increases. The existing off and on ramps had improvements done. All well and good, but notice something? Nothing focuses on the leeward flow of cars. It's all Honolulu-oriented. For the longest time, I've not heard anything that addresses this bias. A Waianae on-ramp makes a lot of sense. I mean why go through Kapolei if you're coming from Makakilo and just want to head to the leeward coast? The comparative importance of Waianae and Honolulu aside, at least

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Dawn's Databytes The Latest on the Tech Scene

BY DAWN SANDERS

Summer is here! We are in the midst of a time for domestic and exotic travel, and many parents are planning how their kids will spend their free time when out of school. Please kokua and have a safe and wonderful summer. Here's the latest on the technology scene regarding common-sense tips in reducing electronics theft, tips for everyday use, and projects to tinker with.

Preventing Gadget Theft

If you are traveling to Singapore, the United Kingdom, or India, alarming figures show an increasing number of mobile phone thefts, averaging over 100 per day. The figures for cell phone thefts are not that high in the U.S., however, iPods account for the most stolen MP3 player in the U.S. Common sense tips? Never leave your device unattended, keep the gadget out of sight when not in use, be careful to whom you lend it, avoid cell phone use on the street, and set a password on your cell phone and SIM card.

Windows XP Tips

Save memory by preventing unused programs from running at system boot up. Go to C:\Documents and Settings\username\Start

Menu\Programs\Startup. Username is your Windows logon name.

Delete the shortcuts of programs you do not need to run. Next, go to C:\Windows\Tasks and remove the shortcuts of programs you do not want automatically scheduled.

To bypass the running of programs in Startup, hold the [Shift] key down during system start up.

A Couple of Xbox Tricks

You can customize the sound tracks to your favorite action games by adding your own music.

- Insert an audio CD into the Xbox optical drive
- Access the Music menu from the Xbox dashboard display
- Select Music > Audio CD > Copy, then choose the Copy menu
- Select the tracks you want, using Play or Pause commands to audition songs
- Choose Copy, and Xbox will store the songs on the hard disk
- Insert your favorite game disc and load the songs using the game's setup menu

Activating Parental Controls

- Turn on the Xbox console

without a disc in the disc tray

- From the dashboard display, choose Settings > Parental Controls
- Select Pass Code and press buttons on the controller in any sequence remembering the numbers and sequence of the buttons you pressed
- Select Games and choose the maximum rating level you want to allow
- You can also set maximum rating levels for DVD movies on the Xbox

Things to Do With Your Old Personal Computer (PC)

If you don't know what to do with those old PCs laying around, consider these:

Learn Linux or FreeBSD. If you're interested in learning Linux or FreeBSD, an advanced operating system that runs on Intel IA32 compatible (the architecture Personal Computers are based on), such as i386 and Pentiums, visit LinuxISO.org where many are available for free. If you do not want to wipe out that version of Windows 3.1, visit www.knoppix.net for a free Linux version that runs strictly from CD ROM drives.

Donate or Recycle. Check with local area schools or your

favorite charity about their need for computer equipment. Think about donating yours and better yet, if you're a fellow techie, donate your time to keep the school's equipment up and running. Did you know that Dell offers a great recycling program for old PCs? You may be able to earn credit towards a new Dell computer. Visit www.dell.com, select "Articles & Solutions," and enter the search keywords "dell recycling." It should be the first link in the results.

Converting Videos to iPod

If you don't want to pay Apple \$1.99 for each iPod video download every time you miss your favorite TV episode and you have a TiVo Series 2 or a Windows Media PC, visit www.mytvtogo.com. For \$29.99 you can copy TV shows directly to your mobile gadget by using your remote control. There's a free trial.

The Future of Technology

If you know someone who finds printing digital camera pictures and emailing a bit daunting, there's a new digital delivery technology coming which allows one to print, receive photos, and email without the use of the Internet! Stay tuned at www.presto.com.



Dawn Sanders is the owner of Corporate Documents & Information Specialists LLC (CDIS LLC), a firm that specializes in helping ease day-to-day business operations and to assist in promoting individuals to large corporations using database and Web-based solutions. Our Business is Knowing Your Business! Call us today at 672-8865 for database and Web support or visit us on the Web at www.cdis-now.com

There's a new buzz in Hollywood. Retailers are approaching Hollywood studios to help pump new life into DVD sales by creating technology to allow consumers at popular stores like Wal-Mart to copy movies at a kiosk!