

Scoping Report Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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City and County of Honolulu

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The City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are preparing an Alternatives Analysis (AA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed project to provide high-capacity transit service in an approximately 25-mile travel corridor between Kapolei and the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Waikiki. The notice of intent to prepare the EIS appeared in the Federal Register on December 7, 2005 and the EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN) appeared in the State of Hawaii Environmental Notice on December 8, 2005. The scoping comment period under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the EISPN consultation period officially began on the respective dates of publication and closed on January 9, 2006.

All interested individuals and organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies were invited to comment on the purpose and need, project alternatives, and scope of the AA and EIS, rather than stating a preference for a particular alternative. The opportunity to express preference for a particular alternative will be after the release of the AA Report, which compares various alternatives.

Public scoping meetings were held at two locations within the study corridor. They were conducted in an open-house format that presented the purpose of and needs for the project, proposed project alternatives, and the scope of analysis to be included in the AA and the draft EIS. The meetings allowed members of the public to ask their individual questions of project staff and provided an opportunity for the public to provide either written testimony or oral testimony, recorded by court reporters.

The first scoping meeting was held at Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room, at 777 Ward Avenue on December 13, 2005 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and was attended by approximately 450 people. The second meeting was held at Kapolei Middle School Cafeteria, at 91-5335 Kapolei Parkway on December 14, 2005 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and was attended by approximately 200 people. The high attendance at these meetings was a result of DTS's substantial media and community outreach efforts, which included targeted outreach to underrepresented non-English speaking populations.

The two public scoping meetings were supplemented with an agency scoping meeting targeted to those federal, State and County agencies potentially interested in the project. The agency scoping meeting was held at Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room, at 777 Ward Avenue on December 13, 2005 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and was attended by approximately 20 agencies and utility companies.

Following closure of the public scoping process, continued public outreach activities will include meetings with interested parties or groups. The project web site, www.honolulutransit.org, will be periodically updated to reflect the project's current status. Additional opportunities for public participation will be announced through mailings, notices, advertisements, and press releases. Anyone wishing to be placed

on the project mailing list may do so by registering on the web site at www.honolulutransit.org, or by calling (808) 566-2299.

Project scoping meetings were publicized through newsletter mailings, website and phone-line information, newspaper advertisements, radio advertising, distribution of informational flyers, and news service coverage. Informational flyers were distributed in ten languages that were identified as being spoken by population groups within the corridor: Chinese, English, Ilocano, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. No requests were received for materials or presentations in any language except English.

Newsletters were mailed to approximately 15,400 addresses. Radio advertising appeared on sixteen stations. Three stations catering to non-English speaking demographics carried advertising in Chinese, Ilocano, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Samoan, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Also, Mayor Mufi Hannemann appeared on the KINE radio morning program on December 13, 2005 and invited listeners to the scoping meetings. Table 2-1 summarizes radio advertisement and coverage.

Table 2-1. Radio Advertising

Station	Air Date	Format
KSSK	Dec 7-13	Adult Contemporary
KCCN	Dec 7-13	Hawaiian
KGMZ	Dec 7-13	Oldies
KHUI	Dec 7-13	Hawaiian
KHVH	Dec 7-13	Talk
KINE	Dec 7-13	Hawaiian
KPHW	Dec 7-13	Urban/New Age
KPOI	Dec 7-13	Rock
KUMU	Dec 7-13	Easy Listening
AM1540	Dec 7-13	Korean
FISH	Dec 7-13	Christian
KHNR	Dec 7-13	News/Talk
KKEA	Dec 7-13	Sports and Talk
KKNE-AM	Dec 7-14	Hawaiian-Traditional
KNDI	Dec 7-13	Ethnic
KQMQ	Dec 7-13	Edge
KZOO	Dec 7-13	Japanese

Informational flyers were posted at the following community organizations and churches in the languages of the groups served by the organization:

Boys & Girls Club Waiola	Korean Presbyterian Church of Honolulu
Boys & Girls Club Plantation Road	Kaimuki Christian Church
Young Men’s Christian Association	University Avenue Baptist Church
Hawaii Pacific University	Kalihi Palama Health Center
Lanakila Health Center	Kalihi Child Care Pre-School
Hawaii Literacy	Pauahi Community Center
New Hope Christian Fellowship	Youth Basketball Association - Honolulu
First Chinese Church of Christ	United Chinese Society
Nuuanu Baptist Church	The Filipino Community Center

Legal advertisements were placed in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin on November 30 and December 7, 2005. Display advertisements were placed in twelve newspapers for a total of twenty run-dates. The newspapers included island-wide papers, local papers, and ethnic targeted papers. The advertising placement is summarized in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2. Newspaper Advertising

Publication	Run Dates
Honolulu Advertiser	12/7/2005, 12/11/2005, 12/12/2005, 12/13/2005
Star Bulletin	11/30/2005, 12/1/2005
Hawaii Hochi	12/7/2005, 12/12/2005
Korean Times	12/7/2005, 12/11/2005
Filipino Chronicle	11/26/2005, 12/10/2005
MidWeek	12/7/2005
Leeward Current	11/30/2005, 12/7/2005
Ka Nupepa	12/7/2005
Hawaii Herald	12/2/2005
Fil-Am Courier	12/1/2005
West Oahu Current	11/30/2005
Ka Wai Ola	December Issue

The December 13th Scoping Meeting received substantial media coverage, including spots on the KHON, KFVE, KITV, KGMB, and KHNL television news and KHPR radio. The news coverage included notice of the following evening’s scoping meeting at Kapolei Middle School.

On November 15, 2005, the project website became active with public involvement information about the project. The project's EISPN and scoping information package were posted to the website. Project informational flyers were posted to the website in 10 languages and publicized in the newsletter. The website also provided a page to enter scoping comments.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for High-Capacity Transit Improvements in the Leeward Corridor of Honolulu, Hawaii

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Transportation Services (DTS) intend to prepare an EIS (and Alternative Analysis (AA)) on a proposal by the City and County of Honolulu to implement transit improvements that potentially include high-capacity transit service in a 25-mile travel corridor between Kapolei and the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Waikiki. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the AA and draft EIS include No Build, Transportation System Management, Managed Lanes, and Fixed Guideway Transit. Other transit alternatives may be identified during the scoping process.

The EIS will be prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and its implementing regulations. The FTA and DTS request public and interagency input on the purpose and needs to be addressed by the project, the alternatives to be considered, and the scope of the EIS for the corridor, including the alternatives and the environmental and community impacts to be evaluated.

DATES: *Scoping Comments Due Date:* Written comments on the scope of the NEPA review, including the alternatives to be considered and the related impacts to be assessed, should be sent to DTS by January 9, 2006. See **ADDRESSES** below.

Scoping Meetings: Meetings to accept comments on the proposed alternatives, scope of the EIS, and purpose of and needs to be addressed by the alternatives will be held on December 13 and 14, 2005 at the locations given in **ADDRESSES** below. On December 13, 2005, the public scoping meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. and continue until 8:00 p.m. or until all who wish to provide oral comments have been given the opportunity. The meeting on December 14, 2005 will begin at 7:00 p.m. and continue until 9:00 p.m. or until all who wish to provide oral comments have been given the opportunity. The locations are accessible to people with disabilities. A court reporter will record oral comments. Forms will be provided on which to provide written comments. Project staff will be available at the meeting to informally discuss the EIS scope and the proposed project. Governmental agencies are also invited to a separate scoping meeting to be held on December 13 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Further information will be available at the scoping meeting and may also

be obtained by calling (808) 566-2299, by downloading from www.honolulutransit.org, or by e-mailing info@honolulutransit.org.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS, including the alternatives to be considered and the related impacts to be assessed, should be sent to both the Department of Transportation Services, City and County of Honolulu, 650 South King Street, 3rd Floor, Honolulu, HI, 96813, Attention: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, or by the internet at www.honolulutransit.org and to Ms. Donna Turchie, Federal Transit Administration, Region IX, 201 Mission Street, Suite 2210, San Francisco, CA 94105 or by email: Donna.Turchie@fta.dot.gov.

The scoping meetings will be held at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room, at 777 Ward Avenue on December 13, 2005 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and at Kapolei Middle School Cafeteria, at 91-5335 Kapolei Parkway on December 14, 2005 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FTA contact is Ms. Donna Turchie, Federal Transit Administration, Region IX, 201 Mission Street, Room 2210, San Francisco, CA, 94105. Phone: (415) 744-2737. Fax: (415) 744-2726.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scoping

The FTA and DTS invite all interested individuals and organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies, to comment on the purpose and need, project alternatives, and scope of the EIS. During the scoping process, comments should focus on the purpose and need for a project, identifying specific transportation problems to be evaluated, or on proposing transportation alternatives that may be less costly, more effective, or have fewer environmental impacts while improving mobility in the corridor. At this time, comments should not focus on a preference for a particular alternative. The opportunity for that type of input will be after the release of the AA final report, which will compare various alternatives.

Following the public scoping process, public outreach activities with interested parties or groups throughout the duration of work on the EIS will occur. The project web site, www.honolulutransit.org, will be updated periodically to reflect the status of the project. Additional opportunities for public participation will be announced through mailings, notices, advertisements, and press releases. Those wishing to be placed on the project mailing list may do so by registering on the web site at www.honolulutransit.org, or by calling (808) 566-2299.

II. Description of Study Area

The proposed project study area is the travel corridor between Kapolei and the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH Manoa) and Waikiki. This narrow, linear corridor is confined by the Waianae and Koolau mountain ranges to the north (mauka

direction) and the ocean to the south (makai direction). The corridor includes the majority of housing and employment on Oahu. The 2000 census indicates that 876,200 people live on Oahu. Of this number, over 552,000 people, or 63 percent, live within the corridor between Kapolei and Manoa/Waikiki. This area is projected to absorb 69 percent of the population growth projected to occur on Oahu between 2000 and 2030, resulting in an expected corridor population of 776,000 by 2030. Over the next twenty-five years, the Ewa/Kapolei area is projected to have the highest rate of housing and employment growth on Oahu. The Ewa/Kapolei area is developing as a “second city” to complement downtown Honolulu. The housing and employment growth in Ewa is identified in the General Plan for the City and County of Honolulu.

III. Purpose and Need

Existing transportation infrastructure in this corridor is overburdened handling current levels of travel demand. Travelers experience substantial traffic congestion and delay at most times of the day, both on weekdays and on weekends. Automobile and transit users on Oahu currently experience 42,000 daily vehicle-hours of delay. By 2030, this is projected to increase nearly seven-fold to 326,000 daily vehicle-hours of delay. Because the bus system primarily operates in mixed traffic, transit users experience the same level of delay as automobile drivers. Current morning peak-period travel times for motorists from Kapolei to downtown average between 40 and 60 minutes. By 2030 the travel times are projected to more than double. Within the urban core most major arterial streets will experience increasing peak congestion, including Ala Moana Boulevard, Dillingham Boulevard, Kalakaua Avenue, Kapiolani Boulevard, King Street and Nimitz Highway. Expansion of the roadway system between Kapolei and UH Manoa study corridor is constrained by physical barriers and by dense urban neighborhoods that abut many existing roadways.

Numerous lower-income and minority workers live in the corridor outside of the urban core and commute to work in the primary urban center. Many of these workers rely on public transit because they are not able to afford the cost of vehicle ownership, operation, and parking.

The intent of the proposed alternatives is to provide improved person-mobility in this highly congested east-west corridor. A high-capacity improvement project would support the goals of the regional transportation plan by serving areas designated for urban growth, provide an alternative to private automobile travel and improve linkages between Kapolei, Honolulu’s Urban Center, UH Manoa, Waikiki, and urban areas between these points.

III. Alternatives

The alternatives proposed for evaluation in the AA and draft EIS were developed through a screening process that identified the best reasonable alternatives from the range of possible alternatives. At a minimum, FTA and DTS propose to consider the following alternatives:

1. No Build Alternative, which would include existing transit and highway facilities and planned transportation projects to the year 2030.
2. Transportation System Management (TSM) Alternative, which would provide an enhanced bus system based on a hub-and-spoke route network, community bus circulators, conversion of the present morning peak hour only zipper lane to both a morning and afternoon peak hour zipper lane configuration, and relatively low-cost capital improvements on selected roadway facilities to give priority to buses. These capital improvements may include: transportation system upgrades such as intersection improvements, minor road widening, traffic engineering actions, bus route restructuring, shortened bus headways, expanded use of articulated buses, express and limited-stop service, signalization improvements, and timed-transfer operations.
3. Managed Lanes Alternative, which would include construction of a two-lane grade-separated guideway between Waipahu and Downtown Honolulu for use by buses high-occupancy vehicles (HOVs), and toll-paying single-occupant vehicles. The lanes would be managed by setting the minimum occupancy for HOVs and the tolls for single-occupant vehicles at levels that would preserve free-flow speeds on the facility.
4. Fixed-Guideway Alternatives, which would include the construction and operation of a fixed transit guideway between Kapolei and UH Manoa and Waikiki on one of several possible alignments. Alignment alternatives to be considered include, but are not limited to:
 - Kamokila Boulevard/Salt Lake Boulevard/King Street/Hotel Street/Alakea Street/Kapiolani Boulevard Alignment, which would serve various communities and activity centers between Kapolei and UH Manoa, including UH West Oahu, Waipahu, Pearlridge, Aloha Stadium, Salt Lake, Kalihi, Downtown Honolulu, Kakaako, Ala Moana Center, and Moiliili.
 - North-South Road/Camp Catlin Road/King Street/Queen Street/ Kapiolani Boulevard Alignment, which would serve various communities and activity centers between Kapolei and UH Manoa, including UH West Oahu, Waipahu, Pearlridge, Aloha Stadium, Pearl Harbor, Honolulu International Airport, Salt Lake, Kalihi, Downtown Honolulu, Kakaako, Ala Moana Center, and Moiliili.
 - Ft. Weaver Road/Farrington Highway/Kamehameha Highway/ Dillingham Boulevard/Kaaahi Street/Beretania Street/King Street/Kaialiu Street Alignment, which would serve various communities and activity centers between Kapolei and UH Manoa, including Kalaeloa, Ewa Villages, Waipahu, Pearlridge, Aloha Stadium, Pearl Harbor, Honolulu International Airport, Kalihi Kai, Downtown Honolulu, Thomas Square, and Moiliili.
 - North-South Road/Farrington Highway/Kamehameha Highway/ Airport/Dillingham Boulevard/Hotel Street/Kapiolani Boulevard with a Waikiki Spur Alignment, which would serve various communities and activity centers between Kapolei and UH Manoa, including Kalaeloa, UH West Oahu, Waipahu,

Pearlridge, Aloha Stadium, Pearl Harbor, Honolulu International Airport, Kalihi Kai, Downtown Honolulu, Kakaako, Ala Moana Center, Moiliili, and Waikiki.

After appropriate public involvement and interagency coordination, other alternatives suggested during scoping may be added if they are found to be environmentally acceptable, financially feasible, and consistent with the purpose of and need for major transportation improvements in the corridor.

IV. Probable Effects

The EIS will evaluate and fully disclose the environmental consequences of the construction and operation of an expanded transit system on Oahu. The EIS will evaluate the impacts of all reasonable alternatives on land use, zoning, displacements, parklands, economic development, community disruptions, environmental justice, aesthetics, air quality, noise and vibration, wildlife, vegetation, threatened and endangered species, farmland, water quality, wetlands, waterways, floodplains, energy, hazardous materials, and cultural, historic, and archaeological resources. Impacts to parklands and historic resources covered by Section 4(f) of the 1966 U.S. Department of Transportation Act also will be addressed.

To ensure that all significant issues related to this proposed action are identified and addressed, scoping comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and questions should be directed to the DTS as noted in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

V. FTA Procedures

The EIS is being prepared in accordance with: the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and its implementing regulations by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); the FTA/Federal Highway Administration's "Environmental Impact and Related Procedures" regulations (23 CFR part 771); and Federal transit law (49 USC 5300) and its implementing regulations for major capital improvements (49 CFR 611). In accordance with FTA policy, the NEPA process will also address the requirements of other applicable environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders, such as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Section 4(f) of the 1966 U.S. Department of Transportation Act, the Executive Orders on Environmental Stewardship and Transportation Infrastructure Project Reviews, Environmental Justice, Floodplain Management, and Protection of Wetlands.

The first step in preparation of the EIS will be an AA that will be consistent with both the requirements of NEPA for evaluation of a range of reasonable alternatives and the requirements of Federal transit law for consideration of alternatives during the development of major capital investment projects proposed for Federal funding. Upon completion, the AA final report will be available to the public and agencies for review and comment, and public hearings on the AA will be held at advertised locations within the study area. Based on the AA and public and agency comments

received, the City and County of Honolulu will identify a locally preferred alternative (LPA). The second step in preparation of the EIS will be the development of a Draft EIS to add further detail about the LPA and its impacts. Based on the findings in the Draft EIS and comments from the public and agencies, the City and County of Honolulu may decide to request that the LPA enter preliminary engineering (PE) of the LPA. FTA requires that the LPA be adopted and/or confirmed in the conforming Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Oahu as a condition for initiation of PE. With adoption into the RTP, and if the LPA meets the evaluation criteria identified in Federal law, FTA will approve the project into PE, which will include the simultaneous preparation of the Final EIS.

Issued on: December 7, 2005

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator

Notification of Agency Scoping Meeting

The agency scoping meeting was held to provide an opportunity for those agencies potentially interested in the project, or having relevant expertise pertaining to the project, to have input at an early stage. Invitation letters were sent on December 5th, 6th and 7th, 2005 to 87 Federal, State and County agencies and utility companies that had either participated in prior transit planning efforts on Oahu, or had responsibilities or expertise that were considered to play a role in the current transit planning program. Agencies that received invitations are indicated in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Agency Scoping Meeting

Agencies and Organizations Invited to and/or Attending Agency Scoping Meeting	Attended Agency Meeting	Scoping Input Received	Further Consultation Requested
Federal			
Department of Agriculture (Natural Resource Conservation Service)			
Department of Defense (U.S. Air Force-Hickam)			
Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)		X*	
Department of Defense (U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii)			
Department of Defense (U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (APVG-GWE-M))			
Department of Defense (U.S. Naval Base Pearl Harbor)			
Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard – 14 th Coast Guard District)			
Department of the Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service)			
Department of the Interior (National Park Service)			X
Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center)			
Department of Transportation (Federal Aviation Administration)	X		
Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration)	X		
Environmental Protection Agency			X
Federal Emergency Management Agency			

Table 4-1 (continued). Agency Scoping Meeting

Agencies and Organizations Invited to and/or Attending Agency Scoping Meeting	Attended Agency Meeting	Scoping Input Received	Further Consultation Requested
State of Hawaii			
Department of Accounting and General Services			
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism			
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (Strategic Industries Division)			
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (Office of Planning)	X		
Department of Defense			
Department of Education			
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands			
Department of Health			
Department of Health (Clean Air Branch)			
Department of Health (Clean Water Branch)			
Department of Health (Environmental Planning)	X		
Department of Health (Noise, Radiation, and Indoor Air Quality Branch)			
Department of Health (Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch)			
Department of Land and Natural Resources			
Department of Land and Natural Resources (Commission on Water Resource Management)	X		
Department of Land and Natural Resources (Land Division)			
Department of Land and Natural Resources (State Historic Preservation Division)			
Department of Land and Natural Resources (State Parks Division)			
Department of Transportation			
Department of Transportation (Airports Division)			
Department of Transportation (Harbors Division)	X		
Department of Transportation (Highways Division – Planning)	X		
Hawaiian Community Development Authority	X		
Hawaii State Library			
Legislative Reference Bureau			
Office of Environmental Quality Control			
Office of Hawaiian Affairs			
Office of Hawaiian Affairs (Native Rights, Land and Culture Division)	X		
University of Hawaii			
University of Hawaii (Environmental Center)			
University of Hawaii, Manoa (Facilities Planning and Management Office)	X		
University of Hawaii, Manoa (Water Resources Research Center)			

Table 4-1 (continued). Agency Scoping Meeting

Agencies and Organizations Invited to and/or Attending Agency Scoping Meeting	Attended Agency Meeting	Scoping Input Received	Further Consultation Requested
City and County of Honolulu			
City and County of Honolulu			
Department of Design and Construction	X		
Department of Environmental Services			
Department of Parks and Recreation			
Honolulu Board of Water Supply			
Honolulu City Council			
Honolulu Fire Department	X		
Honolulu Municipal Reference and Records Center			
Honolulu Police Department (Traffic)	X		
Libraries			
Aiea Public Library			
Ewa Beach Public and School Library			
Kaimuki Public Library			
Kalihi-Palama Public Library			
Kapolei Public Library			
Library For The Blind and Physically Handicapped			
Liliha Public Library			
McCully-Moilili Public Library			
Mililani Public Library			
Neighborhood Boards			
No. 1, Hawaii Kai			
No. 2, Kuliouou/Kalani Iki			
No. 16, Kalihi Valley			
No. 23, Ewa			
No. 26, Wahiawa			
No. 27, North Shore			
No. 28, Koolauloa			
No. 29, Kahaluu			
No. 31, Kailua			
No. 35, Mililani Mauka/Launani Valley			

Table 4-1(continued). Agency Scoping Meeting

Agencies and Organizations Invited to and/or Attending Agency Scoping Meeting	Attended Agency Meeting	Scoping Input Received	Further Consultation Requested
Other Organizations			
Aloha Tower Development Corporation			
Chaney Brooks and Company	X		
Charlier Associates, Inc.	X		
Hawaiian Electric Company	X		
Hawaiian Electric Company (Project Management Division, Engineering)			
Hawaiian Telephone Company	X		
Honolulu Advertiser			
Honolulu Star-Bulletin			
Kaneohe Business Group			
Kailua Chamber of Commerce			
Leeward Oahu Transportation Management Organization			
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization	X		
The Gas Company	X		

* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers scoping input was received after the official end of scoping, but was included because they have regulatory authority over project elements.

Summary of Agency Scoping Meeting

The agency scoping meeting was held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on December 13 2005, at Neal S. Blaisdell Center. Twenty agencies and utility companies attended the scoping meeting. Table 4-1 provides information on the agencies invited to the scoping meeting, those who attended, those who provided scoping input, and those who requested further consultation. More than the 87 invited agencies and utility companies are shown in Table 4-1 because a specific branch or division of an agency was represented at the meeting, while the agency invitation had been sent to the agency as a whole.

The meeting was recorded on a digital audio recorder, and notes of the discussions were taken. The meeting was moderated by DTS, and the presentation included the meeting purpose, introduction to the project, alternatives under consideration, planning process overview and schedule, and plans for public scoping. DTS stated that comments pertaining to purpose and need, alternatives, and scope of analysis would be particularly useful at this time.

Following the presentation, questions were requested. The subsequent discussion is summarized below.

Station Locations

QUESTION: Wally Gretz from University of Hawaii at Manoa asked if station locations have been established.

ANSWER: Consideration of station locations is just beginning. Some general areas where stations are expected to be desirable have been identified, but nothing specific has been proposed. Comments on candidate station locations are appreciated.

Public Involvement Program

QUESTION: Liz Fischer of FHWA asked, “What will be the ongoing public involvement program?”

ANSWER: The public will have the opportunity to comment at ongoing public meetings and an active project web-site - other mechanisms of public involvement are still being developed. The availability of the Alternatives Analysis will be publicly announced and opportunities for public input on alternatives will be provided. Public hearings will occur prior to the City Council’s decision on the LPA. Public hearings will also be held when the DEIS is released.

Coordination with the Transportation Planning Process

QUESTION: One commenter asked if there will be coordination with local transportation planning processes.

ANSWER: Yes.

Alternatives

QUESTION: Darice Young of the FAA asked if only one alternative would be selected.

ANSWER: It is unlikely that there will be sufficient funding for more than one major transit project, although the alternative selected could include a phased construction schedule. Should rail be selected, it is possible to select an alternative that incorporates elements of Alternatives 4a through 4d, or additional elements to be developed subsequently.

Wally Gretz stated that the rail alternative did not include a managed lanes component.

Alignments and Technologies

QUESTION: Is it possible that different fixed-guideway technologies could have different alignments?

ANSWER: Yes, because of the different operating characteristics of the different technologies.

QUESTION: Stanton Enomoto of the Hawaii Community Development Authority asked whether it is possible to combine several technologies.

ANSWER: Only one technology is likely to be chosen for ease of maintenance and cost. However, in areas such as downtown, a single technology could have the option to run above ground, underground or at-grade.

Maintenance Facilities

QUESTION: Carlos Hernandez of Charlier Associates asked if maintenance facilities have been examined.

ANSWER: At this time, little planning has been devoted to maintenance facilities because maintenance facility requirements will change based on the alternative. For example, if rail is selected, the maintenance facility will need to be on or near the alignment. If managed lanes are selected, the bus maintenance facility could be located away from the managed lanes facility/roadway.

Technical Analyses

QUESTION: Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) Director, Gordon Lum asked what will be different in this analysis compared to prior analyses.

ANSWER: The project extends the study corridor further Ewa (west) than prior planning efforts. Inclusion of Kapolei in the area of detailed analysis will allow more potential for transit-oriented development in less developed areas. The technology comparison will be updated, and a different technology may be selected than previously (the Honolulu Rapid Transit Project proposed a fully-automated, elevated rail technology). Because of the extension of the project into less developed areas, at-grade technologies may be more feasible in some sections.

In addition, the transportation baseline has changed based on new population and employment projections and increased development. The Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) is currently being updated, and the updated plan will be incorporated into the analysis.

The agency scoping meeting ended after this discussion.

Agency Scoping Comments and Responses

After the scoping meeting, comments were received from the following agencies and utility companies:

United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration

United States Environmental Protection Agency
United States National Park Service
Hawaii Community Development Authority
State of Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services
State of Hawaii Department of Education
State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii Office of Environmental Quality Control
State of Hawaii Office of Hawaiian Affairs
University of Hawaii
Honolulu Department of Design and Construction
Honolulu Fire Department
Downtown Neighborhood Board
Hawaiian Electric Company

The following is a summary of the comments from these organizations. Responses to the comments follow each comment as indented text.

United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requested ongoing coordination as the project continues to develop.

The project team will continue to coordinate with the FAA during project development.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified that a Clean Water Act Section 404 individual permit may be required for the project and provided guidance on interagency coordination. They also identified the need to evaluate air quality, invasive plant species management, environmental justice and indirect and cumulative impacts as part of the draft EIS.

These issues will be addressed in the Alternatives Analysis and draft EIS.

United States National Park Service

The National Park Service provided information that there are over 4,000 daily visitor trips to the USS Arizona Memorial. The service identified a preference for an alternative that would provide a transit stop at the memorial (makai of Kamehameha Highway), rather than at the mauka side of Kamehameha Highway.

Station locations will be evaluated in the Alternatives Analysis, and information provided by the Park Service will be considered in station analysis.

Hawaii Community Development Authority

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) commented that Alternative 4d appeared to be most consistent with the Kalaeloa Master Plan. Also, they noted that there is space within Kalaeloa for a transit maintenance facility and for park-and-ride facilities. They also expressed interest in transit oriented development along Saratoga Avenue.

The project team will engage in ongoing coordination with HCDA about the location of support facilities and transit oriented development.

State of Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services

The State of Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services noted that Alternatives 3 and 4 would likely affect properties managed by the department and requested ongoing coordination.

The project team will organize ongoing coordination with the Department of Accounting and General Services.

State of Hawaii Department of Education

The State of Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) noted that students and facilities of the DOE would be affected by the proposed project and requested that the effects be considered during project evaluation. Impacts on school lands, the safety of students that would use the system, and noise levels at schools were noted as issues of concern.

These issues will be addressed in the Alternatives Analysis and draft EIS.

State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

The State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands expressed a preference for a route following Saratoga Avenue and North-South Road in the Kapolei area. They also commented that UH West Oahu, Leeward Community College, and UH Manoa should be connected by the route.

While selection of a locally preferred alternative will not occur until after publication of the Alternatives Analysis, the above alignments and service to the listed colleges will be considered within the range of alternatives being evaluated.

State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

The State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources noted that Stream Channel Alteration Permits and other water resource approvals may be required. The draft EIS should address whether stream beds or banks would be affected. They also requested future consultation on aquatic resource concerns.

The issues of required permits and approvals will be addressed in the EIS. The project team will organize ongoing coordination with the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

State of Hawaii Office of Environmental Quality Control

The State of Hawaii Office of Environmental Control identified several items that should be included in the draft EIS, including:

- Acronyms and glossary
- Aesthetics discussion including landscaping plans
- Comparison of currently studied alignments to alignments considered by prior studies
- Evaluation of hazardous materials and remediation measures proposed, and
- A list of permits, approvals, and funding sources.

The Office of Environmental Quality Control also requested that a copy of the EISPN be sent to additional groups and requested information about overall project schedule.

The project team will address the requested topics in the draft EIS and the Alternatives Analysis as appropriate. Copies of the EISPN were sent to the requested groups. The draft EIS is expected to be issued in the spring of 2007 following selection of a locally preferred alternative (LPA). The earliest date that construction would begin is the year 2009 and the likely duration of construction has not yet been determined and will vary based on the selected alternative.

State of Hawaii Office of Hawaiian Affairs

The State of Hawaii Office of Hawaiian Affairs raised two issues based on available information, including:

- Whether archaeology and historic studies will be completed
- Protection of kooloaula plant.

These issues will be addressed in the Alternatives Analysis and draft EIS.

University of Hawaii

The University of Hawaii emphasized the importance of compatibility of the proposed transit system to their planned West Oahu campus. After coordination with other major land owners in the Kapolei area, they identified the alignment presented in Alternative 4d as their preferred alignment in the Kapolei area.

The project team will be evaluating Alternative 4d as part of the Alternatives Analysis process.

Honolulu Department of Design and Construction

The Department of Design and Construction requested coordination on project planning with several other city projects.

The project team will organize ongoing coordination with the Department of Design and Construction.

Honolulu Fire Department

The Honolulu Fire Department provided three references related to fire, life, and safety issues for guidance in developing the alternatives. The three references provided are:

“Road and Hydrants for Private Developments,”

A Letter from Attilio K. Leonardi, Fire Chief, Fire Department of the City and County of Honolulu. “Subject: Traffic Calming Program and Roadway Beautification Projects,” and

“NFPA 130, Standard for Fixed Guideway Transit and Passenger Rail Systems, 2003 Edition.”

The project team will review and consider the guidance documents during the alternatives analysis and project development process.

Downtown Neighborhood Board Number 13

Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 requested consulted party status on the EISPN.

The Downtown Neighborhood Board will be assigned consulted party status.

Hawaiian Electric Company

Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (HECO) provided a letter stating that HECO may have planned or existing public utility facilities along proposed alignments for the fixed-guideway alternatives. If relocation is necessary, Public Utilities Commission approval may be required and HECO will seek reimbursement for relocation costs.

The project team will coordinate with HECO during project development. It is likely that utility relocations would be required under all of the alternatives being studied except the No-Build Alternative.

United States Army Corps of Engineers (letter dated February 13, 2006)

The Corps of Engineers identified that a Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permit and a Clean Water Act Section 404 individual permit may be required for the project and provided guidance on further interagency coordination.

These issues will be addressed in the Alternatives Analysis and draft EIS.

Consulted Party Status under HRS Chapter 343

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 and the implementing regulations contained in Title 11, Chapter 200 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) require that agencies, citizen groups, and concerned individuals be consulted for input. Interested parties may request consulted party status, to receive ongoing project information and coordination. Several agencies and entities requested consulted party status under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343. The parties requesting and being granted consulted party status are shown in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2. Parties with Consulted Party Status

Party
Downtown Neighborhood Board Number 13
The Outdoor Circle

Summary of Public Comments

During the scoping and EISPN comment period, 528 comment submissions were received via mail, website, telephone, and the scoping meetings. Correspondence requesting to be placed on the mailing list is not included in this report. Comments that focus on a preference for a particular alternative are included in the appendices to this report, but are neither summarized nor considered, as the technical information required to select an alternative has not yet been developed. Likewise, comments on taxation do not relate to the technical analysis nor to the comparison of transit alternatives and are neither summarized nor considered in this report, but have been included in the appendices.

Comments that relate to process, presentation materials, and website design have been included in the appendices, as well as reviewed and considered, but are not summarized or responded to in this report. Comments regarding transportation issues not related to planning and development of a high-capacity transit system, such as comments on existing traffic signal or bus operations, were forwarded to the appropriate agency, but are not summarized or responded to in this report.

The majority of comments received related to a preference for one of the alternatives or a proposed modification to one of the alternatives. Several questions were asked about cost, schedule, and project phasing. Cost, schedule and project phasing information will be developed during the Alternatives Analysis process and will be provided when it becomes available.

Substantive Comments on Purpose and Need, Alternatives, and Scope of Analysis

Comments Related to Purpose and Need

Several comments suggested that the study corridor should be expanded beyond the current study corridor (extending from Kapolei to the University of Hawaii at Manoa). Areas proposed to be included within the study corridor were:

- Waianae Coast
- Central Oahu
- The Primary Urban Core Koko Head of Kapahulu Avenue, including Kaimuki and part of Kahala
- East Oahu, including Hawaii Kai and part of Kahala, and
- The entire island.

The study corridor was developed after evaluating long-range population and employment projections for Oahu and considering available funding. By 2030, 69 percent of the population and approximately 80 percent of the employment on the Island of Oahu is projected to be located within the study-area corridor. The study corridor was selected to provide the greatest transportation benefit for the funds that are anticipated to be available; however, improvements will not be limited to the corridor. Island-wide improvements to the bus system will be proposed to better utilize the features of each alternative, whether TSM, managed lanes, or a fixed-guideway transit system. Future expansion of the system would be possible if other funding sources are identified.

Additional comments suggested that the purpose of the project should be expanded to address traffic congestion.

A transit system is only a portion of the entire transportation system. While the transit system will reduce the number of drivers on congested roadways within the corridor, the corridor is expected to continue experiencing growth in travel demand. The transportation corridor between Kapolei and the University of Hawaii at Manoa will continue to experience substantial traffic congestion; however, congestion in the corridor is expected to decrease somewhat after the system opens, and grow at a reduced rate after that time because of automobile trips diverted to transit. The purpose of the project has been modified to reflect that a high-capacity transit system would reduce congestion compared to the No-Build Alternative, but can not be expected to reduce congestion to the extent that automobile traffic would flow freely in the corridor at all times.

Comments were received that the purpose and need statement should be expanded to address mobility for commercial goods and services and for private automobiles.

The Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project is evaluating one aspect of island-wide transportation needs in coordination with the Oahu MPO, which is responsible for integrated transportation planning. The Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project analysis is meant to evaluate project alternatives that may be constructed within the authorization of Act 247, enacted by the Hawaii state legislature in 2005. The act prohibits the construction of a non-transit project with the authorized excise-tax surcharge. Projects with the purpose of providing roadway mobility for automobiles and commercial vehicles are outside of the authorization of Act 247; therefore, they will not be added to the purpose of the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. Any projects relating to commercial or private automobile mobility included in the Oahu 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (when it is adopted by the Oahu MPO) will be included in all alternatives evaluated in the Alternatives Analysis process.

Other comments on purpose and need stated that the project had to consider both existing development and future planned development.

As described above, the study corridor was defined to include the densest portions of Oahu. Consistency with local long-range plans, which include consideration of both existing land-use and future planned development, is integral with the need for the project.

Comments Related to Alternatives

The majority of substantive public comments related specifically to the proposed alternatives. Several comments suggested alternatives such as additional freeway lanes, conversion of existing arterial lanes to contra-flow, construction of bike lanes in place of transit, construction of a roadway for automatically guided automobiles, and construction of new freeways.

These alternatives are outside the project's purpose of providing a high-capacity transit system and are not being considered in the Alternatives Analysis process.

Several other comments suggested policy changes related to requiring driver education, limiting car ownership, changing development patterns through tax incentives, restricting parking, mandating carpools, and limiting the number of people who may move to Oahu.

Some of these proposals could be considered social policies, which are not generally within the jurisdiction of the City and County of Honolulu, and other policies mentioned are outside the purpose of providing a high-capacity transit system.

Several comments suggested either near-term or long-term improvements to the existing bus and paratransit system.

Recommendations for near-term improvements have been passed on to TheBus staff, while suggestions for longer-term improvements are being considered while defining the TSM Alternative.

No alternative alignments were proposed related to Alternative 3 except for general comments that the system should be more widespread and applied to existing freeway lanes. Comments were received that elevated bus-only lanes should be constructed, instead of a shared HOV and HOT lane configuration.

The number of buses anticipated to be required is less than the available capacity of the facility, therefore, high-occupancy (HOV) or toll-paying (HOT) vehicles could be allowed to use the excess capacity available under Alternative 3 without degrading bus travel times.

Other comments suggested that Alternative 3 should be evaluated as a reversible two-lane system rather than providing one lane in each direction of travel. One comment

suggested evaluation of a bus rapid transit system (such as being evaluated in Alternative 3) but using tour buses.

Alternative 3 will be evaluated both as a two-way and as a two-lane one-way reversible system. The use of tour buses would be an alternative technology but not substantially different from the types of buses being considered for Alternatives 2 and 3; therefore, it will not be evaluated separately.

Commenters also recommended the evaluation of fixed-guideway alignments along several routes. The following fixed-guideway routes were identified:

- Abandoned OR&L rail line
- North-South Road
- H-1 Freeway
- Farrington Highway
- Fort Weaver Road
- Kamehameha Highway
- Aolele Street
- Salt Lake Boulevard
- Pearl Harbor Crossing
- Middle Street
- Nimitz Highway
- Dillingham Boulevard
- North King Street
- Queen Street
- South King Street
- Kona Street
- Kapiolani Boulevard
- Kalakaua Avenue
- Ala Moana Boulevard between downtown and Ala Moana Center
- Kuhio Avenue
- Ala Wai Canal

Many of these proposed alignments are included in one or more of the Fixed Guideway Alternatives that were presented during the scoping process. Others were previously evaluated and rejected because they demonstrated less ridership potential, higher cost, or more difficult environmental and social issues than the selected alternatives. The only alignment that was not included in one or more of the alternatives not previously reviewed and eliminated was Ala Moana Boulevard between downtown and Ala Moana Center. It was reviewed prior to publication of the final screening report and eliminated based on the same criteria used to evaluate the other alignments.

As discussed above, suggestions for routes outside of the study corridor may be considered for a future project, but are not being considered for the current project.

Several comments and questions were asked regarding the configuration of the alternatives, and if sections proposed as part of one could be combined with sections of another alternative.

Combining sections of one alternative with another is possible – the alternatives are all being reviewed and different ways to combine the various alignments are being considered as part of the Alternatives Analysis.

Several comments pertained to profiles, specifically inquiring about the elevated, at-grade, and underground alignments for the alternatives.

All three profiles are being considered for various alignments where they are feasible and practical. The profile of the various alignments will be evaluated in further detail in the Alternatives Analysis. Issues such as groundwater, soil conditions, safety and operation of at-grade crossings, and emergency egress from elevated systems will be considered during the evaluation of each of the possible transit technologies (light rail, rapid rail, monorail, people mover, and magnetic levitation).

The following suggestions for station locations along the Fixed Guideway Alternative were included in the comments:

- Aloha Stadium
- Pearlridge
- Waialeke Shops
- Ala Moana Center
- Airport
- Kapolei
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Waikiki
- Kakaako
- Downtown
- University of Hawaii West Oahu future campus
- Ewa
- Leeward Community College
- Intersection of Salt Lake Boulevard with Arizona Road
- Waipahu
- Kalihi
- Aiea
- Aloha Tower
- HECO Downtown Power Plant (convert site to a station)
- Pearl Harbor/Hickam

- USS Arizona Memorial
- Hawaii Convention Center
- Ala Wai Golf Course

Each location suggested will be reviewed as the station locations are determined for each of the fixed-guideway alignments. The station locations being evaluated in the Alternatives Analysis will be presented in the *Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project Alternatives Analysis Definition of Alternatives Report*.

Several comments were made regarding fixed-guideway technologies; in particular a request was made to reconsider personal rapid transit (PRT).

PRT was previously eliminated because it has limited speed and ridership capacity. It will not be included in the Alternatives Analysis. Fixed-guideway technologies that will be evaluated in the Alternatives Analysis include: light rail, rapid rail, people mover monorail, and magnetic levitation.

Speed and noise were two issues identified related to technology alternatives.

Speed and noise issues will be considered in the evaluation of the alternatives. Vehicle operating speeds will be presented in the definition of alternatives section, while differences in noise generated by the various technologies will be presented in the noise section of the Environmental Effects chapter of the Alternatives Analysis.

Several comments related to the operation of a specific alternative and how it would connect and interface with other modes of transportation. Park-and-ride lots, bus feeder service, and bicycle amenities were all identified as important to consider during the alternative development process. Other operational comments related to the transit fare system, hours and frequency of service, integration with TheBus, whether or not there should be operators on the vehicles, consideration of long-term maintenance, transit oriented development around stations, and amenities at stations for senior and disabled riders.

The project team will consider these issues as the alternatives are refined for analysis during the AA process.

Comments Related to Scope of Analysis

A wide range of issues were identified for consideration in the analysis. No comments were received identifying previously unknown resources or hazards located along the proposed alignments of any of the alternatives.

Aesthetics and views were widely mentioned. Other concerns were raised about construction impacts, noise impacts, displacements, economic impacts, community connectivity, energy consumption and conservation options, emergency services and

public safety, service to elderly and disadvantaged populations, natural hazards, and impacts to parks and recreational facilities. Questions were also raised about compatible land use development, and any ordinances or regulations requiring changes or modifications to accommodate the implementation of a high-capacity transit project. Interface with pedestrian and bicycle facilities was also identified as a topic of interest.

The identified topics of concern will all be evaluated in the Alternatives Analysis. The evaluation of each alternative for the range of environmental topics identified will be presented in individual sections within an Environmental Effects chapter in the Alternatives Analysis. For example, differences between noise impacts that would occur as a result of the Managed Lanes Alternative or the Fixed Guideway Alternative will be presented in the Noise Section of the Environmental Effects chapter. Where needed, additional analysis will be provided in the draft EIS for the Locally Preferred Alternative.

One question was raised about whether the project would institute mitigation measures beyond those required by legal environmental regulations.

The project intends to minimize negative environmental effects where practical, but does not intend to undertake environmental improvement activities that are not related to the implementation of the proposed project.

The goals of the scoping process were to establish the purpose of and the needs for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, identify the alternatives that should be evaluated for the project, and determine the scope of the analysis that will be conducted to support the Alternatives Analysis and draft EIS.

A preliminary purpose and need, list of alternatives, and list of topics to be evaluated were presented to the public and other interested parties. The comments received from members of the public and consulted agencies resulted in several changes to the proposed purpose and need and alternatives being evaluated. A statement was added to the discussion of the purpose of the project that the project, in conjunction with other Oahu Regional Transportation Plan improvements, would moderate anticipated traffic congestion in the corridor. A second option was added to the Managed Lanes Alternative that would include operating the managed lanes as a two-lane reversible facility.

Several elements of the Fixed Guideway Alternative were reviewed. An alignment along Ala Moana Boulevard was evaluated and eliminated because it would be longer, further from the downtown core, and have greater potential visual impacts than other alignments evaluated. The presentation of the Fixed Guideway Alternative was changed to allow for a simpler combination of various alignment options in different portions of the study corridor. Also, an elevated alignment along Halekauwila Street was added to the range of alternatives being considered in the Alternatives Analysis because Halekauwila Street is wider than Queen Street in many areas and the alignment would draw similar numbers of riders as the Queen Street Alignment that is under consideration.

Comments on station locations for the Fixed Guideway Alternative were reviewed. A set of proposed station locations for each alignment was developed considering the input and several other criteria, such as available space, local land use, and spacing between stations.

The final alternatives selected for evaluation in the Alternatives Analysis, including station locations, are documented in the *Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project Alternatives Analysis Definition of Alternatives Report*.

Comments received on the scope of the environmental analysis included concerns about such topics as: noise, environmental justice, visual impacts, wetlands, natural hazards, energy, and displacements. The Alternatives Analysis and draft EIS will evaluate the effects of each alternative under consideration at the time that the document is being prepared on each of the elements of the environment discussed in Chapter 5 of this report. The analysis will follow applicable U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines. Appropriate mitigation measures will be noted in the Alternatives Analysis and evaluated during preparation of the draft EIS.

Appendix A Agency Scoping Comments

List of Comment Authors

United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration
United States Environmental Protection Agency
United States National Park Service
Hawaii Community Development Authority
State of Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services
State of Hawaii Department of Education
State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii Office of Environmental Quality Control
State of Hawaii Office of Hawaiian Affairs
University of Hawaii
Honolulu Department of Design and Construction
Downtown Neighborhood Board
Honolulu Fire Department
Hawaiian Electric Company

Comments received after closure of scoping period from agencies with
Regulatory Authority:
United States Army Corps of Engineers

TP1109-135406



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

Western-Pacific Region
Real Estate and Utilities Section, AHNL-54B

P. O. Box 50109
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850-5000

January 5, 2006

Mr. Kenneth Hamayasu, Project
Manager
Department of Transportation
Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

JAN 9 2 30 PM '06

TRANS PLANNING
EIS

Dear Mr. Hamayasu:

Your letter of December 7, 2005, invited us to participate in a resource agency scoping meeting for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project.

As more specific plans and alternatives are developed, we ask that you continue to coordinate with us to determine any impacts that may affect aviation and the supporting infrastructure involved.

We appreciate this opportunity to cooperate with you on this project and look forward to its success. If there are any questions, I may also be contacted at 541-1236 or by email at darice.b.young@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

Darice B. N. Young
Realty Contracting Officer



U. S. EPA/OFA

002

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

January 9, 2006

Ms. Donna Turchie
Federal Transit Administration
Region IX
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Scoping Comments for High-Capacity Transit Improvements in the
Southern Corridor, Honolulu, HI

Dear Ms. Turchie:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Register Notice published on December 7, 2005, requesting comments on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) decision to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for High-Capacity Transit Improvements in the Southern Corridor in Honolulu, Hawaii. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

This project may require a Clean Water Act Section 404 individual permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. If impacts to waters of the United States require an individual permit, EPA recommends initiation of the "Memorandum of Understanding for the NEPA/Clean Water Act Section 404 Integration Process for Surface Transportation Projects in the State of Hawaii" (NEPA/404 MOU). This project will benefit from early and continued interagency coordination among resource agencies by ensuring that the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines are followed (40 CFR 230). EPA's additional concerns, as described in the enclosed detailed comments, focus on impacts to air quality, invasive species management, environmental justice, and indirect and cumulative impacts.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the preparation of the DEIS, and look forward to continued participation in this process as more information becomes available. When the Alternatives Analysis and DEIS are released for public review, please send two copies

to the address above (mail code CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3988, or Connell Dunning, the lead reviewer for this project. Connell can be reached at 415-947-4161 or dunning.connell@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Duane James, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosure: EPA's Detailed Scoping Comments

CC: Nelson Sagum, Hawaii Department of Transportation
Abraham Wong, Federal Highway Administration, Hawaii Division
Alfred A. Tanaka, County and City of Honolulu Department of
Transportation Services
Ryan Smith, Oahu Invasive Species Committee

EPA SCOPING COMMENTS FOR THE HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SOUTHERN CORRIDOR, HONOLULU, HAWAII, JANUARY 9, 2006

Interagency Coordination

Should this project require a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 individual permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends coordination with ACOE and EPA through the "Memorandum of Understanding for the National Environmental Policy Act/Clean Water Act Section 404 Integration Process for Surface Transportation Projects in the State of Hawaii" (NEPA/404 MOU). In addition, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) should coordinate with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) to ensure that alternatives considered can be integrated with existing and future road improvements in the transit corridor.

Water Resources

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) should disclose the approximate area of waters of the United States that occur within the study area of the proposed project, including permanent and intermittent streams and wetlands. The CWA Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Guidelines) at 40 CFR Part 230.10(a) state that "... no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, so long as the alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences." FTA and DTS will have to demonstrate that potential impacts to waters of the United States have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable prior to obtaining a CWA Section 404 permit (40 CFR 230.10(a) and 230.10(d)). We urge FTA and DTS, in planning alternative designs for the project, to incorporate the following recommendations into the DEIS:

- Demonstrate that all potential impacts to waters of the United States have been avoided and minimized. If these resources cannot be avoided, the project-level analyses should clearly demonstrate how cost, logistical, or technological constraints preclude avoidance and minimization of impacts.
- Quantify the benefits from measures and modifications designed to avoid and minimize impacts to water resources for each alternative studied; for example, number of stream crossings avoided, acres of waters of the United States avoided, etc.
- Identify all protected resources with special designations and all special aquatic sites¹ and waters within state, local, and federal protected lands. Additional steps should be taken to avoid and minimize impacts to these areas.

¹ Special aquatic sites are defined at 40 CFR 230.40 – 230.45 and include wetlands, mud flats, vegetated shallows, coral reefs, and riffle and pool complexes.

The DEIS should also address techniques proposed for minimizing surface water contamination due to increased runoff from additional highway surfaces. The project will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and an accompanying Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Where the proposed project will widen existing roads, the current stormwater detention basins and structures should be evaluated to determine if they will continue to be effective. If new stormwater detention facilities are needed, this provides an opportunity to work with municipal planners and vector control agencies to develop siting, design, and maintenance strategies that incorporate guidelines to minimize or eliminate mosquitoes and other vector species, in addition to stormwater control.

Air Quality

The DEIS should include a thorough analysis of impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed alternatives and should include estimates of all criteria pollutant emissions. EPA recommends including a Construction Emissions Mitigation Plan in the DEIS and adopting this plan in the Record of Decision. EPA recommends the following mitigation measures be included in the Construction Emissions Mitigation Plan in order to reduce impacts associated with vehicle emissions and other air toxics from construction-related activities:

- Establish an activity schedule designed to minimize traffic congestion around the construction site.
- Utilize EPA-registered particulate traps and other appropriate controls to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter and other pollutants at the construction site.
- Locate construction equipment and staging zones away from sensitive receptors such as children and the elderly as well as away from fresh air intakes to buildings and air conditioners.
- Use low sulfur fuel (diesel with 15 parts per million or less) if available.
- Reduce use, trips, and unnecessary idling from heavy equipment.
- Lease newer and cleaner equipment (1996 or newer).
- Periodically inspect construction sites to ensure construction equipment is properly maintained at all times.

Invasive Species

In accordance with Executive Order 13112, EPA recommends that the DEIS identify proposed methods to minimize the spread of invasive species and utilize native plant and tree species where revegetation is planned. The islands of Hawaii are particularly vulnerable to invasive species, and construction associated with the project has the potential to aid in the

establishment of invasive plants along any newly disturbed corridors. EPA recommends that FTA and DTS coordinate invasive species management with local agencies and organizations, such as the Oahu Invasive Species Committee: a voluntary partnership organized to prevent new invasive species infestations on the island of Oahu, to eradicate incipient invasive species, and to stop established invasive species from spreading on Oahu (<http://www.hear.org/oisc/>). Measures to reduce the potential for the spread of invasive species will be more effective when they are coordinated with other ongoing planning efforts. Additional resources related to Federal and State programs to address invasive species can be found at: <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 addresses Environmental Justice in minority and low income populations, and the Council on Environmental Quality has developed guidance concerning how to address Environmental Justice in the environmental review process (<http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ej/justice.pdf>). The Federal Register Notice published for this project (December 7, 2005) states that numerous lower-income and minority workers live in the corridor outside the urban core and commute to work in the primary urban center. Community involvement activities supporting the project should include opportunities for incorporating public input into the facility area design and location process, especially from any members of the community who may benefit or be adversely affected by proposed project. The DEIS should identify whether the proposed alternatives may disproportionately and adversely affect low income or minority populations in the surrounding area and should provide appropriate mitigation measures for any adverse impacts.

Indirect Impacts

EPA is concerned about the potential indirect impacts (40 CFR Part 1508(b)) of this project. The DEIS should discuss how the proposed project may affect the location and pattern of residential, commercial, and industrial development. The DEIS should also identify modifications to the transportation system that may provide new access to residential areas and open space and should discuss the potential for new access points to affect future development and land use changes. The DEIS should also address the feasibility, extent, and expected duration of potential mitigation measures.

Cumulative Impacts

The DEIS should provide a thorough analysis of the cumulative impacts of the proposed project. Cumulative impacts analyses examine "the impact of the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions" (40 CFR Part 1508.7). The DEIS should identify cumulative impacts study areas relative to the resources of concern and should identify a baseline from which impacts are measured. The analysis should disclose the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable impacts on resources of concern from transportation and non-transportation activities and should analyze the rate of loss and magnitude (relative importance) of impacts to resources.

7P 1/06 136243



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pacific West Region
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607-4807

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A8817(PWR-C)

JAN 09 2006

JAN 13 1 48 PM '06
DTS
TRANS PLANNING

Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd floor
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
www.honolulutransit.org/get_involved

Dear Sir:

This comment concerns the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project and its impact on the safe arrival and departure of visitors to the USS Arizona Memorial, a unit of the National Park System. The USS Arizona Memorial receives 1.5 million visitors annually who arrive at the Visitor Center by public transit or private car.

The National Park Service understands the project is studying how to improve the ability of people to move in the highly congested east-west corridor between Kapolei and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. We also understand that over 60 percent of Oahu's population lives with the area served in this corridor and that the population is projected to grow.

Several of the alternatives do not consider a High Capacity Transit stop at the USS Arizona Memorial, instead proposing a single stop for the stadium across King Kamehameha Highway from the Memorial. The National Park Service opposes this concept because it encourages some of the 4,000 daily visitors to attempt the dangerous walk across this busy dual road into the Visitor Center rather than wait for the shuttle. Further, it will discourage or confuse our visitors about taking public transit, including bus service, increasing the number of cars attempting to make the dangerous left hand turn into the Memorial.

We believe these safety concerns point to the reason why the public and the Corridor Project will benefit from a transit stop for the USS Arizona Memorial, the most popular tourist destination on Oahu.

Thank you for providing this comment period. We remain interested in this project.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to the above website.

Sincerely,

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Regional Director, Pacific West Region





HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKAOKO
KALAELOA

Linda Lingle
Governor

James S. Kometani
Chairperson

Daniel Dinell
Executive Director

677 Ala Moana Boulevard
Suite 1001
Honolulu, Hawaii
96813

Telephone
(808) 587-2870

Facsimile
(808) 587-8150

E-Mail
contact@hcdaweb.org

Web site
www.hcdaweb.org

TP 406-136343

Ref. No.: PL TRANS 7.18

January 12, 2006

Mr. Kenneth Hamayasu
City and County of Honolulu
Department of Transportation Services
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Hamayasu:

Re: The Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") Preparation Notice

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIS Preparation Notice. The Hawaii Community Development Authority ("HCDA") is the redevelopment agency for the Kakaoko and Kalaeloa Community Development Districts as authorized under Chapter 206E, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Our comments specifically pertain to the portions of the various fixed-guideway alignments that impact the Kalaeloa and Kakaoko districts. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

Kakaoko. The EIS Preparation Notice indicates that the Draft EIS will assess impacts of the alternative alignments with respect to social, environmental and financial resources. However, in addition, please include detailed information on the various alignments through Kakaoko, including sections of the tunnels, the system's transition into an above-grade alignment as well as the above-grade alignment through the district. We are especially concerned with the project's impact on properties and infrastructure along the proposed alignment. Please identify any required relocation and/or land acquisitions along the alignment route.

The proposed action may require HCDA's Development Permit approval for any construction-related activities along the alignment route within the Kakaoko District.

Kalaeloa. We find that Alternative 4d will better serve future residents and business in the area for the following reasons:

- Alternative 4d is more centrally located within the Kapolei/Kalaeloa district and will serve a greater number of people who live and work in Kalaeloa.

JAN 17 9 16 AM '06
DTS
TRANS PLANNING

Mr. Kenneth Hamayasu

Page Two

January 12, 2006

- Alternative 4d most closely resembles the transit alignment proposed in the Kalaeloa Master Plan ("Master Plan"). The Master Plan incorporates transit oriented development ("TOD") along the realigned Saratoga Road, which is compatible with Alternative 4d. TOD would provide a new opportunity for the residents of Kapolei and Ewa to take full advantage of the transit system. Such a housing type would provide an alternative to the single family and townhouses that dominate Ewa today.
- There is ample land in Kalaeloa to accommodate a park and ride type facility for commuters from Ewa. Residents from Ewa and Ocean Pointe could enter and egress Kalaeloa from Geiger Road and the planned extension of North South Road.
- Use of land in Kalaeloa for a transit/rail base yard was specified in our Kalaeloa Master Plan and was favorably received by the community as an opportunity to create jobs and further transit oriented development.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the subject EIS Preparation Notice and look forward to additional information on the Alternative Analysis. We are generally supportive of the proposed high-capacity transit system and anticipate that the project will enhance the livability of the Kalaeloa and Kakaako districts. Should you have any questions with regard to Kakaako, please call Teney Takahashi and with regard to Kalaeloa, Stanton Enomoto. Both can be reached at 587-2870.

Sincerely,



Daniel Dinell
Executive Director

DD/ST:ll

TP 12/05-134133

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
COMPTROLLER

KATHERINE H. THOMASON
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810

(P)1299.5

DEC 23 2005

Dec 23 3 28 PM '05
TRANSIT PLANNING
DTS

Mr. Kenneth Hamayasu
Transportation Planning Division
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Hamayasu:

Subject: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, EISPN

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. An improved transportation system would enhance peoples' quality of life, safety, and economic well being. I request that you keep us informed and work with us throughout the project's planning, design, construction and operation phases as we expect to be directly affected by most of the alternatives proposed. To cite some examples:

1. Alternative 3: Managed Lane Alternative will likely directly affect our Aloha Stadium Complex.
2. Alternative 4: Fixed-Guideway Alternative support facilities and other impacts could directly affect our facilities at Kakuhihewa (Kapolei State Office Building), Aloha Stadium, Liliha Civic Center (O. R. & L. Building and site), the State Capitol, and other State buildings, and State-owned land. Alternative 4c may cut off the main vehicular access to the Capitol via Miller Street if the proposed tunnel below Beretania Street mauka of the Capitol, is built.

