

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
Meeting Minutes

Date: March 27, 2006

Organization: Aiea Community Association

Time/Place: 7:00pm Alvah Scott Elementary School

Presenter: Lawrence Spurgeon

Also attending: Pat Lee, Gary Omori

Topic: HHCTCP Presentation

Approximate number of attendees: 25, including Councilman Gary Okino

Summary of comments & questions:

1. **Why not build the system at ground level? A: Need dedicated right of way to avoid traffic conflicts, and grade separated elevated system will require less space, although 2 to 3 times more expensive.**
2. **Why study “No Build”? A: Need to get baseline data to determine benefits without any project.**
3. **Suggest system that is a total package, e.g. when you use it at night, want a bus to pick you up from the transit station so you can get home, not just during peak commute times. A: Will run 3-8 minutes at peak and evenings every 15 minutes or so. System will have feeder bus service and park and rides at some locations.**
4. **Need connection to airport and Waikiki. A: Either direct connections or shuttle bus to airport and Waikiki.**
5. **Why do taxi and tour bus companies oppose? A: Concerned about loss of business, but with good transit system, you can support more visitors which could bring more business to those entities.**
6. **Will do design/build system? A: Many different ways to procure project.**
7. **Will the system be self-sufficient? Now subsidizing bus service and will probably have to subsidize transit. However, taxpayers have been subsidizing roads and highways for years.**
8. **Will GET increase stay or go away? A: The current law sunsets, and the State Legislature must act if the GET is to be extended.**

9. Pearl City and Aiea is a “pass through” corridor for central Oahu and leeward commuters. Please pay attention to the aesthetics of the system so people will want to stop in Pearl City and Aiea. Are you coordinating with SDOT efforts to beautify Kamehameha and Farrington Highways? **A: Coordinating with SDOT. Plans call for an elevated system with 6 X 8 foot pillars about a hundred feet apart.**
10. Please be careful of graffiti on the pillars as it is an issue.
11. Stations need to service people who can walk or ride their bike to take the train. Suggest putting a station closer to LCC. **A: Station will be half a mile from LCC, and located where it can better serve central Oahu residents with a feeder bus system. It is difficult to get to other areas from LCC, and plan is to bring buses in from Wahiawa and Mililani.**
12. Are you planning a park and ride facility in the area? **A: Yes, at LCC and/or Aloha Stadium.**
13. Will the line eventually go to Mililani? **A: For now, express bus service with fast connections and transfers, but as system grows, could do central Oahu spur in a later phase.**
14. It seems that there are not enough stations on Kamehameha Highway to serve the community. **A: Will take your comments back and take a look at it.**
15. Why not run the trains above the freeway? **A: Not enough room in the right of way with the improvements planned by SDOT, and it is not convenient to load and off-load passengers.**
16. What distance will people have to walk to get to the stations? **A: Planning for a quarter mile, but some will walk a half mile.**
17. Why decision on the LPA by December? **A: Council asked for information to make a decision prior to the enactment of the GET tax surcharge on January 1.**
18. Transit projects provide economic benefits as well as transportation benefits, and may attract our young people to return here to live and work. Need ample circulator buses to connect to the system. The Jim Slemmons lot has been looked at for a hub for buses.
19. I am pro-transit. The automobile serves very few people and there are those who can't drive or choose not to drive.
20. Is the Washington D.C. system self-sustaining? **A: The more riders, the fewer subsidies.**

- 21. How are our highways subsidized? A: Through the fuel tax, and property taxes to fix county pot holes, etc. Studies show a transit rider spends about \$2000 per year, while AAA says an automobile driver spends \$8500 per year to operate a car.**
- 22. Can a system be private like Las Vegas? A: That is a unique system which links the casinos. Locally, looking at private/public partnerships in development areas for stations.**
- 23. What is the percentage of federal and local shares? A: We don't have the financing plan or cost estimates yet, but the system may cost about \$2.5 to \$3 Billion and the feds may pay \$1 Billion, about a third.**