Notice of Availability of the
Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Section 4(f) Evaluation
and Notice of Public Hearings
for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

I. NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 343, the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) has prepared the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project described below. Copies of the Draft EIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation are available for public inspection at State libraries on Oahu, regional libraries on the neighbor islands, the DTS office (650 South King Street – 3rd Floor), ~~and~~ the DTS – Rapid Transit Division office (1099 Alakea Street – Suite 1700), and at www.honolulutransit.org.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed project would provide high-capacity transit service in the corridor between East Kapolei and Ala Moana Center on the Island of O'ahu. This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Section 4(f) Evaluation identifies the current and future need to address mobility and travel reliability issues, to support transportation and land use planning policies, and improve transportation equity in the corridor between Kapolei and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on the Island of O'ahu in the State of Hawai'i. This document considers a No Build and three Build Alternatives that would provide high-capacity transit service in the corridor between East Kapolei and Ala Moana Center. The alternatives range between 19 and 25 miles of elevated guideway and include transit stations, park-and-ride facilities, a maintenance and storage facility, and other ancillary facilities to support the transit system. This Draft EIS evaluates the transportation effects and potential consequences on the natural and human environment, including effects on land use and economic activity; communities and neighborhoods; air quality and energy; noise and vibration; hazardous materials; natural resources; water quality; and archaeological, cultural, and historic resources. Financial implications of construction and operation of the proposed transit system are also evaluated. This document also includes a Section 4(f) Evaluation in compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS: The following public hearings have been scheduled to provide the community and all interested persons an opportunity to present comments on the Draft EIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and the potential project impacts:

December 6, 98:00 a.m.	~~Hale O~~ Kapolei Hale, 1000949 Uluohia Street~~Kamokila Blvd.~~
December 8, 6:00 p.m.	Blaisdell Center Hawaii Suites, 777 Ward Avenue
December 9, 6:00 p.m.	Salt Lake District Park, 1159 Ala Lilikoi Place
December 10, 6:00 p.m.	Filipino Community Center, 94-428 Mokuola Street
December 11, 6:00 p.m.	Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice Street

~~FTA is~~ We are interested in ~~and requests~~ receiving public comment on all aspects of the alternatives described including: ~~the issues of project phasing and terminifollowing issues~~:

- ~~Identification of a preferred alternative~~
- ~~FTA requests p~~Public comment on t~~T~~he construction phasing of the project and whether project phasing best addresses transportation needs in the corridor
- ~~FTA requests p~~Public comment on the l~~L~~ocation of the East Kapolei Station and whether this is a logical terminus
- ~~Visual effects of the Project~~
- ~~Noise related to the Project~~
- ~~Archaeological, cultural, and historic resources that could be affected by the Project~~
- ~~Project construction impacts~~

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All interested persons are invited to express their views on the Draft EIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation and the proposed project either orally or in writing. Persons wishing to speak at the hearings should sign up at the hearing site. Speakers will be limited to a three-minute presentation.

The meeting sites for the public hearings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation may request written materials in alternative formats, sign language, interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by calling (808) 566-2299 (voice) or e-mailing info@honolulutransit.org at least 48-hours prior to the planned hearing.

Field Code Changed

The City and County of Honolulu assures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 and related statutes by prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, and sex in the provision of benefits and services.

Persons unable to attend the hearings may submit written comments to Mr. Ted Matley, FTA Region IX, 201 Mission Street, Suite 1650, San Francisco, CA 94105 and Mr. Wayne Y. Yoshioka, Department of Transportation Services, City and County of Honolulu, 650 South King Street, 3rd Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 or online at www.honolulutransit.org. Your name, organization or business firm (if applicable), address, and telephone number should be included with your comments. Written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2009, or be postmarked by that date.

IV. USE OF COMMENTS: A Final Environmental Impact Statement will be developed based on the comments received during the Draft EIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation review period.

V. CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions about this Project, or about the Draft EIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation, please contact Mr. Matley at (415) 744-3133 or Mr. Yoshioka, at (808) 768-8303.

Wayne Y. Yoshioka, Director
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu

Include map of the project alignment.