The State will work with you to address any and all costs it would incur as a result of this project.

Mr. Kenneth Hamayasu
(P)1299.5
Page 2

If you have any questions, please call me at 586-0400, email me at russ.k.saito@hawaii.gov, or have your staff call Mr. Bruce Bennett of the Public Works Division at 586-0491, email bruce.e.bennett@hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,



RUSS K. SAITO
State Comptroller

c: Ms. Genevieve Salmonson, OEQC



TP1106 - 135826

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF BUSINESS SERVICES

January 10, 2006

Mr. Alfred A. Tanaka, Acting Director
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RECEIVED
16 JAN 11 P 2:43
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF BUSINESS SERVICES

Dear Mr. Tanaka:

The Department of Education (DOE) has reviewed the Scoping Information Package and the State of Hawaii Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project.

The DOE notes that there was no reference in the document to the students or facilities of the DOE. We assume that students commuting to school would also be users of a new urban transportation system in Honolulu. We note that under social and economic conditions, the Draft EIS will evaluate direct and indirect impacts of the proposed system on parks and recreation areas; historic resources; and visual and aesthetic resources. We hope that you will consider adding educational resources.

The DOE would like to see that schoolchildren could use a new transit system safely, economically and efficiently. Since they are not likely users of park and ride facilities, our concern would center on how students could safely access the transit stops and then use the system.

The DOE would like to know where the system might be relying on school lands or future school lands and the levels of noise when routes are located close to school facilities.

If you have any questions, please call me at 586-0430 or Heidi Meeker of the Facilities Development Branch at 733-4862.

Sincerely,

Duane Kashiwai, Public Works Manager
Facilities Development Branch

DK:ly

cc: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent
Clayton Fujie, Deputy Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent, OBS

tp 1/06-134350

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



MICAH A. KANE
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

BEN HENDERSON
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

KAULANA H. PARK
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

December 29, 2005

Mr. Toru Hamayasu
Transportation Planning Division
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JAN 3 9 26 AM '06
TRANS PLANNING

Dear Mr. Hamayasu:

Subject: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
East Kapolei Region
Preferred Route

Please allow this letter to express the Department of Hawaiian Home Land's (DHHL) preferred route for the high-capacity transit corridor. As a major developer in the East Kapolei region, the DHHL would prefer that the transit corridor follow the route as shown on the attached exhibit. Essentially, this would be similar to your department's Alternative 4d as it pertains to the East Kapolei area. The DHHL fully supports the University of Hawaii West Oahu campus and this route would allow the high capacity transit system to access the West Oahu Campus at its main entrance and focal point.

This route would also serve a major commercial center planned by the DHHL at the intersection of the North-South Road and the Kapolei Parkway. Because the DHHL is of the opinion that education is the key to success for its beneficiaries, it would like to see the University of Hawaii West Oahu campus, the Leeward Oahu Community College and the University of Hawaii Manoa campus connected by the high-capacity transit system. As far as the balance of the route is concerned, the DHHL withholds its comments in favor of those along the proposed routes.

Mr. Toru Hamayasu
December 29, 2005
Page 2

If you have any questions or require more information, please call me at 586-3801 or Larry Sumida at 630-7141.

Aloha and mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MICK". The letters are bold and stylized, with a thick horizontal stroke at the end of the "K".

Micah A. Kane, Chairman
Hawaiian Homes Commission

Encl.

TP 106 - 136056

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

January 10, 2006

PETER T. YOUNG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEAN NAKANO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

C&CoHTRANSPORTATION

Alfred A. Tanaka, P.E.
Acting Administrator
Department of Transportation Services
City and County Of Honolulu
650 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Tanaka:

Subject: Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the subject matter.

A copy of the document pertaining to the subject project was transmitted or made available to the following Department of Land and Natural Resources' Divisions for their review and comment:

- Division of Aquatic Resources
- Engineering Division
- Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- Commission on Water Resource Management
- Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
- Land-Oahu District Land Office
- Special Project Coordinator Oahu Branch

Enclosed please find a copy of the Division of Aquatic Resources, Commission on Water Resource Management and Oahu District Land Office response.

Based on the attached responses, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has no other comment to offer on the subject matter.

Should you have any questions, please contact Nicholas A. Vaccaro of the Land Division Support Services Branch at 587-0384.

Very truly yours,

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
Administrator

C: ODLO

LD-NAV

RECEIVED
JAN 12 2006

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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LAND DIVISION

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DEPT. OF LAND &
NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

PETER T. YOUNG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
ROBERT K. MASUDA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
DEAN RAKANO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

December 13, 2005
C&CoHTRANSIT

LD-NAV
Suspense Date: 12/28/05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: XXX Division of Aquatic Resources
XXX Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
XXX Engineering Division
XXX Commission on Water Resource Management
✓ XXX Oahu District Land Office
XXX Division of Aquatic Resources
XXX Special Projects Coordinator (ODLO)
XXX Division of Forestry and Wildlife

FROM: Russell Y. Tsuji, Administrator
Land Division

SUBJECT: Document Review (Draft)
Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice
Titled: Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor

Please review the attached document pertaining to the subject matter and submit your comments (if any) back to us on Division letterhead signed and dated by the suspense date.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicholas A. Vaccaro at 587-0384. If this office does not receive your comments by the suspense date, we will assume there are no comments.

We have no comments

Comments attached.

Signed: Cecil Santos

Date: 12/28/05

Name: Cecil Santos

Division: LAND - OAHU DISTRICT

em

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



05 DEC 29 P 3: 53

PETER T. YOUNG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEAN HAKANO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAOLOAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

December 13, 2005
C&CoHTRANSIT

LD-NAV
Suspense Date: 12/28/05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: XXX Division of Aquatic Resources
XXX Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
XXX Engineering Division
✓ XXX Commission on Water Resource Management
XXX Oahu District Land Office
XXX Division of Aquatic Resources
XXX Special Projects Coordinator (ODLO)
XXX Division of Forestry and Wildlife

FROM: Russell Y. Tsuji, Administrator
Land Division *RYT*

SUBJECT: Document Review (Draft)
Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice
Titled: Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor

Please review the attached document pertaining to the subject matter and submit your comments (if any) back to us on Division letterhead signed and dated by the suspense date.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicholas A. Vaccaro at 587-0384. If this office does not receive your comments by the suspense date, we will assume there are no comments.

() We have no comments. Comments attached.

Signed: Edwin T. Saboda

Date: DEC 23 2005

Name: Edwin T. Saboda

Division: CWRM



PETER T. YOUNG
CHAIRPERSON
MEREDITH J. CHING
JAMES A. FRAZIER
NEAL S. FUJIWARA
CHIYOME L. FUKINO, M.D.
LAWRENCE H. MIKE, M.D., J.D.
STEPHANIE A. WHALEN

DEAN A. NAKANO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
DEC 23 2005

REF:

TO: Russell Tsuji, Administrator
Land Division
FROM: Dean A. Nakano, Acting Deputy Director *DAN*
Commission on Water Resource Management
SUBJECT: EISPN Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor
FILE NO.: C&CHTRANSIT

RECEIVED
LAND DIVISION
2005 DEC 23 P 4:12
DEPT. OF LAND
NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

Thank you for the opportunity to review the subject document. The Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) is the agency responsible for administering the State Water Code (Code). Under the Code, all waters of the State are held in trust for the benefit of the citizens of the State, therefore, all water use is subject to legally protected water rights. CWRM strongly promotes the efficient use of Hawaii's water resources through conservation measures and appropriate resource management. For more information, please refer to the State Water Code, Chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapters 13-167 to 13-171. These documents are available via the Internet at <http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrm>.

Our comments related to water resources are checked off below.

- 1. We recommend coordination with the county to incorporate this project into the county's Water Use and Development Plan. Please contact the respective Planning Department and/or Department of Water Supply for further information.
- 2. We recommend coordination with the Engineering Division of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources to incorporate this project into the State Water Projects Plan.
- 3. There may be the potential for ground or surface water degradation/contamination and recommend that approvals for this project be conditioned upon a review by the State Department of Health and the developer's acceptance of any resulting requirements related to water quality.

Permits required by CWRM: Additional information and forms are available at www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrm/forms.htm.

- 4. The proposed water supply source for the project is located in a designated ground-water management area, and a Water Use Permit is required prior to use of ground water.
- 5. A Well Construction Permit(s) is (are) required before the commencement of any well construction work.
- 6. A Pump Installation Permit(s) is (are) required before ground water is developed as a source of supply for the project.
- 7. There is (are) well(s) located on or adjacent to this project. If wells are not planned to be used and will be affected by any new construction, they must be properly abandoned and sealed. A permit for well abandonment must be obtained.

DRF-LD 04/15/2005

- 8. Ground-water withdrawals from this project may affect streamflows, which may require an instream flow standard amendment.
- 9. A Stream Channel Alteration Permit(s) is (are) required before any alteration can be made to the bed and/or banks of a stream channel.
- 10. A Stream Diversion Works Permit(s) is (are) required before any stream diversion works is constructed or altered.
- 11. A Petition to Amend the Interim Instream Flow Standard is required for any new or expanded diversion(s) of surface water.
- 12. The planned source of water for this project has not been identified in this report. Therefore, we cannot determine what permits or petitions are required from our office, or whether there are potential impacts to water resources.
- 13. We recommend that the report identify feasible alternative non-potable water resources, including reclaimed wastewater.
- OTHER:

The Draft EIS should address whether bed or banks of streams would be affected by this project.

This project may require other agency approvals regarding wetlands, water quality, grading, stockpiling and floodways.

If there are any questions, please contact David Higa at 587-0249.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



AQUATIC RESOURCES:

DIRECTOR	
COMM. FISH.	
AO RES/ENV	
AO REC	
PLANNER	
STAFF SVCS	
RCU/HU	
STATISTICS	
AERC/PED AID	
EDUCATION	
SECRETARY	
OFFICE SVCS	
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2005 DEC 29 A 9:30

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

PETER T. YOUNG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCES

ROBERT K. MASUDA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEAN NAKANO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAOLOAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE FARMS

December 13, 2005
C&C/HTRANSIT

LD-NAV
Suspense Date: 12/28/05

MEMORANDUM:

- TO: XXX Division of Aquatic Resources
 XXX Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
 XXX Engineering Division
 XXX Commission on Water Resource Management
 XXX Oahu District Land Office
 XXX Division of Aquatic Resources
 XXX Special Projects Coordinator (ODLO)
 XXX Division of Forestry and Wildlife

FROM: Russell Y. Tsuji, Administrator
Land Division *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Document Review (Draft)
Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice
Titled: Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor

Please review the attached document pertaining to the subject matter and submit your comments (if any) back to us on Division letterhead signed and dated by the suspense date.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicholas A. Vaccaro at 587-0384. If this office does not receive your comments by the suspense date, we will assume there are no comments.

() We have no comments.

Comments attached.

Signed: *[Signature]*

Date: 27 Dec. 2005

Name: Don Polhemus

Division: Aquatic Resources

Suspense Date: December 28, 2005

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

MEMORANDUM

To: Dan Polhemus, Administrator DP
From: Richard Sixberry, Aquatic Biologist
Subject: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice

Comments Requested By: Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Division

Date of Request: 12/13/05 Date Received: 12/21/05

Summary of Project

Title: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Proj. By: C&C, Department of Transportation Services

Location: Various, Oahu

Brief Description:

The City & County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services will be preparing an EIS to evaluate alternatives that would provide high-capacity transit service on Oahu. The primary study area is the travel corridor between Kapolei and the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Comments:

We will review the DEIS when it is completed and comment on any significant impacts adverse to aquatic resource values at a later date. Specific impacts from some of the projects described cannot be identified at this time.

Many previous transportation proposals have been reviewed by our Division and comments have been provided. We do not expect any significant adverse effects on the aquatic environment from the future activities anticipated. However, when additional information about the projects becomes available, we would appreciate further opportunity to address any potential aquatic resources concerns.

TP, 2/05 - 13/206

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GENEVIEVE SALMONSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
SUITE 702
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 586-4185
FACSIMILE (808) 586-4186
E-mail: oeqc@health.state.hi.us

December 6, 2005

Alfred Tanaka
Department of Transportation Services
650 South King St. 3rd floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Attn: Kenneth Hayamasu

Dear Mr. Tanaka:

Subject: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice
Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

We have the following comments to offer:

Acronyms/glossary list: A list of acronyms, abbreviations and a glossary of terms would be useful for the reviewer. Please include such a list in the draft EIS.

Aesthetics: In this (or another) section of the draft EIS include a discussion of landscaping plans. Note that HRS 103D-408 requires the use of native Hawaiian flora whenever and wherever possible. For your treatment of visual impacts include photos or renderings of proposed facilities superimposed onto photos taken from existing vantage points.

Consultations: Send a copy of the EISPN to other community groups besides those listed in section 4.0, such as Hawaii's Thousand Friends, Sierra Club and the Historic Hawaii Foundation. If affected trees in the corridor are exceptional or may be relocated, consult with The Outdoor Circle. Have you received any correspondence to date about the project? If so, include copies in the EIS.

Alternative alignments:

Give a comparison of the current proposed alignments to those considered in the 2002 *Primary Corridor Final Supplemental EIS* and explain significant differences.

Is alternative 4d the only one with a Waikiki spur? The lack of a Waikiki spur in the others should be fully explained in the alternatives section in the draft EIS.

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15 DEC 6 9:40
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL
STATE OF HAWAII

Alfred Tanaka
December 6, 2005
Page 2

Hazardous Materials: In this section of the draft EIS include remediation measures.

Permits and approvals: In the draft EIS be sure to include the status of each. For those yet to be filed, list the expected date of application.

Timeframe: What are the anticipated start and end dates of this project?

Funding: In the draft EIS disclose Federal, state and county funds involved or funding percentages from these sources.

If you have any questions call Nancy Heinrich at 586-4185.

Sincerely,


GENEVIEVE SALMONSON
Director

c: Mark Sheibe, Parson Brinckerhoff
David Pendleton, Office of the Governor



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
 711 KAPI'OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

JAN 11 10 30 AM '06
 TRANS PLANNING
 DTS

HRD05/2156B

January 4, 2005

Kenneth Hamayasu
 Transportation Planning Division
 Department of Transportation Services
 City and County of Honolulu
 650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
 Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) for the Proposed Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, Various Ahupua'a, O'ahu, Various TMKs.

Dear Mr. Hamayasu,

Staff members from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) attended your December 13 scoping meeting and received a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) for the above listed proposed project. OHA offers the following comments:

- 1) As listed on page 21 of the EISPN, several of Honolulu's Historic Districts may be adversely impacted by some of the proposed alternatives. These include the Pearl Harbor Historic District, the Merchant Street Historic District, Chinatown Historic District and the Hawai'i Capitol Hill District. Our staff is interested in knowing whether an archaeologist and/or cultural historian have been contracted to consult your agency as to which alternatives will have the least impact to these, and other, areas of historical and cultural significance.
- 2) Some of the proposed alternative alignments may negatively impact specimens of ko'oloa'ula (*Abutilon menziesii*). This plant is particularly important in Native Hawaiian culture as it is known to been used medicinally. It is also worth noting that the Federal government is currently drafting a conservation plan to protect this plant; estimates made during observations have figured that only 500 individual ko'oloa'ula plants exist today in Hawai'i. Because of this, it is crucial that the specimens in Kapolei not be disturbed.

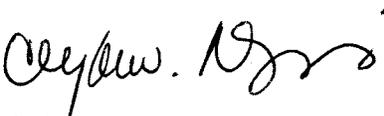
Kenneth Hamayasu
January 4, 2005
Page 2

At this time, our staff does not have enough specific information to make additional comments concerning the proposed Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. Please forward our office a copy of the upcoming Alternatives Assessment in which the above stated concerns will likely be addressed.

OHA further requests your assurances that if the project goes forward, should iwi or Native Hawaiian cultural or traditional deposits be found during ground disturbance, work will cease, and the appropriate agencies will be contacted pursuant to applicable law.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Jesse Yorck at (808) 594-0239 or jessey@oha.org.

‘O wau iho nō,



Clyde W. Nāmu‘o
Administrator



7p 1/06-134712

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII—WEST O`AHU

January 4, 2006

Mr. Toru Hamayasu
Department of Transportation Services
City & County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

JAN 4 2 02 PM '06

TRANSIT PLANNING

SUBJECT: UH WEST O`AHU - MASS TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES - PREFERRED TRANSIT ALIGNMENT (IN THE VICINITY OF THE UH WEST O`AHU PROPERTY)

Dear Toru:

Thank you for spending time with us in mid-November to discuss the proposed transit system and alignment options. As we had indicated at the meeting, the University of Hawai'i – West O`ahu (UHWO) has already incorporated provisions for a transit route and transit stop in its Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) that can service the campus. This route is based on the Ewa Sustainable Communities Plan. The UHWO strongly supports a fixed rail transit system. We recognize its value as an alternative mode of transportation for future students and residents in the rapidly growing West O`ahu region.

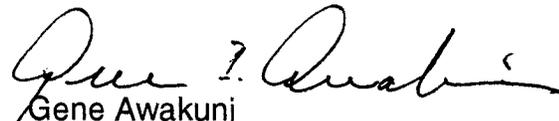
For the transit system to be most effective, we believe it is critical that the selected alignment be in close proximity to our campus and easily accessible to our students. In addition, the alignment should be compatible with our land use plan and the transportation network we will establish for the campus. We are also cognizant of the regional implications of the proposed transit corridor and have coordinated our review of the proposed transit alignment with adjacent landowners, including the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and DR Horton-Schuler Division. After review of the alternatives, our preferred alignment within the Ewa region, would be a route that runs along Farrington Highway and turns down the North-South Road to a transit stop on our property, continues along the North-South Road to a possible second stop on or near the southern portion of our property, and then into the City of Kapolei. (See attached)

Mr. Toru Hamayasu
January 4, 2006
Page 2

We would also like to mention that in selecting a preferred transit route, consideration should be given to accessibility to transit stops for each of the UH campuses within the transit corridor, including Leeward Community College, Honolulu Community College, and the University of Hawai'i - Manoa. If each of the campuses is within close proximity to a transit station, there will be greater opportunity for students and faculty to move easily between campuses using the transit system. We know from the experience of other cities that have recently established fixed rail systems such as Salt Lake City students are among the early adopters of this kind of transportation alternative and can contribute significantly to the success of the project.

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to provide written comment on this project. We look forward to continuing our coordinated efforts in incorporating the proposed transit system into our plans for the campus. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 454-4750 or Allan Ah San at 692-0918.

Sincerely,


Gene Awakuni
Chancellor

Attachment

cc: Micah Kane, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
Mike Jones, DR Horton – Shuler Division
Sam Callejo, Vice President for Administration (UHM)
Jan Yokota, Director of Capital Improvements

bc: Ramsey Pederson, Chancellor (HCC)
Peter Quiqley, Interim Chancellor (LCC)
Denise Konan, Interim Chancellor (UHM)

TP'06-135432

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11TH FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 523-4564 • FAX: (808) 523-4567
WEB SITE: www.honolulu.gov



MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR

WAYNE M. HASHIRO, P.E.
DIRECTOR

EUGENE C. LEE, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

CDA 06-135405

January 9, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALFRED TANAKA, P.E., ACTING DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

FROM: *for Eugene C. Lee*
WAYNE M. HASHIRO, P.E., DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

SUBJECT: HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT,
ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS AND DRAFT EIS – SCOPING
INFORMATION PACKAGE

JAN 9 3 32 PM '06
TRANS PLANNING
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We wish to provide comments to the Scoping Information Package dated December 5, 2005, for the subject project. Several of the fixed guideway alternative alignments reflected in the report impact corridors that major roadway rehabilitation projects are being scheduled for improvements with both City and FHWA funding. In addition, there are new roadway facilities being planned that are also along your alternative alignments.

To provide consistency with on-going planning, design, and construction efforts, we request that you and your consultants coordinate with our office regarding the following projects:

- Kapolei Parkway (Renton to N-S Road) – new roadway for which FHWA funding participation is being sought
- Salt Lake Boulevard (Maluna to Ala Lilikoi) – major roadway widening for which FHWA funding participation will be sought
- Beretania Street (Alapai Street to N. King Street) – construction contract awarded; construction anticipated to start in 2nd quarter 2006. FHWA participation obtained
- Dillingham Boulevard (Laumaka St. to Waiakamilo St.) – rehabilitation of the roadway being planned
- Kapiolani Boulevard (South to Kalakaua) – rehabilitation of the roadway is being designed utilizing FHWA funding participation

Alfred Tanaka
Page 2
January 9, 2006

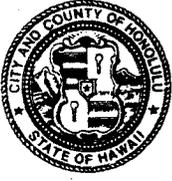
- Kapiolani Boulevard (Waialae Avenue to University Avenue) – rehabilitation of the roadway is being planned
- Farrington Highway (Fort Weaver Road to N-S Road) – major roadway widening planned

The above represents the major roadway projects along the fixed guideway alternative alignment. There may be other facilities that may also be impacted by the fixed guideway alternative alignments.

If there are any questions, please contact Marvin Char at 527-6381.

MC:pto

c: Department of Facility Maintenance
Department of Planning and Permitting



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • CITY HALL, ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 4, 2006

Mr. Kenneth Hamayasu
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 S. Kō Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HRS 343 FEA-EISPN)

Dear Mr. Hamayasu:

This is to advise you, pursuant to the notice in the OEQC bulletin dated December 8, 2005, that the Downtown Neighborhood Board wishes to be a consulted party in the FEA and EISPN.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynne Matusow".

Lynne Matusow, Chair





December 13, 2005

Kenneth Hamayasu
Project Manager
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Hamayasu:

Thank you for inviting Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) to participate in the scoping process for the subject project.

Based on the scoping package dated December 7, 2005, addressed to Ken Morikami, it appears that HECO may have existing and planned facilities along or near the alignments of the Fixed-Guideway Alternative. Therefore, the Alternatives Analysis (AA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should consider the impacts if any, to HECO's facilities. Please note that if relocation of HECO's facilities is requested, then Public Utilities Commission approval may be required and HECO will seek reimbursement for costs associated with such relocation. In addition, the EIS should consider electrical load and infrastructure requirements to operate a fixed-guideway transit system.

We look forward to reviewing the AA and EIS when available for comment. If you have any questions, please call Rouen Liu at 543-7245.

Sincerely,

Kerstan J. Wong
Director, Project Management Division
Engineering Department

cc: K. Morikami
P. Nakagawa/C. Chang
R. Shiroma/D. K. Lau
R. Liu

E. Che
B. Lane
R. Tanonaka
D. Fukuda/K. Tomita

WINNER OF THE EDISON AWARD
FOR DISTINGUISHED INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, HONOLULU
FT. SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5440

TP 406-141221

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

February 13, 2006

Regulatory Branch

File No. POH-2005-667

Kenneth Hamayasu, Project Manager
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Hamayasu:

This office has reviewed the Scoping Information Package/Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice you submitted December 7, 2005 for the above-referenced project. The documents you submitted describe four alternatives for providing high-capacity transit service in the heavy travel corridor between Kapolei and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, including the fixed-guideway alternative with four specific fixed-guideway alignments.

The Regulatory Branch reviews projects in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) of 1899. For your information, under Section 10 of the RHA, a Department of the Army (DA) permit must be obtained for certain structures and/or work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 403). Section 404 of the CWA requires a DA permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The subsequent Alternatives Analysis (AA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should provide information that indicates whether waters of the United States, as represented by tidal waters, wetlands, springs, and streams, are in, or adjacent to, the proposed project areas. The document(s) should state in appropriate sections whether there is a potential for waters of the U.S., including the above waterbodies and other special aquatic sites, to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by construction of project structures and associated ground disturbing activities within the proposed improvement area.

Upon our receipt of the above-referenced documents, it may then be determined whether a Department of Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 CWA and/or Section 10 of the RHA may, or may not be, required for the proposed project.

In order to minimize delays in our response, please direct any future inquiries regarding DA jurisdiction within the City and County of Honolulu to Mr. George Young, Regulatory Branch Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, CEPOH-EC-R, Building 230, Ft. Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440.

Thank you for your cooperation with our regulatory program. Please contact Ms. Connie Ramsey of my staff at 438-2039, or by facsimile 438-4060, or by e-mail Connie.L.Ramsey@usace.army.mil if you have any questions or need additional information. Please refer to the file number above in any future correspondence with us.

Sincerely,



George P. Young, P.E.
Chief, Regulatory Branch

FEB 15 1 23 PM '06
DTS
TRANS PLANNING

Appendix B Scoping Comments Received via Mail

List of Comment Authors

Peter Bloom	Amy Kimura
Booze Allen Hamilton	Cassie Lee
Charles Carole	Larry Lee
Robert Chang	Wendy Lee
Charley's Taxi	Life of the Land
DR Horton	Steve Madson
E Noa Corporation	Helen McCune
Estate of James Campbell	Marilyn Michaels
Susan Estores	Daisy Murai
Darci Evans	Ruth Nakasone
Charles Ferrell	The Outdoor Circle
Senator Carol Fukunaga	Mitsuru Takahashi
Wayne Gau	Mark Takai
Richard Hanaoka	A. Talat
Hawaii Highway Users Alliance	Paul Tyskinski
Honolulutraffic.com	Ronald Verga
Janet Inamine	Tami Witt
Kapolei Property Development LLC	Alvey Wright
Walter Kelley	



Peter M. Bloom
4918 Waa Street
Honolulu, HI 96821-1446

12/12/05

Mayor Mufi Hannemann
Honolulu Hale 530 S. King St.
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

RE: High Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Please accept my comments in your evaluation for alternatives to improve public transportation in the subject high-density corridor as well as throughout greater Honolulu.

My wife and I moved to Honolulu 2 years ago. I have been riding the bus as my main form of transportation since our arrival. When we arrived we decided not to buy a car because we did not want to contribute to traffic congestion, the consumption of non-renewable resources, or the generation of pollution. We heard Honolulu had a good public bus system, which made our initial decision not to buy a car easier.

Unfortunately, we soon learned that Honolulu's bus system was not that good and, in fact, was seriously lacking in the elements required to provide consistent and pleasant alternative transportation. We live in the Aina Haina area and my wife works in Waikiki. She get off work at 10:00 p.m. and at that time of night there are no direct busses to take her home. We decided that having her wait alone at night for a bus and then again for a transfer was not a viable option. Not only is it unsafe for a young lady to walk at night several blocks to a bus stop or to be waiting alone at night for a bus which is often late, but the amount of time it took for her to get home via the alternative route and transfers (normally a 15 minute drive) was ridiculous (an hour or more). After the first year of frustration and disappointment with riding the bus we reluctantly purchased a car—contributing yet one more vehicle to Honolulu's nightmare gridlock. My wife drives the car for reasons stated above. I continue to ride the bus along with riding my bike.

Over the past two years I have found the bus to be consistently inconsistent. It is not uncommon for me to wait 45 minutes for a bus that is supposed to arrive every 20 minutes. Sometimes the wait is over an hour. When the bus does arrive, it is often so crowded that I'm forced to stand next to the bus driver in the door well (yes I know its not legal, but that's how crowded the bus is and at the end of the day people just want to get home!). The same crowded conditions often exist in the morning on my way to work too. Sometimes the crowd in the aisles is so thick, it's difficult to get off the bus!

Please consider the following recommendation for improving the bus to make it more attractive for people to leave their cars at home. I would gladly pay an extra \$10 to \$20 on my monthly bus pass to help fund these suggestions:

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MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY & COUNTY
HONOLULU

- 1) **On the main corridors increase bus service to every 15 minutes. Customers should not have to wait more than 15 minutes for a bus.**
- 2) **Increase, not decrease, bus service on the weekends.**
- 3) **Increase late night bus service (until at least 12:00 a.m.) to your customers.**
- 4) **Provide overhead storage for small bags, groceries, etc.**
- 5) **Provide rain/sun shelter at every public bus stop.**
- 6) **Provide a listing of bus schedules and routes at each public bus stop.**
- 7) **Train drivers to be more courteous and less aggressive while driving. By the time I get home I often feel like I have whiplash and motion sickness from the poor driving habits of some pretty grumpy bus drivers. (Many drivers are very courteous and friendly, and I appreciate them greatly!)**

These are just a few suggestions to implement as an incentive for more people to ride the bus and leave their cars at home. If you want to encourage people drive less and use more public transportation, you have to create incentives for them to do so and disincentives for them not to. Currently, traffic is a huge disincentive not to drive. But there is another, better disincentive I would encourage you to consider--the price of fuel. I recommend placing a tax on each gallon of gas sold to help subsidize improvements in public transportation. According to many analysts the true cost of a gallon of gasoline is in excess of \$16, when you factor in all the hidden costs (pollution, environmental destruction, public health, war, etc.) and remove the multitudes of federal subsidies for its extraction and production. If people want to drive irresponsibly, create pollution, traffic, and contribute to all the social and environmental ills associated with the automobile, then they should have to pay the true costs for it. Give them a choice between excellent public transportation or road rage, high fuel costs, pollution and gridlock. I choose the alternative.

Please also consider improving conditions for bicyclists. Riding a bicycle on Honolulu's streets is a terrifying experience! Please install bike lanes/paths and encourage the enforcement of traffic violations that endanger pedestrians and bicyclists. Also please initiate a driver's public safety campaign on the rights of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Thank you for your efforts and consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter Bloom
4918 Waa St.,
Honolulu HI 96821

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2005 7:24 PM
To: Turchie, Donna (TRO-09)
Subject: Honolulu Transit Study

Hello Donna,

I was reading about the Honolulu transit study and noticed that PRT was considered and eliminated for capacity and speed. Booz Allen is currently conducting a viability study of PRT for the State of New Jersey. Our findings reveal that PRT could provide comparable speed and capacity for many urban settings such as many elements of the Honolulu study at considerable cost savings to the technologies being considered in the study.

Could you share the projected demand numbers for the Honolulu study and the rationale for the elimination of PRT? I would like to calibrate our findings. I would also suggest that perhaps the capacity and average speed numbers used in the Honolulu study need to be calibrated with current technology capabilities. PRT is definitely an emerging technology but may be an excellent part of the solution for Honolulu given the right application.

I would be glad to share our results with you if you are interested and I receive clearance from NJ DOT. They are still preliminary findings.

With Best Regards,

Paul Hoffman
Booz Allen Hamilton
703-377-0496

1/10/2006

AR00016681

Tp 1/06-135449
1/07/06

Charles H. Carole
1310 Heulu St., Apt. 1002
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 531-2503
chcarole@hotmail.com

SCOPE OF ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

My choice for the proposed alternative of the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project is combination of No Built Alternative, Transportation System Management and Managed Lanes Alternative for Oahu. Their various components will have to be coordinated and some might have to be eliminated, but that is what your analysis should do. Your analysis shouldn't treat these alternatives separate but combine them for their total impact on congestion giving mode split results, daily transit ridership, daily vehicle miles traveled, daily vehicle hours traveled, average auto travel time to downtown.

Another important question in your scope of analysis, you only consider traveling to downtown in the morning and leaving downtown in the afternoon. Consider the reverse flow of traffic from residential areas to Pearl City, Waipahu, Ewa, Wahiawa, Pearl Harbor-Aiea area, Airport area, Kahala to Hawaii Kai area and finally Kaneohe-Kailua area. These areas will become satellite business centers by the year 2030 with the right government and private incentives. The satellite centers would create a different traffic patterns from the existing traffic flow towards downtown.

In fact, I would like to see our highways provide access not only commuters and cargo, but also data and other inter-office communication through fiber optics transmission lines in the right of ways of highways. Utah State is doing this in portion of their highway, partially federally funded. By 2030, it won't be necessary to have all the workers in the downtown office instead they will be working at home or satellite office. Even the main office could be at a satellite center. Fifteen years ago, we didn't have inter-net and other communications means. What would we have in another 15 years?

As your consultants pointed out rail will not eliminate congestion, but will provide another alternative travel means for commuters. I am against the rail alternative for the following reasons,

The 2030 population projection didn't take in the following considerations that might reduce population figure.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: According to a New York Times article(11/07/05, Pgs A1 & A18) that San Francisco had more people leaving than arriving between 2001 and 2004 because of soaring home prices. Honolulu is in the same category as San Francisco for raising home prices and having less affordable housing. The 2030 population projection didn't take into account the effect of higher medium home prices on the population growth for Honolulu. Rents are going up following home prices. Rental owners are selling their units which will cause the new owners to raise the old rents to pay for the new cost of the units purchase prices.

TAXES: Honolulu ranks in the highest category for State and City taxes in the country. These taxes will continue to go up providing incentives for people to leave and discentives for people to come to Hawaii.

COST OF LIVING: The effect of the raising cost of living is not reflected in the population projection which will hinder population growth.

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Page 2--Continuation of C.H. Carole Comments

The cost of the complete rail system including the stations and parking areas will be much higher than \$2.6 Billion that the draft 2030 Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) has estimated. The ORTP consultant used a 2.7% inflation factor which is much lower than 3.3% Honolulu 2004 Cost of Living. Since the Social Security 2006 inflation adjustment is 4.1%, the Honolulu 2005 cost of living is at least that or more. Also, the cost of construction materials and labor has been increasing more than the cost of living figure for the past few years. This will require more than 1/2% increase in the excise tax and an increased fees and other taxes.

With rail, the ORTP consultants are only projecting a shift down for car commuting from 86% to 81% and a raise in transit commuting from 8% to 13%. In the past, these kinds of projections have been optimistic because of changes in social and economic circumstances.

If alternative analysis proposes a rail scheme, then the proposal should include Waikiki, airport and University of Hawaii connections, description of bus connections to the rail stations, the use of elevated and tunnel rail line and finally the parking capacity at designated rail stations.

78,12/05 - 131256

Dec. 5, 2005

RECEIVED
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 south King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813 43

Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

To whom it may concern;

Thank you for the information regarding helping to allviate our terrible traffic problems.

I do not belive any kind of train, whether it be light rail, monorail or magnetic levitation is the answer to our traffic problems. I do not feel that many will ride these vehicles more than once just to say that they tried it. People in Honolulu rely on their automobiles to get around.

The best answer to this is the bus in managed lanes alternativ-construction of a two-lane gade-separated guideway bwrween Waipahu and Downtown Honolulu for use by buses. The lanes would be managed to maintain free flow speeds for buses, while allowing high occupancy vehicles and variable pricing for toll -paying single -occupant vehicles. We do have an efficient bus system in most places. Lightly used routes do not need busses as vans will work in places like St. Louis Heights, Maunalani Heights, etc. where busses are usually empty or have few customers. Improving the existing system and toll roads are the most viable answer.

Has anyone taken a poll to see how many people will leave their cars at home and ride the train to work every day. Simply take a poll of the transportatin department employees and you should have an idea.

I also think Honolulu should not continue to discourage small businesses by imposing another .5% tax on this. Why aren't the developers who are making all the money with their developments paying for better infrastructure? This and tolls should pay for these improvements.

I hope the DOT does not waste any more money with the studies that have been done everytime we have a new administration. Didn't a City Council make trips all over to do the studies being done now? Please seriously consider this plan as if you build a train an nobody rides it we will still have to maintain it. If we build alternative roads that require a toll, people will always use them.

Sincerely,



Robert Chang
758-16th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

January 9, 2006

Department of Transportation Services
City & County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Attention: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Re Comments on Scoping process, purposes, goals

The city's Alternatives Analysis selection process will determine whether we win or lose the war against traffic congestion. The people and businesses of Honolulu deserve to win.

We question the direction, worthiness and integrity of the AA scoping process thus far. The effort requires reexamination of fundamental purposes, criteria and priorities and closer public scrutiny affecting the input and output.

Having the purpose be "to provide an alternative to private automobile travel" ¹ evidences a defeatist attitude, the mantra that the only way out of traffic congestion is to ride a train. Focus on rail, a presently non-existing mode, instead of the infrastructure, is disturbing.

And then, what?

The December 5th scoping meeting gave us an empty, uneasy feeling. If rail is a done deal, we must put the question that Admiral Yamamoto replied to his superiors when instructed to bomb Pearl Harbor: "And then, what?"

Considering the Rail project's magnitude — the biggest and costliest public works project in the history of Hawaii — Hawaii's taxpayers are entitled to be provided with a fair and balanced comparison of the alternatives to clearly justify the undertaking and investment.

- There are real opportunities for traffic congestion relief, ways to achieve faster, reliable travel times for transit and other motorists, and innovative financing sources to lessen burden on taxpayers, and avoid massive subsidies for O&M costs. To do so, we need to improve the quality and carrying capacity of our transportation infrastructure and utilize traffic management strategies. Adding a HOTway alternative is one good step.
- Accommodate multi-mode and intermodal needs to move people, to deliver services and distribute goods, materials and equipment efficiently, safely, at reasonable costs.
- Support public safety and security services to be able to respond immediately in case of emergencies, disasters and national defense.

¹ Project purpose, p 2-1

- Vulnerability to power outages and spiking fuel prices impacting operations and costs.

Defeatist mentality re Traffic Congestion?

The scoping process makes no promise to provide the public with a comparison of alternatives in terms of traffic congestion relief, which alternatives would reduce traffic congestion, and by how much.

Honolulu has the lowest urban road miles per capita in the U.S. ² Our highway system is antiquated, exacerbating congestion and hazardous driving conditions, contributing to avoidable accidents and fatalities. Like most of our nation's highways, H-1 was constructed over 50 years ago. The design of our highway system is outdated. Highway-operating levels must be improved from Level F to Level C. With a HOTway alternative, free flow traffic will make Level A available for a significant amount of travel in the entire corridor including West, North and Central Oahu.

The U.S. Congress in SAFETEA-LU, transportation agencies worldwide and nationally, Texas Transportation Institute and other transportation research institutes are all validating the benefits and opportunities to expand highway capacity and tolling strategy to mitigate traffic congestion.

While rail proponents claim there is no room to expand highway capacity and build alternative routes, the scoping information package offers several routes for a more costly, wholly government-financed rail system with numerous rail stations, and to add housing and retail developments. Traffic is indeed worsening through neglect and dismissal of many traffic engineering and management techniques to open up additional capacity and throughput in the urban core and through the corridor.

Costs, Liabilities, Advantages, Benefits, Performance Comparisons?

There is no attempt to show why a rail system for Honolulu is likely to succeed, given our small population and tax base. We question why taxpayers should expend billions on a "leap of faith" given rail's dismal record of overall low occupancy and high costs.

The scoping should compare the alternatives as to potentials for additional funding through private financing, not be totally dependent on taxpayer subsidies for capital and O&M costs. SAFETEA-LU officially embraces tolls as a means to defray the cost of future needed transportation improvements.

² **Table: URBANIZED AREAS - 2000, USDOT FHWA, Highway Statistics 2000**
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/hs00/hm72.htm>

Note: Honolulu ranks lowest with 1.5 miles of roads per person
Petersburg, VA ranks highest for 56.9 MRPP

To suggest that a two-lane freeway on slender columns running the same route(s) as Rail would cost as much as an electric-powered heavy Rail system with stations, trains, tracks, labor and O&M is disingenuous.

Inconsistent with Public Policy and Purpose?

We had expected some assurances as to the alternatives' consistency with transportation policy and purposes expressed in federal, state and county codes, plans, charters, policies and purposes. ³

Transportation policy fully recognizes the public's need for efficiency, safety and mobility for people and goods. The policy contemplates multi-modal, intermodal needs and uses and the development and improvement of coordinated transportation service to be provided by private enterprise to the greatest extent feasible. Federal policy mandates accommodation for people with disabilities. The U.S. Congress' appropriations bill clearly proscribes fiscal restraints and accountability in its act entitled, "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU or SAFETEA)".

What about Emergency Services?

The scoping information package overlooks the need to mitigate traffic congestion to ensure quick response in case of emergency, disaster and national security.

Elderly and Disabled, whose problem?

"What alternative(s) address the burgeoning travel needs for elderly and disabled people, the Baby Boomer generation, the first of whom this year will become physically and/or mentally disabled over the next 25 years?" (I asked this of Mark Scheibe of Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas Inc. at the scoping meeting.) He replied, "That's not my problem."

There are not sufficient plans, no comprehension of the impending explosion of special travel demands of elderly and disabled people who require automobile transport and door to door escort service from caregivers, family and friends – not in trains and busses that require walking and crossing streets. Herding them in Handivans make for long, time-wasting trips with numerous stops en route, degrading their quality of life. Elderly people are entitled to have as fast travel times, as convenient travel experiences as other transit users. Failure to address elderly and disabled peoples' need to use private automobiles is a significant flaw.

What about mobility for Families?

The scoping process furthers social-engineering tendencies to forego car use. Families are auto-dependent. Families need freedom of mobility. Family cars are vital to the family's quality of life, going to schools, jobs, doctors, lessons

³ See attached "PUBLIC POLICIES & PURPOSES"

and practices, entertainment and household chores. Moms and dads share responsibilities and tasks, necessitating more than one car per family in most cases. Families take care of elderly parents, grandparents and friends who are physically and mentally incapable of driving, sparing taxpayers the cost and effort.

Freedom of School Choice?

While traffic congestion is particularly problematic during school sessions, the phenomenon is simply an exercise of parents and students' freedom of school choice.

Road to Wealth (Jobs) is Transit?

Ch. 2 -2 re transportation equity assumes that low-income workers rely on transit for jobs. Car ownership actually increases potentials for job choices and higher earning jobs. See: "Job Seekers Need Wheels to Wealth" at http://www.cascadepolicy.org/pdf/labor/2005_1.pdf

What "other alternatives"?

The list of alternatives is missing real, practical, better and less costly alternatives to Rail. Other proposed alternatives were summarily dismissed without supportable justification. For example, the HOTway alternative (reversible 2-lane, grade separated highway for high occupancy vehicles and toll-paying motorists) is completely missing.

A Managed Lanes Alternative has been concocted to extend the Hotel Street transit mall out to West Oahu, with one lane in and one lane out, even though we don't need another empty lane headed in the opposite direction of peak traffic. The Managed Lanes Alternative is custom-designed to lose, handicapped by limiting its carrying capacity to one lane per direction, not two lanes reversible.

How much effort on other alternatives?

The scoping information package contains many references to "transit alternatives", "transit technologies", "transit alignments", "transit vehicles", "transit stations", transit facilities", "transit-dependent communities", focused on the scope of possibilities and perspective of Rail transit. Of the four alternatives, three are covered on one page (see p. 4-1), while nine pages on the Rail alternative are covered in pp 4-4 to 4-10. Clearly, the level of effort on the rail alternative greatly outweighs efforts above all other alternatives combined.

Not Highest and Best Use?

There seems to be no criteria to determine the highest and best use as to each alternative. The alternatives analysis should tell us things we need to know about the market, uses and users: what is the market share of motorists compared to transit, what is the overall occupancy (peak and non peak periods, weekdays, weekends, nights) of transit lanes compared to motorists' use of regular lanes and HOT lanes. (Except for peak periods,

Hotel Street is pretty empty most of the time compared to King Street, which is constantly full except from late evening.)

"High Capacity" vs. "Low Occupancy" Transit?

High capacity transit is misleading terminology. Transit is a poor performer; its overall occupancy or productivity is low compared to high usage highway options. Chasing rail transit's declining share of the market at huge cost to taxpayers is dubious. (TheBus' Middle Street garage is packed full of transit buses sitting idle at 2:30 pm each weekday, i.e. transit usage is narrow and limited to short peak periods.)

Is the Project Purpose slanted for Rail outcome?

We question the Project Purpose that is posed in the Scoping Information Package on page 2-1:

- Refers to "person" mobility, ignoring the mobility needs for services, and commercial distribution of goods, materials and equipment that require reliable on-time delivery to be global market competitive.
- Refers to "public transportation services" in the corridor, ignoring the greater majority of many, diverse users of our transportation infrastructure/system.
- Refers to "serving areas designated for urban growth," to simply deny the needs for already existing areas
- Refers to "alternative to private automobile travel," offering no alternative solutions for legitimate personal and business uses.
- Refers to improved mobility for travelers, dismissing goods and freight deliveries that impact, business commerce and economic stability.

The Scoping Information Package contains vague, superficial and simplistic purposes, assumptions and goals to clearly favor Rail.

- "Other Alternatives" should be included in the forms intended by their proponents. Having proponents' input as to the intended features, routes, cost, design is advisable.
- Each alternative should be presented in the best form practicable, not doctored so as to be dismissed for being unfeasible or too costly.
- The information backing such decisions must be open and available to the general public, which apparently is not the case as the city refuses to furnish information requested for ridership and costs.
- The criteria for judging the values, advantages, total costs, and time schedule to install each of the alternatives should also include consideration of market forces.

How alternatives would be stacked up against each other should be explained.

"Smart Growth" bias?

There has been insufficient public information about smart growth policy guiding the determinant process of selecting the alternatives. (*Chapter 3 lists among the Goals and Objectives "Encourage Patterns of Smart Growth and Economic Development".*)

Most people do not know what the term "smart growth" means or its implications on transportation planning and the massive public subsidies to underwrite transportation infrastructure and affordable housing. The public is mostly unaware that OMPO's OWP incorporated smart growth policy in 2004.

Using smart growth goals and objectives prejudices the outcome to a smart growth-choice. Anti-highway, anti-motorist "Smart Growth" policies in Portland, Oregon continue driving away people and businesses as traffic congestion there is among the worst in the nation. *See attached Portland Tribune article, "Stalled freight costs big bucks" 12/21/04.*

A Monopoly for Transit Travelers?

The scoping information package, chapter 2, broadly refers to "travelers facing increasingly severe traffic congestion in study corridor", "travelers experience substantial traffic congestion and delay at most times of the day, on both weekdays and weekends" and "travelers on Oahu's roadways."

Yet, the scoping process is focused mainly on transit and transit-dependent, and public transit. We are unable to find anywhere in the scoping information package, any reference whatsoever addressing the needs of non-transit travelers, commercial activities and essential services.

No Private Sector Involvement?

Contrary to federal requirements to fully involve the private sector transportation providers,⁴ the city and its consultants have produced a work that is absent of stakeholders' input.

Deception and Suppression of Public Information, Involvement?

The general public is being misled and confused through a pattern of misinformation and suppression of information that infect the selection process.

- Rail is "The" solution to traffic congestion, takes cars off the roads (Congressman Abercrombie, Mayor Hannemann et al.)
- Traffic Sucks! Gridlock is inevitable, the only way to get out of it is to ride a train (Councilman Okino)
- There is no other alternative to Rail, we have no more space for highways, we need a rail to keep up with new developments, growing population and new jobs looming on West Oahu
- Rail will not solve traffic congestion (Okino, Garcia)
- Cars and drivers are evil, bad for environment, get rid of motorists (Smart Growth)
- We are going to have a "light" rail system, not "heavy" rail, a monorail like Seattle and Las Vegas.

⁴ Procedures and Technical Methods for Transit Project Planning (PTMTTP), Part I, p. 2-10.

"Private Sector Involvement

- HOTlanes cost as much as Rail, FTA will not fund HOTlanes anyway.
- Forget costs, we need to do it all, rail, buses, highways, everything!
- Rail is a legacy for future generations, not for today.
- All great or rich cities have trains, e.g. we need a train to make Honolulu a great and rich city.

The scoping meeting provided no opportunity for open, interactive public discourse between the city's consultants with the general public and stakeholders.

The process has been secretive, failing to provide data and justification for their conclusions (p. 3-1, 2nd paragraph):

"Others may not be included because of lack of funding or other issues. The Pearl Harbor bridge or tunnel crossing options will likely not be included because of cost, lack of funding, and operational and security concerns associated with a crossing of the harbor. A reversible toll roadway alongside H-1 may also not be included because of cost and funding concerns."

The process has not been forthright, depriving the "public's right to know." The information at the scoping meeting was already on the website honolulutransit.org, nothing new. (The city is just going through the motions.)

If our leaders really believe in the people's right to decide, they should join us to support a charter amendment allowing our voters to have the same rights as taxpayers in other places to vote on the taxes and the locally preferred alternative.

Conclusion?

The Alternatives under consideration are "rotten apples".

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Evans
Chairman and President



Charley's Taxi is a small business enterprise, woman-owned, a private transportation paratransit provider, in Honolulu since 1938. Charley's Taxi Radio Dispatch Corp. is a Hawaii corporation dba Charley's Taxi, Limousine, Vans & Shuttles

Attachments:

"Stalled freight costs big bucks", Lisa Baker, Portland Tribune, 12/21/04
"Job Seekers Need Wheels to Wealth", John A. Charles, Jr., Cascade Policy Institute, January 2005, No. 2005-1

ep 1/06-135288

D·R·HORTON PHI
Listed
NYSE
America's Builder
SCHULER DIVISION

JAN 9 9 39 AM '06
TRANS PLANNING
DPS

January 5, 2006

Mr. Toru Hamayasu
Department of Transportation Services
City & County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

**SUBJECT: EWA HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR
DR HORTON – SCHULER DIVISION**

Dear Toru,

Thank you for sharing with us your thoughts on transit as it relates to our 1,500-acre "East Kapolei" property. We appreciate your input and are hopeful that we can maintain an active and meaningful dialogue going forward. Along those lines and with the recent rail scoping meetings conducted by the City, we thought it timely to register in writing our comments on the Scoping Information Package.

As you know, we are working to closely align our community planning efforts with those of the nearby property owners in the East Kapolei region. These include UH West Oahu, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA – Kalaeloa). We have also invited over twenty community leaders representing Waipahu, Kunia, Ewa, Ewa Beach, Kapolei and Makakilo to join a "Task Force" to comment on, vet and take a stake in our community plan as it is crafted. It is our conviction that there is a unique opportunity to master plan *regionally* (rather than *individually*) to realize the overall objectives of the Ewa Development Plan, and, just as importantly, collectively contribute to and support Honolulu's high capacity transit system. In many respects, this is truly unprecedented. Also, the four developers are all working together as a group with the Department of Permitting and Planning and various other City and State agencies to coordinate plans for nearly 3,000 acres representing what could be 20,000 residences and millions of commercial square footage.

During this process, the importance of having a high capacity transit system that would directly serve UHWO has become central. In our opinion, it should not be overlooked. The new UHWO campus could be a key element of realizing the Ewa DP vision and could play a major role in shaping the urbanization of the surrounding areas to higher density levels and mixed use development patterns needed for the Second City's ultimate success. Failing to connect directly to the campus would result in the loss of an important transit ridership market in Ewa. For this and other reasons, we believe Alternative 4D will have the highest potential ridership.

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In their current raw state, the lands along Alternative 4D can be planned at appropriate densities and in the kind of transit-oriented development pattern needed to support a thriving high capacity transit system. Ridership is the principal factor that will create a return for the City on its substantial investment. Rail should be brought to districts capable of producing the greatest ridership over the long term. Please review the attached detailed comments on the scoping information package which offers for your consideration further perspective from our planning team on the purpose and needs statement, project objectives and alignment alternatives. Lastly, as incremental support for the project, we are open to discussing with you the possibilities of accommodating a base yard, maintenance or other rail facilities within our East Kapolei lands.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our written comments. Should you have any questions or want to discuss how our planning of East Kapolei can best support your planning effort, please contact myself or Bob Bruhl.

Sincerely,



Mike Jones
Division President
D.R. Horton-Schuler Homes, LLC

attachments

cc: Bob Bruhl
PBR
Jim Charlier
Tim Van Meter
Micah Kane/Larry Sumida - DHHL
Gene Awakuni - UHWO
Stanton Enomoto - HCDA

DR Horton – Schuler Division Comments - Scoping Information Package

Introduction

DR Horton – Schuler Division is in the process of planning the approximately 1,500 acres of East Kapolei that is envisioned as a “transit-ready” community in the Ewa Development Plan. As envisioned in the Ewa DP, this area is envisioned to provide up to 16,300 units with several transit oriented development areas with a mix of uses. Refer to attached Regional Plan that highlights the subject lands.

Background

The “Scoping Information Package” (December 5, 2005) document represents one step in the federal EIS/AA (environmental impact statement/alternatives analysis) process. Later steps in the process are supposed to be driven by the purpose and needs statement contained in this document. This document also identifies the technologies and alignments that will be studied in the alternatives analysis. Changes to both the purpose and needs statements and to the alternatives could be made as a result of public comment but this document probably will not be amended and republished. Rather, the changes will show up in the draft EIS.

Comments

1. We strongly support the development of a high capacity transit (HCT) connection between Kapolei and the Primary Urban Center. Development of an HCT corridor will be essential to realization of the long term public vision for Ewa (as described in the Ewa Development Plan) and is also the best strategy for improving overall mobility in this corridor.
2. Concerning the alignment alternatives, our preference is Alternative 4. We will confine our comments to the portion of the corridor between Kapolei and Waipahu.
 - a. Overall, we feel it is essential that the rail corridor connect directly with the West Oahu campus of the University of Hawaii. The new UHWO campus could be a key element of realizing the Ewa DP vision and could play a major role in shaping the urbanization of the surrounding areas. From a transportation perspective, linking the rail corridor directly to the campus offers one of the best opportunities for Honolulu to improve mobility and reduce auto-dependency in the face of inevitable increases in roadway congestion. Failing to connect directly to the campus would result in the loss of an important transit ridership market in Ewa.
 - b. The Scoping Document does not make specific reference to station locations. However, we would like to offer input at this point out of a concern that planning decisions would be made on the subject of station spacing and location without an opportunity for us to comment. We understand that station sites will be identified in the Draft EIS, and that technically we could comment then, but our comment concerns criteria for station location, not the specific locations. We feel that the Ewa portion of the rail corridor should be planned in the anticipation that this will be an urban place, not a suburban place. Accordingly, station spacing in the event that LRT is the mode of choice should be at half-mile intervals. This would maximize the transit influence on

Ewa development patterns and over the long run would maximize ridership. For any metro and monorail technology alternatives, station spacing should be even closer, perhaps at quarter-mile intervals.

c. Alternative 4a should not be carried into the analysis stage. While it would allow a connection to the UH campus, it would not serve most of the developing areas of Ewa and would require over-reliance on park and ride access to the rail system, with resulting implications for air quality. The transit-oriented development response to this corridor would be less than could be achieved in other corridors. From the narrow perspective of D. R. Horton's direct interests, this corridor would be fine in that it would serve our property.

However, from the broader community perspective, the 4a corridor is clearly less than optimal. Although 4a may seem attractive due to more direct routing and lower capital cost, it would not meet the mobility objectives.

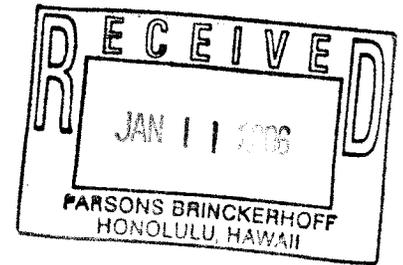
d. Alternative 4c also should not be carried into the analysis stage. This alignment would not connect to the UH campus, which we feel would be unacceptable. It also would run through a part of Ewa which is already largely developed, with the result that there would be little opportunity for a transit-oriented development (TOD) response along much of the route. Given current and future congestion in the Fort Weaver corridor, it would be difficult for Honolulu to provide good circulation and access at transit stations in that area. Because so much of this corridor would serve low-density, poorly-connected residential development, ridership would suffer significantly when compared to the other alternatives. Most of the ridership in most of this corridor would come from park and ride patronage, with little benefit to area roadways and resulting air quality impacts.

e. We believe alternatives 4b and 4d are both viable and selectable as the preferred alternative and should be carried into the analysis phase. Furthermore, we believe 4d will result in the greatest levels of ridership. Both offer significant opportunities for development response to rail transit at properly located stations and both provide good penetration into developing transit markets in Ewa. These alignments are most consistent with the Ewa DP, to which we feel the County should acknowledge a commitment. We expect these alternatives to offer the best ridership and best opportunities for access to rail transit by means other than park and ride. While these routes may be longer than 4a and the resulting capital costs somewhat higher, there is little point to capital savings if the original mobility objectives are not met. In the long run, it will be important for Honolulu to plan this system to appeal to the greatest volume of daily passengers. Finally, if the County chooses LRT as the preferred technology, both of these routes offer significant opportunities for at-grade operations, with resulting cost savings.

3. Concerning the other general alignment alternatives, we believe that Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 would all fail to meet the defined objectives, but we understand the need to include them in the analysis. The primary failing of Alternative 3 would be its inability to shape development patterns in Ewa. Without the fixed guideway investment and permanence of a rail corridor, future development in Ewa would not take the urban form that is envisioned in the Ewa DP. Instead, Ewa would continue to develop as a suburban place. Experience around North America has shown that high capacity bus systems do not induce or encourage the kind of higher density, mixed use neighborhoods that have resulted from development of new urban rail systems.

