U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

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December xx, 2007

Ms. Laura H. Thielen
State Historic Preservation Officer and Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State Historic Preservation Division
Kakuhihewa Building, Room 555
601 Kamokila Boulevard
Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707

Subject: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project Coordination on Determination of Area of Potential Effect

Dear Ms. Thielen:

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are in the process of defining the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project in accordance with 36 CFR 800.16(d).

The project will include the construction of an elevated transit system between Kapolei and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, with an extension to Waikīkī. In addition to the guideway and stations, the project will include construction of a transit vehicle maintenance facility, several park-and-ride lots, traction power sub-stations, and improvements to the bus system to interface with the fixed guideway system. The attached map illustrates the extent of the planned system, including two optional sites for the maintenance facility. Planning and environmental review is being completed for the project extents; however, anticipated funding is only available for completion of the First Project, which would extend from the vicinity of the planned University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu to Ala Moana Center. This portion of the overall project is anticipated to be completed and operational by 2018, while the schedule for any future extensions is indeterminate.

Pending your comment, the APE for the project is proposed to include the following:

- For **Archaeological Resources**, the APE is proposed to be all areas of direct ground disturbance. This would include any areas excavated for the placement

of piers to support the elevated structure and foundations for structures, or graded to provide parking.

Confining the Archaeological Resources APE to the limits of ground disturbance is warranted because the surrounding built environment is largely developed, becoming progressively more urban as the project progresses Koko Head. As a result of the existing level of development, construction of the elevated guideway would not generate secondary effects, such as visual, atmospheric, or audible elements, that could diminish the integrity of archaeological resources. Accordingly, direct construction impacts to known and as-yet-unidentified archaeological resources are the concern.

- For **Historic Resources**, the APE is proposed to extend one parcel deep from the project alignment and traction power sub-stations. In the vicinity of stations, park-and-ride facilities, and maintenance and storage facility alternatives, the coverage of the APE is proposed to include the entire blocks on which the stations or facilities are located, to a maximum of 500 feet from the project element where there is no defined block. Similarly, for portions of the alignment within or adjacent to historic districts, the APE is proposed to extend one block, rather than one parcel deep.

  Direct construction impacts to known and as-yet-unsurveyed historic resources are the main concern. Alterations to the setting of historic resources (where the setting is a qualifying characteristic of its eligibility for the National Register) are also addressed in the above definition of the APE. Since stations, park-and-ride facilities, and the maintenance facility could have a greater effect, the APE is larger around them. It is also larger where the alignment is in or near an eligible historic district because of the potential greater importance of setting to historic districts.

Once the project's APE has been defined, consultation will continue with your office regarding identifying historic properties within the APE.

Sincerely,

LESLIE T. ROGERS
Regional Administrator

Enclosures:

- Map of Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
- Compact disc containing detailed maps of the proposed APE for historic resources

cc: Administrator, State Historic Preservation Division
Mr. Toru Hamayasu, DTS (w/o enclosures)

Mr. Ted Matley, FTA Region IX