

TO: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3RD Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

COMMENTS ON HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT

COST: Why do you want to spend billions of dollars to build a monstrosity that even you admit will not ease traffic congestion? The route that was chosen is not going anywhere and will not do anything nor serve the public good. What a WASTE of our TAX dollars!!!

The City has to or wants to hire additional staff for this project. More tax dollars needed. How much will the acquisitions of right of way cost? How many people and businesses will be displaced? What about property for the train yard and maintenance yard? How do we finance operating and maintenance? What is the true cost of this white elephant?

ENERGY COST: What will it cost to run the trains? If it is run by electricity, will the community be shortchanged? Judging by some of the incidents that have happened, we have problems during maintenance. What will power the trains and stations when we have blackout situations?

SAVE TIME? How can you claim that it will give people quality of life because it will save time? One has to wait to catch a bus to get to the train station; then wait for the train, then wait to catch another bus to get to one's destination. What a WASTE of TIME!!!

QUALITY OF LIFE. Imagine our quality of life if our sewer system goes bad. The last City Council that voted down the train knew our sewer system needed an overhaul costing couple of billion dollars. And what has been done about it since then? We got the case of the Ala Wai. When is our City administration going to wake up? PHEW! The smell of WASTE will be overwhelming, not to mention how unhealthy it will be if something is not done and soon.

TRAIN STATIONS: Understand that some of the stations will be between 3 to 5 stories high. Aesthetically it is unfriendly. Then, all we need is an earthquake to undermine the structures and render the trains useless.

Are all our roadway lanes going to be intact? It will be a great disserve to the public that in order to build the structures, you are going to take away any roadway lanes. This is a NO, NO!!

Do not underestimate the problems at train stations. You know that they have to be handicap accessible and that means elevators. (Here is a tremendous maintenance cost) Have you not studied the problems of the homeless, the criminals and all things negative at other train stations? Let us not put these things under the rug. I recall being advised not to go to certain train stations in San Francisco in broad daylight.

You and I know that there are many ways to ease the traffic, if only they will be tried before spending monies that we do not have and cannot afford.

Mahalo
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