4. We suggest adding a key point to the statement of needs in the paragraph entitled "Accessibility to New Development in Ewa/Kapolei as a Way of Supporting Policy to Develop the Area as a Second Urban Center" by adding this statement: 'Also consistent with the General Plan, Ewa and Kapolei will not just absorb population, but will become employment and education centers in their own right, an outcome that will require improved access and circulation for commuters traveling in what is currently the contra-flow direction.' This transit corridor should not be thought of solely as a means of getting commuters to and from jobs in the PUC.
5. The objectives proposed in the document for use in evaluating alternatives seem appropriate, although we would like to have the opportunity to comment again, once more detailed definitions of these are available (for example, a definition of "smart growth"). We believe the analysis of alternatives should take into account the likelihood that future energy costs will be much higher than simple trend lines might suggest, given that world petroleum production is approaching or has already passed peak capacity. We also support the identification of "improving mobility" as an objective, rather than "reducing congestion," which would be unachievable in this situation.
6. We agree with elimination of PRT and commuter rail from the technology alternatives as neither is appropriate to this corridor and the stated needs. The inclusion of monorail and MagLev systems, on the other hand, seems questionable, given the cost issues with recent monorail projects (Las Vegas and Seattle) and given that MagLev systems are not only extravagantly expensive but are untested in real-world public transit operational settings.

**E Noa Corporation
Pier 31
791 North Nimitz Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817**



Phone: 593-8073 Fax: 593-8752 e-mail: dinell@hawaii.rr.com

January 7, 2006

Mayor Mufi Hannemann
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, Room 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

and

Mr. Mark Scheibe
Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas
1001 Bishop Street, Suite 3000
American Savings Bank Tower
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mayor Hannemann and Mr. Scheibe:

In submitting these comments for the record, I am speaking on behalf of the E Noa Corporation, a major private provider of transportation services to residents and visitors. I am commenting on three aspects of The Study Process: (1) The lack of time for serious consideration of the alternatives proposed in the Alternative Analysis (AA); (2) the absence of ample opportunity for the participation of private providers of transportation services in the planning process as required by federal statute; and (3) the lack of consideration of the possibility of public private partnership in providing transportation services as evidenced by the presentations and exhibits at the public scoping meeting held in December 2005.

Consideration of the Alternatives. There is one very serious error in the scheduling of the Study Process. The Alternative Analysis (AA) is to appear in October 2006. The Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) is to be selected in December 2006. There are to be some public hearings on the AA prior to the selection of the LPA. There simply is not enough time, given this schedule, for meaningful public discussion and dialogue about the proposed alternatives prior to the LPA selection. Twelve months to produce the AA and one month to discuss it is not a balanced invitation to thoughtful consideration of important proposals that are going to dramatically impact our City.

You are just unintentionally replicating the Mayor Harris BRT schedule. The AA came out. Some pro forma hearings were held. The Council adopted

the LPA. The City simply went through the required motions without fostering meaningful public discussion. There was no dialogue. There was no transparency. The leading Council member proponent of the BRT assured me at a public meeting that there would be plenty of opportunity to examine questions once the LPA was adopted, but that is not what happened.

Let's not do that again. Let's open the process so that there is meaningful discussion between officialdom and citizenry, including the various constituencies such as small businesses, visitor industry, transportation companies, educational institutions, residents, landowners, and many other stakeholders. Just offering one to three minutes of testimony at a formal hearing is NOT interactive dialogue. It is NOT productive of thoughtful analysis of alternatives. Once the LPA is adopted and the EIS process begins, there is no opportunity to return to the range of alternatives proffered in the AA.

Participation of Private Providers of Transportation Services in the Planning Process. Let me lay out the legal basis requiring the participation of private providers of transportation services in the planning of transit and similar projects.

Of the five purpose clauses set forth in 49USC §5301(f), three of them emphasize the importance of involving private transportation companies:

“(f) General Purposes.--The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to assist in developing improved mass transportation equipment, facilities, techniques, and methods with the cooperation of public and private mass transportation companies;

(2) to encourage the planning and establishment of areawide urban mass transportation systems needed for economical and desirable urban development with the cooperation of public and private mass transportation companies;

(3) to assist States and local governments and their authorities in financing areawide urban mass transportation systems that are to be operated by public or private mass transportation companies as decided by local needs.”

The section of the law relating to “private enterprise participation in metropolitan planning and transportation improvement programs and relationship to other limitations” states that: “(a) Private Enterprise Participation. - A plan or program required by section 5303, 5304, or 5305 of this title shall encourage to the maximum extent feasible the participation of private enterprise. “ [49USC §5306(a)]

3. The section of the law relating to public participation requirements states in part that: “Each recipient of a grant shall...(2) develop, in consultation with interested parties, including private transportation providers, a proposed program of projects for activities to be financed..... and (6) consider comments and views received, especially those of private transportation

providers, in preparing the final program of projects." [49USC §5307(c)(2) and (6)]

4. The General Provisions on Assistance, which state in part that: "Financial assistance provided under this chapter to a State or local governmental authority may be usedto operate mass transportation equipment or a mass transportation facility in competition with, or in addition to, transportation services provided by an existing mass transportation company, only if

- a. The Secretary of Transportation finds the assistance is essential to a program of projects required under sections 5305-5306 of this title; (and)
- b. The Secretary of Transportation finds that the program, to the maximum extent feasible, provides for the participation of the private mass transportation companies. [49USC §5323(a)(1)(A) and (B)]

5. The portion of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular C 9300.1A, Chapter VI, relating to private enterprise, states in part that:

"PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CONCERNS . The concerns of Federal transit law regarding private enterprise focus mainly on including the private sector in participating in local transit programs...and protecting private providers of transit from competition with federally assisted transit providers.

a. **Participation by Private Enterprise.** Both Federal transit law and joint FHWA/FTA planning regulations (discussed in Appendix A of the circular) impose strong requirements for private as well as public sector participation as transportation programs are developed. Plans and programs required for Federal transit assistance must encourage the participation of private enterprise to the maximum extent feasible.

Federal law recognizes the special concerns of private transportation providers that compete with public mass transit authorities. By law, existing private transportation providers are afforded certain safeguards from competition. Specifically, FTA is prohibited from providing Federal assistance to a governmental body that provides service in competition with, or supplementary to, service currently provided by a private transportation company, unless FTA finds that the local transportation program developed in the planning process provides for participation by private transportation companies to the maximum extent feasible.

Accordingly, Federal transit law and the joint FHWA/FTA planning regulations direct special attention to the concerns of private transit providers in planning and project development. Joint FHWA/FTA planning regulations specifically require that private transit providers, as well as other interested parties, be afforded an adequate opportunity to be involved in the early stages of the plan development and update process."

Mayor Harris and his administration did not follow these requirements with respect to the BRT proposal, which in turn contributed to the filing of suits against the City and County and the unprecedented revocation of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Initial Operating Segment (IOS) by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). None of us want to replicate that experience, so this time around let's provide for the meaningful participation of private transportation carriers in the planning process, as required by federal statute and FTA circulars.

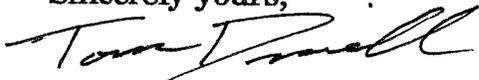
Public-Private Partnership. There was not one mention in either the presentations or the exhibits at the December 2005 public scoping sessions of the possibility of public-private partnerships as part of the solution to Honolulu's very difficult transportation problems. To totally ignore the possibility of utilizing privately-owned and managed transportation resources in devising ways of resolving current transportation dilemmas makes little sense from a public policy point of view.

Not examining the possibility of utilizing such resources as part of the solution was the course of action followed by Mayor Harris and his Administration in developing and promoting the BRT. This is an experience that does not need to be replicated this time around.

The E Noa Corporation stands ready and willing to meet with the City and/or its consultant, Parsons Brinckerhoff, at any time and any place to explore the specific public-private partnerships that will contribute to improving Honolulu's transportation situation.

In conclusion. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the months and years ahead. We know that E Noa Corporation is prepared to expand the useful and beneficial role it already plays in providing regularly scheduled transportations services to residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely yours,



Tom Dinell, FAICP
Consultant to E Noa Corporation

Cc: Mr. Katsumi Tanaka, Chair of the Board, E Noa Corporation
Ms. Maki Kuroda, President, E Noa Corporation

THE ESTATE OF JAMES CAMPBELL

December 12, 2005

Department of Transportation
ATTN: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor
City and County of Honolulu
650 S. King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

DEC 13 11 13 AM '05

TRANSPLANNING
DTS

Gentlemen:

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

The Estate of James Campbell has been a long-time supporter of mass transit to the Kapolei area. We continue that support.

Over a decade ago, the Estate committed the right-of-way for a transit alignment along Farrington Highway down the North/South Road to the Kapolei Parkway and into the City of Kapolei. We recently restated that commitment in our last Unilateral Agreement for the City of Kapolei so far as we own the land. This represents the only transit alignment where the right-of-way is already guaranteed to the city.

We hope that finally, this time, the community will see mass transit.

Sincerely,



David W. Rae
Vice President, Public Affairs

ga:01001300\K23180

7p'06-104351

December 30, 2005

City Department of Transportation Services
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
650 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

I wish to express my views on the proposed rail system. Unfortunately, I feel I may not be around to see this system completed.

I am in favor of the rail system, however, the costs associated with it, does not seem to support it. Until we have a better understanding of the specific details involved, I feel we should utilize our present public transportation system, The Bus.

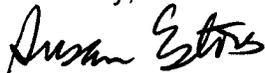
I am in favor of eliminating parking completely in the downtown area, limiting the number of cars on Oahu, using an HOV lane for buses only, during the morning and afternoon rush hour times.

The concept of having the buses feed into a transit center, then take the light rail system sounds good; however, I understand there will be no park and ride facility. That does not sound like good thinking. If you want people to use the rail, access must be provided with park and ride facilities, and accessible stops to utilize the system. What about the outer lying communities in the leeward, central and north areas of Oahu. How accessible will the rail system be to them? How available in terms of time spent waiting for The Bus, then transferring to the rail system?

I understand we cannot build underground, because of higher costs, but shouldn't we look at what we already have in place and utilize these roads?

I know my view is just a tiny portion of the overall, big picture. It has taken so many years to get this far, how many more years before it becomes a reality?

Sincerely,



Susan Estores

JAN 3 9 27 AM '06
TRANS PLANNING
OTS

TP 1/06-135431

Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 S. King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

January 6, 2006

Dear "Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project":

Power brokers in Honolulu have made up their minds: they want rail and nothing else. The whole process has been mired in untruths or part-truths.

Take a look even at the "Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement" brochure that requests comments. Although it glosses over a few other alternatives, the entire brochure is geared toward rail, with colored pictures of five different rail "alternatives".

Okay, so what happened to HOT lanes? Probably too effective, huh, so let's not even consider it, right? [The proposed "Bus in Managed Lanes Alternative" listed in same brochure is not the HOT lane that members of the community have suggested.]

This isn't about solving Honolulu's traffic problems, it's about rail.

To even submit comments seems ridiculous as when I submitted comments for BRT, the city managed to answer questions I didn't ask...and answered them poorly, even. They didn't answer a single question I did ask, or address a single concern legitimately.

But, to sum up my feelings:

Rail is bad. Costs too much. Honolulu can't afford it. Rail won't solve our traffic congestion...it will only make it worse, as it has in other cities. Rail is only good for politicians and their cronies, who benefit financially from it, while the populace pays through the nose. Rail will hurt other forms of public transportation, like TheBus, as it has in other cities, because of cut backs due to the financial money-pit that rail turns out to be.

The people have not been legitimately involved in the process. The people have not been given a vote in the matter of raising our taxes to fund rail. The people have not voted for rail.

The information has been skewed in favor of rail. Even some city council members, who voted for the general excise (GE) tax increase, did so because they said they wanted to see what the alternatives might be...they didn't vote for rail. But, this has become an "alternatives analysis" to find which rail system Honolulu

Darci Evans 680 Ala Moana Blvd Ste 303 Honolulu HI 96813

JAN 9 3 32 PM '06
DTS
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AR00016703

will choose, not a legitimate analysis to see what options are out there that might legitimately help ease traffic congestion.

Some of us who have spoken up in opposition have been personally attacked in media by the mayor's office. And some of us who have participated in OPMO have been harassed by members of OMPO in their attempt to stifle our public participation.

This alternatives analysis is a flawed process that is intended to yield one result and one result only — rail. Thus, it is not a legitimate alternatives analysis.

The City and County of Honolulu does it again.

Sincerely,



Darci Evans

Cc:

Donna Turchie
Senior Transportation Representative
Region IX
Federal Transit Administration
US Department of Transportation
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105-1839

Ron Fisher
Director, FTA Office of Planning Innovation and Analysis
Federal Transit Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Ray Sukys
Federal Transit Administration
US Department of Transportation
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105-1839

Darci Evans 680 Ala Moana Blvd Ste 303 Honolulu HI 96813

AR00016704

TP 1/06-134383

700 Richards Street, #2103
Honolulu, HI 96813-4621
31 December 2005

Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project
Department of Transportation Services
Third Floor
650 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

DTS
TRANS PLANNING
JAN 3 10 53 AM '06

RE: Proposed routes Transit Corridor Project

To Whom It May Concern:

After considering the proposed routes for the above, it is puzzling why the University of Hawaii at Manoa is to be a terminus. The university is not a major population center on this island. It is currently served by 2 bus routes, Express route A and route #6, both of which are significantly under used by people at the university. The same could be applied to the campus in Kapolei. It appears as if these proposals are solely to provide a connector between the two campuses, which no doubt will be as under used as the current buses.

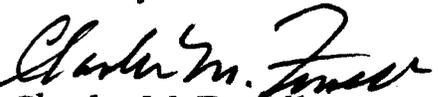
Of the 8 proposed alternatives, the one which makes the most sense in improving the movement of motor vehicles on this island is Alternative 3: Managed Lanes which would end in downtown. If this were implemented, then the same could be applied to a larger number of major routes into and out of the city, serving a larger population for a smaller cost and environmental impact.

The problem with any of the proposals involving a fixed rail system is that once in place, it is fixed. Aside from the prohibitive cost of these systems in the construction, operation and environmental impact, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to adjust the route to reflect future needs.

Additionally, almost all routes will result in a significant decrease of current lanes for motor vehicles which violates the stated objective of improving mobility in the corridor. It appears from the proposed alternatives, the only mobility being given serious consideration is by fixed rail.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely Yours,


Charles M. Ferrell

TP 106-134383

700 Richards Street, #2103
Honolulu, HI 96813-4621
31 December 2005

Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project
Department of Transportation Services
Third Floor
650 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

JAN 3 10 53 AM '06
DTS
TRANS PLANNING

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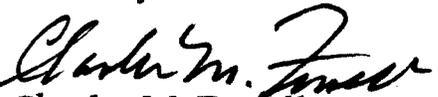
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Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely Yours,


Charles M. Ferrell

TP 106-135370

The Senate
The Twenty-Third Legislature

of the
State of Hawaii

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 9, 2006



ROBERT BUNDA
PRESIDENT
DONNA MERCADO KIM
VICE PRESIDENT
COLLEEN HANABUSA
MAJORITY LEADER
CLAYTON HEE
MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER
SHAN S. TSU TSUI
MAJORITY CAUCUS LEADER
FRED HEMMINGS
MINORITY LEADER
BOB HOGUE
MINORITY FLOOR LEADER
GORDON TRIMBLE
MINORITY POLICY LEADER

Department of Transportation Services
650 S. King Street, 3rd floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

ATTN: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project — Comments

Dear Parsons Brinckerhoff Project Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the City's Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. Based on comments from my constituents and adjoining businesses, I submit the following concerns regarding proposed urban Honolulu routes reflected in the City's Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP) maps unveiled during the December 13-14, 2005 public scoping meetings.

Briefly, my comments are directed to Sections 6-8 of the Alternative Alignment Summary for the project, particularly with respect to the analysis of alternative routes.

- **Section 6 - Iwilei to Ward Avenue:** the analysis of Alternative route 6.13 does not reflect the considerable disruption to existing small businesses within one of the last remaining urban industrial zones left in urban Honolulu if Queen Street is selected as a HHCTCP route. To what extent does the "Smart Growth & Economic Development" or "Constructability and Cost" criteria account for negative impacts on current landowners and/or businesses? What would the estimated costs of condemnation and/or relocation be if Alternative 6.13 was selected?
- **Section 6 - Iwilei to Ward Avenue:** Alternative 6.14 was dropped as an alternative route due to severe visual impact to sensitive area near Aloha Tower. However, Alternative 6.13 mirrors Alternative 6.14 on its alignment near Aloha Tower. The favoring of Alternative 6.13 over Alternative 6.14 does not make practical sense.
- **Section 7 - Ward Avenue to Halekauwila Street:** Alternative 7.11 is favored over Alternative 7.12 and 7.13 in the analysis. However, there is no discussion of the negative impacts on current landowners and/or businesses along Queen Street. What would the estimated costs of condemnation and/or relocation be if Alternative 7.11 was selected?

FIRST DISTRICT
CORRAINE D. INOUE
SECOND DISTRICT
RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
THIRD DISTRICT
PAULI WHALEN
FOURTH DISTRICT
SHAN S. TSU TSUI
FIFTH DISTRICT
ROSALYN H. BAKER
SIXTH DISTRICT
J. KALANI ENGLISH
SEVENTH DISTRICT
GARY L. HOOPER
EIGHTH DISTRICT
SAM SLOM
NINTH DISTRICT
LES HANA, JR.
TENTH DISTRICT
BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI
ELEVENTH DISTRICT
CAROL FUKUNAGA
TWELFTH DISTRICT
GORDON TRIMBLE
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT
DONNA MERCADO KIM
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT
NORMAN SAKAMOTO
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT
DAVID Y. ISE
SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT
DON MENOZ
EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT
CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA
NINETEENTH DISTRICT
SHIAN KANNO
TWENTIETH DISTRICT
WILL ESPINO
TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT
COLLEEN HANABUSA
TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT
ROBERT BUNDA
TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT
CLAYTON HEE
TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT
BOB HOGUE
TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT
FRED HEMMINGS
CHIEF CLERK
PAUL T. KAWAGUCHI

- Section 7 – Ward Avenue to Halekauwila Street: The analysis states that Alternative 7.13 would produce "severe visual impacts from an elevated structure located on the makai side of Ala Moana Center." However, the shopping center's parking structure/related facilities already block any mauka view corridors along Ala Moana Boulevard, so this analysis does not make sense. Is the HHCTCP structure expected to be higher than the retail structures on Ala Moana Center's parking lot?

Finally, the discussion of the alternative routes does not provide any meaningful review of the Bus-in-Managed Lane Alternative, which would provide leeward Oahu to downtown with a combination of managed lane facilities and enhanced bus routes, with enhanced bus operations in the urban Honolulu core between Waikiki-University of Hawaii at Manoa.

What are the anticipated costs and projected levels of service for this alternative? To what extent would existing public and/or private providers for the urban Honolulu portion of the route between downtown-University of Hawaii-Waikiki be utilized?

Sincerely,


Senator Carol Fukunaga
District 11 (Makiki/Punchbowl-Ala Moana/McCully)

Rt. Rev. Wayne W. Gau, STD
Celtic Evangelical Church
1666 St. Louis Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816-1923

TP 12/05-132588

15 Dec 05

DEC 16 11 47 AM '05

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ATTN: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit
Corridor Project
City Dept. of Transportation Services
650 S. King St., 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project Newsletter for Nov 05. Please note my new mailing address above.

The high-capacity transit corridor project should follow the fixed-guideway alternative for the North-South Road/Camp Catlin Rd./King St./Queen St./Kapiolani Blvd. alignment. The advantage of this route is that it does not necessitate the digging of a tunnel as the other three fixed-guideway alignments suggest.

The fixed-guideway system should avoid the personal rapid transit or commuter rail proposals because the former is too small and slow and the latter is geared for a long trip to one destination only with no intermediate stops. Smaller trains such as the light rail, monorail or magnetic levitation can provide multiple stops needed along the route. Exactly which automated transit vehicle is selected, be it light rail, monorail or magnetic levitation, should be determined by its minimal impact on existing roadways and their current and future vehicular traffic conditions.

The reliance on either the existing or an enhanced bus system is inadequate given the long commute riders from Kapolei must take to and from Honolulu proper.

Yours truly,



The Rt. Rev. Wayne W. Gau

TP 12/05 - 131031

RICHARD K. HANAOKA
95-123 LEWANUU PLACE
MILILANI, HI 96789

1 DECEMBER 2005

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
650 SOUTH KING STREET, 3RD FLOOR
HONOLULU, HI 96813

RE: HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY
CORRIDOR PROJECT

RECEIVED
DEC 5 4:56

DEAR SIR,

I JUST RECEIVED YOUR NOTICE ABOUT THE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER, 2005. INSTEAD OF ATTENDING THESE MEETINGS, I FELT THAT WRITTEN COMMENTS OR CONCERNS WOULD BE MORE APPLICABLE IN ORDER THAT YOUR STAFF CAN PROPERLY ADDRESS SOME OF MY CONCERNS. MAYBE YOU COULD PRESENT THESE CONCERNS DURING YOUR MEETINGS IN DECEMBER.

I NOTICED THAT THE DIAGRAMS COVERED THE SOUTH SIDE OF OAHU PRIMARILY BETWEEN KAPOLEI AND HONOLULU. I REALIZE THAT THIS HAS BEEN A MAJOR CONCERN TO THE CITY AND STATE ESPECIALLY THE TRAFFIC.

I LIVE IN THE MILILANI AREA AND JUST RECENTLY WAS INFORMED THAT APPROVAL HAS BEEN GRANTED TO DEVELOP THE AREA EAST OF THE H-2 FREEWAY. APPROVAL HAS BEEN GRANTED TO DEVELOP 2 GOLF COURSES IN THIS AREA. IN ADDITION, 12,000 TO 13,000 NEW HOMES ARE TO BE BUILT IN THIS AREA.

WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF 12,000 TO 13,000 NEW HOMES::

A. THERE WILL BE AN ADDITION OF APPROXIMATELY 25,000 VEHICLES THAT WILL REQUIRE ACCESS TO H-2 AND SUBSEQUENTLY H-1. AT PRESENT, KA UKA HIGHWAY IS THE ONLY ACCESS FROM THIS AREA TO H-2. WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX (TONY HONDA, COSCO AND OTHER BUSINESSES) THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC ESPECIALLY DURING THE MORNING HOURS IS VERY CONGESTED. THE TRAFFIC LANES ARE OVERLOADED AND WITH THE FORECASTED INCREASE, GRIDLOCK SIMILAR TO EWA BEACH/KAPOLEI IS IMMINENT.

B. THE POPULATION WITHIN THIS NEW AREA WILL INCREASE FROM ABOUT 1,000 TO APPROXIMATELY 30,000 PEOPLE (2.5 PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD). THE MAJORITY OF THESE PEOPLE WILL BE HEADING TOWARD HONOLULU AND PEARL CITY TO COMMUTE TO WORK AND SCHOOL. I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THESE PEOPLE WILL BE UTILIZING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

C. IS THERE A CONNECTION PLANNED FROM THE AREA EAST OF H-2 TO CONNECT DIRECTLY TO H-1 AND BYPASSING H-2/KA UKA HIGHWAY? OR IS THERE A "TERMINAL" PLANNED FOR PEOPLE FROM THE MILILANI AREA TO USE THE PROPOSED HIGH-CAPACITY CORRIDOR.

ALTHOUGH THE FOLLOWING IS NOT WITHIN YOUR JURISDICTION, THESE ITEMS WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON PLANNING FOR THE AREA EAST OF H-2.

A. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE WAIAU CORRECTIONAL FACILITY THAT IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA. TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT TO THE PRISON FROM THE HONOLULU AREA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN YOUR OVERALL PLANNING.

B. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE GRAVEYARD? IS IT CONTEMPLATED THAT A GRAVEYARD WILL BE SITUATED IN THE MIDDLE OF A NEWLY DEVELOPED AREA THAT WILL HAVE 2 NEW GOLF COURSES? I GUESS THIS ITEM WILL BE SHOWN ON THE OVERALL MASTER PLAN THAT THE DEVELOPER WILL PRESENT TO THE CITY.

I DECIDED TO WRITE THESE COMMENTS INSTEAD OF PRESENTING THEM DURING THE PUBLIC MEETING. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS AT THE PUBLIC MEETING. I HOPE THAT THIS LETTER WILL GIVE YOUR STAFF SUFFICIENT TIME TO COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER AGENCIES WHERE IN ADEQUATE RESPONSES CAN BE PROVIDED.

SINCERELY,



RICHARD K. HANAOKA
RETIRED CIVIL/ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
FORMER MEMBER OF THE MILILANI
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD #25

Tp 1/06-135428



January 9, 2006

Department of Transportation Services
City & County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

680 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 303
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5409
Phone: (808) 524-6424
Fax: (808) 543-6044
Email: info@hhua.org
Web: www.hhua.org

Attention: Honolulu High -Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Comments on Scoping Project's alternatives, EIS, purposes

The Hawaii Highway Users Alliance is a state conference of the American Highway Users Alliance. Since 1932, the Highway Users has served as the united voice of the transportation community promoting safe and uncongested highways and enhanced freedom of mobility.

HHUA's mission is to influence public policy and opinion for quality highways, promoting safety, congestion relief and freedom of mobility. Our mission is also to:

- Ensure a strong and efficient transportation infrastructure and distribution system for Hawaii;
- Accommodate many diverse highway uses, to afford mobility, choices and reliability
- To properly serve the needs for public safety and homeland security;
- Foster fair competition, economic stability and quality development;
- Advance the knowledge and science of transportation/distribution within government and industry;
- Actively lobby and provide education and open dialogue on important issues affecting transportation, distribution and travel-related issues.

JAN 9 3 32 PM '06

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As to the Alternatives Analysis, HHUA offers these comments and concerns:

The critical need in transportation on Oahu is to alleviate traffic congestion, to improve mobility for both people and businesses, and ensure the public safety and security.

We must raise the level of service on our roads and highways from F to C. The economic viability of business and industry and the quality of life of our residents and visitors depend on efficient and safe delivery of people and goods.

The Alternatives Analysis must address the burgeoning need for adding carrying capacity of our transportation infrastructure - to serve diverse users, not to exclude other modes for restricted use by one mode only.

The Alternatives Analysis options are based entirely on a politically motivated set that has little semblance to the transportation needs and wants of Oahu.

There is only token attention paid to adding highway capacity, in spite of the fact that Honolulu is among the most lane-deficient metropolitan areas in the U.S.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Evans", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dale Evans
Chairman, Board of Directors



HAWAII HIGHWAY USERS ALLIANCE

2005-2006

680 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 303
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5409
Phone: (808) 524-6424
Fax: (808) 543-6044
Email: info@hhua.org
Web: www.hhua.org

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President Bill Paik, VP, Business Development,
Sales & Marketing, Grace Pacific Corporation

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Engineering, University of Hawaii-Manoa.

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Al Kanno, President, Safety Systems

Bill Wilson, General Contractors Association

Steve Choo, VP, AMPCO Parking, a division of ABM Industries

Gareth Sakakida, Executive Director Hawaii Transportation Association

George Stewart, Hawaiian Cement

George West, Ameron

Robert Moore, Managing Director, Robert's Tour & Transportation

Katsumi Tanaka, CEO, E Noa Tours dba Waikiki Trolley

Reg White, VP Operations, Paradise Cruises

honolulutraffic.com

Seeking cost-effective ways to improve traffic congestion in Honolulu

January 9, 2006

Acting Director Alfred Tanaka
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 S. King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Tanaka:

Comments on the December 2005 Scoping Meetings

The Scoping Meeting conducted by Parsons Brinckerhoff and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) on December 13, 2005, provided insufficient information, both at the meeting and at the www.honolulutransit.com website, for the public to understand the cost-effectiveness of the alternatives.

While Parsons Brinckerhoff and DTS showed that the “Development of Initial Set of Alternatives” emerged from “Technical Methods” and “Evaluation Measures,”¹ they refused to disclose the quantitative data that they developed during this process thus denying full public access to key decisions.

For significant public involvement as specified by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the public must have some rudimentary understanding of the costs and benefits of each of the alternatives considered — both those accepted and those rejected.

The costs must include capital and operating costs. The benefits and disbenefits must include forecast travel time changes, patronage and traffic congestion impacts. Only with this information can the public be truly involved in the process.

In short, the ‘system planning’ process has failed to follow the FTA process, as follows:

- A. The projected capital costs, operating costs, financing, travel times, patronage and traffic congestion for the alternatives have not been available.
- B. The process has failed to define adequately the specific transportation problems let alone evaluate how each alternative addresses them.
- C. The level of effort exerted in developing the alternatives has been insufficient.
- D. The public has not been involved to the extent required by the FTA.

A. The projected cost effectiveness data have not been available to the public.

“During systems planning, the analysis of alternatives focuses on identifying fatal flaws and a preliminary analysis of cost-effectiveness ... Three types of information are particularly important for evaluating cost-effectiveness: transit patronage, capital cost, and operating and maintenance cost.” Procedures and Technical Methods for Transit Project Planning (PTMTPP). Part I, p. 2-9. (emphasis added)

“When local officials seek [FTA] approval to initiate alternatives analysis, the results of system planning studies are used by [FTA] to decide whether to participate in further detailed study of guideway alternatives in the corridor. Much of the information needed to make these decisions should be available in reports produced during the system planning phase.” PTMTPP, Part I, p. 2-12. (emphasis added)

“These definitions [of alternatives] are sufficient to address such general concerns as ranges of costs, ridership potential and financial feasibility. More basically, they provide the information necessary for decisionmakers and other stakeholders to confirm that no reasonable alternative (in terms of meeting corridor needs) is being excluded from the analysis, as well as understand the magnitude of the costs and benefits associated with the various options for improving conditions in the corridor.” [Additional Guidance on Local Initiation of Alternatives Analysis Planning Studies](#) (emphasis added)

The documentation required in the ‘systems planning’ⁱⁱ process concerning public transit patronage data, capital cost and operating and maintenance costs, as required by the FTA has been either withheld from the public or not developed at all.

During the Scoping Meeting, we asked Mr. Hamayasu for cost data for the alternatives and he told us that the City did not have any. Since cost estimates are at the bedrock of scoping decisions it seemed strange that they were not available. This was especially true since Parsons Brinckerhoff had eliminated the reversible High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes proposal on the grounds of “cost and funding concerns.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Subsequent to the Scoping Meeting, Mr. Gordon Lum, Executive Director of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) told us that the capital costs developed by their consultant were \$2.5 billion each for both the reversible HOT lanes proposal, from Waipahu to the Keehi Interchange (± 12 miles), and also the elevated heavy rail line from Kapolei to the University of Hawaii (UH) (± 25 miles).

We asked to see the working for those calculations but Mr. Lum told us that their consultants, Kaku Associates, had only given them the number; there was no backup for it. He also said OMPO subsequently conveyed these projected costs to both DTS and the Hawaii State Department of Transportation (HDOT) and both had found them reasonable.

Failing any other explanation, we have to assume that Parsons Brinckerhoff and DTS used the OMPO costs in eliminating the reversible HOT lanes from the Alternatives Analysis.

The capital costs cited by OMPO are unreasonable. These costs, on a per mile basis, amount to \$100 million per mile for the heavy rail line and \$200 million per mile for the HOT lanes.

OMPO, HDOT, DTS and Parsons Brinckerhoff, would have us believe that a simple elevated *two*-lane highway (HOT lanes is merely the operating method) put out to bid would cost twice as much as a non-bid heavy rail line with all its attendant equipment, rolling stock, trains, and massive stations each with escalators, elevators, and stairs.

The Tampa, Florida, *three*-lane elevated highway due to open shortly costs \$46 million per mile and that includes an expensive error by a contractor. The public authority responsible for it estimates they could duplicate it for \$28 million per mile.^{iv} Even allowing for Hawaii's politically induced high costs that tend to double Mainland prices, it still does not come close to the OMPO estimate of \$200 million per mile.

No travel time comparisons are available. Since travel time is a major determinant of patronage forecasts and since HOT lanes may well offer a much faster journey for both autos and buses this information should have been available.

Patronage forecasts for the various alternatives are not available. Mr. Hamayasu told us during the meeting that while OMPO had developed ridership data for the rail, they had not shared it with DTS. We find this troubling since Mr. Hamayasu is Vice-Chair of OMPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

OMPO told us that while they had developed ridership forecasts for the various alternatives they would not show us the working of the calculations. We appealed this refusal to the Hawaii Office of Information Practices and OMPO now admits that their consultant's forecasts were "intuitive" and therefore there was no working paper to show us.^v

We had asked for the working paper since the 360,000± daily rail ridership shown on their [Strategic Planning Concepts](#) chart (p. 6) for the Kapolei to University of Hawaii (UH) rail alternative would be an 80 percent increase over current ridership and a 50 percent increase in per capita ridership by 2030.

No Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that has built a rail line in modern times has experienced an increase in the percentage of commuters using public transportation in a similar 20-year period, 1980-2000.^{vi} We, therefore, find the ridership forecast preposterous failing a detailed, and credible, explanation.

The financing plan is not available.

"The system planning phase produces a considerable amount of information that will later be used in alternatives analysis. This includes ... An analysis of the region's financial capacity to provide planned improvements ... and the capacity of the existing revenue base to meet future transit financial requirements." PTMTTP, Part I, page 2-2.

"It is important that system planning consider such questions ... 'When compared with lower cost alternatives, are the added benefits of the project greater than the added costs?'" PTMTTP, Part I, page 2-5.

How can this question possibly be answered without quantifying the costs and benefits?

The financing plan needs to show the impacts of the one-half percent General Excise tax increase. Mayor Hanneman had originally asked for a full one percent when he was advocating the \$2.7 billion Kapolei to Iwilei line.^{vii} Since then his plan has extended to UH and Waikiki but the state legislature cut the tax increase in half. This would only fund a third of the heavy rail alternative; the public needs to know the correct amount of the future taxes they will face.

Traffic congestion estimates are not available. Since HOT lanes promise to move far more cars off the Oahu's highways than would a rail line, it is imperative that the city make the preliminary estimates available to the public.

Funding problems insufficiently explained. Mr. Hamayasu told us that one of the reasons the reversible HOT lanes was eliminated was because of "funding concerns" and that was because FTA had told him that they would not fund HOT lanes. We asked him if he had such an opinion in writing and he said he had not. Since FTA officials have told us that, while they would have to see the precise plans for such a HOT lanes project, if it provided priority and uncongested travel for buses, they believed they would.

In any case, the FTA does not require that funding be in place in order to analyze the alternatives. If it did, it would have to reject the rail alternatives since the half-percent increase in the State General Excise Tax does not begin to cover the capital and operating costs. In addition, the 1992 Rail Plan had no funding in place at any time during the whole process.

B. The process has failed to define adequately the specific transportation problems let alone evaluate how each alternative addresses them.

"I. 2. Systems Planning. ... sets a proper foundation for moving forward into alternatives analysis ... system planning serves as the first phase of the five-phased process for developing fixed guideway mass transit projects." PTMTTP, Part I, page 2-1.

"This analysis includes the identification of specific transportation problems in the corridor; the definition of reasonable alternative strategies to address these problems; the development of forecasts for these alternatives in terms of environmental, transportation, and financial impacts; and an evaluation of how each alternative addresses transportation problems, goals, and objectives in the corridor." PTMTTP, Part I, 1.2.

"The key principal in the identification of alternatives is that they directly address the stated transportation problem in the corridor ..." [PTMTTP, Part II. 2. p. 3.](#)

The scoping information package merely discusses "improved person-mobility" and "improved mobility for travelers facing increasingly severe traffic congestion."^{viii} This is misleading information to give to the public. It implies that the process is about reducing traffic congestion when it is clear — with some careful reading — that it is about getting people out of cars and into public transportation. However, Parsons Brinckerhoff does not tell the public that that is their explicit purpose. Neither do they tell the public that no other MSA has managed to reduce the market share of commuters using automobiles.^{ix}

If the transportation problem is defined as one of insufficient "person mobility" then one set of alternatives may be preferable, usually centered on public transportation. If on the other hand, Parsons Brinckerhoff were to define the problem as the public

understands it, “excessive traffic congestion hampering the movement of autos and goods vehicles,” then another set of alternatives will be preferred, centering around highways.

If we had a public transportation problem, we would not have had a significant decline in the per capita use of it during the past 20 years — from 96 rides per capita of population to 77 just before the strike. To make it worse this 20 percent decline occurred during a period when we increased the bus fleet by 20 percent. (State Data Books 1991 & 2004)

Conversely, during this same period, Oahu has had a 27 percent increase in registered vehicles with an increase of only a minuscule 2.2 miles of new freeways, from 86.3 to 88.5 miles — a 2.7 percent increase. (State Data Books 1991 & 2004.)

Hawaii has the fewest urban miles of highway of any state in the U.S. because highway construction has not kept pace with residential growth. No Metropolitan Statistical Area (metro area) in the U.S. has reduced traffic congestion by improving public transportation. We can only reduce it by increasing highway facilities and improving highway management and the Texas Transportation Institute concurs in that as follows:

“The difference between lane-mile increases and traffic growth compares the change in supply and demand. If roadway capacity has been added at the same rate as travel, the deficit will be zero.” [2005 Urban Mobility Report. Texas Transportation Institute.](#)

In addition, Parsons Brinckerhoff has not addressed the negative effects on our economy of the high cost of delivering goods on congested highways. They have ignored national, state and city formal transportation goals as follows:

“Advance accessible, efficient, intermodal transportation for the movement of people and goods.” Federal Transportation Policy.

“To create a transportation system which will enable people and goods to move safely, efficiently, and at reasonable cost.” City and County of Honolulu, General Plan for the City and County of Honolulu

“To provide for the safe, economic, efficient, and convenient movement of people and goods.” State of Hawaii, Hawaii State Plan

Rail transit does absolutely nothing for the movement of goods “safely, efficiently, and at reasonable cost.” Parsons Brinckerhoff has entirely overlooked that goods move by roads on Oahu, while admitting — only when asked — that building a rail line will not reduce traffic congestion.^x

This community needs a definition of the transportation problem with which everyone can agree and that is without doubt going to be ‘traffic congestion.’ Honolulu does not have a public transportation problem; it has a traffic congestion problem. This is the problem that Parsons Brinckerhoff and DTS need to address.

C. The alternatives are inadequate and the “level of effort” exerted in developing them insufficient.

“There's small choice in rotten apples.”

This line from Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* is, appropriately, the opening line in the FTA's introduction to *Evaluation of the Alternatives*.^{xi}

Each prior rail transit effort in Honolulu from the 1970s on has suffered from the same problem; the range of alternatives studied was inadequate and deliberately so. Disinterested experts have all commented on it.

"Finally, the most serious deficiency of analyses done to date is the failure to devise and evaluate meaningful alternatives to HART. The so-called "alternatives analysis" is seriously deficient and the bus alternative considered in them can only be considered as "straw men." Dr. John Kain, Chair of Harvard's Economics Department. 1978.^{xii}

"In particular, what is lacking is a serious investigation of several viable dedicated busway options." Dr. Robert Cervero, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, UC-Berkeley. 1991.^{xiii}

Many more examples are available from experts' critiques of the 1990 Alternatives Analysis both on line and at the Honolulu Municipal Library.^{xiv}

The reversible two-lane HOT lanes should be reinstated as an alternative.

Our proposal is for a two-lane reversible, elevated HOT lane highway between the H1/H2 merge near Waialeale and Pier 16 near Hilo Hatties. This kind of HOT lanes approach has also been termed Virtual Exclusive Busway (VEB) and Bus/Rapid Transit. HOT lanes projects already in place elsewhere have demonstrated the viability of such an alternative.^{xv}

During the 2002 Governor's Conference on Transitways, Mr. Mike Schneider, executive vice-president of Parsons Brinckerhoff, told the conference that the reversible tollway proposal giving buses and vanpools priority at no charge was the way the city should have planned its now defunct bus/rapid transit (BRT) program.

Interestingly, a month prior to the conference, Parsons Brinckerhoff prepared and released the state final environmental impact statement for the BRT declaring that:

“The light rail transit alternative was dropped because subsequent analyses revealed that Bus/Rapid Transit using electric-powered vehicles could accomplish virtually all of the objectives of light rail transit at substantially less cost.”^{xvi}

On the HOT lanes, buses and vanpools would have priority and travel free, other vehicles would pay a toll that would be collected electronically by way of a pre-paid smart card, as is quite commonplace on the mainland today.

As on the San Diego I-15 HOT lanes, computers would dynamically calculate the toll price every few minutes to keep the lanes full, but free flowing.

One of the more surprising outcomes of implementing HOT lanes has been that they are popular with motorists across all income groups. Even those who use them rarely, still favor them because it is an option they can use when the need warrants it.^{xvii}

A single highway lane with free-flowing non-stop traffic carries up to 2,000 vehicles per hour and with two lanes that means removing 4,000 vehicles from the existing freeway, or 25 percent of the current rush hour traffic using that corridor.



Our projection of the HOT lanes traffic of around 4,000 vehicles does not have to be calculated since we know that rush-hour highways are always fully used; it is only the toll price that that needs to be forecast.

Judging from San Diego's I-15 and Orange County's SR-91, the average cost will be about \$4.50 under normal circumstances and up to \$7.75 for special periods such as Friday evenings.^{xviii}

HOT lanes may well offer a much faster journey for buses in comparison to trains. The total trip from Mililani to UH is an example:

- Neither the rail line nor the HOT lanes will be going to Mililani, and so from Mililani to the H1/H2 merge, both rail and HOT lanes alternatives will take the same time by bus. At the H1/H2 merge, the train option would always require a transfer whereas the buses on HOT lanes may not.
- Buses on the 10-12 miles of HOT lanes traveling at 55-60 mph (SkyBuses?) to Pier 16 will take half as much time as trains on the heavy rail line.
- Pier 16 to UH is 4.2 miles and we anticipate that trains would take half as much time as buses for this much shorter distance.

However, the time savings for the buses on HOT lanes will not be offset by the time lost by the bus alternative on the shorter in-town leg. The net result of the time taken for these two journeys would be that HOT lanes would still offer a faster journey than trains and, in addition, not mar the city's residential areas with an overhead rail line.

The major advantages of HOT lanes are:

- Traffic can travel at uncongested freeway speeds of 60mph whereas rail transit can only average 22.5 mph because of stops averaging every half mile.^{xix}
- Buses on HOT lanes may travel door-to-door whereas rail nearly always requires transfers.
- HOT lanes offer both motorists and bus riders a choice of avoiding traffic congestion.
- The regular freeways will still be available and with less congestion than before since some 4,000 cars per hour will have been removed from them.
- Express buses using the HOT lanes can return on the far less congested regular freeway in the opposite direction and the HOT lane speed will enable buses to make two trips in the time it now takes to make one.

Options for the HOT lanes proposal that need further study are:

- The feasibility of a three-lane section from the H1/H2 merge to the Pearl Harbor area and then continuing on to Pier 16 as two lanes. This could service the considerable traffic that terminates at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu Airport, the Airport Industrial area, and the Mapunapuna industrial area. The three-lane version could still be of pedestal construction similar to the new Tampa, Florida, Expressway.
- The utility of extending the Ewa end of the HOT lanes further beyond the H1/H2 merge.

Most importantly, HOT lanes meet the requirements needed to maximize public transportation use explained by Dr. Melvin Webber, now Emeritus Professor of Urban Planning, UC-Berkeley in Honolulu 20 years ago,

"Commuters choose among available transport modes mostly on the basis of comparative money costs and time costs of the total commute trip, door-to-door. Other attributes, such as comfort and privacy, are trivial as compared with expenditures of dollars and minutes. Commuters charge up the time spent in waiting for and getting into a vehicle at several times the rate they apply to travel inside a moving vehicle. This means that the closer a vehicle comes to both a commuter's house and workplace, the more likely he is to use that vehicle rather than some other. It also means that the fewer the number of transfers between vehicles, the better"^{xx}

As we have detailed in this letter, the level of effort in data development so far has been insufficient to justify the elimination of the HOT lanes alternative.

“The system planning effort should recognize the difference between the foregoing of precision and the sacrifice of accuracy in the technical work, so that estimates of costs and impacts, while coarse, are at least approximate indicators of the potential merits of the alternatives. The level of effort must be designed so that additional effort would not result in the choice of a different preferred alternative.” [PTMTTPP, Part II, 2.2](#), p. 2. [emphasis added]

Parsons Brinckerhoff has substituted, in place of the reversible HOT lanes, a Managed Lanes Alternative, a two-lane elevated highway with one lane in each direction. This has been designed to fail the alternatives analysis process. As U-C Berkeley’s Professor Robert Cervero said of the 1992 choice of rail, “it is less a reflection on the work of [Parsons Brinckerhoff] and more an outcome of pressures exerted by various political and special interest groups.”^{xxi}

This Managed Lane Alternative, for which there appears to be no precedent, is a “straw man” designed to make the rail transit line look good in comparison. Professor Kain has written extensively about such tactics, “Nearly all, if not all, assessments of rail transit systems have used costly and poorly designed all-bus alternatives to make the proposed rail systems appear better than they are.”^{xxii}

Instead, we believe that the new high-tech HOT lanes have shown such promise and such public — though not political — acceptance that they may be a far preferable alternative.

D. The public has not been involved to the extent required by FTA.

“The goal of this [joint FTA/FHWA] policy statement is to aggressively support proactive public involvement at all stages of planning and project development. State departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and transportation providers are required to develop, with the public, effective involvement processes which are tailored to local conditions. The performance standards for these proactive public involvement processes include early and continuous involvement; reasonable public availability of technical and other information; collaborative input on alternatives, evaluation criteria and mitigation needs; open public meetings where matters related to Federal-aid highway and transit programs are being considered; and open access to the decision-making process prior to closure.” (emphasis added)

http://www.fta.dot.gov/grant_programs/transportation_planning/planning_environment/3854_8227_ENG_HTML.htm

“The overall objective of an area’s public involvement process is that it be proactive, provide complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement (23CFR450.212(a) and 450.316(b)(1)).” (emphasis added) http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/pub_inv/q2.htm

Clearly, as can be seen from the foregoing, our state and local agencies have hindered the public from getting access to information let alone granting “full public access to key decisions.”

Further, the agencies are abetted in their endeavors by the ‘strategic misrepresentations’ of our local and federal elected officials.

Far from “aggressively supporting proactive public involvement,” our elected officials, who are part of the process, have acted contrary to FTA policy by misleading the public about the prospects for rail transit in that:

- They continually allude to the idea that building rail transit will result in traffic congestion relief when even Parsons Brinckerhoff^{xxiii} says it will not affect traffic congestion in addition to there being no evidence from any other metro area that such is the case.^{xxiv}
- They relentlessly use the term ‘light’ rail when, in reality, they are pushing a ‘heavy’ rail line.^{xxv}
- They imply that the half-percent increase in the county General Excise Tax will be sufficient to pay for rail.^{xxvi}

The public frustration with the lack of information was evident from the coverage of the scoping meetings by our newspapers. As the head of the Outdoor Circle’s environmental committee said, “It seems to have been designed in a way to limit public interaction”^{xxvii}

The net result of Parsons Brinckerhoff and DTS’s outreach efforts is that the public believes that a rail transit line will significantly reduce traffic congestion and that it will only cost a half per cent increase in the GE tax. Neither the City nor DTS have made any effort to dispel these myths.

Summary:

The culmination of the current process will be a request by DTS to advance into alternatives analysis. FTA then “reviews this request and supporting technical documentation to determine whether system planning requirements have been met and that the threshold criteria for initiating alternatives analysis have been satisfied.” (PTMTTP, Part I, page 2-12.)

Clearly, on the four counts enumerated here, the process is grossly flawed:

- Little, if any, quantitative information has been developed, let alone given to the public.
- The transportation problem is inadequately defined and there has been no evaluation of how the alternatives address specific transportation problems.
- The alternatives are insufficient and Parsons Brinckerhoff’s decision prior to the Scoping Meeting to eliminate the reversible HOT lanes alternative was completely unjustified. They made this decision without any disclosure of the impacts of HOT lanes on traffic congestion, patronage, cost, or any other quantitative details that would allow the public to understand the decision. Nor did Parsons Brinckerhoff explain the selection criteria used in eliminating HOT lanes — let alone the weighting of the criteria in the scoring process.
- The process so far makes a mockery of “public involvement” as spelled out in FTA guidance and as defined in the preamble to Hawaii’s Uniform Information Practices Act:

[§92F-2] Purposes; rules of construction. In a democracy, the people are vested with the ultimate decision-making power. Government agencies exist to aid the people in the formation and conduct of public policy. Opening up the government processes to public

scrutiny and participation is the only viable and reasonable method of protecting the public's interest. Therefore the legislature declares that it is the policy of this State that the formation and conduct of public policy—the discussions, deliberations, decisions, and action of government agencies—shall be conducted as openly as possible.

Accordingly, we believe that Parsons Brinckerhoff, OMPO, and DTS should revisit the process leading up to the Scoping Meeting and redevelop the alternatives according to FTA rules and guidance. Only then can our community have a Scoping Meeting in which the public will be involved according to both the letter and spirit of the law.

Sincerely,

HONOLULUTRAFFIC.COM



Cliff Slater
Chair

cc: Ms. Donna Turchie, Region IX, Federal Transit Administration
Mr. Toru Hamayasu, Chief Planner, Honolulu DTS

Endnotes:

- i [Scoping Meeting](#), page 4.3.
- ii “1.2.1 Systems Planning. Systems planning refers to the continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated transportation planning process carried out by metropolitan planning organizations - in cooperation with state Departments of Transportation, local transit operators, and affected local governments - in urbanized areas throughout the country. This planning process results in the development of long range multimodal transportation plans and short term improvement programs, as well as a number of other transportation and air quality analyses.” Procedures and Technical Methods for Transit Project Planning (PTMTTP), Part I, 1.”
- iii [Scoping Information package](#). December 5, 2005. page 3-1.
- iv According to Braden Smith, CFO of Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority (813) 272-6740 the Tampa cost should have been \$28 million a mile for the three-lane elevated highway and not the \$46 million a mile it is costing. An expensive error made by wrong assumptions about the soil substrate by the designer caused the cost overrun.
- v [Letter from the Office of Information Practices to Slater and Lum](#).
- vi <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ctpp/jtw/contents.htm>
- vii <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Aug/22/In/FP508220329.html>
<http://www.co.honolulu.hi.us/nco/nb18/05/18marmin.htm>
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Oct/28/In/In03a.html>
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Mar/22/In/In20p.html>
<http://starbulletin.com/2003/10/28/news/story2.html>

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- viii http://www.honolulustransit.org/pdfs/scoping_info.pdf
- ix <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ctpp/jtw/contents.htm>
- x [Honolulu Advertiser article, December 14, 2005.](#)
- xi [PTMTPP, Part II, Sec. 9.](#)
- xii Seminar on Urban Mass Transit (transcript). Office of the Legislative Auditor, State of Hawaii. January 1978. Dr. John Kain, Chairman, Dept. of City and Regional Planning, Harvard University.
- xiii Quoted from [“An Evaluation of the Honolulu Rapid Transit Development Project's Alternative Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.” Hawaii Office of State Planning and University of Hawaii, May 1990.](#) Robert Cervero, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the Editorial Board, Journal of the American Planning Association.
- xiv [An Evaluation of the Honolulu Rapid Transit Development Project's Alternative Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Hawaii Office of State Planning and University of Hawaii, May 1990.](#)
- xv <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/slp/projects/conpric/index.htm>
- xvi [State FEIS for the Bus/Rapid Transit Program, November 2002. Prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, p. 2-4.](#)
- xvii <http://www.honolulutraffic.com/lexuslane.htm>
- xviii Orange County’s SR-91 lanes are not dynamically priced as are those of the San Diego I-15. However, the SR-91 administrators try to emulate dynamic pricing with fixed prices which allows us to examine what Hawaii prices might look like by time of day.
<http://www.91expresslanes.com/tollsschedules.asp>
- xix <http://www.honolulutraffic.com/railspeed.pdf>
- xx Dr. Melvin Webber, UC Berkeley. Address to the Governor's Conference on Videotex, Transportation and Energy Conservation. Hawaii State Dept. of Planning and Economic Development. July 1984.
- xxi “An Evaluation of the Honolulu Rapid Transit Development Project's Alternative Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.” Hawaii Office of State Planning and University of Hawaii. May 1990.
- xxii Kain, John F. “The Use of Straw Men in the Economic Evaluation of Rail Transport Projects.” American Economic Review, Vol. 82, No. 2, Papers and Proceedings of the Hundred and Fourth Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (May, 1992) , pp. 487-493.
- xxiii <http://starbulletin.com/2005/12/14/news/story02.html>
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Dec/14/ln/FP512140342.html>
- xxiv This video of Mayor Hanneman and Rep. Neil Abercrombie’s city hall “Traffic sucks!” rally held on December 5th, 2005, typifies the grossly misleading statements emanating from our elected officials.
<http://mfile.akamai.com/12891/wmv/vod.ibsys.com/2005/0707/4695365.200k.asx>
“Judging by how much traffic has worsened in just in the past few years, that's probably a conservative prediction. The only way to prevent it is to act now to address the problem. Our

quality of life is at stake. Rail transit is a key element in the solution.” Congressman Neil Abercrombie. [Honolulu Advertiser, April 17, 2005](#)

“Hannemann said the yet-to-be-determined form of transit would run from Kapolei to downtown and the University of Hawai'i-Manoa. He said the system will help all parts of the island, easing traffic overall because 'there'll be less cars on the road.'”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/May/12/ln/ln02p.html>

Mayor's Press Secretary: “Slater misrepresents just about everything Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Transportation Services Director Ed Hirata and other supporters of transit have said, from the timing of federal requirements to tax calculations, highway capacity and a rail system's potential to ease traffic congestion.”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Aug/10/op/508100321.html>

Transcript of Councilmember Barbara Marshall questioning U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii) <http://hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?696a58e3-9a81-411e-b977-2688f5595685>

“Mayor Mufi Hannemann chided Lingle at the rally and said the city needs a rail system to alleviate increasing traffic congestion. U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii, also blasted a possible veto and said that he and the rest of Hawaii have had enough of the traffic problems. He said commuters are fed up and don't need anymore "Lingle lanes" filled with traffic congestion.” <http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2005/07/04/daily18.html?t=printable>

- xxv DTS and elected officials continually refer to “light rail” despite constant criticism from us and others.
- xxvi Half per cent will pay for about one-third of the projected rail line according to our calculations. Mayor Hanneman originally asked for a full one percent at a time when he was seeking a shorter \$2.7 billion line from Kapolei to Iwilei. Now he plans extending it to UH and Waikiki and the tax increase has been reduced to a half of one percent.
- xxvii <http://starbulletin.com/2005/12/14/news/story02.html>
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Dec/14/ln/FP512140342.html>

TP 1/06-135321

717 Hausten Street #202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
January 5, 2006

Department of Transportation Services
City & County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit
Project Corridor

Dear Sirs:

Jan 9 10 52 AM '06
DTSS
TRANS PLANNING

The focus of the concerns will be of the Moiliili community and the proposed transit alignments to the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

During the C&C Dept. of Transportation Services' public meeting on December 13, 2005 at the Neal Blaisdell Center, Mr. Lawrence Spurgeon of Parsons Brinckerhoff said that, because of opposition by many communities to the previous Bus Rapid Transit's dedicated lanes, Moiliili will have an elevated transit system going mauka on University Avenue over the H-1 freeway into the quarry area of the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

My concerns are that this proposed overhead alternative would block the view plane, and the concrete bases along University Avenue would not be a positive addition to the neighborhood. Also, sounds generated by the overhead alternative would disturb the tranquility of the community.

Previously, many who did not support the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the primary urban center (PUC) opposed the dedicated lanes because traffic congestion would increase and on-street parking would be eliminated. If the City decides that the overhead alternative would not be feasible and considers dedicated lanes in Moiliili, the following addresses the concerns of the former BRT.

The BRT's dedicated lanes would have eliminated about seventy-eight (78) on-street parking on University Avenue from Kapiolani Boulevard to Sinclair Circle at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Consequently, only about 20 parking stalls would have been available on South King Street between University Avenue and the Hawaiian Humane Society. The loss of 78 on-street parking on University Avenue would have negatively impacted businesses, visitors, and residents.

Granted that parking structures could be built in Moiliili to accommodate the cars; however, vacant land is not readily available and properties may have to be condemned in order to have a facility. Furthermore, residents, especially, would be burdened with parking fees each time they park at the structure.

Instead of an elevated system or dedicated lanes, perhaps increasing the number of buses during the busy periods could be the most inexpensive remedy to accommodate the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

When I attended the university at Manoa from 1989 to 1998, I usually could find an unoccupied seat on the bus from Date Street to Metcalf Street from 9:30 a.m. to about 2 p.m., when nearby schools let out their students. Even now, buses on University Avenue have many vacant seats. From a cost benefit perspective, the ridership may not justify the expense to implement an elevated transit alignment to the university.

Attached is a copy of the historical and projected enrollment from fall 2005 to fall 2011 (1) by the Institutional Research Office at the University of Hawaii. The enrollment has increased from the 1998 fall count of 17,013 students (1) to the 2005 fall count of 20,644 (2). Also, students at the Kakaako facility and distance-learning students are included in the Manoa 2005 fall count of 20,644. The construction of West Oahu College at Kapolei could decrease the number of students at Manoa.

According to the Advertiser's December 29, 2005 article, "Residents Favor Rail, Despite Concerns," transit construction "could begin as early as 2009" (3). When the alternative from Kapolei is completed to the PUC, West Oahu College at Kapolei may have been built and expanding its campus. Many students may choose to attend the new facility, which would be closer to their residences than the university at Manoa. Most important, they would not have to cope with traffic congestion that will exacerbate as more homes are built at Ewa and Central Oahu.

If the enrollment at West Oahu College substantially increases, the enrollment at Manoa could decrease to or below the level of fall 1998 (17,013). In addition, the professors, staff, and others at Kapolei would reduce the numbers commuting to Manoa.

Like many, I believe that a rail system from Kapolei to the primary urban center is more urgent than previously because thousands of homes will be built at Ewa and Central Oahu. At the PUC, hub-and-spoke alternatives could be implemented to address the distance between rail stops so that riders could transfer easily to reach their destinations.

