



Meeting notes for

West O'ahu Station Group Community Presentation Review Section 106 Programmatic Agreement Consulting Parties Meeting

Date and Time: **June 15, 2011, 10:00 am**

Location: **RTD Office, Alii Place, 23rd Floor Conference Room**

Presentation

An overview of the project was presented, including a summary of current status, schedule and visual simulations. The West Oahu station group designs previously shown to the public in 2009 (including East Kapolei, UH West Oahu, and Ho'opili Stations) were shown, along with a summary of the comments received from the community during the workshops. Elements of a typical station were presented and explained and a video of the actual 2009 presentation made by Group 70 architects' Jeff Stone was shown.

Discussion

- It was asked if the final designer will be responsible for all stations or just the three within the West Oahu station group, and whether a master designer will be hired to examine system-wide design and integration. The response was that Ken Caswell's department will be responsible for system-wide design integration.
- It was asked if future community meetings would be combined with historic preservation meetings. The response was the City's intention is to hold future meetings as public meetings to gather input from all members of the community. That prompted concern about compliance with Secretary of Interior standards.
- It was suggested that special meetings with the consulting parties prior to the public meetings would be preferable. The response was that quarterly meetings with the consulting parties would continue.
- It was mentioned that the consulting parties are "not design or taste police," but are here to "analyze compatibility with community fabric." It was then stated that much discussion has occurred about station motifs, and that the concern is about the immediate built environment, e.g. surrounding buildings, and expressed a belief that the West Oahu stations are agriculturally/rurally based.
- It was pointed out that no historic buildings are in the West Oahu area. The response was that since there are no buildings in the West Oahu area, the station designs should tie into the history of the area.
- It was asked if the station design for the UHWO station ties into the design guidelines for the nearby campus.
- Some of the attendees had not seen the technical reports, design pattern book, and other materials which may have been distributed. RTD staff promised to make sure everyone had access to all relevant documents.
- It was expressed that the stations do not reflect the plantation era, and the design should pick an era to reflect. The reply was that the Waipahu community had expressed an interest in plantation-era designs, whereas the Kapolei community did not express such an affinity.
- It was noted that the designs attempt to reflect the natural existing land since no buildings currently exist. It was also noted that the stations are "not buildings," but rather are "simply structures to board trains."

- Concern was expressed about the balance between individuality of stations and the cohesiveness of the entire system. The reply was that the platform experience is consistent between stations, and that an art program will be consistent system-wide.
- There was an inquiry about visual signposting and wayfinding. The reply was that the station structures' size and visual identity is a clear "beacon" for wayfinding purposes, but that signage will also be present.
- There was a comment on the challenges of station scale, the lack of existing institutional models, and the need to create an indigenous architectural style.
- It was mentioned that HDR was chosen as the final designer for the Farrington Station group.
- Concern was expressed regarding the difficulty of finding design diagrams within the PE-level drawings that express scale versus renderings that show finishings and materials.
- It was indicated that massing and scale of the Farrington station group is being revisited. It was also explained that sugarcane plantation architecture had non-human scale to accommodate trucks, equipment, etc., but simplicity of design was key. Also noted was the difficulty of complying with 100-year flood requirements in Waipahu.
- It was recommended that as planning and design moves eastward into areas with greater historic context, more interaction with the consulting parties occur. It was suggested that the consulting parties be informed on how the designs are (or are not) meeting Secretary of Interior standards.
- It was recommended talking sooner rather than later about the design of stations at the Koko Head end of the alignment. As design of the West Oahu stations becomes established, the downtown stations will have to deal with precedents set by the previously-designed stations.
- Individual meetings and corridor tours were offered to anyone interested.
- It was mentioned to the group that this meeting conflicted with the Navy's teleconference calls, and suggested that future meetings be coordinated with Ellyn Goldkind of the Navy to avoid scheduling conflicts. Better coordination of meeting times was requested.

Attending Consulting Parties (in person)

Angie Westfall, State Historic Preservation Division
Amy Mutart, Hawaii Community Development Authority
Kiersten Faulkner, Historic Hawaii Foundation

Attending Consulting Parties (by phone)

Pua Aiu, State Historic Preservation Division
Gary Norris, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Attending Project Staff (in person)

Mark Garrity, PB/GEC
Ken Caswell, RTD
Ryan Tam, RTD
Mike Yoshida, RTD
Bruce Nagao, RTD
Barbara Gilliland, PB/GEC
Faith Miyamoto, RTD
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, PB/GEC

Stephanie Foell, PB/GEC
Denise McGeen, PB/GEC
Kelsey Britt, PB/GEC
Bill Foss, PB/GEC
Wayne Yoshioka, DTS
Dan Chun, Kauahikaua & Chun

Attending Project Staff (by phone)

Kanuji Parmar, PB/GEC