However, the general public may not approve the condemnation of properties to implement the transit project. Perhaps HOT lanes for cars, trucks, and buses or adding more express buses could be another alternative.

Department of Transportation Services
January 5, 2006
Page 3

Lastly, I respectfully request that the City & County of Honolulu consider the above concerns regarding the Moiliili community and the proposed transit alignments to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Instead of an elevated system or dedicated lanes, the City could consider adding buses during busy periods and using the funds for other aspects of the high-capacity transit corridor project.

Sincerely,



Janet Inamine

Cc: Ms. Donna Turchie
City Councilmembers
Councilmember Ann Kobayashi
Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senator Carol Fukunaga
Representative Scott Saiki
Representative Scott Nishimoto
Representative Kirk Caldwell

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA
FALL 2005 TO FALL 2011

Institutional Research Office

University of Hawai'i

March 2005

File Reference: Management and Planning Support Folder, Projections

Reports available online at: <http://www.hawaii.edu/iro/maps.htm>

TABLE 2
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT OF CREDIT STUDENTS, BY REGISTRATION STATUS
MIDDLE PROJECTION SERIES
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA
FALL 1998 TO FALL 2011

	HISTORICAL							PROJECTED						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Headcount 1/	17,013	17,612	17,263	17,532	18,706	19,863	20,549	20,944	21,171	21,500	21,784	21,773	21,737	21,731
Classified	16,008	16,199	15,718	16,021	17,076	18,236	19,075	19,470	19,697	20,026	20,310	20,299	20,263	20,257
Classified Undergraduates	11,500	11,458	11,151	11,485	12,242	13,069	13,693	13,988	14,113	14,337	14,514	14,502	14,465	14,458
Freshmen	1,923	1,925	2,014	2,142	2,323	2,782	3,875	3,447	3,523	3,519	3,586	3,574	3,537	3,530
Sophomores	2,037	2,019	2,030	2,155	2,257	2,947	2,822	3,627	3,320	3,380	3,379	3,379	3,379	3,379
Juniors	2,822	2,761	2,669	2,834	3,071	3,888	3,986	4,000	4,381	4,419	4,467	4,467	4,467	4,467
Seniors	4,718	4,753	4,438	4,354	4,591	3,452	3,010	2,914	2,889	3,019	3,082	3,082	3,082	3,082
Entering Classified Undergraduates	3,086	3,276	3,127	3,486	3,701	4,002	4,266	4,380	4,448	4,434	4,520	4,508	4,471	4,464
First-Time Freshmen	1,483	1,529	1,607	1,650	1,877	1,996	2,019	2,085	2,120	2,097	2,175	2,163	2,126	2,119
Direct from HI Public High Schools	924	879	826	846	976	900	892	893	930	913	932	929	904	910
Direct from HI Private High Schools	417	437	452	416	405	433	385	419	401	395	454	445	433	420
U.S. Mainland	87	136	243	286	398	544	620	651	667	667	667	667	667	667
Foreign & Possessions	29	50	52	54	64	77	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
Other First-Time Freshmen 2/	26	27	34	48	34	42	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Transfer	1,262	1,381	1,237	1,537	1,544	1,722	1,975	2,023	2,056	2,065	2,073	2,073	2,073	2,073
Freshmen	119	124	119	163	145	186	208	207	211	211	212	212	212	212
Sophomores	423	424	394	526	507	563	682	675	686	689	691	691	691	691
Juniors	547	579	528	660	675	770	866	892	906	911	915	915	915	915
Seniors	173	254	196	188	217	203	219	249	253	254	255	255	255	255
Transfer	1,262	1,381	1,237	1,537	1,544	1,722	1,975	2,023	2,056	2,065	2,073	2,073	2,073	2,073
Other UH Institutions	742	770	661	741	671	793	808	808	808	808	808	808	808	808
HI Private Institutions	76	58	47	83	102	96	118	118	126	135	143	143	143	143
U.S. Mainland Institutions	379	447	447	594	699	736	960	1,008	1,033	1,033	1,033	1,033	1,033	1,033
Foreign & Possessions	40	80	49	61	60	50	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
Other Transfers 3/	25	26	33	58	12	47	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Returning	341	366	283	299	280	284	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
Freshmen	24	30	21	17	32	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
Sophomores	64	56	60	54	55	65	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73
Juniors	75	79	69	67	62	64	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Seniors	178	201	133	161	131	128	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112

**HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT OF CREDIT STUDENTS, BY CAMPUS
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
FALL 1995 TO FALL 2005**

FALL SEMESTER	TOTAL		UH AT MĀNOA		UH AT HILO		UH WEST O'AHU		UH COMMUNITY COLLEGES															
	No.	Pct Chg	No.	Pct Chg	No.	Pct Chg	No.	Pct Chg	SUBTOTAL	HAWAII	HONOLULU	KAPI'OLANI	KAUA'I	LEEWARD	MAUI	WINDWARD								
									No.	Pct Chg	No.	Pct Chg	No.	Pct Chg	No.	Pct Chg	No.	Pct Chg						
1995	50,242	-2.8	19,801	-1.2	2,872	-3.9	716	-3.8	26,853	-3.8	2,811	-0.1	4,445	-7.9	7,329	-4.2	1,461	-3.8	6,368	-2.1	2,765	-2.2	1,674	-5.3
1996	47,379	-5.7	18,252	-7.8	2,800	-2.5	648	-9.5	25,679	-4.4	2,463	-12.4	4,090	-8.0	7,373	0.6	1,367	-6.4	6,014	-5.6	2,854	3.2	1,518	-9.3
1997	45,551	-3.9	17,365	-4.9	2,639	-5.8	648	0.0	24,899	-3.0	2,221	-9.8	3,970	-2.9	7,189	-2.5	1,283	-6.1	5,936	-1.3	2,787	-2.3	1,513	-0.3
1998	45,337	-0.5	17,013	-2.0	2,730	3.4	685	5.7	24,909	0.0	2,308	3.9	4,124	3.9	7,236	0.7	1,136	-11.5	5,765	-2.9	2,849	2.2	1,491	-1.5
1999 1/ ..	46,479	NA	17,612	NA	2,790	NA	687	0.3	25,390	NA	2,279	-1.3	4,769	NA	7,254	0.2	1,142	0.5	5,570	-3.4	2,862	0.5	1,514	1.5
2000	44,579	-4.1	17,263	-2.0	2,874	3.0	665	-3.2	23,777	-6.4	2,090	-8.3	4,487	-5.9	6,760	-6.8	1,052	-7.9	5,259	-5.6	2,678	-6.4	1,451	-4.2
2001	45,994	3.2	17,532	1.6	2,913	1.4	740	11.3	24,809	4.3	2,075	-0.7	4,653	3.7	7,081	4.7	1,185	12.6	5,562	5.8	2,699	0.8	1,554	7.1
2002 2/ ..	48,173	4.7	18,706	6.7	3,040	4.4	834	12.7	25,593	3.2	2,182	5.2	4,478	-3.8	7,041	-0.6	1,224	3.3	5,918	6.4	2,989	10.7	1,761	13.3
2003 3/ ..	50,317	4.5	19,863	6.2	3,300	8.6	810	-2.9	26,344	2.9	2,346	7.5	4,238	-5.4	7,491	6.4	1,210	-1.1	6,201	4.8	2,985	-0.1	1,873	6.4
2004	50,569	0.5	20,549	3.5	3,288	-0.4	834	3.0	25,898	-1.7	2,440	4.0	4,336	2.3	7,174	-4.2	1,117	-7.7	6,060	-2.3	2,996	0.4	1,775	-5.2
2005	50,157	-0.8	20,644	0.5	3,422	4.1	858	2.9	25,233	-2.6	2,377	-2.6	4,183	-3.5	7,289	1.6	1,059	-5.2	5,709	-5.8	2,903	-3.1	1,713	-3.5

1/ Includes continuing education credit students at UH Manoa, UH Hilo and Honolulu CC, beginning Fall 1999. Fall 1999 percentage change calculations for these campuses, and for both the UH and UHCC systems, are incomparable to prior years and are not shown.

2/ Migration to new registration system at the UH Community Colleges.

3/ Migration to new registration system at UH Mānoa, UH Hilo and UH-West O'ahu.

Note: Data include special students (concurrents, early admits and auditors) for all years shown.

SOURCE: University of Hawaii, Institutional Research Office, September 2005.

Residents favor rail, despite concerns

BY LOREN MORENO
Advertiser Staff Writer

More than half the residents who submitted written comments to the city about a proposed Honolulu mass-transit system said they support a rail project in hopes that it will alleviate gridlock on O'ahu's roadways.

But residents also expressed concerns that an elevated system would obstruct the view and that land would have to be condemned to build the rail system, and suggested that transit routes should be revised to include Honolulu International Airport and other densely populated areas of the island.

Jerry D. Greer said the rail system should run along a route that makes it as accessible to as many people as possible. "I believe it is necessary to choose a system that meets all of these requirements: safety, environmentally friendly and easily accessible," he said.

While the city is bound to consider mass transit alternatives, the solution is expected to center on a rail system.

In nearly 200 written statements released yesterday by the

SEE RAIL, B5

Rail

HAVE YOUR SAY

Residents can comment on

Made Brunner supports a fixed-rail system mainly because traffic coming from West O'ahu is so bad. "There is no alternative

All four of the proposed routes would be an elevated, fixed-guideway rail line beginning in Kapolei through

December 12, 2005

DEC 13 11 15 AM '05
DTS
TRANS PLANNING

Department of Transportation Services
ATTN: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor
City and County of Honolulu
650 S. King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Gentlemen:

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Kapolei Property Development LLC, an affiliate of the Estate of James Campbell, strongly supports mass transit to the Kapolei area. I will attend your December 14, 2005 public scoping meeting to express this support.

Over a decade ago, the Estate of James Campbell committed the right-of-way for a transit alignment along Farrington Highway down the North/South Road to the Kapolei Parkway and into the City of Kapolei. Both Kapolei Property Development and the Estate of James Campbell recently restated that commitment in our last Unilateral Agreement (Ordinance No. 04-45) for the City of Kapolei to the extent that we owned the land at that time. This represents the only transit alignment where the right-of-way is already guaranteed to the City. This is the transit alignment that we support.

Sincerely,



Dan Davidson, Vice President
Development

jlr:04004000\K10961

TP 1106-135270

January 4, 2006

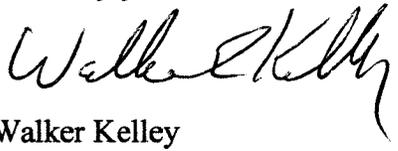
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Attention: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please consider the enclosed proposal as a potential alternative for Honolulu's High-capacity transit corridor.

Sincerely yours,



Walker Kelley

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

06 JAN 6 P 4 : 28

RECEIVED

Proposal to accomplish commuter mass transit with cars

Proposed by Walker Kelley
209-5 Kawaihae Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
808-394-2665
Walker-Kelley@hawaii.rr.com
January 4, 2006

Introduction

The premise of this proposal is that automobiles and expressways make a very efficient and flexible system for moving thousands of commuters between homes in the suburbs and work places scattered throughout a metropolitan area.

City planners have long failed to devise models for economic growth that support an increase of jobs in a city's center while also providing for ample, safe and affordable places to live in the central or surrounding areas of economic development. One only has to commute by train during morning, rush hour from the suburbs of Paris to central Paris, or from the suburbs of Tokyo to central Tokyo, to understand that our problem is not an automobile problem, but a city-design problem.

Even with dense rail networks and frequent service, trains are jammed and uncomfortable. And train commute times are usually longer than automobile commute times even on jammed expressways. Trains make stops and commuters must get to and from the train stations.

The only problem we have with using the automobile as a mass-commuter system is the current inefficient use of space, size and weight.

The overwhelming number of vehicles in any congested, traffic system is from personal vehicles carrying 1 or 2 persons. Yet the highways are designed to support 16-wheelers and large vehicles carrying 3 or more people. This is a great waste of space and materials for construction.

This proposal includes three phased solutions: an interim solution, a basic solution and a long-term solution. Each can be attained within a time frame to keep pace with increases in commuter traffic.

1. Basic solution – dedicated corridors for mini-cars

If additional corridors are to be built to relieve Honolulu's traffic problem, then the corridors should be built to support only mini-cars that carry no more than 4 persons per vehicle. As with freeways and carpool lanes, these mini-car corridors should have limited on and off ramps, and should be designed for longer drives rather than for local traffic.

The uniform size of mini-cars also provides the opportunity to build mini-car corridors with slots for automatic guiding while traveling on the corridors. This would result in a transportation system of slot-ways and slot cars that would supplement existing roadways and conventional vehicles.

Specifications for mini-cars to use the mini-car corridors would be developed and issued to commercial car manufacturers. Tax incentives would be required to greatly encourage most of Honolulu's commuters to buy one of the new mini-cars.

2. Long term phase - advanced mini-cars and corridors

The mini-car corridors would provide a base for incorporating advanced technology that would increase the speed and efficiency of moving mini-cars through the corridors.

3. Interim phase – computerized car-pooling

Before the new mini-corridors would begin operating, traffic congestion could be reduced through mandatory carpooling.

More discussion of the basic mini-car solution

Many of the cars on the road today are designed to carry only 2 to 4 people. Many of these are sleek, sporty cars that are desirable to own and drive. The BMW Mini Cooper, Chrysler PT Cruiser and Mazda Miata are examples of mini-cars that would be ideal to take advantage of dedicated mini-car corridors.

Guidance slots 2 or 3 inches wide would be installed in the middle of each slot-way. Mechanical devices would be installed underneath the mini-cars that glide through the slots to guide the cars without need for steering and keep the cars within the sides of the slot-ways.

There is no reason the appearance or handling of the mini-cars will have to be sacrificed to take advantage of the slot-ways. The mini-cars will have maximum flexibility in that they can use any conventional highway or street as well as the slot-ways.

Reserving these limited-access corridors for mini-cars provides engineering opportunities for modifying size, space, weight and speed.

The small size of the mini-cars requires less use space. Less use of space means less real estate would have to be acquired to construct the new corridors.

The standard width for highway lanes is 12 feet (122 inches). The average width of today's mini-cars is about 5.5 feet. With slot control, two slot-ways could possibly fit within one standard highway lane.

The standard clearance for highway overpasses is over 16 feet. The average height of today's mini-cars is about 5 feet. Two levels of slot-ways could easily fit within the vertical space of a highway lane.

Essentially, four slot-ways could potentially fit within the space of one standard highway lane.

Rather than building an extra highway lane, each way, stacked slot-ways could be added instead. With more limited on and off ramps, the direction of the slots could also be easily and safely switched. By just dedicating one standard lane each way, between Honolulu and the west side, the city could add 6 lanes (8 new lanes minus two original).

By switching the direction of two slot-ways on each side, the city could provide 6 inbound and 2 outbound or 2 inbound and 6 outbound slot-ways as needed during rush hour. Such a configuration could potentially double current capacity without adding real estate to the system, except for some on and off ramps and parking garages.

Use of slot-ways would also provide other advantages. For example, slot cars will be safer because there will be no collisions due to lane changes. This will potentially lead to faster speeds that are safe, greatly reducing commuting times.

Weight is also a key factor. The need to support heavy trucks puts expensive requirements on the construction of roadways, especially elevated roadways. Roadbeds for slot-ways will cost less to build. These slot-ways could also be cost-effectively elevated above existing highways and streets or even across mountainous terrain perhaps to the North Shore.

Of course, reliance on cars for commuter transportation will increase the number of cars in the central Honolulu area during business hours. Parking garages can be built especially for the mini-cars and some mini-corridors could terminate in the parking garages so that the mini-cars could be used for commuting without adding congestion to central Honolulu traffic.

Hawaii provides a unique location within the United States to pioneer a slot transportation system. Because it is an island, cars and trucks do not simply drive in and out of the state of Hawaii. The number of cars that must be built to fill a slot system is small compared to the number of cars that would be needed for a mainland system. Hence, Hawaii would be a great place to pioneer a mini-car transportation system.

More discussion of the long-term solution

Slot cars and slot-ways are not new, novel concepts. Patents already exist for similar controlled-guidance roadways. But they are yet to be implemented.

By using hybrid, electric-gas mini-cars, it is possible that slot-ways could be fitted with electric power that could be used to run (and recharge) the cars on the slot-ways. Of course, Honolulu would need to develop a source of electrical power that would make a hybrid automobile cheaper to operate on slot-ways.

Another advance would be to add speed and separation control. The driver would not have to steer while on the slot-way. The driver would also not have to accelerate or break. Instead, the driver could safely read the newspaper, eat breakfast or put on makeup. Once the speed and separation technology is perfected, speeds could then be increased to further reduce commuting times.

More discussion of the interim solution

Once the slot-car corridors are complete and a sufficient number of drivers are using them, mandatory carpooling would no longer be required and would be phased out.

Singapore is one city that has benefited from mandatory carpooling, simply by designating days for odd and even car licenses. But with today's information technology we should be able to do better. Drivers would have to register where they live and work and when they need to go to and from work. The information could be updated as needed through the Internet. With this information, carpoolers would be paired. In the case of delays or a change due to partners being sick or on vacation, an available ride to work or home could be made possible by asking the system to find a temporary ride. If the system cannot find a ride, then it would pay for a taxi service.

TP/06-135392

BTS
TRANS PLANNING

Dept. of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 So. King St., 3rd floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

JAN 9 1 40 PM '06

Attention: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

SCOPING COMMENTS 1/9/06 from A. Y. Kimura

ayk

The least cost-effective choices for taxpayers are the four fixed-guideway alternatives.

Before wasting billions of tax dollars on a system that will have little benefit to motorists during rush hour, inexpensive alternatives which haven't been tried should be tried first.

One simple, cheap way is to decrease the parking subsidy to City and State employees in the downtown area. Their parking rates should more closely approach private parking rates downtown. The City and State could give a free or heavily discounted monthly bus pass to their employees who choose to give up their parking. This choice does involve political courage, however, which previous councils and legislatures were not able to muster. I hope the current council will display the political courage necessary.

In addition, City-subsidized private or public commuter buses from specific areas like Kapolei, Waianae, Ewa Beach, Pearl City, etc. should be offered at greatly subsidized rates to common work destinations like Pearl Harbor, downtown, Ala Moana, Waikiki, and UH Manoa in the morning and back in the evening. There should be at least two in the morning and two in the evening leaving at different times, like some private schools have for students to allow for different starting and ending schedules. There needs to be a fairly lengthy free or nearly free (like 25 cents for adults, 15 cents for full-time students up through age 22) trial period to attract motorists from cars and to work out problems like origin pick-up and destination drop-off points.

It is far cheaper to subsidize private or public buses for commuters than to spend billions of dollars building a fixed

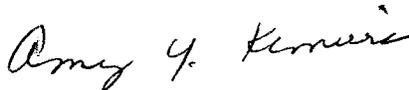
guideway. We're talking millions or tens of millions of dollars for subsidizing buses. Moreover, during construction a fixed guideway system would cause great disruption and losses to businesses, especially small local ones. When completed it will be a visual blight on our landscape (a negative for tourism), will remove a significant amount of land from city tax rolls permanently, and will need even greater city subsidies for operating costs than the bus system.

Third, Road Pricing on already-built roads should be implemented. It would be inexpensive to do so. UH Prof. Arnold Rose described it back in the early 1990s. Vehicles would be charged for using heavily congested roadways according to time of day, with rates highest during rush hour, lower during shoulder periods, and free during off-peak, uncongested times on weekdays and all day weekends and holidays. During the early 1990s the Federal government offered Honolulu a demonstration project of this that then-Mayor Fasi rejected, fearing if successful it would de-rail his plans for a fixed guideway, according to one of the local dailies.

When I brought this to the attention of a transportation planner at a public meeting last fall at McKinley, he said the Federal government allows road pricing only on new roads. If this is accurate, our influential Senator Dan Inouye should be asked to amend this. Since this would not require funding, it should not be too difficult for him to secure.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Amy Y. Kimura
January 9, 2006
1310 Heulu St., Apt. 1002
Honolulu, HI 96822



Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Welcome to the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project scoping meetings. The project is early in the planning process and seeking your input on the purpose of and needs for the project, the alternatives being evaluated, and the scope of the evaluation to be completed in the Alternatives Analysis and the Environmental Impact Statement. At this time, comments should not focus on a preference for a particular alternative. The opportunity for that type of input will be after the release of the Alternatives Analysis in late 2006.

Please review the project information and ask project staff any questions about the project that you might have. The information presented at the scoping meeting is also available on the project website at www.honolulutransit.org. Because the project is still early in the planning process, many specific details have not yet been worked out, and staff may only be able to provide general answers on many topics.

You may provide official comments in several ways. Here at the scoping meeting you may provide oral comments to one of the court reporters who will record them for the record or use this form to provide written comments. After the meeting, you may provide on-line comments at www.honolulutransit.org or use this form to send written comments to the Department of Transportation Services.

Name: Cassie Lee Address: 176 Lunabaneli Pl
 Phone: 863-4690 Kailua, HI 96734
 E-mail: _____

Comments:

I oppose mass transit because it's not worth it.

January 7, 2006

Department of Transportation Services
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Department of Transportation Services:

I am writing to oppose mass transit, especially any rail system. I am 56 years old and have lived on Oahu my whole life. For the past year and a half, I have been reading the daily newspaper's Letters and Commentary. It seems that 9 out of 10 letters are opposed to mass transit. Those who oppose it give rational reasons for their position. Those few who favor mass transit, including comments by the mayor and Abercrombie, do not have cogent arguments. Their arguments are based upon emotion and manufactured fear. Supporters admit that a rail system will NOT solve our current traffic problems. In fact, as I recall, the last study that was done in the early 1990's concluded that a rail system would reduce traffic by less than 1%. So, why are we even considering spending a least \$3 billion dollars to build and hundreds of millions of dollar each year thereafter on a system that won't reduce traffic??!! I fail to see the logic or rationale.

I. THE SUPPORTERS' CASE

Supporters of mass transit keep saying that it will provide commuters with an "alternative" means of transportation. \$3 billion plus is too much just to have an "alternative." It's actually laughable except that our politicians seem dead set on railroading the project down our throats. If you want an alternative, how about helicopter service? It'll be much cheaper. It can be stopped or reduced during off peak periods, with a direct reduction in operational cost. It can be easily and cheaply discontinued when and if it is determined to be an ineffective or underused project. The same can't be said for mass transit. You might think helicopters is a ridiculous idea, but no more so than spending billions on a mass transit system just to have an "alternative."

The supporters' argument that some of the cost will be covered by federal dollars and tourist paying our inflated excise tax is fantasy and a deceptive argument. For one, federal dollars is not free money. It is still our money. Secondly, federal money is only a carrot our politicians (particularly Abercrombie) are using to entice our city to jump into a bottomless financial pit. I have no doubt that mass transit lobbyists have their greasy fingers in this effort. Once the project is approved and on its way, the feds will gradually reduce any grants or contribution and leave the city to pay more and more in the future. Look at federal funding for education, environment, highway, Medicare and social security. These and other more important programs have all been reduced over the years by the feds. Do you really think we can depend on the feds in the long run to help finance our "nice to have" but not "need to have" rail project? Of course not. Abercrombie's claim that we will lose federal money if the city didn't approve the excise tax increase to show that the city is serious about mass transit was only to create a sense of urgency. First of all, nothing is forever (except for death and taxes) and even if the federal funds were "lost" in 2005, it wouldn't be lost forever. Politicians and politics change, economics, and world and national events and opinions change. If Hawaii really wanted federal money for some mass transit in the future, it will probably be there, somewhere. However, by dangling the federal carrot, the city took the bait and is on the hook. It was enough to give the supporters an excuse to push the project onto the public.

Saying that tourist will pay for a large part of the cost is also deceptive. Yes, we may have had a banner tourist year last year, but not long ago we were dying for tourist. Tourism is a fickle industry. Any terrorist attack, airline strike, hurricane, SARS like disease or scare, rescission in the east or on the mainland, etc., will have a devastating effect on tourism. As in the past, it can take years for the local economy and tourism to recover. There is also more competition for the tourist dollar from other destinations. Thus, tourism is not a guaranteed cash cow. Will the ongoing cost for mass transit stop when tourism and our economy are down? Who will pick up the slack? The politicians who railroaded the project? The mass transit industry that is pushing the project? No, we taxpayers will be stuck with ever increasing taxes.

Like our "world class" convention center, rust bucket stadium, road paving machine, dredging barge, medical school, etc., our politicians are willing to spend our tax money just to have bragging rights for some new "world class" toy. Once they are built or bought, the public gets stuck with a white elephant that doesn't match the political hype or is not sustainable without public bailout and maintenance becomes a hidden nightmare.

Other "alternative" plans have been tried in the past. The most recent being the ferry from Barber's Point. Even when rides were offered for free, it couldn't generate enough riders to survive. Other past efforts including the "hydrofoil" in the 1960's, etc., have all failed.

The argument that the project will create jobs is very short sighted. Much of the work will require specialized knowledge and skill which probably means a non-local contractor and technicians. Locals will be used for some of the work, but the work will last a few years while the public will be stuck with the tab for the rest of the foreseeable future. The new jobs created are unnecessary. If the same money is spent to fix our schools, roads, sewers, harbors, water system, parks, libraries, etc., there would be plenty of work for years. New jobs can be created by hiring more teachers, librarians, police and firemen, DLNR workers, harbor security/police, parks and maintenance crews, government auditors, etc. There is no shortage of job possibilities if government is willing to spend the kind of money it wants to waste on a pipe dream.

II. WHY I AM AGAINST MASS TRANSIT

The reasons presented in opposition to mass transit, to me, make good sense and are more convincing.

- 1) Historically, locally and nationally speaking, cost estimates given by government for projects have always been unrealistically low. Once the project is approved, the costs escalates tremendously. I see nothing to suggest this pattern will not happen with mass transit.
- 2) If it is admitted that mass transit will not significantly reduce traffic, what's the sense of wasting our hard earned money? Why burden taxpayers will higher taxes, and subject taxpayers to inevitable tax increases for generations just to say there is an "alternative"?
- 3) We don't even know how much it will cost to maintain and operate mass transit. What will the riding cost to users be? People can't even afford the \$2.00 one-way bus fare. Will mass transit cost more to ride? Probably "yes" and by much more than \$2.00. It'll be cheaper to drive.
- 4) Locals simply don't go straight to work from home and return directly home after work. Most people have to take their children to schools in town in the morning and pick them up after work; go grocery shopping and other shopping after work; go to second jobs, meetings, classes, take children

to sports and various lessons, go to exercise classes, socialize after work; etc. People need their cars for this. After getting dropped off somewhere by train, no one has the time or inclination to walk to and wait at a bus stop in order to take their young children to school and then catch the bus to work. The same is true after work. By the time a person has to catch the bus for all the errands after work and then catch the train home, it will be late at night. Parents would not allow their children to either ride the train or catch the bus alone to go to school or to after school activities. As a practical matter, the system is not conducive to our local life-style. This is especially true in Kapolei and the rest of west Oahu where there will be a concentration of active young families with young children.

5) The fact that people will have to catch the bus from the train station to get anywhere not within a short walking distance will mean additional cost to the rider. Thus, paying for a train ride and multiple bus fares. This fact alone, makes using mass transit impractical. If bus fare was free to train users, there is still the problem of the time and effort it takes to catch the bus. Free bus fare simply means higher cost to run the mass transit system. The bus cost will either have to be paid as part of the mass transit cost, or taxpayers will have to directly pay more to subsidize the "free" rides. Our bus system can't support itself now, how can it do so if rides are free or if the bus system has to be greatly increased to accommodate mass transit? More over, the likely users of mass transit will be the few who now use the bus. Thus, one public system will be stealing the riders from another. The public will be stuck subsidizing two non-self sustaining transportation systems.

6) Where will people in west Oahu park their cars to catch the train to town? Will there be a parking fee? If, so that's another discouraging cost to the rider. What kind of security will there be for the cars all day and for riders who return to their cars after dark? Who's going to pay for the security? One complaint about the last ferry system is that cars were vandalized while parked for the ferry ride. How far will the parking lot be from the station and how large will the lot be? If not close to the station, or if the lot is large, how will people get to their cars? Shuttle buses? Costs for the shuttle buses? Walking in the dark alone to your car?—If so, I wouldn't let my wife or children use the train.

7) How much will security on the train and stations cost? Punks are naturally going to be attracted and will victimize riders and vandalize the stations. It's common on the mainland and other places with stations and subways. Security will have to be 24 hours at the stations, whether open for business or not. Witness our schools, parks and public restrooms. Just one mugging incident and people will avoid using the system. Have a terrorist incident, or even just some crazy doing something stupid, will keep riders away. Thus, security will have to be a top priority. Can we afford it? Will the government have the internal fortitude to continually pay the high cost for top security even when rider ship is low and/or when there is pressure to cut costs? Look at our schools, libraries, police force, roads, sewers, etc., which are much higher priorities and yet are neglected and short changed yearly. Do you really think security will be maintained at the necessary level. I seriously don't. That's political reality and human nature.

8) The traffic is bad only during rush hours. The rest of the time, traffic moves at a good pace. Traffic is even better when school is out. Thus, does it make sense to spend so much money just to address rush hour-school time traffic? Instead, why not address the root problems which are rush hour and school sessions. Also, since mass transit will not make any noticeable difference in the traffic anyway, the root problems are really the issue.

9) Over development is really the problem and not traffic. Where ever you allow over development, there will be congestion. Address the problem of over development, not the symptom.

10) Those who say they support mass transit really mean that they support other people using mass transit so that they can drive in less traffic. These people are wishful dreamers.

11) With mass transit as an excuse for further development in west Oahu, local traffic in west Oahu will get worst, especially after work and on weekends.

12) Construction of mass transit will disrupt and displace thousands of people and businesses. Look what happened with the Nimitz Highway/Freeway work. It lasted for years and businesses suffered for years. Many went out of business. Condemnation will not fully compensate the landowners who must move. In Hawaii, land is too costly for government to pay fair market value rather than conservative appraised values. Also, land cannot be replaced with similar property because land is unique.

13) The auto industry spends hundreds of millions of dollars each year to convince the public to buy and drive cars and other vehicles. How can government compete to convince drivers to give up the convenience and joy of driving? Will government spend millions of tax dollars on campaigns to get people to give up their cars? It'll have to, if it hopes to gain any appreciable number of riders. Even if it tries, people will want their cars and drive them.

14) Have a public vote on mass transit so we can see if the majority of the public really wants mass transit. I can live with mass transit if an honest vote shows that more than 50% of the people want it. But, it's hard to swallow something that is being forced down your throat by politicians.

15) The current mass transit project is admittedly only the beginning. Further lines are planned for the future. It's said that future lines/routes will be needed to make mass transit more attractive and effective. Since nothing is certain and it is certainly not a given that government will have the political will or money to complete any or all of the necessary future lines, what if we get stuck with just the initial line? Now we'll have a partial system that will be incomplete and inefficient. It will not serve enough people or routes to make it worth while or practical. How easy does government think it will be to convince the public that routes to the Manoa campus and to Waikiki should be built. Unlike going from west Oahu to downtown, going from downtown to Manoa and Waikiki will involve a much denser population through prime real estate. This means disruption and displacement of a lot more people, homes and businesses at a much higher cost. Objections over the sight and blight of the system running through largely residential and small business areas will also be significant. I seriously doubt that future politicians will be able to pull it off. Perhaps our current politicians feel that once the initial leg is built, they can strong arm the public into approving the future routes with the argument that the routes are needed to make mass transit work and without the future routes, the taxpayers' cost to maintain and operate the initial system will get worst because the existing system is too small to attract the necessary riders to make it feasible. Now, that's bootstrapping at its best!

III. MY GUESS AS TO WHY POLITICIANS FAVOR MASS TRANSIT

I don't understand the rationale behind our politicians' push for mass transit, given the realities and cost. The only reasons I can speculate on are:

a) They want something to brag about during their political reign. To give the appearance that they are "doing something" to address the congestion.

b) They want bragging rights to tell the world that Hawaii/Oahu is a modern city with "world class" mass transportation. It's like the family who has a new shiny luxury car parked in the driveway for all to see, but the roof of the house is falling in, the plumbing is stopped up, the water is polluted from lead pipes and grunge, the walls are termite eaten, the stove doesn't work and the windows are broken. But hey, we do have a nice shiny toy in the driveway. Why do politicians always have to have a "world-class" or "state of the art" something new that we can't afford. Why can't we just have something adequate, that works, and that we can easily afford? Is it because the latter is not fancy or exciting??

c) The "alternative" argument is an excuse for government and developers to further over develop west Oahu. With mass transit, the government and developers will argue that more development is possible because there is mass transit to take care of the traffic concerns. And, if residents don't use mass transit and traffic gets worst, government and developers will blame the residents for not using the system. That's the only way the "alternative" argument makes any sense. After all, if they really believe mass transit will make a difference, why isn't it proposed for east Oahu, where the traffic is equally bad, if not worst during rush hour? The reason is that there is not as much room left for development in east Oahu, as compared to the potential in west Oahu. Thus, there is no need for an excuse to develop east Oahu.

d) Government and developers want mass transit so they can further develop west Oahu, as well as, along the route and at station sites. Developers are working with politicians to see their (developers') dream come true.

c) Mass transit developers and contractors see easy money. They'll do the work and take their money.

d) I hope this is not true, but given the political realities of today, some politicians may have hidden agendas that will benefit themselves, family, friends and/or clients. There'll be lots of money involved and a lot of development at and around the stations. Many people will profit at the expense of others and the public. When was the last time you heard that a large public project didn't involve abuse, waste, favoritism, and/or questionable payouts?

IV. ALTERNATIVES TO MASS TRANSIT

So, what can be done instead of an expensive mass transit project? How about the following:

1) Create a real "second city" in west Oahu. Move either the state government or city government there. Increase incentives for more businesses in West Oahu. This will keep more residents in the area and create more "contra" flowing traffic during the rush hours.

2) Develop and maintain more schools in west Oahu. Invest enough money in the schools (statewide) so that the schools provide quality education so people don't feel the need to send their children to private schools in town or to public schools in other districts.

3) Stagger school times, including the U.H. so they don't collide with the rush hour.

4) Encourage more staggered or different work hours. Especially for government.

5) Develop a true west campus for the U.H., so students don't have to drive into town or back and forth.

6) Stop development of luxury homes and condos. They do not benefit the local public. They only attract more wealthy non-residents into the area, adding unnecessarily to the population and congestion.

7) Better planning before development is allowed. The secondary roads in west Oahu are already inadequate. Mass transit will not help the secondary road traffic. It will get worst, if more development is allowed because of the mass transit excuse.

8) Improve and increase bus service. Next to private cars and taxis, the bus is the most convenient means of transportation. They can go more places than mass transit. They can take you closer to more destinations than mass transit. It's cheaper to maintain and operate than mass transit, even if the price of fuel increases. (Mass transit cost will remain higher, even when people aren't riding.) Bus is more flexible and routes can be changed to suit the demands of the rider ship. If the routes of mass transit proves unpopular or inconvenient now or in the future, the routes can't be changed without prohibitive cost. Security is cheaper and easier with buses. Buses can use existing roads.

9) Have more and safer bicycle and moped paths to encourage other forms of transportation.

10) Traffic congestion is a direct result of population growth. Not only is mass transit not going to reduce traffic, it will make matters worst because it will serve as an excuse to allow more growth and development. With or without mass transit, the traffic will get worst as the population grows and, eventually, it will reach a point where more people will leave Oahu because of the congestion and others will tolerate it and stay. As long as the population issue is ignored, traffic will worsen and people will continue to complain. Government should address the population problem and encourage smaller families and not encourage new residents, e.g., by allowing luxury developments that only non-residents can afford, or constantly seeking a greater military presence, or encouraging the image that Hawaii is a great place to visit and stay. Like Oregon's Governor McCall did in the 1970's, he encouraged people to visit Oregon, spend their money, but not to stay. It was the philosophy of the entire state at the time. There were even Oregon postcards showing visitors returning home with webbed feet or rusted bodies to discourage new residents. That's not to say that Hawaii should do likewise, but the point is that at least Oregon recognized the problem early and tried to do something about it.

Very truly,



Larry Lee

1176 Lunahaneli Place

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Ph. 263-4690

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Welcome to the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project scoping meetings. The project is early in the planning process and seeking your input on the purpose of and needs for the project, the alternatives being evaluated, and the scope of the evaluation to be completed in the Alternatives Analysis and the Environmental Impact Statement. At this time, comments should not focus on a preference for a particular alternative. The opportunity for that type of input will be after the release of the Alternatives Analysis in late 2006.

Please review the project information and ask project staff any questions about the project that you might have. The information presented at the scoping meeting is also available on the project website at www.honolulustransit.org. Because the project is still early in the planning process, many specific details have not yet been worked out, and staff may only be able to provide general answers on many topics.

You may provide official comments in several ways. Here at the scoping meeting you may provide oral comments to one of the court reporters who will record them for the record or use this form to provide written comments. After the meeting, you may provide on-line comments at www.honolulustransit.org or use this form to send written comments to the Department of Transportation Services.

Name: Wendy Lee

Address: 1176 Lunalanali Pl

Phone: 808-263-4690

Kailua, HI 96734

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I don't believe mass transit would
work and it cost too much.

LIFE OF THE LAND

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
Phone: (808) 533-3454 * E-Mail: henry@lifeoftheland.net

January 8, 2006

Attention: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI, 96813
www.honolulustransit.org

Ms. Donna Turchie
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105
Donna.Turchie@fta.dot.gov

cc:
Alfred Tanaka
Acting Director of DTS
atanaka@honolulu.gov

Toru Hamayasu
Chief Planner at DTS
thamayas@honolulu.gov

info@honolulutraffic.com
oeqc@doh.hawaii.gov

Aloha,

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own environmental and community action group advocating for the people and the `aina since 1970. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sustainable land use and energy policies and by promoting open government through research, education, advocacy, and litigation.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) publishes analysis of what is required within a federal Environmental Impact Statement (See: CEQ Top 40 NEPA Questions: <http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/40/40p3.htm>). Specifically, the discussion on alternatives is very, very important. In previous iterations of proposals to expand transportation options of O`ahu, short shrift was given to these federal requirements. (Specifically, please review: CEQ Top 40 NEPA Questions: 1a. Range of Alternatives, 1b. How many alternatives have to be discussed when there is an infinite number of possible alternatives?, 2a. Alternatives Outside the Capability of Applicant or Jurisdiction of Agency, 2b. Must the EIS analyze alternatives outside the jurisdiction or capability of the agency or beyond what Congress has authorized?)

Transportation Expansion, Population Growth, and New Developments are intertwined. In it impossible to think about one without seeing how it impacts the others. Sometimes it occurs in intended ways, when all three are planned together. Sometimes it occurs in unintended ways, when government agencies approve new developer-initiated sprawl because the newly expanded transportation system can handle additional cars.

Hawai'i's government is urban, and has not been able to control growth in outlying areas, nor to protect prime agricultural lands. Will the various transportation plans lead to run-away growth?

If the population rises by 2% a year, then the population doubles every 36 years. Thus a average 2% population growth rate will mean that O`ahu's population in 2200 will be 32,000,000. Absurd perhaps, but shouldn't we have time to talk about carrying capacity, development without growth, and other big-picture items at some time, rather than putting it off for a future generation?

Life of the Land would like to see a realistic analysis of how alternative scenarios for enhanced modes of transportation play out on the development and population fronts.

The analysis should include not merely growth in general, but the types of growth (gentleman farms, golf courses, affordable houses, homelessness), that are reasonable to expect.

There are areas of the island, such as surf sites/windsurfing sites/ personal water crafts/jet skis/snorkeling/fishing/tourism/ sites that are under threat from too many competing uses. How will the growth in transportation/population/development affect those areas which can not be expanded upon?

Many people want to bicycle, but fear bicycle-car interactions. One of our Board Members was hit from behind by a drunk driver in the downtown area. Will the proposed alternatives increase or decrease the ability of bicyclists to navigate downtown and in other areas? Will the transportation plan work in sync with, parallel with, or ignore the Honolulu Bicycle Master Plan? Are vehicle-pedestrian interactions more or less likely under each alternative?

Will the building of new transportation projects lead to greater homogenization of communities, where each one look the same?

Why were the proposed routes selected? Would two or three routes work better than one. Airport/Aloha Stadium; UH/Waikiki; Ewa/UH? How would each route be measured to determine what impact it would have?

What would be the impact from an Airport/Aloha Stadium Route? What would be the rider-ship from a line providing service within the Honolulu International Airport and ending at Aloha Stadium? Would such a line provide better security at the airport, allow for faster and more efficient airport service, and decrease the cost of people having to park at the airport? If the rail system were to occupy two existing lanes at the airport, providing high speed transportation to Aloha Stadium, with its abundant parking, would this free up the highways for other uses?

Would providing three local rail or bus lines (Kapolei, Airport/Aloha Stadium, Waikiki/UH) connected by one very express line with just 4-7 total stops provide better service?

What would be the impact of developing a high-speed coastal system on-grade/below grade system with just 6 stops: Kapolei, Ewa, Airport, Sand Island, Ala Moana, Ala Wai Golf Course? Couldn't this go on existing right-of-ways?

What if the car pool lane had a minimum speed of 65 mph and a maximum speed of 75 mph, and was restricted to buses and car-pools of 4 people or more? Wouldn't the sight of a largely empty but fast moving traffic encourage greater car-pooling?

How will the proposed system be powered? By new fossil fuel power plants and ugly transmission lines, or distributed renewable energy? Please explain this in detail.

How will view-planes (mountains, ocean) be affected? The Blue View may be defined as those who are able to see the ocean from where they live and/or work. The Mountain View may be defined as those who are able to see mountains from where they live and/or work. How will proposed infrastructures affect these aesthetic values?

Will the new line connect major shopping centers and governmental facilities (Pearl Ridge Shopping Center, Aloha Stadium, Aloha Tower, UH Medical School, UH), or will the route go to proposed new developments? Are the particular routes being chosen to maximize particular future developments?

Through what types of communities will the new line be built (income, race, etc).

Mahalo

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

Dear Hawaii DOT,

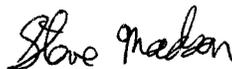
10 Dec 05

As a leeward Oahu resident for 8 years I wanted to take the time and express my thoughts on a proposed Mass Transit system. I believe the various proposals I see regarding expansion of existing bus service and use of increasing capacity of zipper or HOV lanes is insufficient to deal with the growing problem of Oahu's traffic. I view those solutions as not realistic primarily because they will utilize the existing infrastructure, namely roads which are already overburdened, to handle an ever increasing traffic load. **I believe the solution lies in construction of some sort of light rail system.**

Having traveled extensively around Asia to Tokyo, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, and Sydney, I've seen mass transit systems that work and work extremely well. Oahu is particularly well suited for rail transit due to its geography and the fact that the bulk of the population lives within a 2 mile band along the coast from Hawaii Kai to Kapolei. What better place to implement mass transit? I would like to see either an elevated or underground system that takes travelers and gets them off the same plain as the current road traffic. Every effort should be made to service high volume stops such as Kapolei, Ewa, Pearl Ridge Mall/Aiea, Pearl Harbor, Hickam AFB, the airport, numerous downtown locations, and possibly a line out to Hawaii Kai. I would think a system of either bus or short run trains connecting the valleys and other large population areas to a main line, would be very effective. In combination with this I would support any effort that would motivate people to leave their cars behind. This could be anything from making the H-1 a toll road, to charging a hefty yearly fee to own/license a car, to electronic meters in cars for use in high density areas. Although a bit Draconian, I've seen the latter two options in Singapore and for a country the same size as Oahu with 4x the population, their traffic is probably 30-40% of what we have here. Owning and driving a car is a privilege, not a right. If people want that privilege, make them pay extra for it which would also have the dual effect of raising needed money for the mass transit project.

Anyway, I think you're on the right track with the **fixed guideway alternative** which would provide Oahu with a **light rail alternative** means of transportation and keep that transit out of the same roadway structure we have now. This is going to be the key to helping relieve Oahu's traffic congestion. Thanks for your time and good luck as we're all counting on your decisions.

Sincerely,



Steve Madson
94-816 Lumiauu St., #GG103
Waipahu, HI 96797

DEC 13 11 24 AM '05

TRANS PLAN MING
OTIS

A comment on the Transit Project:

There is no doubt that subway is the best way to commute. Subways can also run on elevated structures, like bridges over rivers but elevated tracks over land are disliked as unsightly and detrimental to property values.

Subway/"light" rail trains can also operate at grade - theoretically. However, because they are heavier than buses, and because their metal wheels do not afford as much traction for braking as do rubber tires, the maximum safe speed for at-grade light rail is probably slower than for a bus.

For the above reasons, I favor BRT over rail for Waikiki. The E-bus, as a demonstration project, impressed me as fast and reliable and marketable to both commuters and visitors/retirees.

Moreover, since the E-bus did not require dedicated lanes, traffic signal priority, elevated guideways or overhead wires, it didn't meet with any opposition from the public.

12/29/05

Helen McCune, Waikiki

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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Name: Marilyn Michaels Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: ~~000~~ michaels_ank11@yahoo.com

Comments: (Additional comments)

I'm not opposed to some form of rapid transit as long as it's affordable to use, convenient so that people will use it (fast, stops at places people need to go, includes park & ride / connector buses), doesn't obstruct the view plane and doesn't take up any traffic lanes. Some kind of monorail down a back street might meet this criteria, with stops in Waikiki, downtown, Ala Moana, Ward

→
over

Center, and UH, among others. Keep it off
of Nimitz, keep it above ground level and
do not take away traffic lanes. No BRT!

Another alternative is to build or through
tax breaks encourage building more
affordable/ reasonably priced rentals in
town so that fewer people have to get in
their cars to commute to/from work
and shopping. Build better walkways,
pedestrian bridges, etc. This might be
cheaper than rapid transit, especially since
most people work in town and reality is that won't
change significantly any time soon,

Return Address

Place
Postage
Here

Department of Transportation Services
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

STAPLE HERE

7p/06-135396

January 7, 2006

Honolulu Dept. of Transportation Services
650 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn: Honolulu High Capacity Transit
Corridor project (Toru Hamayasu)

Ms. Donna Turchie
Federal Transit Administration
Region IX
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105

Jan 9 2 04 PM '06
CTS
TRANS PLANNING

Dear Project Coordinator(s):

I'm Daisy Murai, a daily commuter on Honolulu's mass transit system or better known as TheBus and a resident of Kapahulu on the Eastern side of Oahu. I have found the present public scoping presentation by Honolulu's Dept. of Transportation Services with the City's chosen consultant Parson Brinkerhoff Quade and Douglas of December 13, 2005 very disappointing. The presentation process was very well presented with the different stations providing ample and qualified personnel(s) answering questions presented by the general public regarding the "alternative analysis" to ease traffic congestion from the Ewa plains or Leeward side of the Island of Oahu into the Primary Urban Center of Honolulu. **This scoping presentation lacked public comments, questions, problems and possible solutions to be heard by all in attendance was clearly missing, unlike the OMPO (Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization) Oahu Regional Traffic Plan and consultants hired by OMPO, such as Kaku & Associates at the September 13, 2005 public informational meeting. Members of the general public and elected officials were able to ask questions, bring up problems and possible solutions or alternatives to all members of the audience. My question is whether the City is following proper procedures.** I have participated by asking questions, looking at the presentations and pictures as well as filled out the blue Comment Sheet. The powerpoint presentation, showing the possible route in the Ewa region did not show any residential or commercial properties, so it was very difficult to fully understand the impact of such a route, station identification were also missing as the 40 or so stops are still being studied. The is also the Cost Factor of this project that is missing - will it be 2.3 Billion Dollars or more and what will be the total cost to the people of Oahu?

I have participated in Oahu's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project by attending several informational meetings, testifying to both the City and Federal Transit Administration as well as to the City Councilmembers my reasons why I feel the BRT would not be the solution. The public hearings were also held at nights and on the weekends, so many more of the general public would be able to attend and submit testimonies, unlike the present "Alternative Analysis" presented by DTS to meet the Federal requirements for Federal funding. I understand the general public would be able to respond to the Alternative Analysis without any more public testimonies after January 9th, 2006. The next public input period would be during the City Council hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Fall of 2006, prior to the City Council deciding on the locally preferred system (LPA) and 2 - 3 months before the 1/2% general excise tax for the transit begins. Unfortunately, the City Council hearings are held during the weekdays, when most people are unable to take off from work to testify.

cost
I agree that traffic congestion from the Leeward ^{cost} is a problem during the morning and afternoon "RUSH HOURS" and some alternative means of transportation system is needed. The Windward, Central and East Honolulu also need some form of traffic flow to ease traffic congestion in these areas as well, as over-development in these areas are adding to the problem.

and some
I feel that bus enhancement and other forms of transportation such as bicycle lanes, hub and spoke system and working with the private transportation companies will do much better than a proposed "RAIL SYSTEM" whether it is built on the street or overhead to move mass amounts of people into Urban Honolulu. I am thankful to the private transportation companies that provide alternative trolleys, taxi and pick-up services by commercial retailers and hotels are valuable to ease moving people in and out of Ala Moana Center into Waikiki and other popular attractions. If it were not for their services, many passengers at Ala Moana Center will not be able to board buses to get to their destination. The bus enhancement would not only create new routes as new subdivisions of residential and commercial areas are being built.

Daisy Murai
3039 Kaunaoa Street
Honolulu, HI 96815

There is also a need for more Express routes to other places such as to Kapiolani Community College, Windward Community College, Kapolei Sports Complex, etc. or places more people would need to get to with their automobiles. This might create much more bus passengers, thus getting more people out of their automobiles and into a mass transit System. The idea of a Ferry System is also a possibility or moving people around too.

Thank you for the opportunity to add more comments to the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project.

Daisy Murai

Daisy Murai
3039 Kaunaoa Street
Honolulu, HI 96815

Cc: Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, 530 S. King Street, Room 202, Honolulu, HI 96813
Office of Information Practices, 250 S. Hotel Street, Honolulu, HI 96813, Attn: Director Les Kondo

To: City and County of Honolulu
Department of Transportation Services.
HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT

We have many concerns; however, we are listing just a few.

All the proposals appear to be systems that will take years before they can be up and running. We need solutions NOW. How about running EXPRESS busses, lots of them, between Mililani and Leeward coast to Pearl Harbor, to airport, to downtown, to Waikiki mostly at the peak hours using dedicated lanes. Also, implement CHEAP fares or make it free on occasion. When we do this, we must widely publicize it.

We also need to take an unbiased survey of all the residents in the affected areas who will take public transportation and leave their cars at home. We do not like the idea that we are building these systems, spending this kind of money and EXPECT that people will ride them.

As you know, most people use their cars to transport children and their activities and do other errands on their way to and from work. Do you think that after purchasing a car for around \$20,000 that people will leave the car in the garage and use it only for pleasure and weekends?

The biggest concern is the COST. If, as the proponents say that it will not ease the traffic, why then are we burdening ourselves spending 3 Billion dollars (this is just the tip of the iceberg) for something that is not going to do the job? What are the cost of operating and maintaining; the cost of any right-of-way acquisitions and other costs; for example the train stations which must be handicap accessible and if elevated MUST have elevators.

Our children and grandchildren as future taxpayers are going to be burdened forever; therefore, what is the value of building any of the systems? Unlike other large cities, Honolulu does not have the density of population. Say that the Leeward area population gets to around a million people; it does not seem feasible to spend 3+ billion dollars to build something that is not going to do the job. Planning is the key. Our city and state long range planning for a second city and second port plus a 4-year university and other enterprises need to be beefed up.

We have also safety concerns at the train stations. In San Francisco, we were advised not to take the BART or get off at certain BART stations due to criminal incidents-in broad daylight. You must remember that these stations are all enclosed areas.

Another concern -If we are going to have some Federal funding, is there something in the requirement that we use a good percentage of products or services from the US? How can we use the technology that is from Japan?

We also expect integrity from all elected officials and persons working on such a project. Any question regardless of how idiotic should be answered with dignity. Case in point, we are not too happy with the Mayor and Congressman Abercrombie's attack on a council member. These council members represent their constituents and our pocketbooks.

History has also shown that figures can be misleading. Figures are geared to sell the project. You and I know that the cost of the systems is extremely conservative and the rider ship is always inflated. We would like a little more honesty here.

*mahalo and Aloha
Ruth Nakasone
Pearl City*



TP 135139

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North Shore (O'ahu)

Robyn Blanpied
June Kaya
Wai Momi (O'ahu)

Susan Bright Spangler
Wai'alaie Kahala (O'ahu)

Jan Reardon
Waikoloa Village (Hawai'i)

Victor Obrastoff
Waimea (Hawai'i)

January 4, 2006

Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Attention: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit
Corridor Project

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important public project.

Based upon the information presented at the scoping meetings, The Outdoor Circle submits the following comments:

Historic Review

All mature trees potentially impacted by the project should be assessed--particularly those over 50 years old.

Visual

Diamond Head must be specified as a landmark that must be considered...not simply lumped in with "others."

The EIS must address visual impacts of transit stations, power sources, all infrastructure and construction.

Financing Options

More information is needed on the scope of possible advertising and what, if any, enabling law changes would be necessary.

Process

How can a preferred alternative be selected before knowing the environmental impacts of all primary proposals?

Public Involvement

Why no open forums during scoping? The methods you are using limit public discussion and interaction. A community consensus cannot possibly be reached solely by individuals submitting written comments. It appears the process was devised to prevent public discussion, to block confrontation, and to avoid having transit planners/government officials publicly respond to inquiries.

Alternative 4B

What will a Kapiolani Park station facility look like? What will be the elements of such a station and where would it be constructed?

Overall Visual Impacts

Our organization watches after Hawaii's scenic environment. We are deeply concerned about the potential loss of view planes from any transit system and the infrastructure that supports it.

TRANS PLANNING
DT'S
JAN 6 11 44 AM '06

We insist that the EIS include detailed descriptions and assessments of the lost view planes, the value of those view planes and the mitigation for their loss to the Transit Project.

Consulted Party

We request to be named as an official "consulted party" in this endeavor.

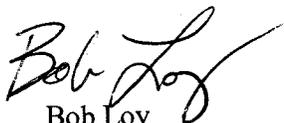
Response to Comments

Our interpretation of the State of Hawaii Office of Environmental Quality rules is that the box on the online comment form asking whether the commenting party "...would like a reply." is irrelevant. It does not release the City and/or its contractors from responding to every comment received during the public comment periods required under State and Federal law. OEQC rules require that individuals receive a response to their comments. This matter was challenged and adjudicated by the Environmental Council on May 12, 2004. In a memo dated 10/19/04, OEQC specifically states that a proposed rule regarding "comment bombing" and the previous amendment of HAR Section 11-200-22(d) be rescinded. Therefore, the box that implies people can waive their right to a response is inappropriate and violates OEQC rules.

Please respond to these and all future comments provided by our organization, as required.

Mahalo.

Respectfully,



Bob Loy
Director of Environmental Programs
The Outdoor Circle
1314 South King Street, Suite 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
(808) 593-0300

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DTIS
TRANS PLANNING

January 2006

Media report of rail favored as mass transit of people who attended earlier in December month of 2005 in Kapolei and in Honolulu; a 23-mile corridor from Kapolei to University of Hawaii to help improve traffic congestion, is not the true picture of the public's image whole understanding in solving of the traffic problems.

First of all people that attended meeting at Blaisdell and Kapolei are blind to other plans and suggestions made by rail opponents, because of the Mayor and City Council members already have the 12.5 percent G.T.E. and made study of other cities of rail transit system. City-County presented several mass transit alternatives, including four rail routes. All they have in mind is a rail system to get federal transit funding.

I think that the project is unfair, shortsighted from every angle you look at, on the public. After all the studies made to date has shown that building of rail system won't make a dent on the massive traffic jams on the 23 miles of roadways from Kapolei to University.

How can we go ahead and spend billions of dollars on a bottomless pit, of a few miles of driving into Honolulu knowing that it won't work at all? The Island of Oahu will never get any bigger, but traffic jams will not only be the 23 miles of traffic into Honolulu. Why? Well, first of all the populations, towns, and cars on the road, nothing you can do to stop the people from exercising their rights to growth. All this many years I wrote to the Mayor and City Council members of my bold plans on traffic of the Island of Oahu. How easy it is to solve the 23 miles Kapolei to University congested traffic jams in a few months without spending of billions of dollars.

Besides my plans, I made many comments and wrote many times to the news media besides the mayor and Council members without any result. But I will must continue and will keep on writing until senile or of age. Put an end to my writing, pro and con, on rail transit system, will continue forever without my formula on traffic of tomorrows. So why not let the public read about my bold traffic plans if it is feasible and let them decide on rail or a change in road control use of today's freeways which I suggested will solve traffic for many generations to come.

After all these years of study on how to solve the massive traffic jams in and out of Honolulu, today still we keep on debating the same problem about traffic without considering other plans, besides the standard practice in looking at traffic into the future of Oahu.

Oahu is an island that will never get any bigger. But the population growth and the cars on the roads will increase all over, causing jams everywhere you drive.

So how can you spend billions of dollars on only 23 miles from Kapolei to University of Hawaii on a rail system or other mass transit study you made thus far, that will not solve the traffic jams of today and tomorrow. Why must we keep looking at rail transit of other cities, knowing that it won't solve our massive traffic jams here on the planned 23 miles of freeways from Kapolei to University of Hawaii. On meetings at Kapolei and Honolulu, you are so happy to have 400 comments made by the people who attended the meeting on mass transit solutions for Oahu.

To be frank not even one person made an important comment on your decisions of rail transit systems and alternatives for decades, finding viable, workable solutions to fit our city and people on traffic congestions has been going along. But because of pro and cons of rail transit and not cars, was the subject.

Today you find the Mayor and Councilmembers all agreeing on rail, closing their eyes on trying out other options like the ones I have been suggesting since 1960, before we have a freeway built.

Today with many thousands more cars on the road, even our freeways are in massive jams on rush hours. Any intelligent person will not spend billions of dollars on projects that will not pay for itself or help solve the problem, now or after.

How can the City spend your money, flushing it down the drain, without trying out my plan first.

Mayor Hannemann should take me for a ride on his car so I can explain in detail and show him how my plans will work out from the first day on the freeways we travelled together. One day riding with the Mayor will solve the 23 miles from Kapolei to University of Hawaii.

Believe it or not,


Mitsuru Takahashi
99-244 Aiea Heights Drive
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Ph. 926-0213

JAN 5 10 24 AM '06
PTS
TRANS PLANNING

TP, 2/05 - 132214



K. MARK TAKAI
VICE SPEAKER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

December 13, 2005

Department of Transportation Services
650 S. King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Corridor Project

RECEIVED
15 DEC 14 9:56
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

To Whom It May Concern:

While I am not able to attend tonight's public scoping meeting at the Neal Blaisdell Center, I would like to provide comments in support of the need for improved transit and have questions regarding the proposed alternatives.

Recognizing the need to address the ever-increasing traffic problem, during the 2005 legislative session I voted for a House Bill 1309, allowing the counties to raise the general excise tax to fund transit projects. Enclosed is a copy of an op-ed piece that appeared in *The Honolulu Advertiser* as to why I supported this measure.

The Honolulu high-capacity transit corridor runs directly through the district I represent. Because land is very limited, there is no way that road capacity can be increased. Therefore, I strongly believe that a high-capacity rail project is the best solution for this corridor.

However, after reviewing the alternatives presented, I would like to know why none included the use of the H-1 corridor as part of the route. Additionally, I would like to know where along the Kamehameha Highway corridor stations are planned to be located.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I look forward to your response.

With warmest aloha,

K. Mark Takai
State Representative
34th House District

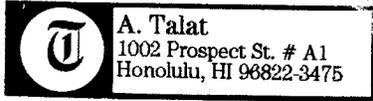
KMT:km

\Enclosure

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Representative K. Mark Takai
State Capitol, Room 403 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8455 • Fax: (808) 586-8459 • E-mail: reptakai@capitol.hawaii.gov

tp 1/06-134859



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TRANS PLANNING

January 5, 2006

Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project -Evaluation

The following comments are respectfully submitted for your consideration, in accordance with the requirements for acceptance of public comments.

Stay Dry, Stay Safe, Stay Seated. Those are the three most important things to transit riders. A sense of security, comfort and convenience must be conveyed to and consistently realized by potential and repeat passengers. This is particularly important to Senior citizens especially our growing base of "baby boomer" seniors, who if they must stand will choose to sit and drive. Human and Electronic Security must be incorporated into all stations and key feeder facilities.

The next things riders want is multi-modal access at stations to Taxis, Buses, and People Movers (e.g. airport connection shuttles). Good examples for this approach are the hub station designs for the Cleveland light rail.

Short term (by the hour vehicle rentals) at key work center intermediate points has been effectively introduced at a various mainland rapid transit centers and discussed in various APTA "Passenger Transport" articles. This should be front loaded into Honolulu Transit facility design. This enables transit users to be able to use a car briefly for those few times that they need an in-town vehicle. Rental is accomplished using smart cards and electronic reservations. (SEE APTA "Passenger Transport" Magazine Index.)

Park & Ride Terminals need on site human security and should have amenities like a quick service gas station and convenience store at that location. Secure monitored sites for moped and bicycle parking and electrical vehicle recharging should also be included at stations. Use of Solar Power should be incorporated (to the max) into all stations and adjoining facilities. It must be easy and safe for passengers to connect to their homes and jobs from the stations

Seniors, Military, Students and Tourists must have their needs addressed. These are the populations that have the greatest ambivalence and inclination to NOT acquire a vehicle to meet their transportation needs. A transit system that can meet their needs will encourage continued use of transit and avoid expanding car congestion.

Transit stations and bus / shuttle feeder facilities must target work, school and tourist centers like the Naval Shipyard, Waikiki, Schofield/Wheeler, Arizona Memorial, Punchbowl, Aloha Tower, Honolulu Community College, Leeward Community College, Aloha Stadium, Blaisdell Center/HECO/Straub Clinic, Diamond Head Crater, Honolulu Historical District, Capital District and First Hawaiian Tower Business Area. Express buses/ shuttles to these areas from transit hubs are critical to feeding the transit line.

The transit and transit feeder facilities must cater to Waikiki Hotel and Hospitality workers from the Leeward Coast and accommodate expansion of activities at Kalaeloa (Barbers Point) and Campbell Industrial Park.

Creating secondary bus hubs that provide EXPRESS services to the transit stations is critical to drawing passengers to transit and achieving support and success for transit.

Recommend utilizing APTA's 2001 booklet "Twelve Anti Transit Myths: A Conservative Critique" in public and media outreach presentations. This study is highly recommended by APTA as a resource for "Transit advocates facing venomous attacks of the 'anti-transit troubadours' ". (Members up to 25 copies free, 50c each 26+ copies).

Also recommend utilization of an edited transcript of a session at APTA's 2000 Legislative Conference, "A Liberal and a Conservative Discuss How to Respond to Anti-Transit Rhetoric". (Free on APTA web site).

An internship for professional and trades jobs should be created with schools and universities. Puerto Rico's Tren Urbano Rapid Transit system created such a partnership with MIT prior to construction and this was a terrific selling point with the community.

Consideration should be given to an elevated segment at the second or third floor level of Hotel Street, allowing buses to continue directly below. Elevator (ADA access) system cost and infrastructure for above street connection should be comparable to that required for a below ground system (subway segment).

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'WJH'.

40 year Honolulu resident, Experienced 6 continent traveler, and inaugural class baby boomer.

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Honolulu High Capacity
Transit Corridor Project

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Relative to the Corridor Proposal and Options on the type of system to be used I have the following recommendations:

1. Avoid any technology that has not been in use for the last ten years. There is nothing wrong with the concept of new technology but until the wear and interaction of the electrical and mechanical components is thoroughly understood we will become the testing ground with frequent breakdowns and repairs. This is always the history of new systems that have not been thoroughly tested.
2. Avoid the use of tunnels. Unforeseen flooding, such as at Manoa, and potential failure of pumps will shut down the system. These tunnels, by their location, will not be the sloping, self draining tunnels such as go through the Ko'olau.
3. Select the quietest roadway to carriage operating system. We have enough road noise already.
4. Select the system with the projected lowest ongoing, overall maintenance costs.
5. Yes, make it accessible to tourists. They will provide ridership during non commute hours. Rather than mess up a world class walking and shopping area I would think that Kuhio Avenue would be preferred to Kalakaua.
6. Avoid the use of padded seats. They are an invitation to vandals for slashing and ripping and there are many examples of this on other mass transit systems. Stainless steel seats such as are used in Hong Kong are perfectly comfortable for most rides.

Paul Tyksinski
47-623 Nukupuu St., Kaneohe 96744
808-239-5542

Paul Tyksinski 12/04/05

1212 Nuuanu Ave. Apt 703
Honolulu HI 96817
January 6, 2006

Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 S. King Street 3rd Floor
Honolulu HI 96813

Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Re: Scoping Comment: Route Alignment

Gentlemen:

JAN 9 9 09 AM '06

TRANS PLANNING
DTG

I write to give my input and perceptions in a single area – the alignment of a fixed guideway through downtown Honolulu, which I see as particularly critical. To me, it seems beyond dispute that a rail or similar alternative is essential, and that with only a single transit line, some areas at the periphery of the city will necessarily be unserved. But good service to central destinations must be provided if individuals' needs are to be served and if those individuals are to be attracted to transit in preference to private automobile use.

I have the following thoughts on proposed alignments 4a through 4d: To me, 4b is too far makai, and 4c too far mauka of the downtown center of activity – which I put centered at the intersection of King and Bishop Streets – to be successful. That Nimitz Highway (4b) is too far makai is illustrated by the perpetual struggle, and failure, of restaurants and merchants in the Aloha Tower Marketplace to attract lunch hour patrons from among downtown workers. Beretania Street (4c) is a still greater distance from the center of activities. These distances are compounded by the change in elevation and by the heavy automobile traffic and the lack of pleasant, shaded walkways along the mauka-makai streets. For a typical transit user, the walk up or down Bishop or Alakea Street between transit stop and office would be a hot, noisy, unpleasant hike -- not a pleasant way to begin or end the workday, and not an alternative many would find preferable to an air-conditioned car parked in their building's garage.

If 4b is too makai and 4c too mauka, then 4a and 4d, on Hotel Street, must be "just right". I think that's true, but that there are other drawbacks to the proposed plans. Primary is the lack of grade separation. A ride down Hotel Street on one of the existing bus lines shows the problems with operation at grade here. The buses crawl along. While the materials I've seen don't make it clear whether the new transit system will have the exclusive use of Hotel Street, or whether the route will be shared with city buses, in either case the results seem likely to be dismal. Attracting riders to transit obviously requires, among other things, that the ride provided be, and that it be perceived to be, fast. A ride down Hotel Street fails this test. There is heavy cross traffic – heavy auto traffic on Alakea/Bishop, substantial pedestrian traffic on the Fort Street Mall, moderate auto traffic on Bethel/Nuuanu, and substantial pedestrian activity throughout Chinatown. And the pedestrian activity along Hotel Street is precisely the sort of activity that mass transit should accommodate and foster, and which should certainly not be restricted in order to advantage the transit system – as is currently the case, with the extremely short pedestrian walk signal intervals where the Fort Street Mall crosses Hotel Street. And encounters between transit vehicles and pedestrians and motorists present substantial safety hazards, as I think has been the experience in some areas where transit vehicles running in city streets have been introduced among a public unfamiliar with them.

Surely if the very long tunnel of alternative 4c – extending under Aala Park, under Nuuanu Stream, under Beretania Street all the way to Punchbowl Street – is feasible and not cost-prohibitive, then it is feasible to have the Hotel Street segment of the route in a tunnel as well. Similarly, alternatives 4a and 4d both have tunnels through the government district, presumably for aesthetic reasons. Yet the negative impact of visible transit at the edge of a government district, say on Richards Street, seems to me far less significant than the negative functional impact of grade-level operation down busy Hotel Street. I see from the materials that two of the options considered, 6.9 and 6.10, were considered to have "long, expensive tunnels" and were dropped. Those involved tunnels from Kaahi Street to Waimanu Street, far longer than seems necessary to me. I'm suggesting a tunnel under the Hotel Street segment only – from Nuuanu Stream, or River Street, up to the proposed tunnel in the government district beginning about Richards Street. Construction cost and time for a Hotel Street tunnel should also be low and the impact of construction work on the public and on automobile traffic limited due to the ease with which existing bus traffic on Hotel Street could be rerouted to King and Beretania Streets.

Overall, the advantages of an underground Hotel Street alignment seem clear to me, and the costs manageable by comparison to the other alternatives.

Finally, just a word about the area outside of the downtown area. While the all-elevated alternative 4b has an undoubted attraction in that it would be cheap to build, just as I feel it is too far makai of the center of activities downtown, I feel that exactly the same is true in the Kakaako, Kapiolani and Ala Moana areas. These are important multi-use areas, where residential, employment, entertainment, shopping and other activities potentially draw people at all hours. The Ala Moana and Ward shopping areas and the Kapiolani business and residential area are poorly served by transit centered on Ala Moana Boulevard. Transit on Ala Moana is likely to entice relatively fewer visitors to those areas out of their cars than transit that follows the Kona or Waimanu Street alignments, I believe. Similarly, the 4c alignment along King Street seems to be too far mauka, and to bypass most of the city's important centers of activity in favor of peripheral areas like Pawa and Moiliili.

My conclusion: 4a or 4d, with a Hotel Street subway, is the preferred alignment. I think the idea of an extension to the UH Manoa campus is an excellent one - maybe it will at least begin to persuade kids that driving a car is not an essential element of ordinary middle-class life. Spending a few dollars more to build it better - more grade separated areas, more tunnels, in more central locations - is preferable to building a system on the cheap that few people will want to ride because it doesn't provide an experience superior to that of the individually-owned car.

Very truly yours,



Ronald J. Verga

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Welcome to the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project scoping meetings. The project is early in the planning process and seeking your input on the purpose of and needs for the project, the alternatives being evaluated, and the scope of the evaluation to be completed in the Alternatives Analysis and the Environmental Impact Statement. At this time, comments should not focus on a preference for a particular alternative. The opportunity for that type of input will be after the release of the Alternatives Analysis in late 2006.

Please review the project information and ask project staff any questions about the project that you might have. The information presented at the scoping meeting is also available on the project website at www.honolulustransit.org. Because the project is still early in the planning process, many specific details have not yet been worked out, and staff may only be able to provide general answers on many topics.

You may provide official comments in several ways. Here at the scoping meeting you may provide oral comments to one of the court reporters who will record them for the record or use this form to provide written comments. After the meeting, you may provide on-line comments at www.honolulustransit.org or use this form to send written comments to the Department of Transportation Services.

Name: Tami Witt Address: _____

Phone: ~~808~~ (808)-342-9134 _____

E-mail: www.babygirlwitt@yahoo.com _____

Comments:

I think it would be a great idea
because theres to much ~~transportat~~ traffic
on the roads an it takes to long to get
from A to B. I think the transit corridor
would be a big help for this island. This
project could help this island in a couple
of ways for example. It would good trans-
portation for people that don't a car. It
would take trafice down. An it would ab-

Mayor Mufi Hannemann,
Honolulu City Hall,
Honolulu, HI 96813
(FAX 523-4242)

45-090 Namoku, Apt. 914,
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-234-1984
January 4, 2006

Dear Mr. Mayor::

DUAL MODE RAPID TRANSIT

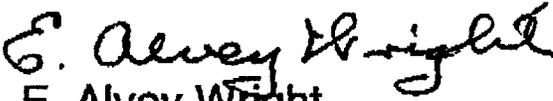
You are respectfully requested to include Dual Mode Rapid Transit as an alternative along with Light Rail, Monorail, and Magnetic Levitation. The vehicle, both on and off the fixed guideway, is a bus. The planning, design, and draft environmental impact statement must be carried along concurrently for the four alternatives to permit comparison.

In the Dual Mode system, a rider may travel from origin in the highway mode, then in the same vehicle along a fixed guideway in the transit mode, and then off the guideway into the highway mode to his destination.

In the alternatives analysis, please point out that Dual Mode can be put into service incrementally and sooner than the other alternatives, and that Dual Mode will cost one billion dollars less than the estimated cost of Light Rail (\$1.8B vs. \$2.8B).

WRITTEN CONFIRMATION IS REQUESTED IN THIS,
THE SCOPING, PERIOD.

Sincerely,


E. Alvey Wright

List of Comment Authors

Anonymous	Conrad W Blankensee
Anonymous	P. Bobilin
Anonymous	Valentin Bueno
Anonymous	Rida Cabanilla
Anonymous	Dennis Callan
Anonymous	Jadine Callejo
Anonymous	Shawn Carbrey
Anonymous	Marijane Carlos
Anonymous	Charles Carter
Christina	Wendy Chan
Elaine	Norman Chang
Martin Abel	Charlie Chang
Lois Abrams	Perry Chenq
Vicki Christine Absher	Randy Ching
Shaun Ageno	Delwyn Ching
Justito Alcon	Alvin Keali'i Chock
Harlan Aliment	Lester Chong
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Mark Anderson	Robert Clarkin
Margaret Armstrong	John Claucherty
David Atkin	Loring Colburn
Danell Avila	Guillermo Colon
Jeffry Babb	Robert Conlan
Catherine Baker	Robert Conlan
Mary Baker	Nathan Crow
Debi Balmilero	Merle Crow
Donnie Banquil	Merle Crow
Clara Bantolina	Irma Cunha
Toni Baran	Chris Dacus
Robert Bates	Stanley Dalbec
Bert Benevento	Dennis Dang
Paulina Benja	Gwen Deluze
Jay Bieiber	Tom Dinell
Darleen Binney	James Donovan

List of Comment Authors (Continued)

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Gregory Foret	Kim Hunter
Adrian Franke	Joshua Hvidding
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Albert K. Fukushima	David Imaye
Len Furukawa	Darrell Ing
Donn Furushima	Ronald Ishida
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Frank Genadio	Mark James
Ikeda George	Mark James
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Dane Gonsalves	Ed Johnson
Robert Gould	Ed Johnson
Jeannette Goya Johnson	Ed Johnson
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Gerhard Hamm	Susan Kelley
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Ann Hartman	Mitchell Kimura
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Marjorie Hawkins	Craig Kobayashi
Rick Hayashi	Arkie Koehl
Aaron Hebshi	Brett Kurashige
D. J. Henderson	Russell Lake

List of Comment Authors (Continued)

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Richard Morse	Max Rogers
Richard Morse	John Rogers

List of Comment Authors (Continued)

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Theresa Rudacille	Brian Taylor
Lehua Rupisan	Lawson Teshima
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Jonathan St.Thomas	Michael Woo
Elizabeth M. Stack	Michael Woo
Lee Stack	Betty Wood
Linda Starr	Klaus Wyrcki
Ross Stephenson	Jon Yamaguchi
Richard Sullivan	Harry Yoshida
Richard Sullivan	Mae Yoshino
A Tabar	Rodney Yoshizawa
Ira Tagawa	Stephen Yuen
Carol Mae Takahashi	Robert Yumol
James Takemoto	

Comments

Anonymous

Please do NOT adopt Personal Rapid Transit. I have a nephew who attends WV University in Morgantown, WV and they have PRT there. None of the students at WVU have anything good to say about PRT and few ride it. They complain that the system has frequent breakdowns and therefore is totally unreliable. Professors even accept riding PRT as an acceptable excuse for absences and tardys.

Anonymous

I've lived on Oahu since 1980 and have witnessed a extremely noticable increase in population and number of vehicles. This won't stop. HN needs to move its people or face a serious shutdown of viable commerce. Our biggest obstacle has been politicians in the past. The people need to take lead on this project now. I favor the Maglev or monorail depending on budget constraints. We need advanced not bandaid technology. Busess and light rail are archaic. I have lived in San Francisco, Seattle and Washington DC and am very familiar with their transit systems. I found each very effective. These are timed systems not affected by round influences (accidents, weather, auto traffic). When you know that in 2030 traffic will double in the E - W corridor, HN must take bigger steps to address congestion The Maglev is the best choice considering it defies rail friction issues and has increased speed capability. To even consider managed lanes and old technology is ignorance. Cost for the project? Just consider that we havn't spent any money on a rail system since the cane field railroad stopped running. That is a considerable amount of money not spent in all these years and so justifies the funding now.

Anonymous

Having lived here for 13 years and being a transplant from Los Angeles, California, I've noticed that the main problem with traffic is the freeway system. The off-ramps and on-ramps within the Downtown area are TOO CLOSE TOGETHER causing MAJOR traffic jams. Merging is crazy when it comes to cars trying to get onto the freeway and the cars trying to exit the freeway. There's no room to enter the freeway from yielded on ramps. I think revamping the freeway system would be a better alternative in the long run. The following on/off ramps create such big traffic problems: the H-1 west Lunalilo on ramp and the Vineyard exit, the H-1 east Kinau, Punchbowl and the on ramp entering H-1, the H-1 east University on/off ramp and others that are too close together within the vecinity of University and Kalihi. With so many people who work in Downtown, that area should be modernized. All these create the surrounding gridlocks on the surface streets. The solution is a better freeway system with better on and off ramp systems. If you look at the traffic cams, you can see where the cars pool within those on/off ramp sections. It's a mess. More buses is not a solution because the buses aren't the demand. There's no overflow within the bus usage that would warrant the need for more buses. If there's a elevated rail, how many people would give up their car to use the rail? Unless there's

an incentive. Still the problem is the old freeway system that has people driving 40 mph on it. Since a lot of people didn't have the driving education that is required now to have a license, they don't know the proper road rules. In California, you are required to have so many hours of driving classes and pass before you take the road test. Maybe people would drive better having more knowledge of road rules, such as slower traffic use the right lane and the faster traffic use the left lane on the freeway. People need lessons on merging and right of way. I've come across so many people who don't know how to use a 4 way stop sign. Hawaii is so diverse with so many people from different countries, different states coming here to visit or live. Before getting a Hawaii driver's license, maybe people need to go through professional driving lessons.

Anonymous

A train is a waste of time. Double deck or a toll road would be better and more logical. Better yet develop the second city and have people who live there - work there. The State has managed to plug up the highway in both directions by forcing people who live in Hawaii Kai to work at Kapolei. The City also requires people who live downtown to travel to Kapolei. Does this make sense?

Anonymous

Cliff Slater was exactly right. This web site and the entire "project" is a complete, pathetic joke. Stop wasting our money on your goofy "consultants". NO to rail. NO to increasing our taxes for Hannemann's Folly. This is neither need to have, nor nice to have. We DON'T WANT TO HAVE IT!

Anonymous

The rail idea is flawed unless there will be at least two rails built, and at least two trains heading in each direction at peak hours. Waiting over half an hour for another train is too long for most commuters. With only a single train, I'm assuming the wait would be over an hour if you just missed a train. The ferry idea is slightly better because you could add ferries as demand increases, but is similarly flawed because there are distinct pickup and dropoff points. Anyone not living or working near those points would be better served by carpools and/or buses. If either the rail or ferry system is implemented, for it to be successful, there would need to be additional bus service to and from the pickup and dropoff points.

Anonymous

Instead of building more infrastructure, I'd prefer to see (and pay for) an enhancement to existing express bus service. Currently, the last express bus leaves Mililani by 6:45 AM, and leaves the Downtown area by 5:15 PM. If the hours were extended and additional stops into Mililani Mauka were added, I would ride the bus daily. Having the last departure from Mililani around 9 AM, and last departure from Downtown around 8 PM would satisfy most students too. Since the goal is to reduce the number

of cars on the road, to pay for this added service, increase the gasoline tax. Exemptions or credits can be made for small businesses and for people living in areas where bus service is impractical.

Anonymous

Can't tell WHAT we would be getting and HOW MUCH it would end up costing. Is this project simply gaining inertia by enlisting support from unions and workers who would get jobs at the massive expense of the taxpayers? And Mufi will be long gone, so no-one will blame him?

Anonymous

Because of small economic size, Oahu cannot afford the huge expense of a fixed rail system, which would not even include Waikiki. Because of its geographic layout, Honolulu citizens need their cars. The answer is HOV lanes and electronic prepayment for downtown use vs country use of the highway system. These work well where in use. Thank you for listening.

christina

I feel that you shouldn't build the rail system because your raising taxes first of all and yes it might not be as much as most places but some of us have a family and that little that the tax does go up makes a big difference for some of us. Second are you trying to sink the island we have enough buildings on this island. And my last thought on this is what happen few years down the line and the drivers or mechanics decide that since there contract is up and you guys don't make a decision on how much of a raise they can get and here comes the strike then what happens to the people who come to depend on it waste of tax payers

Elaine

Finally, we are relieved of having a transit system in Oahu. Bravo! for Mr. Mayor's suggestion and action. Oahu is a paradise so that great increasing population is inevitable, especially for "Babyboom Generation". Furthermore, we ought to do it immediately. Thanks.

Martin Abel

I believe some sort of rail system is desperately needed. I grew up near Munich, Germany, which has an excellent public transportation system (like most other German cities as well). I've lived in San Francisco for some years and seen how effective and efficient the BART system there is. As the population in the area here in question will only grow in the coming years, and the number of cars will increase, something will need to be put in place to ease the strain on the already overloaded road system, preferably something long lasting. Even though I've only lived on Oahu for 3 years, I can see myself settling down here for good, and as I am only 36 years

old, I am very concerned about the current situation and hope that a way will be found to accordingly prepare this area for future generations. Mahalo, Martin Abel

Lois Abrams

I am particularly upset by the omission of HOT lanes in your analysis of alternatives to rail. You yourself have said rail will not relieve traffic congestion, yet HOT lanes everywhere have proven that they do. It would appear that you have already decided on rail and the public be damned.

Vicki Christine Absher

I am very much for a light-rail transit system to complement the buses-only transit system because of the current over-crowding on the buses-only system and the over-crowding of vehicles on the roads, especially during weekday rush-hours and seasonal busier-than-usual days, weeks, etc. Rail systems that operate entirely separate from all of the road transportation systems are never slowed by slow road-systems traffic. It appears to me that the light-rail system will soon need to be expanded to more places near to the urban Honolulu area.

Shaun Ageno

With Hawaii's growing population and lack of room to expand current highways/roads, we need a mass transit system vs. monorail.

Justito Alcon

I'd like to see good and realistic options to driving. I am not for the bus nor not doing anything so alternative 1 and 2 is out of the question. Alternative 3 I believe is a grand idea, but only works for the short term. So no to alternative 3. Alternative 4 still appears to be the most attractive choice and most likely to succeed in helping the congestion in Oahu by giving a good and realistic option. We should not worry too much about exactly what street or path the train should take, because it only makes it more difficult. I know that when a good base in place, we are more likely than not to build on that base. So, my choice would be alternative 4d. Of all the routes given in Alternative 4, I think 4d best serves the population because having the large open land around the North-South Road present a perfect park and ride area, at the same time serving the future West Oahu campus. Other great considerations of course, that is lacking from the other proposed routes is having the train go to the airport and Waikiki. This would be an added revenue to the train reducing the funding needed to operate the train by having our tourist use the train instead of renting a car. The other things I liked about this route is that the route taken by this train, services many of the areas where Oahu workers work. Such as Pearl Harbor/Hickam, Airport, Kalihi industrial area, downtown Honolulu, Ala Moana area, Waikiki, and for the students of HPU and UH Manoa. The only thing that I am against of is the building of tunnels. Would it not be less costlier if no tunneling was done? Tunneling itself is expensive. Maybe more expensive than building elevated guideways through downtown

Honolulu. You also have the problem of possibly contaminating water supply due to tunneling. In conclusion, I support Alternative 4d and that I hope that elevated rail transit will happen.

Harlan Aliment

Several areas of concern for me. 1. Having traveled throughout Japan I've been very impressed how they tie local bus routes and bicycle parking areas into their train stations. What are the plans to get people from their homes to the rail stops and back? Obviously there will not be large parking areas. Will there be minibusses going through the neighborhoods or??? What ever is used it must timely and avoid the high traffic roads like Fort Weaver. Remember transit riders leave their cars home for the speed and convenience. Having them wait in traffic to get there is not going to work. 2. The rail system is not going to be a bottomless pit of expensive jobs for people. With today's technology a raised system has no need for an operator. (The LRT in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is totally automated. <http://www.kiat.net/malaysia/KL/transit.html>) Ticket sales do not require employees either as the San Diego Trolley system has shown. <http://www.transit-rider.com/ca.sandiego/sdtrolley.cfm> Machines sell the ticket and random checks by transit security provide enforcement. Taxpayers are interested in affordable transit not funding retirement and medical benefits for more employees. Be smart, be simple. 3. Long term maintenance cost must be low. Use a proven system, not something new and untested. Remember the ongoing airport wiki wiki bus fiasco. Low maintenance inside the cars. No carpet like Atlanta's MARTA - hard to remove all the gum and cigarette burns, use a smooth finish. No smoking on board. Hard plastic seats are ok not easily damaged padded ones. Zero graffiti allowed on the cars and stations. Cars & stations cleaned each night. Graffiti resistant wall finishes. 4. Why is no one talking about an "expandable system" to add a route along the H2? Are we just going to abandon Mililani, Mililani Mauka and all the future growth in those areas? Plan now while you have the time and land can be planned. Remember how much HDOT is now spending to widen poorly designed narrow roads. 5. This project will not be a bottomless pit of constant contract additions, rebuilding, etc, like Boston's Big Dig Fiasco. <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/3769829/> On time, on budget with required reviews anytime costs go over budget. 6. Last area is your poor website design. Why is the input area window so small, taking up only 1/3 of the whole website width. Looks like you either have a poorly trained webmaster or are trying to limit input. Fix the website please. Thank you for your time, Al

John Anderson

Please start the rail system as soon as possible. I am tired of waiting twenty years or so. The magnetic appears to be a good option. I love the Vancouver, BC skyway. Their problem, though is that there is little parking around the terminals. I also agree with others that it should be as safe as possible & maybe stretch to Kahala Mall.

Thank you. John

Mark Anderson

To anyone that spends two or more hours each day in traffic to and from work, the purpose and need for the project should be obvious. The need for a comprehensive transit solution for the Kapolei-University corridor is greater than ever. The solutions should be revolutionary, not evolutionary. The piecemeal solutions to date (zipper lane, H-1 widening, contraflow lanes and increased bus routes and lanes) are band-aids that have not kept up with the explosive growth in West Oahu. In my view, fixed rail would provide the best "revolutionary" solution.

Margaret Armstrong

I have had doubts about affordability and viability of this transit project from its inception, Please develop a serious study of benefits and costs before proceeding any further with this project. In fact, why not mount a serious study of this proposed project before soaking the public for something that may very well not be advisable or affordable???? Margaret Armstrong

David Atkin

Hawaii's population is aging, faster than the aging rate on the mainland. I think it is very important that the system be accessible to senior citizens who will need mobility after they give up driving their cars. In addition, security is a very important issue for senior citizens. Some day I will be a senior citizen, and I would like to be able to use a system that is fully accessible to me, and provides for my security.

Danell Avila

To Whom It May Concern: I know that making a decision and getting underway on creating an "ease" in our traffice situation may be very overwhelming and problematic at times. I just wanted to give my input although I have no idea if anyone will read this or if it really matters. Hawaii's roadways is nothing in comparison to the mainland and those options on the mainland may or may not work here. We have limited space here whereas the maninland can create routes from unused roadways, so development has to be made in the best possible manner not just for now but for our future generations. Most options, with the exception of an underground system, seem to be worth considering but the matter is the route. Perhaps a conjunction of two to three options may be beneficial although I understand that the monitary aspect is what is most troubling for the state. Although I did not vote for Mufi Hanneman it seems that he is doing a fine job thus far helping our state, and I hope that he and Linda Lingle and all other forms of state/government can work together to finalize this bothersome matter. The railway system is interesting but please keep in mind that Seattle had one drama, that was noted anyway, that should be considered if proposing such a feat. In regards to the tollways, well I don't know how useful that will be as some Hawaii residents barely make ends meet as it is. I must congratulate your efforts so far in coming up with some solutions that would be considered, but as a Hawaii motorist I hope that we all can vote on the matter and find a greater solution

for now and tomorrow. There are many issues that need to be addressed and I pray that you all can come up with reasonable solutions that your voters can vote upon to better assist us all. Best of luck to you all. Please do not fight so much that we take eons just trying to get this project, whatever it may be, underway. Too much bickering back and forth does not help, but some must be considered in order to find the "best" route and option possible. I hope to be finding some option to vote upon when you fine gentlemen and ladies have settled on two options that is most befitting our input as Hawaii residents and United States citizens. Of course I have more to say but it is not in relation to the project at hand, but is more directed to our roadways and the motorist driving upon them. Again all my best to you. May we as Hawaii residents find a solution that helps ease the strain on our roadways. Thank you, Danell Avila ... one of many Hawaii motorists!

Jeffry Babb

With the steady rising of fuel costs (despite recent cuts, they are still higher than ever), emission pollution during peak travel hours as well as the snarled traffic, it is time to consider getting cars off the roads. I am in favor of some fixed guideway alternative. 4c or 4d seems to be preferable since Salt Lake Blvd. is so crowded and is heavily residential. It would seem more efficient to make use of the Nimitz viaduct to place an elevated or ground rail in the center of that structure. It will impact less businesses and homes. More bike lanes would be useful as well. Riding a bike on the City Streets is a hazard! I agree with the Mayor that we need an intermediate transit system that makes more stops and carries more passengers than the personal people carriers. This is long overdue. With the senior citizen population of baby boomers on the rise -- more of them will

undoubtedly give up their cars -- there is a need for some kind of transportation for them to get to and from medical facilities, etc. Also parking at peak hours at the University is a nightmare -- our students and faculty need some kind of relief soon! After EIS done and etc. when can we realistically see some kind of rail system operating in the corridor? The governor's estimate of 15 years is too long! We will be gridlocked by then. Whatever happened to the ferry that ran out of Pearl Harbor that my family used?

Catherine Baker

Our travel corridors are too limited to add any form of rail. Raised rail would destroy our best commodity - beauty. PLEASE do not decide on ANY TYPE OR RAIL. It only reminds me of Chicago. UGH. A letter to the editor had the best idea yet. Free Bus rides using the now available freeways and roadways. Setting aside one of the lanes to this use exclusively during peak traffic hours, making this method the fastest and of course cheapest way ever. Compared to what empty trains (and they will be empty) would cost. A BARGAIN.

Mary Baker

The presentations I have been to and have read have not convinced me that rail is the most cost-effective way to ease transportation problems on the Leeward side. I am very much in favor of using our collective intelligence to plan a great bus system. I am opposed to a light rail system because it is too expensive. I believe that putting the funds and planning power into a bus system that is responsive to ridership needs - putting buses in and out of service as the needs grow - sending smaller feeder buses into the valleys to bring riders to express buses that can use dedicated lanes on the already constructed highways. We don't need another construction project that will go over budget and enrich a few without really solving the problem.

Debi Balmilero

*) Consider the decrease in traffic when the UH students are not in session... there is a marked difference in commuter time. Work with the University to require all off campus students use public transportation... ie... no vehicles allowed on the premises and have special commuter bus fares for college students. (almost free--subsidized by the state)-This would eliminate the congestion. *) Convert additional lanes on other main arteries to contra flow-Kam Hwy in Pearl City would be ideal if the Leeward Community College only used public transportation into their campus.

Donnie Banquil

Although I reside on the windward side of the island, I am still in favor of developing a fixed rail system to help alleviate our highway congestion for Oahu. Given the routes suggested, I support route #4 (North-South Road/Farrington Highway/Kamehameha Highway/Airport/Dillingham Boulevard/Hotel Street/Kapiolani Boulevard with Waikiki Spur). This would allow people from the west side the option and flexibility to use the rail system for travel to Pearl City, Downtown Honolulu, Waikiki and the University. In regards to the various vehicles suggested to transport passenger, I support a monorail system (similar to system used at the Disneyland parks). This system would provide a sleek, high speed and modern mode of transporting passengers. The concerns I have regarding the mass transit system is getting the general population to use the system and its user convenience. Addressing the matter of convenience, the fixed rail system should be linked to shuttles or bus traveling to and from outlying neighborhood locations at each fixed rail station. In regards to encouraging the population to use the fixed rail system, the system's convince shall aide in its voluntary use. I have also experience in some cities a toll fee being used on highways, as a deterrent to automobile use, in overlapping mass transit routes and highways. Thus economically making a mass transit system a more affordable means of transportation, then automobile use. I also suggest exploring the use of sea ferries in conjunction to the use of a rail and bus system (similar to the system used in Vancouver city). I highly recommend the City and County of Honolulu's Department of transportation to research and use a model Singapore's integrated transit system (encompassing the integrated use of fixed rail, buses, automobiles and ferries into their overall transit system). Should the

development of a fixed rail system become successful in Honolulu and West Oahu, I would then like to see routes developed to areas such as Hawaii Kai and Windward Oahu. It is my opinion a successful integrated transit system shall aid in alleviating Oahu's traffic congestion and shall be a leading factor for Hawaii future.

Clara Bantolina

I am writing to express my preferences for a alternative mass transit system. I live in Ewa and work in town and I would willingly use the rail system if it went along Fort Weaver road. Ewa is a growing community with a great number of people working in town & Waikiki. I think that it would be a great disservice to bypass that area and to connect to the rail system with buses. I used to ride the bus prior to the bus strike but I have young children at home. The bus schedules and the time it takes to get home is not feasible with my children and their schedules. There is no way that I would make it in time to pick up my kids from their various activities if I rode home on the bus. There are many families just like this in Ewa Beach with two working parents. The main reasons they drive into town is the flexibility and time that driving affords. If a rail system would get me home faster, I would probably use that and not drive. The buses could be used to go around the communities on a more frequent basis to connect to the rail line. With any mass transit system servicing West Oahu, it is essential that riders do not have to wait so long since many of the workforce have young families. Right now, I carpool and even with that, traffic is heavy so I am willing to use other alternatives. The key is making it such that working families with young children (most of whom live out in that area) can use the service and that it accommodates the lifestyles that most of these families have. Right now, the bus IS great if you can go straight home and don't have any commitments. I would like to see the rail system service the Ewa/Ewa Beach area by going through Fort Weaver road and then connecting to Kapolei. It would be a waste of time to have to catch the bus to Kapolei or Waipahu and then hop on to the rail system. Thanks for taking the time to read this email and letting me express my preferences.

Toni Baran

I am against this tremendous expense on us, the taxpayers. Try what was done off island - free work hour time buses. I am sure there are MANY other choices before we get into this explosive, over budget, situation.

robert bates

Testimony from a Citizen Robert Bates, Honolulu Thank you for allowing this testimony into the record of developing our transit system in Honolulu. When I first arrived here twenty one years ago, I rode a bicycle, took the bus, walked, caught rides and even rode a skateboard. Today of course I drive a car. No one in their right mind with the means wouldn't. For better or worse, our city is designed for the driver. beyond lifestyle issues are the practical, which I'll keep to herein. My criteria for a successful mass transit experience is threefold: efficiency, destination and connectivity. Riders should not be subjected to many stops if they are commuting or

arriving from the airport. An hour long trip from Chapel is a built in disincentive to take rail. Stops should be at existing destinations, areas of interest/use. And riders should be able to easily pick up buses or find parking lots for their cars nearby. Simply and in broad strokes, here are my ideas. Central Station The Governor and HECO both have stated that the downtown power plant is old and inefficient and will be relocated. It's location makes for a perfect Central Station. Commuter train lines should run above Nimitz, so a Makai terminus is logical. Central Station becomes a downtown focal point, and part of a much needed reuse of Honolulu's valuable and underutilized waterfront. Line One - commuter A commuter/airport line that runs from Chapel through Ewa, across - rather than around - Pearl Harbor, with a stop at the airport and then directly to town. The speed at which this train could reach downtown would be staggering, far less than half of the proposed line. An airport stop generates rider ship into town at off peak hours. The airport component cannot be overlooked. Every major city in the world has an airport train. Visitors and residents alike will benefit by it. This same line stops at central station, makai of downtown, then proceeds to Waikiki with a single stop at Ala Moana, ending at a terminus connecting to a Kuhio line. Line Two - local A Waikiki local line, elevated above Kuhio Avenue line would both eliminate the need for frequent bus stops on Kuhio (reducing noise and pollution) and make for smoother vehicular ingress/egress throughout Waikiki. This line would run from the Airport line terminus to Kapuhulu Avenue, both directions. In a perfect world it would run up Kapuhulu to the University. Line Three -commuter A commuter train from Waipahu, through Pearl City and along the Moanalua Freeway. This train should make no more than six stops before segueing into the Airport line along Nimitz Hwy., or offering a transfer to a local line that runs King Street both directions (see below). Line Four - local A Kakaako/Kapiolani line should run from Central Station, down Halekauwila, stop under the Ward complex and continue to Kapiolani Blvd., where it emerges above ground and continues along Kapiolani to University Avenue. This path should be two way and would terminate near King Street. Line Five - local University to Kalihi lines run King Street. Two ways.

Bert Benevento

I believe Honolulu has ignored the benefits of bicycle riding as alternative transportation. A mastser plan was designed 8 years ago and has yet to be implemented. What's worse, is despite rapidly rising tax revenues, the mayor cut back the budget for bycycling to almost nothing. If Bicycle riders comprise 1% of the residents, then 1% of the transporation budget should be allocated to improvement and addition of bicycle paths. We have the best bicycling climate in the world, but perhaps the fewest and most unsafe paths of any state in the union. Plus bicyclists are disproportionally targeted by police for minor violation while cabs & police cars gun for pedestrians and bike riders daily with impunity. Shame on Hawaii.

paulina benja

What a shame we can't rely on the bus to get us to work on time anymore. Since the bus zipper lane is open to all (if you check the cars, there's rarely more than one person in it) we are always over 20 minutes late, and that's if we get the bus at least 1 hour earlier than we should have to! I don't see where you will put a rail system on the already crowded roadways in Honolulu to Waikiki, unless you put it in the air!
Mahala

Jay Bieiber

After looking over the proposed plans I think Alternative 4c is the best option (with some minor changes). In order to minimize traffic in the island we have to provide alternative forms of transportation beyond just adding more roads. The fact is that we are running out of buildable land, and if we build more roads, I am sure it will just ensure drivers that there is less of a need to carpool or take advantage of mass transit, and after a few years the roads will just fill up with cars again. I accept the fact that a transit system will probably not be able to pay for itself, it is a service provided to the community, like roads, police and fire services. Mass transit however does gain the benefit of charging for ridership, where as increasing roads, or taking no action does nothing. In any mass transit system the most important factors include convenience and accessibility. If the system is not convenient for riders in residential communities to use, they will not use mass transit. Therefore it is important that stations have ample park-and-ride areas and be in areas that are accessible to the surrounding neighborhoods. The second factor I mentioned was accessibility. The transit line must go directly to work sites, shopping areas, and recreation spots. If riders have to transfer from one type of transit, such as light rail, to a bus system, ridership will decrease due to the inaccessibility of the system. Therefore I believe that Alternative 4c meets these needs the best as it would allow the riders on the West side of the island as well as those in locations like Ewa to have easy access to the system. This should include the design option that goes past Ala Moana Mall. However, I like the spur route proposed in Alternative 4d that has the line into Waikiki. Also, the system should consider a future spur that would access the Mililani and Wahiwa areas. We need alternative mass transit in Oahu, and people who think otherwise should look at the increasing traffic problems on our roads, or the number of people waiting at their local bus stop.

Darleen Binney

e. be willing to pay for the privilege to keep their cars handy. If children are involved, a parent needs mobility to come and go as needed. People with parttime jobs would not be held back waiting for a ride.

Conrad W Blankenzee

I believe based on my experience, the only solution for such an environmentally sensitive area is a noncontact urban maglev system, it is inexpensive to construct and

maintain. Only Korea (www.rotem.co.kr) and Japan (?) have available. P. Bobilin I don't see how I can make a valuable judgement on which transit system to use without a price comparison. I would also like to see table comparing relative features such as the difference in ease and speed of construction, energy consumption, reliability, safety etc,.... for each type of transit. If this information was on the site, I could not find it. This is fairly basic, lay information that should be available to the public.

Valentin Bueno

I hope your station designs eventually follow international standards for layout and signage. I have been to subway and train stations in Japan, China, France, Italy, and Switzerland all were easy to navigate in, out and around.

Rida Cabanilla

Aloha, Please accept and include my comments for the record. The route to serve rail on the Leeward side should include a stop at both the proposed UH West Oahu campus in Kapolei and the heavily populated Ft. Weaver Road corridor. This can be achieved by proceeding down North-South Road from the campus to Kapolei Parkway to Geiger Road then north up Ft. Weaver Road to Farrington Highway. Eventually, the rail must serve the residents of Waianae and Waikiki. As long as the route utilizes the medial along Kapolei Parkway and Ft. Weaver Road, issues concerning privacy for those residents in the vicinity should not be breached. Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with my comments. Rida Cabanilla 586-6080

Dennis Callan

Our Urban Tragedy By Dennis Callan (These remarks have been submitted to the city's transit study, and I'm sending them to the Honolulu Advertiser as an exclusive for your consideration as an op-ed essay. Thanks for your continued coverage of this critical issue) Stop the train, I want to get off! There's a missing factor in the formula pushing a 2-billion dollar rail system into our suburbs, and this traffic solution is doomed to fail without it. The simple truth is that a rail transit system requires a dense residential pattern to make it work, which we do not have on Oahu. There is a direct connection between transportation and land use which has not yet been properly addressed. The often-cited description of Honolulu conjured up by rail proponents as a dense, linear city ideal for rail is a myth. Our biggest transit problem is that Oahu's settlement pattern of single-family homes in suburban subdivisions is too dispersed for rail to be effective. If we build the rail line and don't change the way we build new housing this system will be a colossal disaster. How many people right now live within walking distance of any likely stations? Not nearly enough to support rail rapid transit. When you look around the world at successful rail transit systems you see they are in cities with medium and high density housing where people can walk to the station and then walk to their work place at the other end. A global trend in city planning is creation of the urban village, both in the city center and in the fringes with construction of new towns. Such increased housing density could enhance quality of life by developing a village atmosphere and supporting our

need for close-knit communities where people interact, unlike today's isolated neighborhoods. Shops, restaurants, entertainment, jobs, schools, mass transit, and other enjoyable urban amenities would be easily accessed in a more dense community if it is properly planned. There is a causal relationship between our problems of unaffordable housing and congested traffic, because we have spent years building the wrong kind of homes in the wrong places, covering our landscape with big, expensive houses, generating suburban sprawl that has produced tremendous traffic problems. These unattended problems will only grow worse if we are distracted with an ineffective, fixed rail pipedream. Jumping into a rail commitment at this point is just not going to work. Consider how someone living in a single-family suburban home would have to get to work on rail: walk to a bus stop, wait for the bus, ride to the rail, walk to the platform, wait, board, ride, walk from the rail to another bus stop, wait, board, ride, walk to work; then do the same thing in reverse going home. Who is going to put up with this? Most who are supporting rail probably would not ride it -- but hope in vain that others will, to make more room on the roads for the rest of us. There are better transportation alternatives which could provide faster relief and perhaps eventually evolve into a rail system. One obvious strategy is to vastly expand our bus system. We need more buses, exclusive lanes, frequent service, additional routes, express lines, better connections and lower fares. Our present bus system is often claimed to be one of the nation's best, which is another myth that stands in the way of true solutions. It can be drastically improved. High-occupancy toll lanes are a promising technology which the city studies are ignoring. Extensive road construction will be needed, including some elevated busways, bus stations, underpasses at busy intersections, more use of contraflow and other management improvements. In the future, if bus utilization grows heavy enough, this system of elevated structures and exclusive bus lanes could be converted to rail, which would ultimately have more capacity; but it would be a mistake to attempt a transition directly to rail at this point when we are not yet ready. Why not just build the rail now along with the higher density housing to go with it? That would be nice if we could trust the brilliance of our politicians and private land developers to do the right thing, but with their sorry record of land use planning we must not be gullible. This new kind of housing approach needs to be demonstrated with real results and in the meantime it can be supported with an expanded bus system which can evolve into rail transit. Unfortunately, our misguided state legislature passed a flawed bill last session that prohibits expenditures of new transit revenues on road improvements. How can the city now tell us with a straight face that all transportation alternatives are currently being given fair consideration? This state legislation could be changed, but given past performance, the outlook is bleak. Our former mayor was probably on the right track with his BRT plans using modern buses driving on exclusive lanes and circulating in existing streets. A well-planned bus service could pick you up near home, bring you to a bus station where one transfer would put you on a bus that is going close to the final destination, riding on exclusive lanes that will be free from traffic. Commuters could also drive to transit stations at regional shopping malls, park for the day and catch an express bus direct to their destination. The whole island can benefit from this approach rather than one narrow leeward corridor. At the same time we can be preparing ourselves for a future rail system by building new housing in

well-planned, medium and high- density apartments -- which can be affordable and very beautiful when done right. Clustered villages can be created with a mix of townhouses and highrise apartments that could support neighborhood shopping, entertainment and other urban amenities. These clusters could be developed in the urban core as well as carefully-selected regions of the island. It can happen, but it will require a serious community dialogue and basic transformation in the way we build housing, requiring a prohibition on most new single-family houses and active government involvement in consolidating small private parcels for larger planned communities through aggressive use of eminent domain. Let's not be railroaded into paying for a premature, expensive rail system that will take forever to build at great inconvenience and won't work. At this time and for the foreseeable future rail is a luxury that we are not ready for and cannot afford. Imagine ten years of disruptive construction for a massive elevated train that hardly anyone in our lifetimes is going to use, leaving the rest of us stuck in gridlock and our children permanently unable to find affordable housing. We can do better. Questions for the city to answer, and statements to respond to: Regarding the basic premise of my statement, what role do you feel population density in the rail corridor plays in future ridership? How else do you respond to my essay? Where is rail rapid transit being used elsewhere in America? Regarding these other systems: What problems do the systems have? What is the population and population density of these cities? What is the population and population density of rail corridors in these cities? How do these densities compare with Honolulu? What is our population density within walking distance of likely rail stations? About the originating station in your Honolulu projections: What percent of riders will drive to the station? What percent of riders will ride bus to the station? What percent of riders will walk to the station? Same questions about the terminal rail station, for the last leg to the working place. How would you compare these numbers to mainland rail systems? Can you put light rail trolley at street level into the analysis as a viable alternative to be considered, and adopted? Dennis Callan is president of the Hawaii Geographic Society and has been involved for many years with transportation issues. He has actively participated in community politics for a long time, including terms as chairman of the Manoa Neighborhood Board, the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen Advisory Committee on Transportation and former president of Life of the Land. He also studied urban planning as a UH graduate student and has extensively traveled the world as an international tour organizer, using rail transit systems in 37 different cities: Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Las Vegas, San Francisco, San Diego, London, Amsterdam, Heidelberg, Munich, Berlin, Paris, Lyon, Marseilles, Rome, Geneva, Bern, Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Istanbul, St. Petersburg, Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Kyoto, Hong Kong and Singapore. Jadine Callejo I have lived in the mainland for a few years and have used the rail system. It would greatly improve our traffic conditions, but what the government really needs to look at is all the housing that is being built and the fact is that we don't have the roads to accomodate all the construction that is going on. STOP BUILDING HOMES until a solution can be made. I would gladly use this as an option for myself and my family however until this happens the traffic here in Honolulu is only going to get worse. PLEASE STOP

THE ROAD MADNESS SOON!! Malama Pono Shawn Carbrey I am very interested in working toward approval of the "Fixed-Guide way Alternative-C" (as described by the Honolulu Advertiser Dec. 4 article), for a light rail or monorail system. My husband and I are registered voters and take a very active interest in helping to improve the quality of life for residents of Ewa Beach and Honolulu. Please keep me apprised of any actions we can take toward the approval of the proposed rail system. Marijane Carlos Once again we have to remind the current administration, as we have with the past THREE administrations, that RAIL is NOT what Honolulu needs to correct our transit problems. I sat in on the last round of "community input" sessions and it was the general consensus that Honolulu has neither the space or the mentality to embrace RAIL. What we need is to INCREASE bus service so that it is more user friendly, with dedicated lanes, park & ride areas and feeder busses. Our Mayor, who was elected by Kapolei, and will do anything to please the people out there, is once again wasting tax payers money on University students and the few who might use Rail (mostly those who do not have cars). I have a very personal reason for not wanting Rail since it's just a matter of time till they extend it to run past my bedroom window. From using the Bart when I'm in the Bay Area, and loving it, I know just noisy & dirty that can be, and how much room is needed for stations, storage of extra cars, turn arounds, etc. There will have to be condemnations! And the people who clog our roadways with their BIG cars will NOT be using the RAIL. Charles Carter As a frequent traveler to the east and west coasts of the mainland as well as to Europe, I am always amazed to return to Hawaii and see the traffic mess that exists on Oahu. It is indeed frustrating for me, as one who does not own a car but travels solely by bus, to sit in these traffic jams. After using the rapid transit/light rail systems in the progressive parts of the world, it is dishartening to see the lack of progress here in Hawaii. Much talk with no results on the ground. One only has to go as close as Portland, Oregon to view a great and ever expanding light rail system that could be copied here. It is too bad we don't have the elected officials who could make a decision to proceed with the best system available and to heck with all the "studies" and "community meetings" that go on forever here in Hawaii. Do you really think all these tourists caught up in our traffic jams really think this is "paradise"? If you do, you been eating too much poi. Wendy Chan Before we spend billions of dollars to finance a mass transit system that may not work, we need to try the following first: Free bus ride for everyone (residents and non-residents) for three months and add more routes to underserved areas and busiest areas. Many people will ride the bus if it is free. This is to free up the congestion on the roads, to have less air pollution, less fuel costs, less road maintenance, etc. The free bus service works well on the Big Island. If the trial period is proved successful, we should implement it permanently. It is easy to fix the bus system than a brand new mass transit system which is expensive and may not work. Charlie Chang I have gone to your recent meeting pertaining to this transit issues. My suggestions:-Transit stops at every five to seven miles with city bus covering the radius. If it takes 45 min. from Ewa Beach to Diamond Head, I would not even think about taking the transit. People are looking for ways to get to their destination quicker and safer instead of competing with the Freeway mad house. 15 to 20 years from now there will be at least ten times the amount of people here in Hawaii because of population growth.

Less stops will prolong the life span of the transit. It should also cost the tax payer less. Emergency phones must be placed in the transit. Close up some roads from having vehicles in business areas where only buses can drive through. Maybe close up eight blocks in one section and better the bus system which will stop some people from using their cars and drop the percentage of traffic jams in some most critical areas in Honolulu. Restrooms at every transit stop. Latest news, a transit got blown off its tracks. Don't say it won't happen here. Norman Chang Restrictions must be in place regarding the number of vehicles that can be allowed in the C&C of Honolulu. Operating a private vehicle is a privilege and not a right. I offer these proposals in addressing our traffic situation: 1. each household address is allowed 2 registered vehicles, any in excess will require a \$1000 annual penalty fee (apply fee to operation of bus/transit) -those that pay the fee would be entitled to a free annual bus pass with their photo on it to discourage others using it 2. single occupant vehicles are not allowed on freeway system during restricted hours: a. morning 5:30am to 8:30 am b. afternoon 3:00pm to 6:00 pm -recruit class HPD officers would be stationed at on ramps during these hours to ensure compliance -this restriction will encourage bus/transit use 3. issue Hawaii drivers license with magnetic strip that contains information (i.e. safety check/registration/insurance expiration) for 2 vehicles that operator will utilize 4. Require valid operators license with above information whenever purchasing gasoline. This may be a networking nightmare but I'm sure it can be implemented. I realize that my proposals will not be very popular to all but my final point is this: The sole reason for our traffic situation is because there are too many single occupant vehicles on the road. Single occupancy is the most inefficient mode of transportation. Perry Chenq Including a route to the airport and having stations in the large shopping center (such as Ala Moana, Pearl Rige and Waikale) will definitely increase the riderships. Delwyn Ching I support the transit project wholeheartedly and believe once it's built, people will ride the transit to/from work, school, shopping, etc. As I have suggested during the last time when Rene Mansho killed the project, a great system will travel from Kapolei to UH-Manoa and include, Ewa, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Pearl City, Aiea, Pearl Harbor, Hickam AFB, Tripler AMC, Ft. Shafter, AMR, The Airport, Downtown Honolulu, Ala Moana, Waikiki and UH-Manoa. Having experienced the MAXRail in Portland, Oregon, we need a transit system to move people fast and efficiently and get them out of their cars, especially from the areas in central and leeward Oahu where these communities are still growing and there's no room for more roads or freeway expansion. Keep it going and don't quit! I will even ride it from my home in Kaimuki to work at Schofield Barracks. Aloha, Randy Ching One of the alternatives that should be considered is to have a dedicated high-occupancy lane (HOL) during peak traffic times. Town bound times would be 6 to 8 a.m. and Ewa bound times would be 3 to 6 p.m. A HOL would accommodate buses and vehicles carrying at least 3 people. Enforcement would fall to HPD. Fines collected could be used to increase the number of enforcement officers. The H1 and H2 freeways should definitely be used as HOL's--one lane townbound in the morning. H1 freeway should be used Ewa bound in the afternoon--one lane dedicated to high-occupancy vehicles. The zipper lane could be used as a HOL. Again, no new roads to build and since the zipper lane is a reality, nothing much would have to change. The advantage of this proposal is

that it would require very little money. No new roads would have to be built and it would move people quickly on the high-occupancy lanes. A more expensive option would be to build an elevated HOL (1 or 2 lanes) above major roadways (Nimitz Hwy for example). This would be reversible--townbound in the morning and Ewa bound in the afternoon. Buses would be the main people carrier on this elevated road, not trains. I do not think that rail would be more efficient than buses in moving people into town. It would certainly be more expensive. The infrastructure is already in place for buses. Let's use it. The City has a large fleet of buses that could be augmented with the half percent increase in the GET. The additional buses could serve the most populous areas with more frequent runs (every 5 minutes during peak times, for example). When drivers see how fast these dedicated HOL's move people, some of them will carpool or take the bus because of the time savings. To save even more time, the dedicated HOL's could be used on non-freeway roads such as Nimitz/Ala Moana or King St. or Beretania St. I don't think that rail should be the only alternative considered. There are many ways to move people more quickly and less expensively. Let's not make rail the default position. There is some evidence that rail does not lessen congestion very much and the maintenance costs are higher than that of the bus system on a per person per mile basis. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my input. Alvin Keali'i Chock I would prefer the light rail (or some modification thereof) route which goes thru 'Ewa, and which reaches both UHM and Waikiki. We lived in the Washington DC metropolitan area, and saw the success of the Metro system to Maryland and Virginia - it took some 30 years but it provided fast, reliable transportation, both during rush (every 1-1/2 to 2 minutes) and non-rush (about every 15 minutes) hours. The current congestion is terrible; I'm glad that I'm retired and only work during the summers!! Lester Chong I'm glad that the county is moving forward with a mass transit solution and appreciate the efforts of everyone involved. I believe that having a mass transit solution in the future will have a large impact on the quality of life on Oahu. The following are my comments: 1. I'm for a fixed guideway light rail type of solution because I don't believe in reinventing the wheel and this is the solution that seems to work the best for cities similar to Honolulu's situation. 2. Alternative 4c with a spur to Waikiki seems like route that can service the most people. 2. Park and ride lots next to transit stops at key locations (In the Leeward area at a minimum lots are need at Kapolei, Ewa, and Waipahu (to service Central Oahu residents)) will be an important factor in gaining local resident's acceptance. 3. The study process should include the lessons learned from as many major mass transit projects as possible. 4. Obtaining a large percentage of local resident's input on the transit path and stop locations and station features should be a requirement of this project. 5. The study should include planning to enable service to Kailua, Mililani and Hawaii Kai in the future. Thanks for allowing me to comment on this. David Choy

In the matter of 'mass' transit, consider me as in favor/with a caveat; No increase of the general excise tax to build a 'fund' to cover 'mass' transit cost. There is a need to reduce traffic and congestion all over Honolulu, not only from West Oahu in to town. Will transit benefit East Honolulu commuters? What percentage of the population who own cars and drive will utilize transit? Will there be convenient and safe

pedestrian pathways or secondary transportation for passengers to their final destinations from the transit route terminals and drop-offs? How commuter friendly will transit schedules be? I believe that there are far too many unanswered questions at this point to say "tax" the public now and discuss the details later. Lay out the nitty gritty now. Just who and how many drivers are going to commit to riding transit? Maybe the bus is enough- with intelligent improvement(s) and expert management? Don't go transit and tax without the entire picture on the screen.

Robert Clarkin

To the Mayor and City Council of the City and County of Honolulu and to each and every individual concerned about the transportation solutions for the City and County of Honolulu: There are some very serious possible solutions to the transportation problems of Oahu that are not being considered for study by government. This fact alone makes the whole process suspect to the average citizen and should be of concern to each and every elected official on Oahu. Without the inclusion of all reasonable solutions in the study, each and every citizen should ask their representative "Why not?" At the public meeting at the Blaisdell Center I asked over forty people not connected with the presentation if they knew before they arrived that the meeting was to present the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. All respondents but two thought it was a meeting to see alternatives for a transportation solution for the whole Island. This project is not a transportation solution for Oahu. Hawaii Auto Bus Solution (HawaiiABS) provides a framework to incorporate any and all solutions to a complete transportation solution for all of Oahu. If some form of rail is actually part of the overall solution to the transportation problem of Oahu then it would fit into the framework of HawaiiABS. HawaiiABS should be studied first along with any other reasonable solution to the total transportation problem of all Oahu before starting down a path that might be impossible to correct if it is WRONG. The financial considerations could be disastrous for the future this beautiful island. While the elected representatives have a duty to their individual constituents they also have a duty to the well being and success of all the residents of Oahu and to the success of the City and County of Honolulu. The electorate is beginning to feel that on the subject of "rail" they are being "railroaded" and given the present real property tax problem they are on the edge of revolt.

Hawaii Auto Bus Solution (HawaiiABS) Copyright 2005 by Robert Clarkin A true solution to the transportation problem on Oahu must be able to manage the number of automobiles on the roadways of Oahu and at the same time must provide an alternate means for residents and visitors to reasonably get from one place to another of their choice. (HawaiiABS) is one solution to a problem that touches every resident and visitor in Hawaii. It might be the only solution that will truly accomplish what others are only promising. This solution is possible because Oahu is an island and islands have economies and other factors slightly different than other landmasses. These differences must be taken into account when planning the future of the island. At the present time public transportation is funded by a combination of the fare paid

and general taxes. The user pays approximately 28% to 30 % of the cost and all taxpayers pay the balance. All taxpayers in a Federal, State, and City and County combination pay for the road and highways system. THE PRESENT SITUATION BRIEFLY STATED 1) Too many automobiles on the road at the same time. 2) Inadequate resources to get people where they need to go without automobiles. 3) No system presently proposed will alleviate automobile congestion. Hawaii Auto Bus Solution (HawaiiABS) 1) All public transportation will be free to the rider. 2) The public transportation system will be enlarged so that everyone will have a reasonable ability to move freely throughout the island. 3) The public transportation system will include but not be limited to buses, mini-buses and bicycles. 4) Park and Ride Lots shall be part of the public transportation system. 5) Vehicles other than public transport vehicles shall have a yearly registration fee based on load weight capacity. 6) Management of the number of vehicles on the roads will be accomplished by raising and lowering the gasoline tax which will be collected at the point of purchase for all vehicles and adjusted monthly. The gasoline tax will be dedicated solely to the public transportation system. 7) An additional visitor tax will be added and dedicated to the public transportation system. 8) Federal, State and City and County taxes will pay for the balance of the public transportation system and the building and maintenance of the roads and highways. The many administrative, legal and political ramifications are capable of being worked out if the various parties have a real desire to solve the traffic problem on the Island of Oahu. A rail solution will not relieve traffic congestion. Only a truly alternate transportation system coupled with a cost to drive factor will achieve a reasonable traffic flow on an island with limited space for roads and highways and almost unlimited capacity to add people and vehicles. Most businesses and individuals will find the increase in productivity and the decreases in maintenance costs, labor costs, insurance costs, and capital costs beneficial to their net profit. Hawaii Auto Bus Solution (HawaiiABS) Copyright 2005 by Robert Clarkin may be copied for non-commercial use promoting this solution for the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii. Copying for use elsewhere is not permitted. The author in the last 60 years has done business in and has studied approximately 80 islands of various sizes around the world. The reality is this. Islands are different than large landmasses. If these differences are not taken into account when planning a project, then failure or excessive cost is almost assured. Oahu is no exception. Honolulu, as a city, does not have the ability to expand geographically. It does have the ability to add people and vehicles far in excess of what many might consider sane. Our constitutions both Federal and State combined with our economic and political systems make it difficult to mandate a cap on the number of vehicles or people allowed into the state. Thus, with limited land available, it follows that there is a limit to the number of highways, roads and rail lines that can be built. It is a function of government to promote a system of transportation that will allow its people to reasonably move from one destination to another. Thus it is the function of the State and the City and County of Honolulu to plan and promote a system that will best provide that for all the residents of the island. Including visitors is beneficial due to the economic reward it brings to the island. The main transportation problem facing Oahu today is congestion. Stated another way, there are too many vehicles on too few roads. This occurs mainly for

two reasons. The first is human nature and the second is an inadequate transportation system. If the transportation system were adequate or better yet excellent, Oahu would still be faced with traffic congestion due to reason number one, human nature. Many are saying that some form of rail is the answer to this problem. I think not. Rail in any form has not diminished traffic congestion in any city to date, even in cities with almost complete rail coverage. Whynot? Human nature. Might it be time to take a fresh look at this problem? Might it be time to put aside the concepts and plans derived from politicians and planners dealing with large landmasses. Might it be time to bring together the planners and experts that have intimate knowledge of islands and the special needs associated with islands. Our elected officials have the burden of providing the framework for our future and the future of our children. They can only make these decisions if they have been informed of all the alternatives and the consequences. If a rail solution is chosen and it is wrong, there is no way out of the monetary disaster created. Our children will leave the island to escape the tax burden our generation has heaped upon them. How many have already left because the economic burden of obtaining a good life here is viewed as impossible. Hawaii Auto Bus Solution (HawaiiABS) takes into account the world we live in today and the world of tomorrow. Read (HawaiiABS) and take some time to consider the ramifications. Talk to family and friends. Talk to your neighbors. Discuss alternatives. Your future and the future of your children is now. Log on to HawaiiABS.blogspot.com to find out more about this subject. I will add more posts to explain (HawaiiABS) in more detailed terms, but it is important that all of us become knowledgeable and partake in the biggest monetary decision our elected officials will ever make. Submitted respectfully to all the residents of Oahu and to their elected representatives. Robert A. Clarkin Hawaii Auto Bus Solution (HawaiiABS)
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John Claucherty

I've been quite vocal about Oahu's public transportation for the past few months. H-1 has been central to my argument since I bought a house on Makakilo. I used an opportunity to try the current public transport - The Bus recently. I spent three hours and five minutes to make the 12-mile trip from Hickam to Makakilo. I would have made it home in two hours if I had jogged 10 minutes per mile. Please build the train. I suspect that the two are a chicken -- egg relationship. If the bus service were better more people would ride. If more people rode, -the bus could afford to provide better service. People will ride a decent train that gets them to work more quickly and at a lower cost than driving. If a person rides the train down to work he won't have a car parked in the city. That same person's family currently owns two cars so that the spouses can move independently. Give one of them an alternative transport to work and they will only require one car. Hawaii public school math here: If a family owns only one car they'll save the \$ X-hundred dollars per month that the second car costs them. Goodness that could impact neighborhood traffic and parking congestion. New York City is a good example. Nearly everyone that is heading into

the city rides the train. You can ride the train in for \$76 per month. If you want to be a real city build a train. If you want to have international business move here build a train. Build the train if you want industry to come here. If you want to connect Kapolei to Honolulu build the train. If you want to connect China's industry to Hawaii you have to be serious about developing our city. I thought it shallow of me to complain about Honolulu's transportation system without having tried the only public transport. Well look out co-workers I have met that requirement. I'll see you at the Starbucks. Next subject: How just plain back woods it is not to have a ferry system that connects the counties.

LORING COLBURN

To wait one more day is a crime. Let's move forward. Rapid Transit using rail and bus is critical for the economic health of Oahu. However, don't just do this by taxing us... INSTALL TOLL collection points on all of the major points. Besides an important way of obtaining needed revenues, it will force people to car pool or use The Bus. 15 to 25 Percent reduction by implementing toll roads will help until the rail systems are complete! Take a look at the freeways and major roads and it's easy to see; 1 person in every car. Force them to car pool or pay tolls! My wife and I seldom drive; we've been riding The Bus every day for many years. But most important; LET'S MOVE FORWARD AND IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE! Mahalo for asking, Guillermo Colon I would be happy to assist in any capacity that I can.

Robert Conlan

Please include facilities for mopeds and bicycles at all levels of what ever plan you come up with. This might include special protected parking, shower facilities and others. Check out Amsterdam. Mahalo Robert Conlan This project is very important to the future of Honolulu and Hawaii. It is of marginal importance to visitors -- although they should be considered as part of the whole community. I lived in Washington, DC as the Metro system came on line and it transformed the city -- much more for the better. Please keep me advised of what you are doing. Mahalo, Bob

merle crow

There is nothing which can move people faster than a transit system with its own rightaway, and rail has to be the best alternative. The study made for the Council when HART was in the mill showed that the cost of a rail system could operate at a lower cost per passenger mile than a bus system. It also pointed out that Honolulu has a natural corridor for a rail system with the ocean on one side and mountains on the other, with bus route to take riders to and from the stations. Developed properly, with parking at major stations and convenience stores etc included in the plans it will give many an option to being caught in traffic for long periods of time, and any decrease of traffic will benefit those who have to drive due to the type of work they do. More highway or lanes just add to downtown traffic and is not the answer. I do think the original route plan which included an airport stop and connection to Waikiki would

give visitors an option to fast travel and reduce the traffic congestion at the airport. And I do hope that the plan is such that an extension to Kahala and H Kai could be made in the future--those living in Hawaii Kai need some commute relief time also.

Merle Crow

From: Merle D Crow [mailto:crowm001@hawaii.rr.com] Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2005 9:55 AM To: info@honolulutransit.org Subject: Re: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project ScopingComment I hope it will be possible for all involved in the decision making to consider that the majority of comments being made are by citizens who after attending several of the transit meetings in recent years have any real knowledge of what they are talking about. This comes out strong when they have no knowledge that the taxpayers now are paying 2/3 of the cost of the bus system, or that a study showed that the rail system cost can operate as a passenger/mile cost than an expanded bus system IF considered over a long period (perhaps 50 years) of time. Those opposed to HART compared costs over a short period of time which showed a bus system was the way to go, but by using a short period they did not factor in the replacement of the entire bus system over the longer period of time a rail system and equipment can operate. The important thing most do not realize is that only a rail system with its own dedicated right of way can offer a fast way for commuters to go. It will not eliminate congestion on the roads but will keep it from getting worse. aloha merle crow

Nathan Crow

"NO" to rail transit. Terrible idea.

Irma Cunha

It is my understanding that under state law ALL comments regarding scope, alternatives and DEIS must be responded to. Therefore the box below giving an option is wrong. Please comment and change the choice

CHRIS DACUS

I am in full support of adding more multi-modal transportation instead of additional roads or highways as long as the new transportation infrastructure does not adversely bifurcate communities or negatively impact the visual aesthetics of Hawaii. Any rail project must include support for generous and safe bicycle racks and bring bikes on transit. A rail project presents a unique opportunity to include a bike path along the corridor and help decrease vehicular traffic. Aesthetically, any elevated portion, the footprint should be minimal and the height should be low not obstruct mauka-makai views. Landscaping should be maximized to soften the project. On another note, any rail project should include rezoning around transit stations to limit parking. Keep up the good work!

Stanley Dalbec

Investment in improving transportation in the high-capacity corridor can be justified only if enough people choose to use the new system(s), whatever the technology adopted. I hope to see evidence that realistic planning will be done to balance the options for transportation choices in Honolulu. Attention is required for getting riders to and onto any large-scale transport system, rather than focusing on the system itself. Planning should aim to make trips convenient and hassle-free for commuters. Options such as paratransit and a 'guaranteed ride home' should be incorporated. I have read that the city of Boulder Colorado has had success in getting riders onto public transportation. If this is true, how did they manage this? I endure 7 mile-per-hour commutes on The Bus rather than deal with the insanity of rush hour traffic on H-1. Obviously, not enough people make this choice. Why not? What will be done to motivate more drivers to leave their vehicles at home and use public transportation? How can you make the trip from home to work and back competitive with the advantages of the private vehicle?

Dennis Dang

I recently attended the open house in Kapolei. I live in Ewa Beach, go to church in Kapolei and work in Pearl Harbor. The group I brought with me was a mix of Ewa Beach and Kapolei residents who work in various locations from Halawa to downtown Honolulu. There most definitely exists a need for organized mass transit system to serve the core of our island. To invest in time and effort and walk away with a "do nothing" decision will be a crime and thoroughly negligent. Some or many will be upset with whatever system is selected, but our leadership needs to LEAD our communities through progress and growth and NOT just "go with the masses". Many thanks to the technical and political representatives that took the extra time out of their normal lives to provide information and support to the event. When the masses complain later on, please make significant issue of the lack of public who actually brought their interests to the event. We know traffic and transportation is an issue today. The growth projections, while somewhat speculative, are realistic in indicating that traffic will worsen as population grows. And while one system may not "solve" all of our transportation issues, combining a better managed utilization of our present resources and investing in a growth focused new system will help! In developing and execution, the first foot print will need to be through downtown Honolulu. The user base is greatest there and activation will be essential to growth and support. (The projected one to two year delay is not a big deal considering that we don't have anything yet anyway.) The best route will be the one that meets the customer base where it is and takes it where it wants to go. That means investing now in territory that will be, or already is, inhabited. The solution should not lie in doing nothing or just one alternative. The solution will be found in combining good working pieces from the different alternatives. While this open house event might have been a "because we have to", I would like to thank you for giving me and the our group the opportunity to see where we can be in the future. Please make improved traffic and transportation a reality. Please do something right for our future.

Gwen DeLuze

I have rode the bus system for the most part of my life.I have also obtained my driving license four years ago. There are perks for driving and catching the bus it's all up to the individual. Who said life was made to be easy, life is suppose to be a learning experience no matter how old or young you are, you learn! I find myself still wanting to learn more. This is a crazy, funny world we all live in and we all need to get along....we don't all have to like each other, but get along. Isn't that what ALOHA means. As for this mass transit I don't know if or when it will get off the ground, but I hope you honestly take a good look at the pros and cons of it all. I rather see that the ferry service up and running than the mass transit. But I am only one voice with an opinion and not sure if this will be in taken in any consideration. Everyone works hard to get where they are at and needs a little pat on the back to say they did a good job. I just thought I'd drop a line on my opinion whether it's considered or not.

Tom Dinell

My comments are in the form of a letter jointly addressed to Mayor Mufi Hannemann and Mr. Mark Scheibe of Parsons Brinckerhoff. Copies of my letter, the text of which appears below, have been mailed to both Mayor hannemann and Mr Scheibe. E Noa Corporation Pier 31 791 North Nimitz Highway Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 Phone: 593-8073 Fax: 593-8752 e-mail: dinell@hawaii.rr.com January 7, 2006 Mayor Mufi Hannemann City and County of Honolulu 530 South King Street, Room 300 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 and Mr. Mark Scheibe Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 3000 American Savings Bank Tower Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Dear Mayor Hannemann and Mr. Scheibe: In submitting these comments for the record, I am speaking on behalf of the E Noa Corporation, a major private provider of transportations services to residents and visitors. I am commenting on three aspects of The Study Process: (1) The lack of time for serious consideration of the alternatives proposed in the Alternative Analysis (AA); (2) the absence of ample opportunity for the participation of private providers of transportation services in the planning process as required by federal statute; and (3) the lack of consideration of the possibility of public private partnership in providing transportation services as evidenced by the presentations and exhibits at the public scoping meeting held in December 2005. Consideration of the Alternatives. There is one very serious error in the scheduling of the Study Process. The Alternative Analysis (AA) is to appear in October 2006. The Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) is to be selected in December 2006. There are to be some public hearings on the AA prior to the selection of the LPA. There simply is not enough time, given this schedule, for meaningful public discussion and dialogue about the proposed alternatives prior to the LPA selection. Twelve months to produce the AA and one month to discuss it is not a balanced invitation to thoughtful consideration of important proposals that are going to dramatically impact our City. You are just unintentionally replicating the Mayor Harris BRT schedule. The AA came out. Some pro forma hearings were held. The Council adopted the LPA. The City simply went through the required motions without fostering meaningful public discussion. There

was no dialogue. There was no transparency. The leading Council member proponent of the BRT assured me at a public meeting that there would be plenty of opportunity to examine questions once the LPA was adopted, but that is not what happened. Let's not do that again. Let's open the process so that there is meaningful discussion between officialdom and citizenry, including the various constituencies such as small businesses, visitor industry, transportation companies, educational institutions, residents, landowners, and many other stakeholders. Just offering one to three minutes of testimony at a formal hearing is NOT interactive dialogue. It is NOT productive of thoughtful analysis of alternatives. Once the LPA is adopted and the EIS process begins, there is no opportunity to return to the range of alternatives proffered in the AA.

Participation of Private Providers of Transportation Services in the Planning Process. Let me lay out the legal basis requiring the participation of private providers of transportation services in the planning of transit and similar projects. Of the five purpose clauses set forth in 49USC §5301(f), three of them emphasize the importance of involving private transportation companies: “(f) General Purposes.--The purposes of this chapter are— (1) to assist in developing improved mass transportation equipment, facilities, techniques, and methods with the cooperation of public and private mass transportation companies; (2) to encourage the planning and establishment of areawide urban mass transportation systems needed for economical and desirable urban development with the cooperation of public and private mass transportation companies; (3) to assist States and local governments and their authorities in financing areawide urban mass transportation systems that are to be operated by public or private mass transportation companies as decided by local needs.” The section of the law relating to “private enterprise participation in metropolitan planning and transportation improvement programs and relationship to other limitations” states that: “(a) Private Enterprise Participation. - A plan or program required by section 5303, 5304, or 5305 of this title shall encourage to the maximum extent feasible the participation of private enterprise. “ [49USC §5306(a)] 3. The section of the law relating to public participation requirements states in part that: “Each recipient of a grant shall... (2) develop, in consultation with interested parties, including private transportation providers, a proposed program of projects for activities to be financed..... and (6) consider comments and views received, especially those of private transportation providers, in preparing the final program of projects.” [49USC §5307(c)(2) and (6)] 4. The General Provisions on Assistance, which state in part that: "Financial assistance provided under this chapter to a State or local governmental authority may be usedto operate mass transportation equipment or a mass transportation facility in competition with, or in addition to, transportation services provided by an existing mass transportation company, only if a. The Secretary of Transportation finds the assistance is essential to a program of projects required under sections 5305-5306 of this title; and) b. The Secretary of Transportation finds that the program, to the maximum extent feasible, provides for the participation of the private mass transportation companies. [49USC §5323(a)(1)(A) and (B)] 5. The portion of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular C 9300.1A, Chapter VI, relating to private enterprise, states in part that: “PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CONCERNS . The concerns of Federal transit law

regarding private enterprise focus mainly on including the private sector in participating in local transit programs...and protecting private providers of transit from competition with federally assisted transit providers. a. Participation by Private Enterprise. Both Federal transit law and joint FHWA/FTA planning regulations (discussed in Appendix A of the circular) impose strong requirements for private as well as public sector participation as transportation programs are developed. Plans and programs required for Federal transit assistance must encourage the participation of private enterprise to the maximum extent feasible. Federal law recognizes the special concerns of private transportation providers that compete with public mass transit authorities. By law, existing private transportation providers are afforded certain safeguards from competition. Specifically, FTA is prohibited from providing Federal assistance to a governmental body that provides service in competition with, or supplementary to, service currently provided by a private transportation company, unless FTA finds that the local transportation program developed in the planning process provides for participation by private transportation companies to the maximum extent feasible. Accordingly, Federal transit law and the joint FHWA/FTA planning regulations direct special attention to the concerns of private transit providers in planning and project development. Joint FHWA/FTA planning regulations specifically require that private transit providers, as well as other interested parties, be afforded an adequate opportunity to be involved in the early stages of the plan development and update process.” Mayor Harris and his administration did not follow these requirements with respect to the BRT proposal, which in turn contributed to the filing of suits against the City and County and the unprecedented revocation of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Initial Operating Segment (IOS) by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). None of us want to replicate that experience, so this time around let’s provide for the meaningful participation of private transportation carriers in the planning process, as required by federal statute and FTA circulars. Pubic-Private Partnership. There was not one mention in either the presentations or the exhibits at the December 2005 public scoping sessions of the possibility of public-private partnerships as part of the solution to Honolulu’s very difficult transportation problems. To totally ignore the possibility of utilizing privately-owned and managed transportation resources in devising ways of resolving current transportation dilemmas makes little sense from a public policy point of view. Not examining the possibility of utilizing such resources as part of the solution was the course of action followed by Mayor Harris and his Administration in developing and promoting the BRT. This is an experience that does not need to be replicated this time around. The E Noa Corporation stands ready and willing to meet with the City and/or its consultant, Parsons Brinckerhoff, at any time and any place to explore the specific public-private partnerships that will contribute to improving Honolulu’s transportation situation. In conclusion. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the months and years ahead. We know that E Noa Corporation is prepared to expand the useful and beneficial role it already plays in providing regularly scheduled transportations services to residents and visitors alike. Sincerely yours, Tom Dinell, FAICP Consultant to E Noa Corporation Cc: Mr. Katsumi Tanaka, Chair of the Board, E Noa Corporation Ms. Maki Kuroda, President, E Noa Corporation

James Donovan

I am interested in giving my input. I am very much for a light rail or some transit solution from the West to UH Manoa Campus. I am not in favor of adding more lanes to highways. This has been shown to be counterintuitive when you look at California. So, now is the time for the future of Honolulu.

linda douglas

I do not think we should install a system that is extremely expensive per taxpayer, and which may not necessarily significantly decrease congestion, without further SERIOUS consideration of viable alternatives. By the way, how much will the proposed rail system cost per rider and how many of those riders will simply be switching from riding the bus.

Rian DuBach

The project needs to be high speed with few stops in order to entice riders. A commuter in Ewa, for example, is much more likely to ride a high speed train that arrives in Downtown in 20-30 minutes than a commuter train that has numerous stops, replicating TheBus and its routes. If there is no value added for the commuter, he/she will continue to drive the 1 hr + into town. People like their cars and a solid reason not to drive is a significant reduction in commute time. TheBus can be used as part of a hub and spoke model whereas the hub are train depots in Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Pearl City, Airport, Kalihi, Downtown, Waikiki and University. Each stop would only be allowed 1 minute or so. TheBus could shuttle people from the hub to local areas. Is there a real reason the route cannot be a straight line across the Ewa Plain and over the mouth of Pearl Harbor via a bridge? Also recommending large parking lots to facilitate regional drivers who would park and ride. But the train itself needs to be HIGH SPEED. Look at Hong Kong's Airport Express to see a great model. It covers 22 miles in 24 minutes and it crosses three large bridges and goes under the Hong Kong Harbor.

Mariano Ermitanio

I think an elevated rail system that has spur running along Ft. Weaver Road will have a great impact in reducing the driving commute for Ewa Beach residents. A spur coming from Central Oahu could also assist in reducing the traffic congestion at the H1 and H2 merge.

Jeffrey Esmond

Living in Kahalu'u, it does not seem that there is even a viable bus system on this island. Bus service from Kahalu'u is strictly on a dire need basis, when I know I have at least an hour to wait for the next bus, in addition to the extra time of going through Heeia Kea and through Kaneohe over to the Pali to get downtown. Hardly worth it. My thought is, if The Bus actually started a realistic bus program which picks people

up on a regular basis, into the night even, and has more and faster routes. If The Bus added 5 times as many buses and then offered free service, simply put, island wide, would it not be cheaper on the residents of the C&C of Honolulu than creating a Mass Transit fiasco which serves only part (albeit a majority) of the population. Also, it's hard to understand how a Mass Transit system can be run properly, when it's hard to identify a city program which is already run properly (satellite city hall, recycling or anything to do with opala, roads, sewers, and on and on and on.) What I support is a system that is actually for the people, not one that is for the contractors and politicians.

Gary Everett

When looking at what has been considered for rail transportation I believe the only the Monorail should be considered. True, carries only about 100 passengers per car. However, it will enhance our island presentation to the Visitors. The Monorail's design and physical appearance will blend in with our Hawaii. In presentation those other forms of rail transportation would crash with our environment. Let's present Hawaii as a possibility where all things are possible in an advanced cradle for technology. Such a selection would enhance our position; offer a welcome sign to all High Tech Firms to move to Paradise. Thank you: Gary Everett

charles ferrell

The following is stated on this web site; however none of the information indicated is available on the site. Please explain. It is now your opportunity to comment on the project purpose and need, the alternatives, and the range of issues that will be considered during the alternatives analysis and preparation of the draft EIS. The information and files found in this website summarize the work that has been completed and provide information on the range of alternatives and issues proposed for evaluation in the alternatives analysis report and draft EIS. During the scoping process, comments should focus on the purpose and need for the project, identifying specific issues to be evaluated, or on proposing alternatives that may be less costly, more effective, or have fewer environmental impacts while achieving the project's transportation objectives. The opportunity to comment on your preference for a particular alternative will come at a later date, after the release of the Alternatives Analysis Report, which will compare various alternatives.

Sam Fisk

Create the rail system's stations first including "park N' Ride Terminals." Provide safe, clean stations supporting local buses and taxis. The goal is that no rider should have to walk more than two blocks to a transit point for travel to a local station. Use the stations to improve and support intermediate bus services while the rail system is being constructed. We can't wait until the rail system is completed. The transit needs of the community must be addressed now. The only way the bus system can be significantly improved is through support of the State in cooperation with the C&C of Honolulu to make fixed guideways/toll roads for buses available on exiting State

roadways. The rail system must be scalable so that spur lines are planned for Hawaii Kai, Mililani, Makaha and ultimately circling the island. The political will to complete this expensive project will surely evolve if all citizens of Oahu feel that they, too, share directly in the ultimate benefits.

Gregory Foret

Although we are outside the project area, the Honolulu metro area is long overdue for a new transportation system that can move larger amounts of people (not just vehicles) more efficiently. Expanding or improving existing road systems is a process of diminishing returns to satisfy new demands in regards to space, and cost. We need to start trying new solutions. Right now any of the 5 proposals is better than none of them.

Adrian Franke

I suggest the following regarding mass transportation on Oahu **AVOID THE NEED FOR TRANSPORTATION**

1. Coordinate with land use planning by: promoting communities where walking and biking are the preferred modes of transport. and a. establishing firm, strictly-enforced urban growth boundaries; b. revitalizing established urbanized areas to focus new growth where infrastructure and access to jobs, shopping, services and recreation already exist; c. encouraging mixed use developments at transit hubs; d. requiring developers to bear responsibility for necessary expansion of infrastructure (roads, sewers, etc.); and
2. Create multiple modes of transportation, such as: bikeways (including bicycle-only corridors and ancillary bicycle facilities, such as bike lockers) and **WALKING!** and a. a major rapid transit artery using Light Rail or Monorail or Bus Rapid Transit; b. shuttle Buses from rapid transit hubs/centers/stops; c. van and car pools;
3. Discourage single-occupant automobile travel by: a. expanding "High Occupancy Vehicle" lanes; b. investigating the use of congestion pricing and automated toll ways on heavily congested highway routes and applying revenue generated through this means to subsidize alternatives to car use (see above) c. limiting the amount of land dedicated to parking in the primary urban core.
4. Reduce "rush hour" congestion by: a. encouraging development of a true "Second City" at Kapolei; b. encouraging telecommuting (full or part-time) and providing various levels of tax incentives to businesses that offer telecommuting; and e. encouraging flexible work hours.
5. Service, in a practical and convenient manner, such major destinations as the airport, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and Waikiki.
6. Make public transportation accessible **BUT DO NOT SUBSIDIZE IT TO DISCOURAGE TRANSPORTATION IN GENERAL/LIMIT IT TO A MINIMUM**

Albert K. Fukushima, Chair

Request that The Pearl City Neighborhood Board No.21 be a consulted party in the review of the FEA and DEIS for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Len Furukawa

I am glad that our government and political leaders see a need for mass transit. We have enough roads and way too many cars for an island environment. My choice for mass transit is a light rail system although data up to now has shown that it is costly to maintain and operate. The choice of routes from Kapolei to the University should be determined by the demographic breakdown of the areas they will serve most effectively, the availability of State/City rights of way (using abandoned railway routes) and ample State/City land for current and future hubs that would have the necessary infrastructure to support and encourage the daily use of the rail system. The hubs should have restrooms, small shops or kiosks and super markets that would allow the commuter to pick up light meals and everyday essentials before taking their own personal vehicles home. The hub should also have facilities for the temporary storage of bikes and possibly even have some rail cars designated to handle bikes. For the elevated corridors, the space below could also be used for small businesses that would provide some income back to the State/City. In order to encourage and maintain ridership, I would propose that ridership be free for the fixed rail and supporting bus servicing system. The cost to maintain the system would be taken from State tax revenues prorated on the basis of what island you live on and the number of people in a household (above 12 and below 70) and earning above a minimum income level. All businesses that employ non-residents and visitors (airlines, surface transportation) would pay a use fee based on their length of stay. The type of power to be used by the rail system should consider reduction of our dependence on oil derivative and to be environmentally friendly (photovoltaic). Physical security for the hubs and the infrastructure would be partly furnished through the stationing of police substations and additional private security forces. Electronic surveillance would provide some interior and perimeter security. i.e. parking/storage facility. I can't think of anything more just yet, however, the use of any type of mass transit or Hot lanes seem to indicate that we are moving toward utilizing the maximum land area possible. We need to reconsider this direction and start limiting the growth and urban sprawl. We are taxing one of our most unique quality of life resource which is our pure island drinking water.

Donn Furushima

Elevated vehicle expressways with limited on and off ramps should be constructed. Charging a toll for use of these expressways could be an option. I am NOT in favor of a rail system. The idea had potential 30 years ago, but not today. The cost to construct such a system today will be astronomical and to my knowledge there is no urban rail system operating today that is self supporting. A rail system would become a sinkhole of taxpayer's money. In fact this sinkhole of tax revenue is already starting with the passage of an even more burdensome general excise tax which is due to kick in on Jan. 2007. Add to this the seeming impropriety of the initial contract/subcontract award to the "consultants" which happened to politically support the current mayor. At best this first misstep in the process has the appearance of a

conflict of interest. At worst it is evidence of political corruption. In any case the project seems tainted from the get-go.

Frank Genadio

I believe I am already on your mailing list; adding e-mail and telephone contact data. I will probably attend both the Blaisdell and Kapolei meetings, and will delay providing an input until after those meetings. One theme I will propose in advance is that it is time to "think out of the box." Too many projects in recent years have failed to meet needs because of limited expectations.

Frank Genadio

Comments on High Capacity Transit Project Written comments were submitted by me at both public meetings (Blaisdell and Kapolei). The purpose of this submission is to expand upon those comments as well as provide additional thoughts. The "bullets" in the following list pertain primarily to a rapid transit rail system and are covered in depth below. — Three tracks, not two, are necessary to accommodate rush hour express service. — Keep the system elevated on fixed guideways. — Transit centers, rather than just stations, are needed at express stops. — Limiting the scope and technology of the system will ensure its inability to attract commuters. — Innovative costing methods are needed to avoid major subsidization of the rail system. — Some form of transit and power authority should develop and operate the system. Number of Tracks: Contractor responses to questions during the public meetings never mentioned anything more than two tracks. Other comments indicated 20-22 stops between Kapolei and Manoa. Driving commuters will never be lured from their privately owned vehicles (POVs) if the transit system cannot provide express service for commuters beyond 5-6 miles of downtown Honolulu. Assuming Alternative 4D is implemented (which would be my choice of those offered—although I would prefer a "mixing and matching" of all alternatives to develop the best route), express service terminals are recommended for Kapolei, UH-West Oahu, Pearl City or Aiea, downtown Honolulu, UH-Manoa, and Waikiki. The third track will be eastbound in the morning, westbound in the evening. That express track does not necessarily have to follow the local stops routing (e.g., Kapolei to UH-West Oahu and downtown to UH-Manoa almost "as the crow flies"). Elevated Guideway: Plans for grade level track anywhere in the system should be dropped—even through downtown Honolulu. There should be no interference with vehicular traffic anywhere. One of the contractors even mentioned grade level on the Ewa Plain where there is no development; he apparently is not aware of how that area will be built up in coming years. Grade level track through downtown will slow the system and deter, for example, students and faculty movement between the two UH campuses. It also is highly unlikely that grade level track can be compatible with a monorail system—leaving the city with no option other than light rail unless there are "disconnects," further slowing commuting times. Transit Centers: Four transit centers are suggested for the initial rail system, at Kapolei, UH-West Oahu, Pearl City or Aiea, and UH-Manoa. Eminent domain condemnation should be avoided as

much as possible. For example, the Kapolei hub could actually be built in the open space of the northwest corner of Kalaeloa and the UH-West Oahu hub could be on the east side of the North-South Road, across from the campus. These centers should cover many acres at each location and include bus feeder stations, large retail stores, supermarkets, restaurants and pubs, movie theaters, a newsstand, a post office, an efficient recycling center, and extremely large, secure, no-fee parking lots (e.g., for Kapolei, perhaps 20,000 parking stalls, with convenient moving walkways into the transit center and rail station). Some stations, such as downtown and Waikiki, have no need to operate as centers because of nearby retail and other amenities; however, most stations should have a suitable number of secure parking spaces to lure POV drivers who would be unlikely to use bus feeder services. No-fee parking should be limited to (perhaps) 15 hours, to encourage use of both the rail system and the center facilities but discourage abuse of offered free parking; smart card (window sticker) technology can log each vehicle in and out and apply charges for overtime. Digital imaging on exit also can discourage car thieves. Rail system expansion to the Wahiawa-Mililani area will require a new transit center, perhaps in the currently open area east of Wheeler Army Airfield, with express service into the mainline through Pearl City. System Scope and Technology: This is the time to think “bigger and better” on a fixed-rail system for Oahu. Critics already are citing contractor statements that a rail system will not end traffic congestion on Oahu. While their arguments may be specious (i.e., never mentioning how much worse traffic conditions would be in some metropolitan areas if major transit systems did not exist), they find a ready audience in those trying to repeal the general excise tax (GET) increase and “de-rail” rapid transit. There even is a current effort underway to repeal the GET increase. Grade level creates obvious problems and light rail is too slow for express runs. The goal is to get drivers out of their cars, not give them reasons to avoid mass transit. A first class system will be elevated, on fixed guideways, and capable of speeds up to 120 miles per hour. Drivers and bus riders heading for the Kapolei transit center, taking anywhere from ten to 30 minutes to get there, should be guaranteed a wait of no longer than ten minutes in the station and a less than 20-minute express ride into downtown. Drivers in stop-and-go morning traffic on H-1 can be lured from their POVs after watching the monorail express glide silently by above them and disappear from sight in seconds. Do it right and they will ride. I have seen comments on not taking chances on new technology, and am aware of problems such as vibrations with magnetic levitation (mag-lev) monorail; however, is it naive to assume that such problems can be overcome in the years remaining before starting system development? Why not aim for a system that local residents will point to with pride and be eager to use? One advantage of monorails is the elimination of need for train operators. Organized labor will reap many benefits during construction of the system; operation of all aspects of the completed system must be union free and “immune” from strikes. I am aware of differences in cost among rail systems; costing is addressed in the next paragraph. Innovative Costing: Regardless of the system implemented—even bus—mass transit is typically subsidized by taxpayers. It is doubtful that a system here, even light rail, can operate on “fare box” receipts as has been done in Vancouver. It also is essential to keep fares relatively low to attract sufficient “ridership” that equates to system success.

Perhaps others have addressed advertising on the rail cars; my preference would be for Hawaiian theme designs on the exterior, with actual advertising done through digital readouts in car interiors. Such income will be relatively small compared to system costs. Retail leases should be sufficient to cover both operating and security costs of the transit centers and stations; not much above that can be expected. To make up the difference between fare receipts and operating costs, the governing rail authority should be authorized by the city to develop and control alternative energy sources that power the system and also be able to sell excess electric power to the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO). Every transit center and station can be completely covered with solar panels feeding the system power grid. Transit centers will be large enough to also incorporate power generating windmills; for esthetic purposes, they can be stored into the sides and corners of the structure and “telescoped” up to operate between dusk and dawn. Every form of alternative energy should be explored for direct power to the system, back-up, and production for sale, to include hydrogen and nitrogen fuel cells, wave power, and even hydroelectric power. With state and city support—and condemnation where required—systems can be developed that will feed the rail system grid and storage system. Finally, the time has come for the United States to reconsider its long-time aversion to nuclear power. Federal, state, and city cooperation is needed to develop on Oahu the nation’s first new nuclear power plant. Its location in, for example, Lualualei on the military reservation will make it the nation’s best guarded system and allow for extremely reasonable electric costs on the Waianae Coast (as compensation for “hosting” the plant) along with a sharing of power to military installations and the rail system grid. Negotiations can then be pursued with HECO for the sale of excess power, with all proceeds going into operating costs for rail. The system will not compete with HECO; instead, it will supply electricity to the company at costs competitive with electricity generated from fossil fuels.

Power and Transit Authority: An incorporated entity operating Oahu’s rail and power supplement system must not be controlled by the Honolulu City Council. The role of council members should be one of review and oversight. Despite misgivings about another governmental bureaucratic organization, it is probably necessary to form an Oahu Power and Transit Authority (OPTA). Ideally, members would be elected and would be residents of districts served by the rail system. More practically—at least initially—perhaps one Authority member each would be appointed by the governor, mayor, City Council, State Senate, and State Legislature, with only senators and representatives from Oahu legislative districts permitted to vote. Authority members would be paid at senior civil service rates and elect their own chairperson. The powers and responsibilities assigned to OPTA will undoubtedly be the subject of considerable debate (e.g., eminent domain, contracting, revenue and general obligation bonds, hiring and firing, leasing of retail space, etc.). It is suggested that the AA process include examination of the charters of other transit authorities and boards in the United States and that a recommendation for OPTA’s make-up be included in the final document. If OPTA proves to be a successful enterprise, its expansion into a state entity (HAPTA?) could be considered as the intrastate ferry system is implemented. All state legislators could participate in the appointment of HAPTA members, with the mayors of Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai given the authority to appoint

one member each and the governor allowed a second appointee (to maintain an odd number on the board, expanding from five to nine). Power sources from the neighbor islands (e.g., hydroelectric, geothermal) could be worked into the power grid for sale to HECO to boost revenue and fund transit projects on the other islands. Those of us who believe in mass (and rapid) transit as the only viable alternative to total gridlock on Oahu will be eagerly awaiting the recommendations from your study. I wish you all the best in your deliberations. Aloha. Frank Genadio 92-1370 Kikaha Street Kapolei, HI 96707 672-9170 genadiof001@hawaii.rr.com

Ikeda George

1. Considering that a large number of shoppers, visitors, and residents would like access to the Ward center area and that major Kakaako projects are being planned, it is my concern that an alternative route on Ala Moana Boulevard was not considered that could serve that area and still serve Ala Moana Center as a hub for connecting bus riders. 2. Scoping meetings are important but projected ridership should also be assessed. What would be the response if residents were polled as to whether they would actually use mass-transit regardless of the mode? Leeward residents might very well favor mass transit in the hopes that someone else might use it thus allowing themselves the freedom to use the car at their own convenience. Not enough is being said about the acknowledgment of planners that traffic would not really be significantly alleviated by the mass transit system. HOV lanes and other road traffic solutions would still have to be implemented. Do the drivers really understand this point? 3. Try using focus groups to get some real concerns aired. Scoping meetings are just informational. Focus groups based on a sampling of the general population might give the city and county government a more realistic feedback on a number of issues.

Jack and Janet Gillmar

We do think that a "high capacity transit corridor" has been needed in Honolulu for some time, so we are glad to see the city is considering this project. However, we are disturbed at the prospect of rail transit lines being forced onto the existing fabric of central Honolulu streets such as King, Beretania, and Kapiolani. We strongly urge you to instead add rail transit to the H-1 corridor to UH with bus feeders to Waikiki and Ala Moana and Kahala Malls. Pylons could be put down the median strip, using the center 2 lanes for construction at night. Stations would be below H-1 or above depending on whether the freeway is above or below the adjacent ground level of the city.

Dane Gonsalves

After reviewing the alternatives presented yesterday at the scoping meeting, I am overwhelmingly supportive of rail transit, specifically Maglev. I believe in addition to being fast and reliable, maglev will (no pun intended) propel our city into a new era. I dislike the fact that light rail runs on noisy steel rails and uses ugly overhead wires. Monorails are novel, but they are slower than the other two technologies. In

order to make a mass transit system work well for our city, we need to be sure that our system will be competitive with vehicle traffic in terms of speed. The only way more people will be willing to give up their cars is if there is a definite time saving alternative to driving. Obviously any grade-separated alternative would achieve just that during rush-hour traffic, but what about weekends, holidays, evenings, etc.? These are things that need to be considered as well as moving people around M-F, 9-5. It was kind of sad to see only 2-3 people around my age, 24, actively participating in last night's scoping process. Most of the folks my age will be ready to settle down with their families by 2030, there should be some outreach to the younger generations, since they will be the primary riders and caretakers of the system in the future. I did, however, see a plethora of senior citizens at the forum, most of them worried about how much money the system would cost. I found this somewhat ironic, I highly doubt they would be alive in 2030, why are they so outspoken? You don't have to pay taxes when you die. Where's the input from those who will be affected by this the most, the teens & 20-somethings? There seriously needs to be some investment made in educating the city's youth. We will be running the show after the Mufi Hanneman's and Rod Hironaka's retire. In 15 years, I will be paying the taxes to subsidize the expense of running a train, not today's Tutu who's in her 90s. Please consider some type of youth outreach...because right now, most of those folks in that particular demographic could seriously care less.

Robert Gould

I support an elevated fixed rail system (to reduce the ground level footprint and grade crossings) IF such a system serves Kapolei, Ewa Beach, the airport terminal building (directly, not via a spur line, and with platforms that allow luggage to be wheeled onto the train), downtown (where it could be tunneled if necessary), Waikiki (by spur if necessary), the UH, AND EAST HONOLULU all the way to Hawaii Kai. It should also eventually extend up the Waianae coast and central Oahu to the North Shore, and beyond Hawaii Kai to Kaneohe. I realize that anything beyond UH and Kapolei would have to be future extensions.

Jeannette Goya Johnson

Oahu needs a mass transit system. I strongly favor monorail. Freeways & even some primary/secondary roads are clogged at peak traffic hours, which hours have increased as population & no. of cars increased. Is it reasonable to spend 1 1/2 hrs. to travel 15 miles?! Island space is finite, cars are not. More freeways will simply engender more cars. It is a known fact that a new highway is obsolete by the time it is built! This is also an emotional issue. We all want a car to transport us wherever & whenever we wish. The loudest dissenters are probably those who do not want to change old habits and/or do not care enough for the quality of life for future generations. And perhaps most loud against mass transit will be the voices and lobbies of the automobile and related industries. They stand to lose a lot of money! I also think we should all help pay for this system,, regardless of where we live. We are all a part of all the islands. The health & happiness of one affects all others. This

is not a new idea; eg., we all pay taxes that go to schools, single or childless, and we pay taxes to help the poor. This is not an either-or issue. I believe a monorail system and good maintenance of the present highway system will enhance all lives and help keep our island beautiful. All things considered, our leaders in government should listen to the voice of the people, but also not be afraid to think and act for the unheard voices of future generations. Thank you. I appreciate this opportunity to 'vent.'

Robert Green

Because of the ever-increasing problems with gas costs and heavy traffic congestion, the project should address the need for adequate road shoulders to allow for usage of roadways by bicycles. 2005 has been a record year for bicycle sales, and this is due in no small part to increasing usage of bicycles for daily transportation, and this is a trend which will continue in the years to come. By addressing this issue during the project, we can avoid costly retroactive measures in the future, and by offering more viable alternatives to auto commuting, the automobile traffic volume will also be mitigated.

h hakoda

HOLOHOLO A TRAFFIC MEDIATION PLAN IN LIEU OF AN OAHU LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM

I. INTRODUCTION This position paper submits a fiscally sound and practical alternative in opposition to a multi million dollar light rail system that is predicted by some members of the community to lack the ridership that will alleviate the traffic mess on Oahu. Already there are allegations of political favoritism in the awarding by the city administration of a \$10 million dollar light rail feasibility study. Bigger controversies exist in the funding of the light rail system. It has been estimated that a planned general excise tax increase will result in the average taxpayer on Oahu paying about \$600.00 more each year in taxes. Also, there have been claims that the Governor faces a conflict between taking action to reduce the more than 70,000 new motor vehicles that enter Hawaii each year or doing nothing by being partial to family relations who own one of the biggest new car dealerships in Hawaii. Underlying these issues is the concern by residents and business owners that the projected path of the rail line will end up in having homes and shops displaced. This paper is segmented into five phases that will take the reader through a gradient of traffic mediation measures starting with minimal impact to the driving public and ending with major impositions on the driving public.

II. HOLOHOLO – PHASES I to V

PHASE I Reversing the Contra Flow Lanes There are contra flow lanes that exist during the morning rush hour, but are absent in the opposite direction during the afternoon rush hour. The traffic planners have instituted a misguided priority for getting people to downtown Honolulu when it is equally important to timely send them to the suburbs whether to get the people home or to work in the greater Honolulu area. For example, the traffic jam on H-1 heading west in leeward Oahu during the afternoon rush hour is catastrophic. There are contra flow lanes heading east in the morning, but not west in the afternoon during weekdays.

PHASE II Maximizing Public Transportation From Mondays to

Fridays, with the exception of designated holidays, for two or more hours during the peak morning and afternoon traffic congestion, all public transportation will be free of charge, except for certain buses on each route that will be wi-fi equipped and passengers boarding them will be charged a nominal fee. PHASE III Institution of a Fee to Purchase a New Motor Vehicle All purchasers of new motor vehicles will be required to either pay a special fee or submit a City and County certificate evidencing disposal of a motor vehicle. PHASE IV Mandatory Impoundment of Illegally Operated Motor Vehicles All motor vehicles that are cited for an expired safety check, an expired motor vehicle license or lack of evidence of insurance will be impounded at the owner's expense until proper documentation is obtained. Additionally, all operators of impounded vehicles will be fined and sanctioned. PHASE V Restriction of Motor Vehicles During Peak Hours on Weekdays During two or more peak hours in the morning and in the afternoon on weekdays (except designated holidays), only the following motor vehicles will be allowed to be operated on freeways and highways within the City and County of Honolulu: 1. All public transportation motor vehicles 2. All government motor vehicles deemed essential 3. All commercial motor vehicles deemed essential 4. All privately owned motor vehicles deemed essential 5. All privately owned motor vehicles with the last digit on the license plates coinciding with an odd or even numbered day of the week that the vehicle is being driven. For example, a motor vehicle with a license plate ending in an odd number can be driven on an odd numbered calendar day. Vanity plates are considered an odd number. III. REVENUE REPLACEMENT All costs to implement, operate and enforce mandates outlined in Phases I through V will be recovered from motor vehicle fees and penalties imposed through ordinances and statutes enacted to implement actions described in Phases III, IV and V. IV. SUMMARY The Holoholo traffic mediation plan offers a low cost alternative with a minimal public impact compared to the monstrous light rail system that is destined to be fraught with huge cost overruns and low commuter participation. Holoholo offers a chance to avoid bankrupting the City and County of Honolulu by implementing a reasonable and economical alternative. For more information or to sponsor or to volunteer to promote the HOLOHOLO plan, contact H. Hakoda Email: mahjong8@yahoo.com Ph. 808 348-3068

Tony Hall

Waikiki must be served by high speed rapid transit. As the primary area in which tourists stay, rapid transit into and out of Waikiki will allow tourist dollars to spread out the city and be a critical component to reaching economic self-sufficiency for the system. Also, not continuing the system to the KCC campus, Kahala Mall and back through Kaimuki/UH is another critical omission. Hawaii already is a mecca for students and not properly serving UH's campus at KCC, Chaminade, and the primary UH campus and its environs is another critical area that must be addressed in planning for the system. Above all, the creation of the proposed high speed transit system must take into account who will be served. Tourists and students are 2 groups that would eagerly embrace use of the system and forgo the need to have their own

car, rental or owned. Here again is an important factor in the system's success, reducing the level of car traffic. I strongly urge you to look into serving these core areas of the city with the high speed system as well as the makiki area.

Arleen Hama

I live in Waipio Gentry so one would think I would want to get on the rail to Kalihi, avoiding the worsening traffic problems. I don't believe that the rail is the answer to our traffic problems. The ridership won't be enough to pay for itself. Those that will ride it will be those already riding the bus. I wouldn't give up my car (freedom) and neither would all the drivers with multiple jobs or transporting kids all over the place. Thanks

Gerhard Hamm

Quit the Boondoggle Now! It will make Muffi Hanneman a one-time mayor—which could be a good thing—and leave the Honolulu taxpayer with an annual bill the likes of which they haven't seen yet, and surely cannot afford. The debt will be unbearable while accomplishing little if any in terms of improving traffic flow. Write off the \$10 Million consulting fee to bad judgment and go on improving traffic in other ways. There are lots of them and they can be developed at a fraction of the rail cost. Aloha, Gerhard C. Hamm 373-1930 GCH.Hawaii@Verizon.net

Curtis Harada

I am against any elevated trains and especially alternative 4b for the following reasons: 1. negative impact on surrounding businesses 2. increase in loitering and criminal and drug activity 3. negative impact on our scenic beauty 4. excessive cost. Also I would like to know the daily cost per rider in the best and worst cases. And whether it would be more effective to pay public transit users (BUS patrons) directly rather than to build a system which will be a financial drain on Honolulu for decades to come. I believe that there is an economic solution that is better than an infrastructure solution. For instance, if you paid each BUS patron \$5 per day to use the bus, you could potentially remove 10,000 cars from the roads on weekdays for \$250,000 per week. Assuming that it was done for 9 months (excluding summer), it would cost \$10 million per year. The cost to finance a system that costs \$1 billion at a 5% borrowing cost will be \$50M per year. Use creative thinking and seek federal money for this common sense approach. Avoid building a rail system and you will not leave a negative financial legacy for our children.

Victoria Hart

It is critical that whatever mass transit system is implemented (I am thinking particularly of rail, though) accommodate BICYCLES. The most important and easiest way to do this is to provide a way for passengers to bring a bicycle on board - as we can currently do with the bicycle racks on The Bus. It is also important for secured, highly-visible, well-lit bicycle racks to be provided at station stops. Lastly, it

would be a great improvement to incorporate bike paths alongside or underneath the constructed transit that are also highly visible and well lit. As a parting general comment, I would like to implore you to include bicyclists in any transportation planning. Oahu has such high potential to be bicycle-friendly with small-scale cities and good year-round weather. But unfortunately the infrastructure remains lacking. I grew up in Mililani and only started bicycling when I moved to town a couple years ago. I was pleasantly surprised at how quickly I could get around in compact-sized Honolulu. However, I am also dismayed by streets that don't have room for us and the lack of driver education regarding bicycles. I sincerely believe that if the infrastructure was made to be more bicycle-safe and friendly, many more people would consider this as a viable transportation option.

Ann Hartman

I am glad that there is acknowledgement of the enormity of the growing traffic problems from Kapolei to the UH Manoa campus. I currently prefer a rail system of some kind, but am open to hearing options. The only option I am not open to is the "No build alternative." I also think that short term relief also is necessary and must be part of the plan. For example, given the fact that this document acknowledges that transportation alternatives need to reach all the way to UH Manoa, I don't understand why they do not do so now. Why are there no express busses between Kapolei, Ewa or Millilani that go directly to the University and the surrounding private high schools and colleges? These could run only in peak times in the mornings and afternoons. Also, efforts to bring more professional employment to Kapolei and Ewa is necessary for any successful transit program. Additional transportation routes between Ewa and Kapolei, around Ewa and Ewa Beach, and between Ewa and Pearl City also are needed. Thank you for collecting comments. I look forward to being involved in this process.

Hitoshi Hattori

Can you believe that people in Hawaii is spending 2 to 3 hours in traffic everyday? I live in Waikiki, but it still takes me 40 minutes to go buy office supply sometimes (If there is no traffic, normally it will take 10 to 15 minutes) That is crazy!! Simply People in Hawaii, have NO choice!! Without driving, you can not go anywhere. So people have to drive willingly or unwillingly. Of course, if more people drive their cars, it will cause traffic jam. Then, how about the city bus? The city bus is good but every time they stop at the bus stop, they will block the traffic. With proper amount of traffic, the bus is very useful but not when there is a major traffic jam. How many buses are on the road? You know that will stop the traffic. Then how about expanding the size of the road? Yes they have been and are working on lots of the roads but just impossible for them to expand every single road. Hawaii is growing and it will get worse for sure. So now do you know what to do? Yes we have to make a choice, Mass transit. That is the only solution we have to fix traffic jam and we must act now for our future. Also mass transit is good for many other reasons besides solving the traffic jam... First, mass transit will create economical benefits. By having a mass

transit, people in Hawaii have a choice, not to drive. Lots of people do not have to buy car and pay for expensive insurance and gas. Many parents do not have to take kids to school everyday. Mass transit will never stuck in traffic. It will get you to the destination on time, work or school. Also while in the train, you can read books or sleeping. You do not have to get irritated, worry about if you can make your appointment on time or leave early to consider traffic jam. No more Hawaiian time. You do not have to make lame excuse for being late to the meeting. ¶ gSorry I am late because of the traffic. That is very bad excuse and rude to the business partners. With mass transit, you could have spent your time more wisely, like being with your family or sleeping longer. Secondly, every station has more business opportunity. Now because of the zoning, place you can have business is very limited and lots of business owners end up paying very high rent because of limited area. If we have more stations, we can create more business district where people can more chance to have business and avoid super high rent like Waikiki. This is not only good for owners but also for more jobs available for more people in Hawaii. Thirdly, tourism is very important for Hawaii. Without tourism, many people will lose their jobs. Do you want to give tourists bad image about Hawaii about sticking in the traffic after their long flight. Also their time of stay in Hawaii is very limited. Who want to spend their precious time in traffic? Also they can have time efficient tour or trip in Hawaii. Also environmental issue, very simple answer. Less traffic or driving is less pollution. It creates less traffic accident. Less DUI, people can drink and go home without taking risk. That is good for everybody in Hawaii. I know there might be some negative issue about mass transit. But If Hawaii wants to grow more, we have to make some changes. We are not small city any more. Just we have to think why big city has good mass transit system. Most importantly, our time in life is limited, who wants to spend two three hours in traffic every day. Do you know what you can do with that time and money involved(gas, insurance...)?? Many things! Do not waste your time any more.

Marjorie Hawkins

By all means bulld a metro/rail. The city is on a one line layout anyway, and goodness knows it's congested enough to need relief. I live in DC for 10 years and used the metro system regularly. It was convenient and well- used and appreciated. Here in HI, I don't own a car (by choice) and often think that the opposition to a metro system mainly comes from the people who seem to belong to the "let them eat cake" group. You know, those whose income relieves them from ordinary hassles and have no interest in the common and greater good for the city. Marjorie Hawkins

Rick Hayashi

I am a Hawaii resident currently living in LA. I am planning on moving back to Honolulu soon and am very interested in the mass transit project.

Aaron Hebshi

Light rail is the most appealing idea to connect Kapolei with Downtown/UHM/Waikiki area. Incorporating bicycles into this transit scenario will greatly increase the effective area served by light rail. Specifically: - bicycles should be allowed on the train so a passenger can bike easily to his/her final destination after dismounting the train. - safe, secured bicycle parking should be provided at all transit stops. Bicycle theft is a huge deterrent to increased bicycle use on this island - bicycle paths should be incorporated into the right of way, either along-side if the train runs along the ground, or underneath an elevated train. Mahalo for your

D. J. Henderson

My perspective is as a 40-year-resident, 30-year-commuter from Kailua to Manoa. Kapolei commuters can't wait for the perfect solution; they need relief "last year"! Could not using MANY more buses on a greatly increased service frequency help? The advantage is that additional buses could be put into service faster than any of the alternatives that require new construction. For commuters, service frequency is key; it has to be better than it is now. That's why many of us who would prefer to leave the driving to others (and read/study/work/sleep) on the way to the office have gone back to driving ourselves and wasting gas, time, parking space, and Hawaii's clean air. (But I loved taking the bus from Kailua to Manoa for 3 years!)

June Higaki

Alternative #3 Managed Lanes offers the most sensible, flexible alternative which would be used more widely than fixed rail. 1) It affords an alternate route in the event of emergency, or accident which necessitate closing of the freeway. We have had several instances in the past few years which required closing of the freeway. This severely cripples half of the island; no one can get anywhere in the central Oahu area. If there is a disaster or emergency requiring freeway closure how would goods and services be transported without alternative routes? Fixed rail systems cannot afford any flexibility. It would be under utilized during off peak hours. 2) A viable managed lanes system would operate diamond head bound in the morning and ewa bound in the afternoon, and provide alternatives when freeway closure is necessary. 3) When UH is not in session, traffic is not a problem. Why are we banging our heads against the wall, creating a monstrosity of a fixed rail system which would be too expensive to build and maintain, when we can alleviate a great part of the problem by moving the traffic in another direction. Move Honolulu Community College out to Kapolei; swap the property for something in Kapolei where most of our industrial trades are located anyway. Move part of Manoa campus operations to a West Oahu Campus; there isn't enough parking or housing at Manoa to accommodate further growth. 3) Kakaako development is further congesting the area. 4) How much will rail cost? Who would ride it? Why would anyone ride it if they are not riding the bus now? It would probably cost more and be more inconvenient than riding the bus now. How much will it cost to maintain? What will happen to this monstrosity during off peak hours? Who will be left paying for this if ridership does

not meet projections? The evaluation process, should, at a minimum be sending surveys to every household in the areas affected, asking for opinions and to survey traffic patterns, times, schedules, and preferred alternatives. Government should also be doing more to address alternatives by offering businesses incentives to encourage telecommuting, staggered hours, and by doing it themselves.

David Hiple

As a UH professor and long-time Honolulu resident, I am thrilled to see this process moving forward. I am committed to viable public transportation for our city. I, myself, commute by bicycle to my workplace at UH; we must reduce the number of cars on our island. I strongly support plan 3 or 4. We must do this right with a comprehensive lightrail system from Ewa to UHM. The route must include stops at the airport, downtown, and UHM. I particularly endorse plans 4B and 4D, including a spur line from Ala Moana/convention center to Kapahulu via Kuhio. To be successful, the rail network must service Waikiki/Kapahulu where residents and tourists are densely concentrated. Full speed ahead. Let's do this. Thank you. Dr. David V. Hiple, UHM

Anthony Ho

Why bother, if it is not going to relieve traffic congestion? Your answer tells me you haven't look all the technology and design creativity available before settling on the three options provided. By the way, why did you hire the same consulting firm who gave us H-3, which did nothing for Honolulu's traffic problems? Was owning a vehicle a problem for Oahu residents? Are you solving for problems that do not exist? Try solving problem that does exist. Higher traffic congestions not only a frustration for Oahu residents but increases auto accidents and traffic fatalities. The key is to take vehicles off the road both buses and cars. If it takes the same time for a person on the rail than riding on a bus, why bother? 23 stops are too many. Have you ever thought off multiple lines rather than one "catch all" line? What about one line from Wahiawa, through Mililani, Pearl City, Pearlridge, Downtown and then to UH. The entire rout shouldn't take more than 20 minutes. Another from Ewa through Pearl City (transfer station with the first line), Downtown, Ala Moana Center and Waikiki. A third line can go from Waikele, through Waipahu, Pearl City(transfer station with line #2), through Pearlridge (transfer station with line #1) and work the mountain side through Aiea/Halawa, Tripler, Kam School, Liliha, all the way to Manoa Valley. All of these lines should just have major stops. The key is transfer a large amount of people from Mililani, Ewa, and Waipahu to downtown and UH in a relatively short amount of time without them being on the road. The mass transit system should be attractive to all people within proximity to a station, not only those who could not afford a vehicle. Also, the best technological option is probably magnetic levitation (MagLev) trains. MagLev offers low noise level, ease of construction, low-emission, 1/3 of the energy cost of other solutions, and offers the speed to accomplish the mission. A mass transit system that overcomes traffic congestion re-vitalizes a community. Imagine, Mililani students making it to UH in 20 minutes even during

peak traffic hours. Shoppers leaving their cars at Pearlridge and hopping from Pearlridge to Ala Moana and back in minutes. Residents taking a walk to a train station for exercise and ride the rail, saving money on gas and maintenance on their cars. Schools near a station and do field trips on the rail, saving money on bus rentals. If design with the correct vision, the mass transit system will relieve traffic congestions, increase commerce, and promote an active healthy lifestyle for Oahu residents. If Oahu will continue to grow, then you need something that overwhelmingly solves traffic problems now and has a chance to tackle traffic problems in the future! I do not want my tax dollars to spend on a flop, but I feel there is nothing I can do to change that right now. Honolulu continues to be a city which falls short in serving its people. So much so that it doesn't even know what the problem is. I almost fell out of my chair when I read that your solutions will not relieve traffic congestion. Mayor Mufi Hanneman, in his radio message announcing the Mass Transit Public Hearings said: "Let's solve our traffic problems now!" Well, I guess that was just "lip service".

Ed Ho

I am for traffic relief, but I don't know if transit is the answer. I don't know what would be the right answer. My input to add to your request would be alternate routes other than the 1 and only 1 main highway from Waianae until the H1/H2 merge. Unless they take every city off ramp starting with Kapolei that connects to Ewa. But what happens if its between Waianae and Kapolei? We need more routes out of Waianae to Downtown. Why does Kaneohe have 5 different routes to town and only 1 for Waianae? It doesn't connect to any other alternate route which ends a little pass Yokohama. I have family who live in Kapolei that leave at 4am just to arrive on time to work and school in Kalihi. What's going to happen when they close the freeway because of a death or fire. Doesn't that mean the rail would get stuck somewhere before or after the fire or death also? Are they going to stay idol in the middle of the freeway for hours with passengers on there not able to leave or use the restroom or have enough air should the vehicle engine need to be turned off for some reason? That becomes a health issue. Why is the City doing the planning of something the STATE should be responsible for. My understanding is state is responsible for the "MAIN" roads while the city is every other roads. The city roads get backed up because the MAIN Highway is backed up. You should look at alternate routes out of Waianae first than, move onto other public transit issues. Most of the cities that you are comparing Hawaii too, but the rail before they built their cities. So everthing was built around their transportation. Also, they have surrounding states that visit and use the transportation. We live in the middle of the ocean where we only rely on residents and tourist. So if another 911 happens, we are left high and dry with expensive toys. Paul Hoffman I would like to receive information on the estimated demand for the corridor and the rationale for the elimination of PRT. We are currently conducting a study on PRT and current technical capabilities. Our results, soon to be published, indicate the technology has sufficient capacity and speed for many applications, including elements of your study. It is still an emerging technology but may be a near-term option for you to consider.

Michael Hofmann

I strongly support a sensible, island-wide transportation plan that enhances our quality of life in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and consistent with our unique sense of place. Recognizing that Oahu's traffic problems are closely intertwined with land use, I strongly support the establishment of strictly-enforced urban growth boundaries to protect the remaining agricultural and conservation lands on O`ahu, and the revitalization of existing urban centers to focus future growth in currently developed areas. Additionally, I believe that Oahu's transit solution lies not with one technology or mode of transit, but a mix of transportation alternatives to meet the diverse needs of O`ahu residents and the mixed topography and density of the island. In addition I support a comprehensive mass transportation policy and system that:

1. Coordinates with land use planning by:
 - a. establishing firm, strictly-enforced urban growth boundaries;
 - b. revitalizing established urbanized areas to focus new growth where infrastructure and access to jobs, shopping, services and recreation already exist;
 - c. encouraging mixed use developments at transit hubs;
 - d. requiring developers to bear responsibility for necessary expansion of infrastructure (roads, sewers, etc.); and
 - e. promoting communities where walking and biking are the preferred modes of transport.
2. Create multiple modes of transportation, such as:
 - a. a major rapid transit artery using Light Rail or Monorail or Bus Rapid Transit;
 - b. shuttle Buses from rapid transit bs/centers/stops;
 - c. van and car pools;
 - d. bikeways (including bicycle-only corridors and ancillary bicycle facilities, such as bike lockers); and
 - e. walking.
3. Discourage single-occupant automobile travel by:
 - a. expanding "High Occupancy Vehicle" lanes;
 - b. investigating the use of congestion pricing and automated tollways on heavily congested highway routes and applying revenue generated through this means to subsidize public transit; and
 - c. limiting the amount of land dedicated to parking in the primary urban core.
4. Reduce "rush hour" congestion by:
 - a. encouraging development of a true "Second City" at Kapolei;
 - b. subsidizing monthly transit passes for government employees and encouraging private companies to do the same for their employees;
 - c. requiring that businesses provide free parking to employees or offer an equivalent monetary amount or alternative to those who chose not to drive;
 - d. encouraging telecommuting (full or part-time) and providing various levels of tax incentives to businesses that offer telecommuting; and
 - e. encouraging flexible work hours.
5. Service, in a practical and convenient manner, such major destinations as the airport, University of Hawai`i at Manoa, and Waikiki.
6. Make public transportation accessible and affordable to all residents by:
 - a. ensuring that the public transit includes assistance devices for the elderly and handicapped; and
 - b. subsidizing fares to ensure public transit is an affordable option for all.

Michael P. Holden

1. Yes - A rapid transit system is necessary. I think that the Fixed-Guidway ("C" in the Advertiser) that goes through Eva is the best; however, I don't think that a tunnel near the shoreline would be a mistake because of the possibility of busting the Aquafer/Water system. 2. The real problem is that there are TOO MANY CARS.

Many cars in Oahu are not insured, do not meet safety/appearance standards, motorists do not have a driver's license, or the drivers should not be allowed to drive because of blatant disobedience of the law. (ie. Not observing traffic signs, signals. Not driving the Speed limits, Police not enforcing the laws, Judges not Backing-up the Police to enforce the laws, politicians who are afraid of making the public mad about enforcement and the possibility of they will lose their office/job.) 3. Possible solutions (1) State Inspection Stations that would be the only agency that would be authorized to issue driver's plates. (2) Before you can purchase a car one would have to show proof of a registered parking space -- this is an Island. (3) Having 200-300 police stopping all traffic on H-1 and 10 miles makai & makai too inspect all cars for Safety and appearance to regulation requirements. 4. Once the number of qualified drivers and cars were manageable a fixed rail transit system should be built with parking at terminals, bus links to near public centers, and the system could eventually expand to USE middle tunnel of the Koolau mountains as a rail extension to and from the Windward side. 5. Illegal cars should be confiscated, owners licensed taken, owners fined and strict enforcement of laws, including disposal of the cars. Since the Auto Dealers bring-in the car. they and the owners should be liable for its disposal. 6. The contracts for the transportation system construction and maintenance should be by lottery, because this would eliminate political corruption. Thank you for the opportunity to express my ideas. Respectfully Submitted, Michael P. Holden

Thomas Hoover

I support a fixed rail transit system for Oahu, and Kapolei to Manoa is where the first leg should be built. But to really work, a system must eventually extend island wide - - Waianae to Hawaii Kai with spurs to central Oahu and the Windward side. When an opportunity presents itself, the city should secure rights of way for an expanded system. Kim Hunter A QUIET rapid transit train is very important to Hawaii and should concentrate on connecting the Waianae Coast to downtown and UH with stops in Waikiki and the airport

Joshua Hvidding

1-Mtg Announcements-Use the Freeway Sign System to announce it and do it on a radio station. 2-Short Term plans- a-The Zipper lane in the afternoon is good b- Replace Freeway/Highway medians with Zipper lane medians. 3-Long-Term plans-I like Alt 4c or 4d in the scoping information package 4-What happened to the previous Ferry Project?

Lloyd Ignacio

I believe that the main purpose of the "second city" at Kapolei was to move population and traffic congestion from Honolulu to West Oahu. Well that certainly is NOT happening. This whole "second city" thing was just a ploy by real estate developers to get the land re-zoned for their own profit, not the betterment of the community. The way to reduce traffic coming out of Kapolei and West Oahu is to move businesses and jobs out there. We can start with moving City Hall and the

State offices. Set the example. Don't be the problem. Yes, some improvement to the transportation corridor is needed but lets also try to attack the root of the problem.

David Imaye

What is being done to reduce traffic congestion today? On-street parking is prohibited on some streets during rush hours. When are we going to realize that on street parking contributes to traffic congestion? Reduce traffic congestion now by instituting a permanent ban of on-street parking.

Darrell Ing

Commuters need an incentive to leave their cars at home when going to work. The system should be convenient to access, avoid automobile traffic snarls, and inexpensive/free. The funds generated by the increase in general excise taxes should be used to expand and subsidize fares on the existing bus system. Past policy has addressed increased costs by increasing fares, thus discouraging ridership and reducing revenues. In the private sector, business is generated by recreasing prices - holding a sale. No system - bus, rail, or otherwise - will solve the traffic problem if no one rides it.

Ronald Ishida

I object to a project that will not reduce traffic congestion but cost the taxpayer a fixed half percent increase in sales tax. With the increase in real property taxes and this half percent increase, the city government is out of control. Where is the alternative for HOT lanes? Also, unless proven otherwise, I feel that the ridership for the new transportation system will overwhelmingly come from existing bus ridership. People driving cars value the convenience of having a car. Note the relatively low participation of the van pool. People have to drive kids to school and to sports practice and do errands. Large impact projects should be put to vote by the taxpayers before even reaching this point. andrew jackson 1. it seem these planes as published in the Star bullitin on 12/12/05 focuse mainly on getting people into town, but this seems myopic at best. The plan should be able to move poeple in both dierctions at any time with equal ease. 2. Tha plan should include thebus or a reworked version of thebus, as a hub and spoke off of the Train staitons. ie most of the bus routes would run solely to Train/ transit staitons where riders would transfer to or from the trains. 3. parking at the trainstations should be at a maxamuim so people could park and ride.

Mark James

Dear Honorable Rod Tam, You really need to insist that before any decisions are made, or votes taken, reasonable cost and benefit information is provided to the public. The Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project has a huge impact on our island City. We need realistic cost and benefits info to give informed feedback

in scoping sessions. Thank you, Mark James, CC: Vicki Gaynor, City Planning Commission

Mark James

I have been a resident of Oahu since moving here as a child in 1960. I have followed various rapid transit issues for many years. I agree very much with the views expressed in the Advertiser on Jan.3, 2006 regarding the lack of actual costs and benefits to the various proposals and routes. From what I know by research and discussions with prominent citizens of Honolulu, this process may be more correctly called "shibai", (Japanese for falsehood), instead of "shenanigans" as mentioned in the article. The issues of true costs, and true benefits need to be properly addressed. The Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project should not be approved until these issues are made clear to the public. Sincerely, Mark R James, 2911 Pacific Hts Rd. Honolulu, HI 96813 CC: Honorable Rod Tam, City Council.

Ed Johnson

I have some comments, that I feel are valuable input, but I hesitate to waste my time, unless I can be assured that my comments will be reviewed by appropriate government officials(Mayor Hanneman, DOT, et. al) as well, an online forum dedicated to the public being able to comment upon each other's input needs to be developed immediately. Merely developing a comment and supplying it without feedback is a waste of the public's time....develop this website so that we, the public can develop our comments and respond to each other...that way, government officials can review the public comments, as we develop the content. Regards, Ed Johnson

Ed Johnson

First, I would like to say thanks to Faith Miamoto (I hope I spelled your name right...)for returning my call today and listening to my concerns regarding this website. And, before I bore you further, with my comments, I want to wish all of you Happy Holidays and, especially Merry Christmas....hoping for smiles...:) Now, for my input: I know there are a lot of smart, educated, well-travelled people in Hawaii. Many of these folks could provide strong dialogue, for your review, if they only had a public forum to exchange ideas...that is why I asked for a place to add public exchange of ideas on this forum...otherwise, our comments feel like they're going into a "dark hole", but without comment from others, with similar or opposing ideas... So, here goes: I love the idea of "light rail", as an alternative for transportation. I believe it is necessary, as part of an overall transportation plan for the future. However, I will probably oppose the issue, because we seem to be focusing on this issue as a "fix", rather than part of a total plan. What Honolulu needs is an overall look at how to change/fix the city, which would include the addition of a "light rail" as a part of DOT. The overall picture for Honolulu, should include looking at other "model cities" and see how they tackled their problems. When looking at the city map of streets, it appears that Honolulu grew without any forethought for

transportation planning, whatsoever. Streets run probably in the same direction, as when they were originally built. There doesn't seem to have been much thought to planning "boulevards", whereby cars could smoothly travel, without street lights etc...as well, the streets run haphazardly in every imaginable direction, including curves that shouldn't exist. If we look at our Washington, D.C., we see a network of boulevards trending outward from the federal buildings and monuments...it is complimented with a "beltway" around the city, and its magnificent subway/rail lines...yes, it's busy...but, people get around...a great model is Indianapolis, IN...architecturally planned, from the beginning, to resemble the "spokes of a wheel." At the city center stands a "Soldiers and Sailors" monument. A circle(large roundabout" goes around the monument. Around the circle are historic buildings, and a downtown mall, that rises vertically...a main train station is nearby...from the "monument circle", the city streets go outbound, in all directions, resembling the spokes of a large wheel. These boulevards lead commuters from downtown to their home neighborhoods, without having to drive through everyone else's neighborhoods. At various distances away from the city center are other boulevards that connect the outgoing spokes. Further out is an interstate belt, encircling the city, with branches that go downtown, as well, as connecting to other major cities(Chicago, St Louis, Louisville, etc.) Indianapolis is a big city, but it's much easier to get around than Honolulu. There are many other "model cities" to look at. Frankfurt, Germany, and many other European cities are built so that you depart your flight at the airport, go down an escalator to the main train station, with connections taking you anywhere else in Europe. Sydney, Australia has a light rail/train network that goes underground, at the city center, where it meets with ferries. People commute by train, bus, or ferry to downtown. They get on elevators and go vertically to their places of work...and, it does work, quite efficiently...Seattle is similar, without light-rail. But, it has the best public bus system that I've ever ridden. Literally, workers can get on a bus, in any outlying Seattle neighborhood, and ride to the city center, where the bus goes underground with stops at all major employment areas of the downtown...you can literally get off the bus, under the city of Seattle, and walk directly into the main Nordstrom store and downtown vertical malls, or the Benroya Hall(for concerts), or the local Chinatown, or the Seattle Mariners and Seahawks stadiums, etc. It's an amazing system. All of these places, and many other municipalities have succeeded with transportation problems, because they have been willing to redesign their city transportation services, and include rail transportation as one part of the total solution. So far, I haven't seen our current "High Capacity Transit Corridor Project" addressed as one piece of a puzzle to overhaul our entire transportation network for Oahu. In smaller "tourist destinations" in Europe, they sometimes ban auto traffic in downtown areas. There are many ideas that should be addressed, not just choices for a "high capacity transit corridor." So, after all of the above, here are a few of the redesign ideas that I propose. Before approving the "high capacity transit corridor", I suggest we take a hard look at all of the following: (1) Reduce the number of vehicles on the islands. Too many of them end up as heaps of junk along the roads, simply because we do not have adequate controls in place. There are island nations around the world, whereby vehicles are strictly controlled. Bermuda, for example, if my memory is correct, controls its vehicles with a strict "one on, one off" policy...in

other words, whenever a new vehicle is brought in, one must first leave. That keeps the abandoned vehicles off the roadway. How do we do that? Implement policies to strictly control the # of vehicles that each person/family is allowed to possess, to include rentals. If someone wants to buy a new car, they must have a contract to dispose of the older car. This must be done by controlling the car dealerships, so that they become the responsible ambassadors of this policy. (2) Redesign our city, architecturally, so that boulevards flow, in straight lines, from city center, to all outlying neighborhoods. Imminent domain must be considered. (3) Go underground with "thebus" in the downtown area. Consider a tunnel like Seattle, whereby workers could ride the bus and get off under the city, and go vertically to work places. This would eliminate heavy downtown traffic. (4) Restrict the "tourist busses" to fewer pickup/dropoff points. There are way too many tour busses running around empty in the streets. (5) Require "thebus", and tour operators, such as Roberts, large trucks and limos to drive only in the right lane on the freeways. Too often, I see bus/truck/limo drivers hogging the left(passing lane), as if they own the territory...too many of them use their size to their advantage to force their way through passenger cars. (6) Increase police radar/traffic control units on our streets, with the sole function of enforcing traffic offenders to change their habits. (7) Make laws for talking on cell phones, applying make-up, etc, while driving to be punishable, not only with fines, but with public service. Three violations, lose your license for 3 years. (8) Make stricter annual inspections of vehicles, so that we can keep the polluters and vehicles that need maintenance off the roads. (9) Put cameras in traffic lights. This system has been in place for over 30 years in Europe. I know, because I had to pay a ticket that way, for running a caution light. People here have forgotten what a caution light is for. (10) Make a large part of downtown Honolulu "off limits" to regular automobile traffic. In other words, Honolulu could straighten its downtown streets, thru imminent domain, and make many current streets into pedestrian walkways thru parks...How?...go underground with "thebus"....allow a "tourist bus" lane underground for tour operators...allow taxis, limos, delivery trucks to deliver/pick-up along certain routes...follow all of this with "light rail" to connect the corridor to Kapolei, as depicted. I like the "light rail corridor" idea, but not until we address all of these other ideas, as parts of the puzzle to "rebuild" Honolulu's transportation system in total. Before you laugh all of my ideas off the table, just remember, other big cities have tackled similar problems...think like Sydney, or Seattle, or... It's time for Honolulu to THINK BIG...Honolulu is no longer a long cruise line ride from the mainland and other nations...Big jets, with big spending tourists could be coming here from everywhere...we must THINK BIG, in order to plan for the future..."light rail" could be a piece of that puzzle. Need any more BIG IDEAS...let's think about building Honolulu into the "sports capital of the world"...Have you seen what the Olympics did for Sydney? THINK BIG!!! THINK OLYMPICS, and Summer Sports Training Capital of the World"... Remember the slogan..."If you build it, they will come."....Big money spenders, from all over the world...if we build it... Thank you for your time. Regards and Merry Christmas, Ed Johnson

Ed Johnson

I've read all the information that you've presented to the public. I am very much interested in providing my input, however, I would also like to read the input of other citizens. This should be an open forum for discussion. The citizens of Hawaii should be able to read each other's opinions and provide their own opinions for review. That would make it truly a public opinion. As it is now, you have a very nice website for people to read, and you have presented all current facts, as we know them. You even provide this space for you to send you my thoughts. But, where will my thoughts go? You don't provide a place for my thoughts to be posted, for others to review. And, I cannot see the emails that others have provided to you. So, how can this be a valid, transparent public opinion survey? I have some very valid comments that I would like to submit. But, I would like to see them appear in print, somewhere on this website. As well, I would like to see the comments of others, and the opportunity for all of us to reply to each other. Is that an impossible task? I don't think so. Can you make it happen? I hope so. Since we are quickly approaching the Jan 9 deadline for comments, I would like to see this happen today. Since I already know that you will not comply, I will be writing similar comments to the Advertiser. As well, I will be contacting the local TV stations, and sending a formal complaint to the Mayor's office. Thank you for your time. Regards, Ed Johnson

Pearl Johnson

I think construction of a new exclusive right-of-way transit facility costs too much and will not relieve traffic congestion in any meaningful way. Given the low ridership likely, federal funds will probably not be available. Even if they were, the cost to be shouldered by Oahu taxpayers is still too much. I think bus service should be improved, with exclusive lanes or sharing High-Occupancy/Toll lanes. Lowering bus fares drastically would probably cost less than the debt service and maintenance of a rail system. I would like to see the figures for debt service made public for every cost estimate, at several interest rates. These would be "hard" figures as opposed to estimates of maintenance.

Teddy Kamai

A short note, I lived and worked in Japan for 10 years and just recently returned back to Hawaii. Why don't the Hawaii transportation, State, Federal and C&C administration take a closer look at the subway and rail system Japan have been using for years. It's so amazing on how Japan moves a million passengers everyday. Suggestion, you either go underground (subway) or above the current H-1 and H-2 with the rail transit system. Mahalo's and Aloha, Concerned Driver

Clifford Kanda

1. The North King Street bus routes are heavily used. Please select an alignment that includes North King Street. 2. Please provide estimated mass transit system individual rider fee to use the system. A fee greater than the current bus rider fee will

reduce the number of riders. 3. Please provide bus arrival information system such as the "Where's My Bus" system. This will greatly improve the overall experience of using a mass transit system. 4. Please provide detail on feeder bus route alignment and frequency along with operating costs. 5. The construction of the mass transit system will have an impact on the population density and business type/mix in the area of the transit line. Please provide an analysis of what the neighborhoods along the alignment will look like ten years and twenty years after the transit line is operational. 6. Please provide an analysis of the impact of the various alternatives along the corridors that will be built. For example, if a rail type alternative is selected, population densities near the stations will increase over time and with that, property values and crime.

Brian Kawabe

Traffic fixes: Too immediately improve traffic flow through key corridors and neighborhoods without adding free lanes I propose the following. Aiea/Pearlcity: Kam Hwy one way east, termination and start points need to be considered to accommodate the existing road way however from Home depot east lanes would turn east bound only and terminate and around aloha stadium area. Moanalua would then become an west bound one way again the termination and beginning points need to be reviewed to accommodate the change, begin would start at aiea shopping center and possibly terminate at waimano home road. That being done all feeder perpendicular streets need to be re routed one way makai or mauka. The flow of traffic and the traffic light sequencing will now ensure an option to the full freeway. In town, Nimitz Ala Moana would become one way east, Nimitz beginning at sand Island acces all the way to Waikiki, creating a new high capacity one way road way all the way through town and waikiki. Kapiolani would be west bound, eliminating the killer traffic intersections. Beginning of one way would have to be determined and all cross streets must become one way. These would be lower cost and high yield options, it will also eliminate some of the high traffic accident spots due to elimination off high traffic left turns. Busses would be given dedicated lanes as well as dedicated lanes for trucks/busses could be assigned to eliminate reckless passing of vehicles. It may also help in crosswalk management and save some lives as traffic flow will now only be one way. Fixes could be implemented now rather than 7 years or more Toll areas could now be added to the freeway for peak traffic and to distribute traffic. More money can be dedicated to additional one way streets in other areas with modified transit systems due to the extra road way for dedicated transit systems. There is enough existing road way if we manage the flow and one way movement will help that. A transit system is still needed however due to the time frame and the need for funding and changing people behavior, the one way option and toll impediments will bring income and change drive behavior now rather than when the transit system launches. Change behavior must be implemented now to ensure the success of a transit system. Other toll options could likely be considered. A one way bypass road through ewa, reversing morning and afternoon with toll feature. It is my belief the one way option can be implemented now and be utilize to

smooth out traffic, decrease traffic accident hot spots, add to pedestrian safety, change drive behavior. Brian Kawabe

Rick Kazman

While I fully support mass transportation, I urge you to consider some provision for bike lanes in any transportation plan. Hawaii has an ideal climate for biking and yet few people choose bikes for their transportation; I commute daily but I seldom see others doing likewise. Bikes are efficient, contribute to good health, and are ecologically friendly. Compare Hawaii with the Netherlands: relatively cold and wet, and yet it has the highest per capita usage of bikes in the world (see <http://www.ibike.org/library/statistics.htm>). Why? Because it is flat and, more importantly, it has a network of bike paths that are dedicated and therefore safe for the cyclist. Living, as we do, in a country that is increasingly overweight and increasingly consuming an insupportable amount of non-renewable resources, we need to send a message that there are good, safe alternatives to driving in passenger cars. Investing in an infrastructure for bike (or multiple-use) lanes will send just such a message.

Susan Kelley

I have read about the 4 choices for fixed rail. I cannot believe that an option that does not go through Ewa Beach could even be considered. At today's Honolulu Advertiser (12-18-05) quoted: "Transportation officials have said before that a mass transit project most likely will not reduce congestion on O'ahu roadways. Even with development of a mass transit system, traffic congestion and delays on O'ahu's roadways are expected to increase dramatically in the next 25 years because of continuing growth, especially in the 'Ewa Plain area." And since the City and State have allowed the ridiculous amount of growth to occur in Ewa, I strongly feel that a route through Ewa Beach needs to be the route chosen if the city/state is serious about actually helping the traffic situation. All involved should spend one week AM/PM driving out of/into Ewa Beach to see the enormity of the problem. The people in Ewa Beach will not drive in masses to Kapolei to catch the rail and should not have to...it should go through Ewa Beach since this area is bursting and the city/state continue to allow it to grow with no traffic solution. Regarding the other 3 plans which do not involve rail, I do not see a big change adding more buses. Perhaps more roadways would help. Thank you for considering my comments. Sincerely, Susan Kelley

William Kibby

On any proposed Waikiki spur route, please consider designing it as a one-way loop with Inbound tracks along the main hotel corridor, turning around at the Waikiki Shell- Zoo area and Outbound returning along the scenic Ala Wai. There is less visual impact with a single overhead track. The distance is not so great as to be an inconvenience and many Tourists as well as commuters will be customers of the

service because it will have a nice view. Sydney Australia's Monorail is a prime example.

Mitchell Kimura

Dear Sir/ Madame: In way of a brief introduction, I was born and raised here, went to private and public school, am a college graduate, majored in science, travelled throughout the world, lived on the mainland for over seven years and have lived in Japan for over seven years. Though I live in east Honolulu PRESENTLY, that could change at any time and I am as concerned about transportation as anyone else. While living on the mainland (mid-west, west and east coasts) and Japan I have concluded one thing: The infrastructure in Japan is superior to that of the US, for any given city. When I went to Germany, I felt the same compared to southern europe countries. It didn't really matter what kind of city or the geographical features, etc.... Generally speaking, I firmly believe one can say that the Japanese and Germans are very good at building infrastructure. My point is this: Can we all admit that even our best efforts are not good enough and just copy or, better yet, HIRE a team of Japanese or Germans and have them assess everything and tell us what to do? Why do we think we can do better than German or Japanese engineers? Isn't a rail line going to last for years and shouldn't we get it built right the first time? Isn't the problem of moving people from A to B efficiently a universal one and wouldn't you want the best in the world to solve it for you? Now it is true we know Hawaii better than anyone else. And this is not Japan or Germany. And though they have great systems, they don't always look the nicest. Etc., etc. But I think you would do everyone a disservice by not asking Japanese or Germans to even just take a look at our problem. Japan is like Hawaii: mountains, ocean, and people living inbetween. If you live there you know they build/ repair roads/ tunnels in a fraction of the time we do. They construct train lines within years. They have a variety of trains at varying speeds. They have bus schedules on all stops. They usually have route maps of bus lines at major bus stops. The buses come and go on schedule, despite traffic conditions--it's taken into account on the schedule! The trains are usually on time to within ten seconds--even in harsh weather conditions. How about the the Singapore system? Singapore has a climate similar to Hawaii's. They have good driver-less trains.... Anyway, I could write a lot/more, but I honestly doubt anything I am saying will 1) be heard & 2) make a difference because I know how stick-in-the-mud you are, we all are, because Hawaii people are like that. It would be great if you could prove me wrong, but I really really doubt that anyone in charge there can, will, or wants to do anything differently. Thank you for reading this, however. Sincerely, Mitchell Kimura

Paul Kimura

The main line of the mass transit system should go down King street with feeder buses connecting the makai/mauka streets. King St. has the largest capacity and is one way. This would be in my opinion the best route through the town area.

Clyde Kobatake

You shouldn't need people's address unless you intend to create opposing factions. What's important is will it be functional and feasible? You must be ethical by truly caring for what's best for all, not who is going to make the money such as the construction industry. Yes construction will help the economy in the short term but not the long term if a system is a money loser. The biggest problem I have as you already can tell, is that I do not trust government and its related special interest. Therefore, I am in favor a system that is less costly such as improvements to our current bus system even if it was free from certain areas like Kapolei and Ewa. If they don't ride a free bus, what makes you think they will ride a fix rail? You must know who will truly ride a fixed guideway rather than just people's verbal say so. The cost will be so prohibitive if built and there will be no turning back if proved to be not feasible. Then what? Seattle, the prime example used by proponents of the fixed guideway has voted against any extension of the current system because of its cost. Can we learn from this or do we do the smoke and mirror dance again. Yes, I want your reply, but something other than generic; come to the meeting; can't be specific; etc. Aloha, Clyde

craig kobayashi

Mass transit sounds great but at what cost? My question has always been "How many riders will use the system?" According to the City's best estimate during the last transit attempt during Fasi's administration only 2% of cars would be removed from the H-1 at a cost of \$2 bil. That's only 2 cars out of a 100 that would be removed. Cost far outweighed benefits at the time. I ask once again, "What % of cars will be removed from the H-1 Freeway?" If ridership is high then I would be for it. Here are some alternatives in place of or in addition to fixed rail: 1) So called Makai Viaduct running eastbound from the airport along Nimitz, Ala Moana, Atkinson, Kapiolani connecting back to the H-1 at Waiialae. This bypass freeway would reduce traffic the most. It would not only relieve the current H-1 but also cut down traffic substantially on streets going north & south between Nimitz & the H-1. If esthetics is not a problem this alternative would work best for traffic. People hate to give up their car. They expect everybody else to do so. 2) Ferry System. Have given my area Representative Mark Takai several aerial photos of areas in Pearl Harbor that would be feasible to use existing piers. Piers exist in West, Middle & East Lochs, Waipio & Pearl City Peninsulas. Cost would be minimal. With the Navy's permission parking lots would be built next to the pier. Ferries already exist from the commercial tour boats that can be used to run between Pearl Harbor & Aloha Tower & Kewalo Basin. If feasible Ko Olina & Hawaii Kai can possibly be added. Parking lots are relatively inexpensive, boats already exist, & no enroute infrastructure (ocean) needs to be built. 3) Expansion of bus system. Also free bus can be considered during am & pm rush hours. 4) Expansion of Car Pools. 5) Elevated lanes above H-1. Main question: ridership stats? Background: B.S Civil Engineering Captain-Hawaiian Airlines

Arkie Koehl

Today's Advertiser article refers readers to this site "to see details of the proposed transit alternatives." But there are none that I can find. The article had more information than your web site. Why have a web site if it contains no useful information?

Brett Kurashige

I was disappointed that the City's consultants did not include more specific information on costs, expected ridership, expected transit time from point A to point B among competing proposals, including the HOT lane proposal. This lack of critical information gives the impression that the City's rail proposal is the only one being actually considered by Mayor Hanneman. Given Mayor Hanneman's continual lament that the previous Mayor has saddled the City with an enormous debt burden, and the fact that Mayor Hanneman already increased our City fees and taxes by a large percentage (and is looking to increase our excise tax by 12.5 percent!), it makes no sense that Mayor Hanneman is pulling out all the stops for an inflexible fixed rail system that will saddle the City with enormous debt and transit bureaucracy for generations to come (dwarfing whatever debt was incurred by former Mayor Harris administration) without thoroughly exploring viable transit alternatives that are projected to be much less costly, much more flexible, and actually have a track record of success worldwide at reducing traffic congestion. We needed an honest debate on the facts and projected estimates, and an unbiased look at various approaches to the transit problem. So far, we did not get that, and all the City's PR spin won't change this reality.

Joshua Lake

After reviewing the Scoping meeting documents it is clear that managed lanes and increased bus fleets will only mildly reduce traffic in comparison to a large capacity rail technology. If car ownership and usage is not curbed in the near future Oahu's roadways will be severely compromised by the ratio of its users. A solution that will exist independent of current roadway system is the only logical step. Of the current technologies for consideration, a few outstanding factors should be considered (among a lot of other things too). Construction - Building alternative transportation, in Oahu's case, is reactive to the ever increasing traffic congestion through the corridor. Choosing a technology that will take years to implement is not a solution. Oahu's needs a solution 'yesterday', and any choice that encourages slow progress will not be in Hawaii's best interest. Noise pollution – The solution should be sensitive to the overall lower decibel levels of the islands. Braking and hydraulic operation of steel trains can produce high decibel noise that can travel long distances. Noise pollution by any medium to large scale transit system will be harder to disguise than the visual aesthetic of electric lines and rails. Anyone not familiar with rapid transit systems will be overnight critics by all the mechanical noise made by rail. Aesthetics – Visual clutter of rail lines throughout the city corridor is a moot point with the hundreds of buildings, roadways, bridges, overpasses, and electrical power lines that

currently clutter the skyline. The inherent 'value' of the structure is enough to justify its existence among aging obsolete buildings of the Oahu landscape. Intelligent Architecture and Design is the strongest asset for the success of any large scale technology into an environment. Certain technologies (Light rail) add enormous visual clutter to the pedestrian areas by guide wires while others absorb huge amounts of property for general operation (rapid rail). Flexibility - Because of the limited space on Oahu, choosing a rail system that would integrate into urban centers as transparently as possible. Single rail technologies would be the only contender small and flexible enough to fit into densely populated areas with minimal displacement of current structures and dwellings. Shopping Malls and urban centers would be a logical direction for mapping routes along the corridor. Also, rail technology will be able to avoid traditional traffic areas, giving riders a much more attractive viewpoint. The Experience - Is the chosen technology able to service the entire island? Will there be more developmental roadblocks as the program matures? Is the technology able to give users a perspective never seen before of the island? The addition of an efficient alternative transportation system which can connect parts of the island previously disconnected would be a huge boon to small businesses.

Selected Transportation Technology (in order) 1. Mag Lev Monorail 2. Monorail 3. Light Rail 4. People Mover

Route selection Route 4d seems to reflect a logical path based on the inclusion of the Airport and possible connection near Waikiki. But none of the proposed paths seem to meet the majority of the communities needs. Placing paths directly through high traffic areas may cause more issues during construction than business owners and residents care to deal with. Placing the rail off center of popular destinations will allow for comfortable growth and reduction of bottle necking currently happening with foot and automobile traffic. Coast line paths along Iwilei, Downtown and Kakaako can allow for easier implementation into the city rather than directly through Downtown and City Hall area.

General Feedback

Keeping the rail above ground / off grade would allow for 'life' to be less distributed by the construction and additional traffic created by large vehicle movement. Underground sections will only add to the schedule of an already 'overdue' solution.

Pedestrian friendly vs. Automobile friendly

The current (or past) City Government does not promote citizens to walk or take alternative transportation. The city itself is not designed to encourage casual walking to nearby destinations. By providing more bike lanes and wider sidewalks within city centers could provide a low cost solution to unneeded traffic congestion. I hope my perspective assists in anyway possible, please keep me informed of any further opportunity to help.

Regards, J. Lake

Russell Lake

Having lived at various areas of this island (Kahala, Manoa, Hawaii Kai, downtown, Waipahu, & Kahaluu) and having worked at jobs that took me to all areas of this island (BWS, C&C Land Survey, & HFD) I have personally witnessed the changes over last 49 years. One very important thing I think that needs to be addressed is the time that each of the alternatives will take to build if chosen. Also what is the captably for upgrades (additions to system, etc.) of these alternatives.

Larry Lamberth

I think I am already on the mailing list for all documentation, but would appreciate a check to confirm. I have reviewed the Scoping Information Package. In general, I have followed and been involved with the Transit System proposals since the early 1980's and have had the same conclusion since then. **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT:** Based on 1) the Island configuration, 2) the projected housing growth areas being towards the Ewa plain (which are now coming true), 3) the importance of quality education for our children, 4) the growth in business opportunities and tourism particularly in the Waikiki and related areas, 5) and the limited traffic alternatives for moving high volumes of traffic and citizens, we need to move forward with a separated grade, relatively high volume transit system. Following are some additional thoughts regarding the items mentioned above: Item 1) The Island has a narrow corridor that is ideal for a single major line transit system - rather than being spread out in all directions. In future as growth may warrant, the system could be expanded in only a few different directions, rather than an "unlimited spoke" configuration. Those directions would be to a) Hawaii Kai; b) Windward - possibly with a separate branches for Kaneohe branch and Kailua (Kailua branch may eventually connect around the end of the island to Hawaii Kai, but that may never be feasible); c) Central Oahu (Mililani, Wahiawa and North Shore); and d) Nanakuli and Waianae. Item 2) Traffic density has continued to grow on the Ewa side of the island due to the high volume construction of new homes (which has been necessary for our population) with very limited ability to affect significant change in the transit infrastructure (highways & major thoroughfares) due to realistic limited land availability and funding. Item 3) The traffic congestion problem has been further amplified due to the location of the Main Campuses of our only major Universities (UH & HPU) and their associated commuting environment being located in downtown Honolulu and Manoa. In addition, with the perceived and actual deficiencies in the Public Education system, more and more parents (at least those that can manage to fund it) have been sending or wanting to send their children to the better equipped private schools, many of which, if not most, also being located in the Downtown/Eastern Honolulu areas. Item 4) With the growth in tourism in conjunction with the cost of housing, more and more of the service employees for that industry will be living in the direction of the Ewa plain and trying to commute to the Waikiki area. Additionally, with traffic congestion increasing, more and more of our tourists will be inclined to use an effective public transportation system. With the volume of tourists we are now experiencing, think of the possible congestion increases associated with the project growth in tourism numbers. If for no other reason, a viable transit system from the airport to Waikiki may be a real plus in helping control our traffic problems. In Munich, when the new airport was built, the city decided to run a transit system line (S-Bahn) between the airport and downtown - it is really a good means to move large numbers of people between those points. Item 5) Although the H-1 and other existing "highways" carry a high volume of traffic, they will not be able to keep up with the projected traffic projections without major enhancements beyond "zipper" lanes and short lane "additions". Those enhancements would have to include not only significantly more additional lanes, but

also major changes in city streets and infrastructure to allow traffic to enter the freeway and then to exit once the destination is reached without creating blockage.

SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE EVALUATED: Technology - Everyone always wants the latest "gee whiz" technology for their systems, but it is not always the best alternative. Unknown costs can be uncovered and the systems just may not work "as advertised". For this reason, all of the technical solutions need to be evaluated with this in mind. There are numerous rail and track systems that have been proven with millions of miles of reliability. In addition, proven technologies can provide cost savings as a lot of the R&D costs have been recovered.

Appearance - This will be a new, somewhat modern system and should look the part. A big "box" on wheels running in a concrete guideway just may not be acceptable to our citizens. Consideration should be given to the aesthetics of the system including the actual transit vehicles (swept/wind tunnel designs vs. flat front "cars"), the size of the guideway/track so as to minimize the visual impact of the "rails" between stations, and the weight of the vehicles so as to maximize the spans between supports.

Tunnels, At Grade, Elevated Analysis - Wherever they occur, At Grade systems do and will create problems with traffic flow and potential safety issues with people trying to cross "tracks" (look at the number of citizens killed each year crossing out of marked crosswalks). Tunnels have huge expenses (including time, disruption and costs) associated with construction, and on-going maintenance can be more complicated due to the additional infrastructure needing maintenance (tunnel walls & ceilings, pumps, lighting, etc.). Elevated systems "rails/tracks" can be minimal in size, easier to maintain (without disruption to other traffic), and if using a modular approach, should be easier and less disruptive to build. In evaluating the above, the "monorail" type of system would seem to be a good fit. The "cars" can be streamlined (modern looking) and modular (can change "train" lengths and capacities easily). The technology is "known" and both effective manual and automated controls have been around for years. The "track" or "rail" is relatively small in size and has the additional benefit of having the power source included in it's design (no extra overhead wires). Whether conventional direct drive (rubber tires or steel wheels), or maglev is selected - the technology would fit a modern, effective form factor of a monorail type system.

Route Evaluation - In determining the final route, consideration needs to be given not only to the end points of the system (actually initial system as it may "grow" in the future), but the served areas in between. Based on the guidelines for the initial proposed system, the end points are defined as being Kapolei and UH. In serving these areas, the commuting public's needs have to be determined and analyzed to ensure optimum usage and viability of a system. In addition to our residential communities, it would seem appropriate to give a strong consideration for handling traffic between the Airport and Waikiki, and to serve the Military bases centrally located near the airport. Both Pearl Harbor and Hickam AB employ many of our citizens and meeting their transportation needs could have a very positive impact on traffic congestion reduction. With a viable "people mover" at the airport, which would require the State of Hawaii funding, much of the congestion currently caused by tour buses, taxis, and luggage transporters could be reduced. And, the experience for the tourist would be enhanced by ensuring a smooth, comfortable ride between Waikiki and the Airport. In considering tourism and shopping, the Ship

Terminal and Aloha Tower seem to be viable as a station location - or at least for a station nearby. With all of the new "towers" that are being built along the corridor from downtown to Ala Moana Shopping Center, we should probably give strong consideration to a route that would include stations serving these major urban housing centers. Station Access and Parking facilities - The transit plan or concept is to move as many people as possible between East Honolulu (University/Waikiki) and the Central and West Oahu areas on a daily basis. This means that facilities for Accessing the system need to be in Kapolei, Waipahu, Pearl City, Aiea, Pearl Harbor/Hickam (if possible), the Airport, Salt Lake, Kalihi, downtown Honolulu, Ala Moana Blvd, Ala Moana Shopping Center/Convention Center, Waikiki, and UH. Probability of needing more than one station at some of the above is highly likely. Access to these stations should be by coordinated bus routes, walking and automobile (both "kiss & ride" and Parking). In the outlying areas, from Salt Lake and further west (at least), there needs to be ample parking spaces planned into each Station complex to allow for riders to get to the system by car as the bus routes are much expanded in the western Oahu areas due to the physical area each route must cover. PROPOSING ALTERNATIVE THAT MAY BE LESS COSTLY, MORE EFFECTIVE, FEWER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: Once the route is selected, significant effort needs to be channeled in engineering solutions that would 1) minimize disruption in traffic during the construction process, 2) simplify construction and 3) minimize costs. I would suggest a route and design that would allow for maximum elevated construction. The elevated construction technologies, if properly applied, would allow for building the track/rail system in a modular fashion. The piers or "supports" could be built individually in place or remotely, and the "spans" could be built at an "offsite" construction area (similar to the H-3 modules). The spans could then be transported to the site and lifted in place and "bolted" together. This would minimize construction time and cost by allowing the use of reusable forms at the "off-site" locations and at the same time minimize traffic disruption as the process of bolting a pre-fabricated span in place should be considerably shorter than trying to form and pour in place. An added benefit may be fewer environmental impacts as compared to an at grade or tunnel system since the "impacts" would potentially be where the piers/support columns are placed. The general "concept" of an elevated system over most of the route is assumed to be given so that the environmental assessment of the elevated span would be only one issue vs. a continuous issue if the "guideway" were located on or below grade. Additionally, if an elevated system is used, the stations could be on a smaller "footprint" since the elevated line could be located above the passenger services (shops, ticket counters, service areas, etc.), entrances, and exits. Unless the station is in an "outlying" area with parking requirements, the stations could be designed so as to not require much more land area than the "right of way" required for the guideways. Also, could reduce environmental impact issues. Although there is no request for the "preferred" project routing at this time, it does seem that the 4d solution would meet most of the system requirements. There is room for improvement (isn't there always), and some of the routing might be revised to handle more of the concerns and needs, but this route does ensure service to many of the key areas discussed above. Please accept my apologies for such a long input, but I hope

it will assist in your evaluation and moving to the next step in the process. I would appreciate being advised of the progress of the system and remain available should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the above. Mahalo, Larry Lamberth, PE

Kathy Lawton

I agree that traffic is a big problem, but the outrageous expensive of this fixed type of transportation just doesn't make sense. There will never be enough riders to pay for the up-keep much less pay for the entire system, which will leave the city with an insurmountable debt, of which it already has more than it seems to be able to handle. Example: deteriorating schools, parks. Take care of them before committing more money on a BIG WHITE ELEPHANT!

Larry Lee

I am writing to oppose mass transit, especially any rail system. I am 56 years old and have lived on Oahu my whole life. For the past year and a half, I have been reading the daily newspaper's Letters and Commentary. It seems that 9 out of 10 letters are opposed to mass transit. Those who oppose it give rational reasons for their position. Those few who favor mass transit, including comments by the mayor and Abercrombie, do not have cogent arguments. Their arguments are based upon emotion and manufactured fear. Supporters admit that a rail system will NOT solve our current traffic problems. In fact, as I recall, the last study that was done in the early 1990's concluded that a rail system would reduce traffic by less than 1%. So, why are we even considering spending a least \$3 billion dollars to build and hundreds of millions of dollar each year thereafter on a system that won't reduce traffic??!! I fail to see the logic or rationale. I. THE SUPPORTERS' CASE Supporters of mass transit keep saying that it will provide commuters with an "alternative" means of transportation. \$3 billion plus is too much just to have an "alternative." It's actually laughable except that our politicians seem dead set on railroading the project down our throats. If you want an alternative, how about helicopter service? It'll be much cheaper. It can be stopped or reduced during off peak periods, with a direct reduction in operational cost. It can be easily and cheaply discontinued when and if it is determined to be an ineffective or underused project. The same can't be said for mass transit. You might think helicopters is a ridiculous idea, but no more so than spending billions on a mass transit system just to have an "alternative." The supporters' argument that some of the cost will be covered by federal dollars and tourist paying our inflated excise tax is fantasy and a deceptive argument. For one, federal dollars is not free money. It is still our money. Secondly, federal money is only a carrot our politicians (particularly Abercrombie) are using to entice our city to jump into a bottomless financial pit. I have no doubt that mass transit lobbyists have their greasy fingers in this effort. Once the project is approved and on its way, the feds will gradually reduce any grants or contribution and leave the city to pay more and more in the future. Look at federal funding for education, environment, highway, Medicare and social security. These and other more

important programs have all been reduced over the years by the feds. Do you really think we can depend on the feds in the long run to help finance our “nice to have” but not “need to have” rail project? Of course not. Abercrombie’s claim that we will lose federal money if the city didn’t approve the excise tax increase to show that the city is serious about mass transit was only to create a sense of urgency. First of all, nothing is forever (except for death and taxes) and even if the federal funds were “lost” in 2005, it wouldn’t be lost forever. Politicians and politics change, economics, and world and national events and opinions change. If Hawaii really wanted federal money for some mass transit in the future, it will probably be there, somewhere. However, by dangling the federal carrot, the city took the bait and is now on the hook. It was enough to give the supporters an excuse to push the project onto the public. Saying that tourist will pay for a large part of the cost is also deceptive. Yes, we may have had a banner tourist year last year, but not long ago we were dying for tourist. Tourism is a fickle industry. Any terrorist attack, airline strike, hurricane, SARS like disease or scare, rescission in the east or on the mainland, etc., will have a devastating effect on tourism. As in the past, it can take years for the local economy and tourism to recover. There is also more competition for the tourist dollar from other destinations. Thus, tourism is not a guaranteed cash cow. Will the ongoing cost for mass transit stop when tourism and our economy are down? Who will pick up the slack? The politicians who railroaded the project? The mass transit industry who is pushing the project? No, we taxpayers will be stuck with ever increasing taxes. Like our “world class” convention center, rust bucket stadium, road paving machine, dredging barge, medical school, etc., our politicians are willing to spend our tax money just to have bragging rights for some new “world class” toy. Once they are built or bought, the public gets stuck with a white elephant that doesn’t match the political hype or is not sustainable without public bailout and maintenance becomes a hidden nightmare. Other “alternative” plans have been tried in the past. The most recent being the ferry from Barber’s Point. Even when rides were offered for free, it couldn’t generate enough riders to survive. Other past efforts including the “hydrofoil” in the 1960’s etc., have all failed. The argument that the project will create jobs is very short sighted. Much of the work will require specialized knowledge and skill which probably means a non-local contractor and technicians. Locals will be used for some of the work, but the work will last a few years while the public will be stuck with the tab for the rest of the foreseeable future. The new jobs created are unnecessary. If the same money is spent to fix our schools, roads, sewers, harbors, water system, parks, libraries, etc., there would be plenty of work for years. New jobs can be created by hiring more teachers, librarians, police and firemen, DLNR workers, harbor security/police, parks and maintenance crews, government auditors, etc. There is no shortage of job possibilities if government is willing to spend the kind of money it wants to waste on a pipe dream. II. WHY I AM AGAINST MASS TRANSIT The reasons presented in opposition to mass transit, to me, make good sense and are more convincing. 1) Historically, locally and nationally speaking, cost estimates given by government for projects have always been unrealistically low. Once the project is approved, the costs escalates tremendously. I see nothing to suggest this pattern will not happen with mass transit. 2) If it is admitted that mass transit will not significantly reduce traffic, what’s the

sense of wasting our hard earned money? Why burden taxpayers will higher taxes, and subject taxpayers to inevitable tax increases for generations just to say there is an “alternative”? 3) We don’t even know how much it will cost to maintain and operate mass transit. What will the riding cost to users be? People can’t even afford the \$2.00 one-way bus fare. Will mass transit cost more to ride? Probably “yes,” and by much more than \$2.00. It’ll be cheaper to drive. 4) Locals simply don’t go straight to work from home and return directly home after work. Most people have to take their children to schools in town in the morning and pick them up after work; go grocery shopping and other shopping after work; go to second jobs, meetings, classes, take children to sports and various lessons, go to exercise classes, socialize after work; etc. People need their cars for this. After getting dropped off somewhere by train, no one has the time or inclination to walk to and wait at a bus stop in order to take their young children to school and then catch the bus to work. The same is true after work. By the time a person has to catch the bus for all the errands after work and then catch the train home, it will be late at night. Parents would not allow their children to either ride the train or catch the bus alone to go to school or to after school activities. As a practical matter, the system is not conducive to our local life-style. This is especially true in Kapolei and the rest of west Oahu where there will be a concentration of active young families with young children. 5) The fact that people will have to catch the bus from the train station to get anywhere not within a short walking distance will mean additional cost to the rider. Thus, paying for a train ride and multiple bus fares. This fact alone, makes using mass transit impractical. If bus fare was free to train users, there is still the problem of the time and effort it takes to catch the bus. Free bus fare simply means higher cost to run the mass transit system. The bus cost will either have to be paid as part of the mass transit cost, or taxpayers will have to directly pay more to subsidize the “free” rides. Our bus system can’t support itself now, how can it do so if rides are free or if the bus system has to be greatly increased to accommodate mass transit? More over, the likely users of mass transit will be the few who now use the bus. Thus, one public system will be stealing the riders from another. The public will be stuck subsidizing two non-self sustaining transportation systems. 6) Where will people in west Oahu park their cars to catch the train to town? Will there be a parking fee? If, so that’s another discouraging cost to the rider. What kind of security will there be for the cars all day and for riders who return to their cars after dark? Who’s going to pay for the security? One complaint about the last ferry system is that cars were vandalized while parked for the ferry ride. How far will the parking lot be from the station and how large will the lot be? If not close to the station, or if the lot is large, how will people get to their cars? Shuttle buses? Costs for the shuttle buses? Walking in the dark alone to your car?—If so, I wouldn’t let my wife or children use the train. 7) How much will security on the train and stations cost? Punks are naturally going to be attracted and will victimize riders and vandalize the stations. It’s common on the mainland and other places with stations and subways. Security will have to be 24 hours at the stations, whether open for business or not. Witness our schools, parks and public restrooms. Just one mugging incident and people will avoid using the system. Have a terrorist incident, or even just some crazy doing something stupid, will keep riders away. Thus, security will have to be a top priority. Can we afford it? Will the government have the internal fortitude

to continually pay the high cost for top security even when rider ship is low and/or when there is pressure to cut costs? Look at our schools, libraries, police force, roads, sewers, etc., which are much higher priorities and yet are neglected and short changed yearly. Do you really think security will be maintained at the necessary level. I seriously don't. That's political reality and human nature. 8) The traffic is bad only during rush hours. The rest of the time, traffic moves at a good pace. Traffic is even better when school is out. Thus, does it make sense to spend so much money just to address rush hour-school time traffic? Instead, why not address the root problems which are rush hour and school sessions. Also, since mass transit will not make any noticeable difference in the traffic anyway, the root problems are really the issue. 9) Over development is really the problem and not traffic. Where ever you allow over development, there will be congestion. Address the problem of over development, not the symptom. 10) Those who say they support mass transit really mean that they support other people using mass transit so that they can drive in less traffic. These people are wishful dreamers. 11) With mass transit as an excuse for further development in west Oahu, local traffic in west Oahu will get worst, especially after work and on weekends. 12) Construction of mass transit will disrupt and displace thousands of people and businesses. Look what happened with the Nimitz Highway/Freeway work. It lasted for years and businesses suffered for years. Many went out of business. Condemnation will not fully compensate the landowners who must move. In Hawaii, land is too costly for government to pay fair market value rather than conservative appraised values. Also, land cannot be replaced with similar property because land is unique. 13) The auto industry spends hundreds of millions of dollars each year to convince the public to buy and drive cars and other vehicles. How can government compete to convince drivers to give up the convenience and joy of driving? Will government spends millions of tax dollars on campaigns to get people to give up their cars? It'll have to, if it hopes to gain any appreciable number of riders. Even if it tries, people will want their cars and drive them. 14) Have a public vote on mass transit so we can see if the majority of the public really wants mass transit. I can live with mass transit if an honest vote shows that more than 50% of the people want it. But, it's hard to swallow something that is being forced down your throat by politicians. 15) The current mass transit project is admittedly only the beginning. Further lines are planned for the future. It's said that future lines/routes will be needed to make mass transit more attractive and effective. Since nothing is certain and it is certainly not a given that government will have the political will or money to complete any or all of the necessary future lines, what if we get stuck with just the initial line? Now we'll have a partial system that will be incomplete and inefficient. It will not serve enough people or routes to make it worth while or practical. How easy does government think it will be to convince the public that routes to the Manoa campus and to Waikiki should be built. Unlike going from west Oahu to downtown, going from downtown to Manoa and Waikiki will involve a much denser population through prime real estate. This means disruption and displacement of a lot more people, homes and businesses at a much higher cost. Objections over the sight and blight of the system running through largely residential and small business areas will also be significant. I seriously doubt that future politicians will be able to pull it off. Perhaps our current politicians feel that once the

initial leg is built, they can strong arm the public into approving the future routes with the argument that the routes are needed to make mass transit work and without the future routes, the taxpayers' cost to maintain and operate the initial system will get worst because the existing system is too small to attract the necessary riders to make it feasible. Now, that's bootstrapping at its best!

III. MY GUESS AS TO WHY POLITICIANS FAVOR MASS TRANSIT I don't understand the rationale behind our politicians' push for mass transit, given the realities and cost. The only reasons I can speculate on are:

- a) They want something to brag about during their political reign. To give the appearance that they are "doing something" to address the congestion.
- b) They want bragging rights to tell the world that Hawaii/Oahu is a modern city with "world class" mass transportation. It's like the family who has a new shiny luxury car parked in the driveway for all to see, but the roof of the house is falling in, the plumbing is stopped up, the water is polluted from lead pipes and grunge, the walls are termite eaten, the stove doesn't work and the windows are broken. But hey, we do have a nice shiny toy in the driveway. Why do politicians always have to have a "world-class" or "state of the art" something new that we can't afford. Why can't we just have something adequate, that works, and that we can easily afford? Is it because the latter is not fancy or exciting enough??
- c) The "alternative" argument is an excuse for government and developers to further over develop west Oahu. With mass transit, the government and developers will argue that more development is possible because there is mass transit to take care of the traffic concerns. And, if residents don't use mass transit and traffic gets worst, government and developers will blame the residents for not using the system. That's the only way the "alternative" argument makes any sense. After all, if they really believe mass transit will make a difference, why isn't it proposed for east Oahu, where the traffic is equally bad, if not worst during rush hour? The reason is that there is not as much room left for development in east Oahu, as compared to the potential in west Oahu. Thus, there is no need for an excuse to develop east Oahu.
- d) Government and developers want mass transit so they can further develop west Oahu, as well as, along the route and at station sites. Developers are working with politicians to see their (developers') dream come true.
- e) Mass transit developers and contractors see easy money. They'll do the work and take their money.
- f) I hope this is not true, but given the political realities of today, some politicians may have hidden agendas that will benefit themselves, family, friends and/or clients. There'll be lots of money involved and a lot of development at and around the stations. Many people will profit at the expense of others and the public. When was the last time you heard that a large public project didn't involve abuse, waste, favoritism and/or questionable payouts?

IV. ALTERNATIVES TO MASS TRANSIT So, what can be done instead of an expensive mass transit project? How about the following:

- 1) Create a real "second city" in west Oahu. Move either the state government or city government there. Increase incentives for more businesses in West Oahu. This will keep more residents in the area and create more "contra" flowing traffic during the rush hours.
- 2) Develop and maintain more schools in west Oahu. Invest enough money in the schools (statewide) so that the schools provide quality education so people don't feel the need to send their children to private schools in town or to public schools in other districts.
- 3) Stagger school times, including the U.H. so they don't collide with the

rush hour. 4) Encourage more staggered or different work hours. Especially for government. 5) Develop a true west campus for the U.H., so students don't have to drive into town or back and forth. 6) Stop development of luxury homes and condos. They do not benefit the local public. They only attract more wealthy non-residents into the area, adding unnecessarily to the population and congestion. 7) Better planning before development is allowed. The secondary roads in west Oahu are already inadequate. Mass transit will not help the secondary road traffic. It will get worse, if more development is allowed because of the mass transit excuse. 8) Improve and increase bus service. Next to private cars and taxis, the bus is the most convenient means of transportation. They can go more places than mass transit. They can take you closer to more destinations than mass transit. It's cheaper to maintain and operate than mass transit, even if the price of fuel increases. (Mass transit cost will remain higher, even when people aren't riding.) Bus is more flexible and routes can be changed to suit the demands of the rider. If the routes of mass transit proves unpopular or inconvenient now or in the future, the routes can't be changed without prohibitive cost. Security is cheaper and easier with buses. Buses can use existing roads. 9) Have more and safer bicycle and moped paths to encourage other forms of transportation. 10) Traffic congestion is a direct result of population growth. Not only is mass transit not going to reduce traffic, it will make matters worse because it will serve as an excuse to allow more growth and development. With or without mass transit, the traffic will get worse as the population grows and, eventually, it will reach a point where more people will leave Oahu because of the congestion and others will tolerate it and stay. As long as the population issue is ignored, traffic will worsen and people will continue to complain. Government should address the population problem and encourage smaller families and not encourage new residents, e.g., by allowing luxury developments that only non-residents can afford, or constantly seeking a greater military presence, or encouraging the image that Hawaii is a great place to visit and stay. Like Oregon's Governor McCall did in the 1970's, he encouraged people to visit Oregon, spend their money, but not to stay. It was the philosophy of the entire state at the time. There were even Oregon postcards showing visitors returning home with webbed feet or rusted bodies to discourage new residents. That's not to say that Hawaii should do likewise, but the point is that at least Oregon recognized the problem early and tried to do something about it.

Guy Leopard

The project should include the following: 1. Analysis of WHERE significant amount of people are traveling To and From. a. PHNSY. Employs about 7,000 people. It's a major hub of AM/PM traffic. It should have a station. 2. PH and Hickam. 3. The Airport. 4. Pearl Ridge and Ala Moana Malls. 5. Downtown. 6. Aloha Stadium. 7. Waikiki. The project shall fail if we DON'T properly take into account WHERE people travel most often daily and whenever, from and to. Lastly, it appears the project is totally forgetting Central Oahu (Mililani, Waipio, Wahiawa) and the North Shore. Don't forget the Koa Ridge community coming on line in 2008. The vast amount of traffic going EAST is from BOTH the Ewa Plain AND Central Oahu.

Project Rules. Recommend no eating, drinking, chewing gum, smoking, etc on the rail, bus. Keep it clean will result in higher participation and lower maintenance costs. Dress code. Require at a minimum shoes, shorts and shirt. Hopefully some significant decision makers will read this email and it won't go into the circular file. Mahalo and aloha, Guy L Leopard Jr leopardg001@hawaii.rr.com

Gary Li

I had a cursory look at some of the Scoping Presentation information and here are my thoughts: 1- Since I live on Young Street (Section VII) I think I like Alternative 4c of the Fixed Guideway Alternative best, proposed South King alignment. The next step is for the project team to decide on whether it will be a street-level rail or up on an elevated platform, and how (or if) it would blend into the environment. 2- I recommend that future plans consider extending the rail lines to Kaimuki, especially the city municipal parking lot located at Waialae Ave., Sierra Dr., and Koko Head Ave. As a Honolulu Advertiser article dated December 18 2005 (page A37) explains, there seems to be a very high number of popular businesses in those two blocks. My family would love to patronize Happy Day Restaurant more often but can not stand the horrendous parking -- which seems to last all day and night. I'd love to see the parking lot replaced with a rail station; thus without a place to park people will be more willing to find other means of transportation to that business district. 4- Transit Technologies board: I would not like any kind of buses if they use diesel and other polluting fossil fuels. Rapid rail and monorail seem more suitable for much larger cities of several million. I like the People Movers and Light Rail, but I have mixed feelings on the Maglev technology that merits further study. What is important to me is that trains of various sizes are available (flexibility in case of emergencies or population growth) and reducing noise and visual disruption as much as possible. What I definitely do not want are loud trains that clatter and whine at all hours like in New York and Chicago right outside residential buildings. Personal anecdote: my relatives live in north Hong Kong island and I visit them often, three times in the past 6 years. I'm most impressed with their reliable multi-tiered transportation system. There are trams, double-decker buses, 32 person mini-buses, a fast and clean subway, not to mention hotel shuttles and taxicabs. Sadly most of Honolulu's transportation options appear tourist-centered such as trolleys, tour buses and The Bus (which is clean but not especially on-time).

Michael Lilly

I am against this project as proposed; it's a waste of taxpayers dollars. There are feasible alternatives at less cost that would be more effective and carry more passengers than a fixed rail system from essentially one point to another. Why not a toll alternative along the existing corridors? But you aren't even considering that as an alternative.

Robert Linczer

I have just returned from a 16 day vacation to New Zealand and Australia. Major cities in these countries have a fixed rail and or mono rail transit system. All of which are relieving traffic congestion. As a frequent user of the H-1 and Kamehameha Highway and frequently being caught up in the traffic congestion on both thoroughfares, a rapid transit system is an absolute necessity. We have a natural corridor from Kapolei to Hawaii Kai. Lets do it

Nikki Love

Looking forward to seeing transit here! I just wanted to suggest the following additions to the purpose and need: - Changing demographics -- Honolulu's rapidly aging population. Transit will be very important for helping our many elderly citizens get around town independently. - New development in-town (eg. Kakaako) - transit as a way to promote mixed use smart growth -- make living within the urban core more attractive. Good luck!!

Bob Loy

Aren't you required by State law to reply to each and every comment received during this process? Mahalo.

Robert Loy

January 4, 2006 Aloha, Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important public project. Based upon the information presented at the scoping meetings, The Outdoor Circle submits the following comments: Historic Review All mature trees potentially impacted by the project should be assessed-- particularly those over 50 years old. Visual Diamond Head must be specified as a landmark that must be considered...not simply lumped-in with "others." The EIS must address visual impacts of transit stations, power sources, all infrastructure and construction. Financing Options More information is needed on the scope of possible advertising and what, if any, enabling law changes would be necessary. Process How can a preferred alternative be selected before knowing the environmental impacts of all primary proposals? Public Involvement Why no open forums during scoping? The methods you are using limit public discussion and interaction. A community consensus cannot possibly be reached solely by individuals submitting written comments. It appears the process was devised to prevent public discussion, to block confrontation, and to avoid having transit planners/government officials publicly respond to inquiries. Alternative 4B What will a Kapiolani Park station facility look like? What will be the elements of such a station and where would it be constructed? Overall Visual Impacts Our organization watches after Hawaii's scenic environment. We are deeply concerned about the potential loss of view planes from any transit system and the infrastructure that supports it. We insist that the EIS include detailed descriptions and assessments of the lost view planes, the value of those view planes and the mitigation for their loss to the Transit Project. Consulted Party We request to

be named as an official "consulted party" in this endeavor. Response to Comments Our interpretation of the State of Hawaii Office of Environmental Quality rules is that the box on the online comment form asking whether the commenting party "...would like a reply." is irrelevant. It does not release the City and/or its contractors from responding to every comment received during the public comment periods required under State and Federal law. OEQC rules require that individuals receive a response to their comments. This matter was challenged and adjudicated by the Environmental Council on May 12, 2004. In a memo dated 10/19/04, OEQC specifically states that a proposed rule regarding "comment bombing" and the previous amendment of HAR Section 11-200-22(d) be rescinded. Therefore, the box that implies people can waive their right to a response is inappropriate and violates OEQC rules. Please respond to these and all future comments provided by our organization, as required. Bob Loy Director of Environmental Programs The Outdoor Circle 1314 South King Street, Suite 306 Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 (808) 593-0300

Heather Lum

I oppose the development of a rapid transit system for the following reasons: 1) People will not give up the independence of their cars--they just hope others will. 2) The maintenance costs will be overwhelming to the taxpayers. 3) The technology will be outdated before it is even built. 4) Viable alternatives, such as reconfiguring freeway ramps, have not been exhausted. The bottom line is that we live on an island. There is a limit to the amount of development and growth that can be sustained. There is a limit to how many cars we can continue to import. Unless changes are made to curb the rampant overdevelopment and excesses, we will completely lose the quality of life that we have enjoyed here. Building rapid transit is not going to solve the real issues here.

Walter Mahr

Years ago, when I owned an advertising agency and handled the advertising for a major weight loss center, I learned that the problem was not taking off the weight...the problem was keeping off the weight. The same thing is true with this transit system. The initial cost will be much higher than anyone has anticipated but, the real cost will be the upkeep, maintenance and total cost of running the system once it gets going. Needless to say, the only way to pay for that is to let the other guy pay for it. Who? The other guy...meaning all the tourists will visit our island. I can't believe you folks are not including a stop at the airport and several stops in Waikiki. An airport entrance to the system could have a higher fee than other stops and that fee will certainly cover a substantial part of the cost of running the system. In other words, let the tourists pay a major part of the bill. It's the only way to not bleed the rest of us to death. Thanks.

Tesha Malama

1. Cultural Impact - Utilize a reputable consultant familiar and sensitive to the native hawaiian culture in regards to gathering rights, artifacts, potential impacts, etc. 2. Visual impact of the actual people mover. Incorporate ALOHA feel, look, etc. 3. Select a route that will include Ewa Beach, Kalaeloa, Kapolei to downtown, with a plan to include spurs to nanakuli and mililani. 4. Select the less evasive routes to minimize current impacts. (ie. use North-South instead of Ft. Weaver)

Sally Jo Manea

Regardless of the rail corridor selected, it is vitally important to consider pedestrian and cycling safety for all transit users; that is, adequate pedestrian and cycle-friendly access at all stops and park-and ride facilities. Ideally, a separate and safe pedestrian-cycle commuter path from Kapolei to UH would provide a long term solution to both traffic congestion as well as health problems of obesity. Until single use vehicle drivers get out of their cars and ride mass transit or self propelled transit, traffic congestion will grow and grow. Everyone yells about the impossibility of paying for such a dream, but it is reality in forward thinking communities such as Vancouver Island (Galloping Goose Trail).

JON MAR

I REALLY DON'T BELIEVE MANY PEOPLE WILL UTILIZE THE TRANSIT SYSTEM AND IF IT IS UTILIZED, I'LL APPEAR THAT HAWAII ISN'T THAT CONGESTED WITH TRAFFIC ENCOURAGING VISITORS TO LIVE HERE. LET TRAFFIC CONGESTION DISCOURAGE OTHERS FROM WANTING TO LIVE HERE AND POSSIBLY OTHERS TO MOVE BACK HOME.

John Marrack

I am a retired CPA from a major international CPA firm. I believe the cost/benefit analysis to any of the rail projects is essential. And, an honest cost/benefit analysis should include realistic ridership estimates and realistic future employee and maintenance costs. I believe such an analysis would conclude that no rail project is cost effective for Hawaii. I am also upset that our government leaders are afraid to make the difficult decisions that would truly make Kapolei a 2nd city and thus lessen our one way traffic congestion. Such previously discussed ideas as 1) Move government offices to Kapolei and 2) move the University of Hawaii to West Oahu would greatly help traffic patterns and flow. Thank you for listening, John Marraack

ian mckay

My route choices: 1.7 or 1.6 - whichever would serve more (actual) riders 2.3 or 2.2 3.3 4.11 or 4.6 - accessibility to airport is must 5.3 6.13 or 6.16 7.11 or 7.9 8.7 - access convention center/waikiki to/from airport is a must Additionally - the

environmental considerations (including sight-lines) must not be overstated, as the gross impacts of increasing auto/truck/bus traffic is exponentially higher, in all aspects!

Mark McMahon

The traffic in this city is seriously a problem. And most of that is from 1 or 2 people in cars. There are several things that could be done to improve conditions: * invest in bike lanes by widening streets, especially around UH-Manoa, for a couple of miles -- would help encourage students to take a bike rather than a car because they fear the roads; * a high-speed rail line, or (is it possible?) subway line, between E-W ends of HNL; * encourage telecommuting to all business, especially UH/EWC; * subsidizing monthly transit passes for government employees and encouraging private companies to do the same for their employees... Thanks for listening... Good Luck!

jeff merz

The 12/13 scoping meeting was not well designed for public input. A presentation is in order. As to the designs, the corridor that extends THROUGH Waikiki down Kuhio is imperative, if this light rail is to work. The light rail must extend to UH, Waikiki, downtown with an eventual spur to the airport terminal. These four destinations must all be connected or traffic will not be relieved.

Craig Meyers

I am totally against the any type of rail mass transit system. My main concern lies not so much with the initial costs, which will far exceed any estimates as has been shown time after time, particularly in Hawaii (H-3), but with the costs that are going to be required to subsidize any type of rail system once it is completed. There is not going to be the ridership to sustain the cost, and to compare Oahu to places such as New York, D.C. and San Francisco is insane. There are millions of people living in those areas, you are talking about building a system to assist a population of a couple hundred thousand people on the leeward coast. There are going to be two periods of ridership each day, during the morning and evening rush hours, other than that there will be minimal ridership. What is there to ride out to if you are heading in the Ewa direction? Another concern of mine is where folks are going to park in order to use any type of rail system. You are going to require large parking garages on non-existent land space, and if you charge fees for the garages, then people are just going to drive any way. The bottom line is that the vast majority of people are not going to leave their cars at home. They are spoiled after decades of having their cars available and no rail system is going to change that. Most importantly, the cost to build the system, coupled with the cost to subsidize it once it's completed, is going to cripple Hawaii taxpayers forever.

Darin Mijo

I think the costs of constructing a fixed rail system exceeds the potential benefits. The construction of a fixed rail system will have a profound impact on the future of Hawaii. Do we want to continue to promote our island as a beautiful and romantic place where you can have a unique multicultural experience filled with excitement and fun? Or are we going to become a place that operates and looks like any other major city in the United States full of concrete and high-rise buildings? A fixed rail system would definitely not help to promote Hawaii as a unique and beautiful place. I hope our elected leaders are thinking about things like this when they are proposing such ideas like a fixed rail system. Our tourism industry will definitely take a hit by building this. Yes, it would help transport tourists from Waikiki to Waialeale, but at what cost. Several tourists (Japanese and American) that I spoke to were disappointed that they saw a McDonalds on the island. Imagine what kind of impression a fixed rail system will have on tourists (what about a fixed rail system filled with graffiti - a fixed rail system would be another canvas for vandals)! I guess that's why so many of the tourists are now skipping Oahu and only going to Maui and Kauai. A concern of mine is usage. Do we know how many people will actually use the fixed rail system? From my experience, local people (and even tourists) like their freedom and autonomy. They like to go and run at the park, fish, surf, work out, etc. after work. I would think usage will not be sufficient enough to justify the costs of constructing a fixed rail system. Here's just a suggestion that I hope someone will consider. Rather than investing millions and millions of dollars into an enormous project that will cost millions more every year to maintain, why not try and "re-route" the traffic. With the significant increase in housing and development of the Ko Olina hotels on the west side of the island, why not offer significant income tax credits for businesses that move their operations to Kapolei - or Mililani Tech Park (more employees, larger income tax credit)? This will help reduce the amount of people making the drive from the west side to downtown. The moves will also spur business and activity that would generate tax revenues for the State. The city should ask the State to speed up any plans to improve UH's west Oahu campus. The west Oahu campus should be developed into a top notch facility that can accommodate significant enrollment. It should also be marketed accordingly. Ask the students attending the Manoa campus what it would take for them to attend the west Oahu campus and develop accordingly. Why not pour millions of dollars into an educational and research facility that develops our youth (and attract students from outside the state) and possibly bring in outside grant monies? I live in Kaneohe, but I have driven in rush hour traffic to and from downtown and Pearl City many times. It's horrible. Something needs to be done. A fixed rail system may be an answer. But the costs and losses that come with it (not just the monetary ones) will jeopardize Hawaii's future as being that special place that people from all over the world save their money for years to come have spend their vacation. Please do not build a fixed rail system. There are other alternatives.

gary miller

We've seen no cost and benefit information on any of these alternatives; this information must be available before any judgement can be made on the alternatives. When this information is available, ask for input from the public then.

Bob Minugh

I plan on attending the December meeting to get more info. The plans on this website, are a good start, but there is insufficient info and data, to make an educated selection. What are the projected population and traffic patterns? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each option? Para 1.2.2 states the "current" travel time. Put a date on that data, say Nov05 vs the word current. 40 - 60 minutes travel time from Kapolei to Downtown sounds like old data. Last year backups were typically to Weikele shopping center. This year it is typically back to Kunia on ramp (even radio traffic reports are now saying "backed up to Kunia, as usual"). I travel from Kapolei to Hickam, with no stalls or accidents I leave at 0630 and arrive at 0725 (55 minutes). Do the terminals take into account future expansion east, west and towards Mililani? If population growth is projected to increase in Ewa, it looks like it would make sense to run the rail along Ft Weaver Rd. If population growth will move east and west of North/South Rd, then the rail should run along North/South Rd. One question you can either answer by email or at the meeting is past, present and projected cars/hour, during peak travel times, merging at Kunia (from Kapolei and from Ewa) and merging at H1/H2 (from H1 and from H2). It doesn't seem right for H1 to back up to Kapolei during bad traffic days, while there is no back up on Ft Weaver. At Kunia H1 narrows from 3 lanes to 2, while the Ewa on ramp is 3 lanes wide. Thanks for keeping the community informed. Bob Minugh

Eric Miyasato

Could an elevated rail be placed within the Ala Wai Canal and use part of the Ala Wai Golf Course as a Main Transit Station? The space above the Ala Wai Canal is large, open and unused. It borders the Hawaii Convention Center and runs parallel to Waikiki.

Henry Mochida

Although no rail system is self sufficient, Oahu does not have a dense enough population, and the system may not significantly reduce traffic (because there is an independence of driving that many locals depend on and the costs of driving vs. mass transit are not severe enough) I SUPPORT RAIL. Because rail represents a more social benefit that provides those economically challenged the option of greater mobility, hence job opportunities, school options, government participation, medical choices, etc. In essence the rail will create a better social environment for Oahu's population increasing access and transportation ability, with the additional benefits of reducing traffic, adding economic growth at areas of rail stops (with shops and

commerce), as well as promoting pedestrian activity and health. Henry I. Mochida
Master's candidate in the Department of Urban & Regional

Guy Monahan

Public transportation is a losing activity in almost all cities in our country from ridership to financial observation. If our city is so different, then explain to me how our current public transportation system is: financially independent of subsidy; enticing new customers; and improving safety and convenience. Fact is, it is not. And don't argue that we have no other solution but to throw more money and resources at the problem by building "light rail", because city ordinances have created a climate that disallows competition with "The Bus". One immediate solution would be to allow private competitors curb access at bus stops and discontinued subsidy of "The Bus" fares. Wilfred Morales fix rail or elevated links should begin at Kapolei lead into Honolulu core. bus routes should feed into transit system, integrating bus and rail. an initial route across Pearl Harbor, Hickam, Keehi Lagoon and to Sand Island; linking to downtown by bridge would be truly rapid and allow bus service to flow outward to current Honolulu bus routes. a second route destinating to Aloha Stadium bus connection postponing a Manoa link if at all.

Steven Morgan

I haven't heard how any of the options will impact current and future traffic congestion. I consider that the only reason to proceed with this kind of a project Give us the facts on projected ridership for each project and the cost. Please!

Roy Morita

I like plan 2 the best. I think that any rail system to be totally useless and expensive beyond words. The main fault with any rail system on Oahu is that the ridership will be mostly moving in only one direction during the majority of the operational period. In the morning most riders will be travelling from the Leeward coast to Honolulu and in the mid-afternoon to the evenings they'll be going in the opposite direction. To be cost effective there would have to be at least a 40-50% ridership going in the opposite direction as the main flow of riders. There has to be more jobs in the Kapolei/Leeward coast area to justify this increase in riders going to this area in the mornings. Just at the top of my head I would estimate that around 40 thousand jobs would be required over what we have now. There is no 2nd Urban area in Kapolei because the emphasis is on single-family housing. There isn't room to create the amount of jobs required to increase ridership in a rail system to this area. Unless we move most of the State government and the UH system plus re-open the Barbers Point Naval Station to some branch of the military there won't be any new jobs save a few high tech positions and some low paying retail entry positions. Sorry, I got carried away. What this boils down to is there will not be enough continuous ridership to justify running a full scale rail system. The cost to the rider therefore will be high (My estimate is around \$8.00 roundtrip based on an advanced purchase of a monthly or longer pass) and the cost to the public to support this rail system would be

around 80 to 170 million dollars (2006 dollars) per year depending on the operating schedule for this system. This is only my personal guess/estimate not based on actual figures. Oh, and I estimate it would take about 10 years to complete the proposed rail route (minimum) based on how long the local governments really usually take when they say how long they think it's going to take. Thanks for reading this. I ride the bus to and from work at the UH from Aiea every work day and if a rail system is built would not probably ride it cause I would still live too far (1 to 2 miles) from any access point. Ciao!

Jeremy Morrow

With Roberts bus fees for my son to go from Aiea to Iolani, and gas costs to pick him up after sports, we estimate we currently spend about \$1,775/year just getting my son to/from school. Each day we also have to add to the traffic congestion in the afternoon by driving all the way down to near Waikiki (Iolani), then driving all the way back home. What a difference light rail would have made! I would not have to drive at all, and my son might have a 20 minute ride home! So City Council member Djou's concern about a \$400/person increase in taxes are NOTHING compared to what we spend and the time we invest now. We also look forward to the day when we can travel to Ala Moana or Waikiki without driving or having the hassle/expense of finding parking down there. I also hate it when I see all the people having to stand outside in the morning dark, waiting for too slow buses, just so they can get to work on time downtown or in Waikiki. Rail would improve their lives. So yes, we strongly support light rail, and are strongly against any solution (more buses) that does not include rail. I do support feeder routes, like the one to Waikiki, and perhaps feeder routes elsewhere that make sense. One key to a successful project, however, is plenty of secure PARKING at each station! If you can't leave your car at the station, how could you possibly take the train? And please don't be afraid of using condemnation powers to acquire enough land for the routes, stations, and ENOUGH PARKING. This is for Hawaii's future, and will improve everyone's daily lives.

Richard Morse

[This may be comment 1 of 3 from me--thank you] For those who are considering a 'bus solution' as an option to a 'fixed rail solution' (i.e. Alternatives 1,2 or 3 from Environmental Impact Statement Notice.--Nov. 2005) Please refer to the following URL: http://www.lightrailnow.org/news/n_newslog001.htm#GEN_20041216 which may be accessed by typing "Light Rail Now! NewsLog 2004" into your browser window. This website contains about 38 short articles about rail projects in various cities. Thirty-seven of these are success stories (or success stories in the making). One of these, however, is a rather negative account of the Honolulu experience. The gist of this article is: 'No improvements in a bus system can compare with the benefits of a train.' Here I have copied the beginning and last paragraph of this article; while omitting most of the body: 18 December 2004 Honolulu "BRT" service slammed for poor ridership We're strongly in favor of Quality Bus improvements, but the ongoing campaign to hype better bus service as "Bus Rapid Transit", and to claim it's

"just like light rail, but cheaper", is nothing short of a fraud, and counterproductive to winning public support for transit. A good case in point, and current object lesson, is the recently inaugurated "BRT" scheme in Honolulu, hawked by its promoters as "much cheaper and more flexible than rail," However, the Honolulu experience appears to underscore the contention of many transit supporters that merely repackaging Quality Bus service as "rapid transit", and hawking it with claims that "it's light rail on rubber tires" and "just like rail, but cheaper", is a deceptive ploy whose promises fall far short of rendering the benefits and achievements of true rail transit, either light rail or rapid transit. Once again – you get what you pay for. [My comment: Although this article is somewhat harsh, I would tend to concur with its basics. I have had opportunity to ride trains in various cities and find that they are reliable, punctual and (if I may add) "fun to ride." (The 'fun' part should not be under-rated because that leads to increased ridership. I think tourists will ride it for that reason alone...locals too.) Within my experience, sometimes trains have very few riders; while at other times, they're packed. That, I think, is the general nature of public transit.]

Richard Morse

IN SUPPORT FOR FIXED GUIDE WAY ALTERNATIVE 4-d, WITH DIRECT LINE TO HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. I would strongly urge the planners to run the rail-line directly directly to the airport; with a stop at the inter-island terminal and 2 or 3 stops at the international terminal. (This, as apposed to the shuttle from Kamehameha Highway option.) By way of argument, I will ask the planners to please image the year 2018. It's 4:00 in the afternoon; Freeway traffic is all but gridlock. You are rushing to to meet a 4:20 check-in time for a flight somewhere. You've decided that the The Train is your best bet for getting there on time. You have two parcels of baggage and your six-year old daughter in tow. Now I ask, would you prefer to: A) ...transfer two bags of luggage and your daughter to a shuttle at Kam Highway--(a shuttle which you are not sure will be there when you reach the transfer station; and which, itself, may be delayed in the traffic.) And then transfer all again at the terminal? Or... B) ...know exactly when you and your child are arriving at the terminal and transfer you bags only once? I would prefer (B); if only that it would be less stressful The Portland light rail, for example, goes directly to the airport. I have ridden it from the city to the airport once; and can testify that it is very convenient.

Richard Morse

"In some cities, the urban rail system is so comprehensive and efficient that the majority of city residents go without an automobile. London, New York City, Paris, Seoul and Tokyo have the most extensive and convenient metro systems in the world." --(From Wikipedia article on "Rapid Transit".)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rapid_transit Below is a condensed, partial list of cities throughout the world with electric-rail public transport. Some of these are simply cross-town trams; while others represent elaborate networks--employing some

combination of monorail, light rail, high speed trains etc. This list does not include the extensive railways that transverse nations or entire continents. The earliest urban railway was the London Underground ("The Tube")--first opened in 1863--(converted to electric power in 1890.) Since then, electric rail transport has become the mark of a modern urban civilization in countries all around the world. Now, 143 years after the original opening of "The Tube", the city of Honolulu struggles through the planning stages of a single rail line that will run less than half-way across a tiny island. Historically, the planning of urban rail transport usually involves a good deal of necessary controversy. Such controversy, of course, is a healthy aspect of democratic process; which serves, hopefully, to satisfy the greatest number of people and interests--and, ultimately, benefits the whole community. However...without pointing fingers at any particular persons or events, I would venture to suggest that the political climate in Hawaii has, in the past, had a tendency to forestall the creation of rail, mass-transit alternative for the people of Honolulu. I feel justified, then, in requesting that Representatives, on all levels of Government, make an extra effort to act in concert in bringing about this important addition to the island of Oahu. I also ask that they envision themselves riding a free-rail system that flies past traffic as if it wasn't there; whose guide-ways complement both the urban and rural skyline or landscape; whose ports and stations are pleasant architectural enhancements--inside and out-- reflecting, in their design, the heritage of the islands; whose vehicles are state-of-the-art--quiet and safe and comfortable; whose attraction for ridership will generate commerce in many, many ways; whose presence in the community will be a source of pride for generations to come. Let's add Honolulu to this list of cities with electric rail mass transit systems: Asia, including Caucasus (Armenia) Yerevan, (Azerbaijan) Baku, (China) Beijing, Guangzhou, Nanjing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Tianjin, Wuhan, Hong Kong, Tbilisi, (India) Bangalore, Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Thane, (Israel) Haifa, Tel Aviv, (Iran) Isfahan, Karaj, Mashhad, Shiraz, Tabriz, Tehran, (Japan) Chiba, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kamakura< Kawasaki, Kitakyushu, Kobe, Komaki, Kyoto, Nagoya, Naha, Osaka(4), Saitama, Sakura, Sappora, Sendai, Tokyo(10), Yokohama(3) (Kazakhstan) Almaty, (Korea) Pyongyang, Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Incheon, Seoul, (Malaysia) Kuala Lumpur(4), Penang, (Philippines) Manila(2)...Singapore. Bangkok, Chain Mai, Kaohsiung, Taipei, (Turkey) Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Izmir, (Uzbekistan) Tashkent Europe, excluding the Caucasus Vienna, Minsk, Antwerp, Brussels, Charleroi, Sofia, Prague, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Paris, Rennes, Toulouse, Berlin, Bielefeld, Bochum, Cologne/Bonn, Dortmund, Dusseldorf, Essen/Mulheim, Frankfurt, Hanover, Hamburg, Munich, Nuremberg, Stuttgart, Wuppertal, Athens, Thessaloniki, Budapest, Bologna, Brescia, Catania, Genoa, Milan, Naples, Rome, Tunn, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Oslo, Warsaw, Coimbra, Lisbon, Porto, Margem Sul, Bucharest, Chelyabinsk, Kazan, Krasnoyarsk, Moscow(2), Nizhny Novgorod, Omsk, Samara, Saint Petersburg, Ufa, Yekaterinburg, Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid, Palama de Mallorca, Seville, Valencia, Stockholm, Lausanne, Istanbul, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkov, Kiev, Glasgow, London(2), Newcastle upon Tyne North America and Mexico (Canada) Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver (United States) Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Fort Worth, Jacksonville, Las Vegas, Los

Angeles(2), Miami, Morgantown, NewYork(3), Orlando, Philadelphia(3), Pittsburgh, San Francisco Bay Area(2) San Juan- (Puerto Rico), Washington DC, Portland(2), Sioux City, Seattle. (Mexico) Guadalajara, Mexico City, Monterrey South America Buenos Aires, Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santiago de Chile, Valparaiso, Medellin, Lima, Caracas, Los Teques, Maracaibo, Valencia. Africa Cairo __ Information from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_rapid_transit_systems#Africa

Jim Moylan

Greatly support FIXED-GUIDEWAY ALTERNATIVE - C: Fort Weaver Road/ Farrington Highway/ Kamehameha Highway/ Dillingham Boulevard/ Ka'aahi Street/ Beretania Street/ King Street/ Kai'ali'u Street Alignment. This is the only option available that includes a highly congested Ewa area, with thousands of home building permit approved. The building of North South Road and widening of Ft. Weaver road does not resolve the congestion. That is why I greatly support alternative C. Merry Christmas!

Johnson Mukaida

You know what? I don't think that the mass transit is going to work. People might ride it for a while but it will not last. People are too lazy to catch the transit system and walk to their jobs or wherever they have to go. People in Hawaii is too used to driving.

Marc Myer

Seems someone is putting the cart before the horse. People are anxious to alleviate traffic congestion, yet the current options are unattractive to commuters. Why? Because the TheBus does not currently meet commuters' needs. Is this a deliberate attempt to increase demand for light rail? It's looking that way. I have contacted TheBus several times to inquire about planned improvements to schedules, routes, etc, and have not yet been even properly responded to. Given the immense amount of money required to build a rail system, why no concurrent improvements to TheBus, which would cost relatively little? Where are TheBus' proposed improvements? I live on the Windward side and commute to the Stadium area. After eight years of the H3 freeway's operation, did you know that TheBus still does not have a single route that uses the H3? Are you aware that no significant improvements to the Windward route have been made in years? Thousands of commuters per hour use the H3; many would welcome TheBus as an alternative. A commuter from the Windward side is forced to change buses at School Street/Likelike in order to arrive in the Pearl City/Pearl Harbor area, resulting in a commute delay of an hour. A short commute in a car via the H3 takes nearly an extra hour by TheBus, making it useless for Windward riders. TheBus is claiming poor ridership, yet they make no effort to evaluate demand, or make a serious attempt at improvements. I'll support light rail once I'm satisfied everything else has been seriously tried. Clearly TheBus' management needs some oversight.

Seichi Nagai

I agree with the need and purpose of the project. ALL traffic to Leeward Oahu passes through Pearl City and impacts me. The Pearl Harbor bridge or tunnel alternative interests me very much because it provides a true alternate corridor for automobiles. The operational and security concerns I'm sure can be negotiated like the Coronado bridge in San Diego Harbor or the Aqualine in Tokyo Bay. The security concerns that appear to be the major obstacle are of a personal and subjective nature that is masked by national security. If this concern is looked and discussed with open and objective minds, they will see that security can be maintained and the project will serve the community better than any rail or bus system.

Nancy Nagamine

1. The fixed rail option is NOT a good one. It will not serve enough people, and many will not be able to use it. There will need to be busses to carry people from the many valleys and outlying neighborhoods. The windward side, Hawaii Kai, and many other neighborhoods would not be served by a fixed line. BUSES are much more versatile and can go where the people are. This is why many fixed rail lines are no longer in existence today (including on Oahu!). In a city of multi millions of people I can see it working but not here. 2. Where is the cost/benefit analysis of the different options? 3. The schools are really the problem. If it were not for the multitude of private school kids being shuffled all over the island there would not be such congestion. Notice how little traffic there is when school is out? 4. Why not move businesses and government offices to where the people are rather than vice versa. 5. Where are the cost analysis and these options in this program? 6. Who is really benefitting from all of this? The unions certainly must be for this various fixed rail options. This will be a windfall for many unions while the taxpayer suffers. 7. LONG term, say 50 years from now, what will the fixed rail option look like? Will it rust? How will it be maintained? What will the tourists think? We will ruin our island with the fixed rail option. The key to the future is VERSATILITY. A fixed rail is NOT versatile!

nobu nakamoto

I would like to comment on the High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, but find it very difficult to do so because there is very little meaningful information available on your website. So, first of all, I'd like to suggest you increase the information presented on your website, keeping in mind that it is not possible for many of us to attend your meetings: 1. For your alternative routes, please include information on specific destinations that will be served by each route, as well as which won't be served. Here's some destinations that I think are important, and whose inclusion or exclusion will affect the desirability of each route. I'm sure there are many other important destinations that should be included as well. a. Kapolei Hale b. UH-West O'ahu c. St. Francis West d. Leeward Community College e. Pearlridge Shopping Center/Pali Momi Medical Center f. Aloha Stadium g. Pearl Harbor h. Kaiser Moanalua i. Airport j. Honolulu Community College/Iwilei k. Downtown l. Queen's

Hospital/Legislature m. Honolulu Hale n. Ward Centers o. Blaisdell Center/Straub p. Ala Moana/Wal-Mart q. Punahou r. Kapi'olani Medical Center s. UH-Manoa t. Kaimuki u. Waikiki v. Kapi'olani Community College

2. Cost information for each route will also affect the desirability of the routes. I believe your Proposed Purpose and Need is missing something important, specifically, providing for the transportation needs of senior citizens. Our eldest baby boomers will be approaching 70 years old by the time this system is operational, and having an alternative to driving that provides seniors with transportation independence will greatly increase their quality of life. It will also make it easier for those seniors with deteriorating physical capabilities to give up driving before they become a danger to others on the road. Note that seniors, many of whom will be retired, will have different transportation needs than those commuting to and from work or school. Seniors also tend to be wheelchair users at a higher rate than the general population. Something else totally missing from scoping information is any recognition of the fact that mass transit systems are inherently incomplete transportation systems. They only take people from one transit stop to another, and most people will still have to find a way between the transit stop and their starting point or destination. Without addressing these 'last mile' needs, the success of any mass transit system in attracting riders will be greatly limited, so the system plan must address this issue. Last-mile solutions could be divided into three general categories: those provided by individuals, those provided by private industry, and those provided by public entities. Individual-provided last mile solutions include walking, bicycles, motorized and non-motorized scooters (including the seated, motorized scooters marketed primarily to senior citizens), skateboards, motorized bicycles, and motorized and non-motorized wheelchairs. Your mass transit proposal should include information of how these types of solutions will be accommodated, for example: Will there be bike racks, and will they be severely limited, as with the racks on TheBus? Will skateboards and scooters be allowed? How will wheelchairs and seated scooters be accommodated? Will there be secure lockers available at the transit stations for storage of bikes, scooters, etc.? In my opinion, the mass transit system should accommodate and encourage a complete range of individual-provided last-mile solutions, including all of the above, and be flexible enough to accommodate any emerging solutions, such as the opportunity presented recently by the great popularity of scooters. They will be the lowest cost, and frequently the most convenient to the user (no need to wait again), of all last-mile solutions. Private industry-provided last mile solutions include taxis and shuttles. I would guess, for example, that if a transit stop is built a mile or two from the Waialeale Outlet Center, the Center will want to send their trolley to the transit stop. Employers may arrange shuttles to pick up and drop off employees, perhaps in lieu of providing parking. In order for these to be viable, the transit stations must have pickup/dropoff points available. The Pearlridge monorail is another example of a private industry-provided solution. Public entity-provided solutions would include local bus routes and PRT (Personal Rapid Transit). PRT also can be implemented in a public/private partnership. For example, the basic PRT infrastructure could be put up by the County, but private companies could be allowed to add stops and spurs to the system at their expense, with a contribution to operating costs. That could be made more attractive to private entities with incentives such as

waiving or reducing parking mandates if they have a PRT stop. I also noticed on the slide about transit technologies dropped from further studies that short station spacing is envisioned for the corridor. I suggest you reconsider this, especially for initial phases. Stations obviously cost a lot of money to build as well as for the land under them, and short station spacing also means more stops and slower transit. I think it would be wiser to spend that money on a longer system with fewer stops, and facilitating and encouraging 'last-mile' solutions that extend beyond a mile, to 2 to 3 miles. If you do decide to go ahead with short station spacing, I suggest you start with a longer system with longer station spacing initially, and infill stations later, as opposed to initially building a short system with all the stops, and lengthening the system later. Thanks for your time. Please be responsible with our tax dollars.
Nobu Nakamoto Nobun13@yahoo.com 484-1417

Elizabeth Nelson

I don't think tying up highways and byways with construction for the next 10 or so years is the solution to our traffic problems. We need an immediate solution. I think we should concentrate on building our bus system, large buses and small, going all over, at all times. I think more people would ride the bus if it were more accessible. I tried to get a bus to Kaneohe on a Friday night and was told the last bus goes from Honolulu to Kaneohe at 9:30PM. That is ridiculous. Thank you. Robert Nickel It's time for Honolulu to proceed on some form of Alternative 4C. Some portions of elevated and underground alignments are necessary. Neil Niino To be equally fair for alternative modes of transportation, the bike lane should connect, be sufficiently wide, clean, and maintained for riders. We live in an environment where bicycles can truly be an alternative form of transport due to our weather and not mention the many riders in Hawaii. However, these great ideas were never supported. I have a suggestion, rather than creating and maintaining a million dollar fountain (or similar items), move this money in to creating proper bike lanes and you will not need to raise money for this activity.

BYRON OGATA

An underground transit system is out of the question and the only alternative is street level or elevated system. Why not combine an elevated and street level system. The elevated portion would be where little or no scenic value will be lost. I've lived in or visited countries with elevated and underground transit systems and the inconvenience caused during construction seemed like a very long time (6 to 8 years) but soon after completion of the transit system, people found it to be a blessing and wondered why their city government waited so long building a transit system. The majority of the people in Hawaii support a new transit system and the people that complain are in the minority group. Usually the minority group complain the most or the loudest and usually we do not hear from the silent majority. Like any major construction project, consideration for future expansion have to be included in the overall transit system plans. After 45 years as a federal employee, I've seen a lot of

money wasted during expansion projects because the original plan did not allow for future upgrading or expansion.

Dexter Okada

The No Build, the TSM, the Managed Lanes, and the Fixed-Guideway should not be alternatives. A combination of the No Build, the TSM, and the Managed Lanes should be used to develop a new bus system(NBS) that would emulate the Fixed-Guideway system(FGS). Once the FGS is built, there is no turning back. If the ridership does not materialize, Honolulu will be stuck with a \$3billion+ white elephant that will cost us \$++++ to maintain. If the chosen route does not work, then all the businesses and landowners along the route that suffered during construction would have suffered in vain. The ridership number from the NBS would give a better indication of what the ridership would be for a FGS. The route of the NBS can be easily changed to determine which is the best route. Steps to develop the NBS: In the morning: 1. Substantially increase the number of express buses coming from the different areas of West Oahu(Leeward Coast, Ewa, Kapolei, Makakilo, Waipahu, Pearl City, Mililani, etc.) 2. Restrict the zipper lane for only the express buses. 3. Instead of the current merging of the zipper lane with the regular Nimitz traffic just before Hilo Hattie, extend the zipper lane on the mauka side of Hilo Hattie all the way to the River Street bridge. 4. The buses can then go up River Street to King Street and then down to Alapai. 5. Alapai would be the hub. 6. From Alapai expresses buses would go to different areas of Honolulu(Kalihi, Kaimuki, UH, Punahou, Iolani, Waikiki, Kakaako, etc.) In the afternoon: 1. All the town buses would go to the Alapai hub. 2. Expresses buses to West Oahu would then go makai on Alapai then makai on South Street then on to Ala Moan Boulevard. 3. An afternoon zipper lane or bus lane only has to be designed. As the ridership warrants, the NBS can be tweaked to more closely emulate the FGS. Such as having a zipper or bus only lane in both directions 24 hours. If the ridership numbers for the NBS does not work out, then for sure, the ridership numbers for FGS will not work out. But we will not be stuck paying for a white elephant. And since the NBS would use existing roadways, businesses will not have to suffer through construction.

Mary Oliver

Rail is WAY too EXPENSIVE, we just can't afford it. You have to be a MEGA city to make it work and Honolulu will never be NYC or Hong Kong. It is also UGLY! Unfortunately, we are a spread out commuter city and love our cars. If people didn't use the free ferry from Kapolei they will not use the bus. I still think ferries to downtown or Ala Moana might be an option with trolleys leaving frequently from there.

Dirk Omine

The state should save its money on this Mass Transit Project. Don't get me wrong, I am a firm believer in mass transit and have used the Bart System in San Fransisco extensively. The Bart System is very well set-up and trully works! Our island would

really benefit a system like the Bart but we simply can't afford it! The proposed system now is a "Joke" and waste of money for all residents of Hawaii! Light Rail you say? We need a state of the art system like the Bart to be successful and beneficial to us. The biggest problem is, we don't have enough money to fund such a project, and neither do we have the space for it! We need a system that runs from Kapolei - airport, thru down-town Honolulu and Waikiki, and extends to Kahala Mall via UH Manoa. Also, we need a branch that runs from Kaneohe's windward mall to town. That should cover 2/3 of Hawaii's people and give drivers an option to use mass transit. With the route from the Airport to Waikiki, tourists can also benefit using mass transit. As a Hawaii resident all my life this would be the only way I'd support Mass Transit's plan 100%. We had our chance a decade ago but chose the H3 freeway instead. In Saturday's comment section "Mike Rethman" said it best on why mass transit will not work here- THE REAL COST! City Council members should read his article which really makes sense! Consultation for this project has already cost 10 million dollars! Our state always has a problem of realizing the true cost of any project. This one should be in the billions of dollars for it to work because anything else like a light rail system is just a waste of time and money... Worst case scenario being, no one will use it! So who's really benefiting from this project???

Lori Ott

I will submit any survey or comment to help the effort of bringing rapid, mass transit to Oahu, whether this be in the form of light rail, an elevated track or monorail. I have lived in several cities that have great mass transit, for ex. Tokyo, Boston and Chicago and relied heavily on these systems not only to get to work, but also as a way to avoid Christmas shopping traffic, or enjoy big events like baseball games, concerts and fireworks. People who say they don't support mass transit because they will not use it are like people who say their tax dollars shouldn't pay for public education because they don't have children. Both arguments are silly since the service provided benefits all, not just those who use them. Reducing the number of cars on the road on the Leeward side of the island (and maybe the Windward side one day) is overdue. Mass transit provides a reliable way of getting to and from town, on a predictable schedule with only a rail pass to pay, versus gas, insurance, car maintenance and the amount of time spent sitting on the H1 staring at the stadium or the cars around you.

Kiyomi Oyama

Of the alternatives presented Dec. 13, 4c seemed the best if modified some. Non-builds should not be an option. Route preferences: Kapolei Pkwy - North South Rd - Farrington Hwy* - Kamehameha Hwy - H1 (airport) - Camp Catlin Rd. - Pukaloa - Middle St. - Dillingham* - Downtown tunnel Queen/Berretania loop - S.King/Kona loop - branches to UH & Waikiki. *Notes: 1. extended service to Ft. Weaver Rd. or possibly a loop between Kapolei and Ft. Weaver Rd should also be explored. 2. improve access (bus, pedestrian) from Kalihi to the Dillingham line.

William Paik

HHUA Mission - To influence public policy and opinion for quality highways, promoting safety, congestion relief and freedom of mobility. Traffic congestion requires traffic solutions: a comprehensive attack on bottlenecks and gridlock. Our people need a relief thru the leeward corridor. We need a system to deal not only with automobiles but commercial vehicles as well.

malcolm palmer

Sirs: this entire project is a boondoggle! it will go down in history as "Mufi's Folly" (who will be nowhere to be found when this mess spends all our money and does nothing to alleviate traffic congestion). this will be the hawaii equivalent of the boston 'big dig':cost overruns, more and more taxes, shoddy union workmanship, not to mention the backroom good old boys deals (already started), state and C&C employee embezzlement, cheating, and inefficiency. stop it now!!!

Arza Patterson

I prefer the Monorail system due to its flexibility on where it can be placed and the speed it can safely operate at. It will be above cars, pedestrians, bikes, animals, etc, and should be the safest "fast" system. It is also a proven technology, so there should be fewer bugs to work out.

keith patterson

How anyone in all honesty can ask for a tax increase and approval of a plan BEFORE presenting that plan and fairly detailed costs and estimated revenue is totally beyond me. With a project of this magnitude "trust us, we won't get it wrong" isn't good enough. You wouldn't get away with such foolishness in the private sector but of course you have a captive audience in the public sector. Roll on the next election.

David Paulson

I am very supportive of a fixed rail project on Oahu. However, I would like to stress the need to make the project bike friendly, meaning: (1) incorporate bike storage facilities at all stops; (2) allow bikes on the trains so that commuters can bike to the stop and then continue on to their destination once departing the train; and (3) incorporate bike paths along the route to provide a cheap and easy alternative method of commuting for bicyclers. Furthermore, I am slightly disheartened to see that none of the proposed routes go by the airport. This is a great opportunity to provide an alternative route for residents and tourists to go to the airport and avoid hefty parking fees. Please think about all the islands' constituents, not merely those commuting from Ewa. Oahu can become a city that isn't dependent on cars. Right now, we are nowhere close to that. I strongly support this project. Thankyou.

Richard Personius

This is a great project. Please include me on your distribution list so that I may stay informed. I would also like to be notified of any events or happenings going on in relation to the proximity of the projects projected railway path. Mahalo, Rich

Carol Philips

Please do not obstruct view planes. Aloha, Carol Philips

Susan Phillips

Absolutely no fixed rail. Expand the existing bus system with long distance point to point in designated lanes. Have hub and spoke system with frequent mini buses to key locations - within neighborhoods, to job locations (UH, Ala Moana, hospitals, Waikiki, Pearl Harbor, etc.) ABSOLUTELY NO FIXED RAIL.

bill plum

How much will it cost to build? How many riders per day will use it? How much will it cost to operate each year?

bill plum

I went to the public information forum at the Blaisdale and found it amazing that with all the studies that have been done, there was no data for review that discussed the cost of the project or issues such as the cost per person. In fact, one individual I asked indicated that the city had "no idea" what it would cost. Not even a rough range. I find that amazing given the years the project has been in the works and the detail included in the studies that have been done. I was given statements like "You really can't put a price on the value of a project like this." Do the city staffers live in a dream world? Please answer: 1) What is the estimated cost of the project to build and to run?; 2) How many people are estimated to ride it each day?; and 3) How many of those people is it estimated already ride the bus?.

Sue Powell

You must include Ewa Beach (all down Ft. Weaver Rd) in any plan you decide on. There's essentially only one way out of Ewa Beach in the morning -- along the very congested, 4-lane Ft. Weaver Road. Trying to get out via Kapolei is just as congested so that's not a good option. The express buses are packed so it's obvious that many are already choosing mass transit. It takes 30-40 min. to go the 5 miles from Ocean Point to the freeway entrance. Hundreds of new homes are being right now built with land being developed for hundreds more in the next few years. There MUST be additional means of getting out of the area. The afternoons are just as bad trying to get back down Ft. Weaver Rd. Please include us in your plans. Plans that call for us to have to get to Kapolei or Waipahu to catch the "new transit" won't really help us

much. The train (or whatever) must begin down in the area near North Rd. Thank you.

Lee Prochaska

Mass transit rail is definitely needed in order to provide an alternative to driving cars. Please choose a futuristic- looking monorail design, that's elevated (providing great scenic views), and features the quietest technology possible. As far as the route, it looks to me like your Fixed-Guideway Alternative - D plan would be the best. There should be plenty of parking garages built, and many city workers should be required to utilize the new monorail system. Plans should also consider expanding the system to both Mililani and Hawaii Kai at some future point in time.

Greg Puppione

I think any new rail system needs to include mililani and the new koa ridge communities in its planning process. there should be a short rail system that connects those communities to the major rail system, or a bus shuttle service with its own lane that makes the connection to the main line. i think an underground system will not work b/c of the risk of flooding. i support a rail system and hope to see one soon. also, why isn't anyone talking about limiting the number of cars on the island? when will enough be enough?

Richard Quinn

Rail transit is needed for quality of life enhancements to Honolulu. It cannot and should not be put into the context of "reducing congestion". Congestion will remain regardless of how many lanes we could reasonably add to our highways. With greater freeway capacity, our major streets through town would become grid locked, expanding the problem and reducing quality of life. We need rail as an alternative to congestion, not as a cure. I believe that the main opposition to a rail concept is being crafted in a miss-guided fear that rail transit will hurt private transportation business. The private transportation industry in Hawaii is rabidly opposed to rail. Private transportation lobbyists intentionally frame the argument against rail in terms of its limited alleviation of traffic congestion and in terms of its needed subsidization. Both arguments fail. We need to subsidize rail because we will all benefit from it, regardless of if we personally use it or not. As one example, the fact that an employee of a restaurant can get to work by rail means that the restaurant owner has a wider pool of employees. That makes his business more viable. That benefits me as a patron of the restaurant. A good rail system, linking Ewa to Waikiki, means a greater percentage of people in Honolulu will not own cars (to save expense), and that will benefit private transportation, as it will greatly increase the use of taxis for the occasional personal need of those who don't have cars but need to get to special destinations directly (such as a doctor's appointment). A good rail system will enable Honolulu to better compete with other tourist destinations, such as Las Vegas. When tourists know they can get around easily, it becomes a more attractive destination. A healthy and competitive tourist industry in Honolulu helps private

transportation companies here, as well as all other businesses related to tourism. A good rail system in Honolulu will enable the elderly, the handicapped, the teenagers, all those who can't drive, and those that just don't want to have to drive, an alternative means of mobility. That benefits us as a community.

Judah Raquinio

Everyone on this island chooses to drive. Tax the driver! It's a no brainer. Create an alternative transit route that serves a majority of the commuter population. Mililani and Aiea for starts. Run a tram from Mililani straight through Kam to Downtown through Kapiolani and hit the UH. Then raise the tax for motor vehicle drivers. Do not raise the tax for everyone. That is only going to oppress hardworking people. We are stretched enough. I cannot stress enough the importance of leaving the airport out for now, we need to service all of the people that service the tourist industry on this one. Robert Rau A rail system will likely be NEVER BE WORTH THE COST AND DISRUPTION. It should be considered ONLY after ALL OTHER ALTERNATIVES have been explored to reduce the number of cars on the roads, and then ONLY after EXACTING COST AND BENEFIT ANALYSIS. To date, the City and County has not adequately explored alternatives nor does it have meaningful cost and benefit figures. PLEASE let us not make another horrible MISTAKE! Thank you. Robert Rau Attorney at Law (ret'd.) 30 year Honolulu resident

Dane Robertson

I don't think you should make the air transit system because i think it will cause air pollution and more problems for Hawaii. Also i think you should save the money for things more important, i dont know what but there are things more important than an air transit system. The reason i think you shouldnt make the air transit system is because people can wait for the traffic to go through, if their late they should leave earlier, its not the cities fault that there is traffic, well its the lights' fault, but its the drivers' fault that the traffic is building up. Thats what i think, its just one persons opinion. You dont have to listen to it if you dont want to. Sincerely, Dane

John Rogers

This project will impact the residents of OAHU for generations to come and should be executed in a manner that ensures its success and viability. I attended the presentation at Kapolei and was very impressed however; I thought the following issues need more attention: 1. The transit system should not produce any Carbon Dioxide in its operation therefore alternative sources of energy should be used to supply electrical power and incorporated into its design. Photo voltaic and / or fuel cell technologies should be considered. Distributive power generation is the way of the future. The City would be remiss in its obligation to its citizens if it did not build a system that would be mostly independent of the petroleum based power generation system. 2. At the Kapolei presentation facilitators were unable to answer questions about the power consumption of the various technologies presented. Please include this information in future presentations. 3. As it seems that much of the transit line

would be built above grade consideration should be given to include bike paths that parallel as much of the route as possible. It would also be important to be able to store bicycles on or in the transit vehicle. 4. Ewa Beach, Ewa, and Kapolei (including UH West) will require service of the transit system therefore elements of options 4b and 4c should be incorporated. I think it is important to include Fort Weaver Road and Kapolei Parkway / North South Road routes. I believe that if using the transit system required a person to shuttle to a transit station when starting their journey they will be less likely to use it. Especially with the traffic congestion on Fort Weaver it would be difficult to estimate the added time required to catch a shuttle to the transit station.

Max Rogers

I support fixed rail transit. Be sure to include the needs of bicycle commuters on the rail system, which include: (1) providing safe secured bike parking at all transit stops;(2) providing a means for commuters to take their bikes onto the train so when they get off, they can easily ride to their ultimate destination, effectively increasing the area serviced by the transit; and (3) incorporating bike paths along side or underneath the rail system to maximize the potential of the physical space required for a rail system.

David Rolf

Testimony by the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association Presented at the public hearing on transit alternatives 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, December 13, 2006 Blaisdell Center The Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Alternative Analysis Planning process which seeks relief of the traffic congestion problem in the Leeward corridor. HADA is speaking on behalf of motorists—the new car customers who purchase the products we sell. It should be noted that all of the Alternatives proposed will not significantly affect new car sales—so our efforts here are on behalf of the motoring public. We believe the current “F rated” level of service in the corridor can be corrected to a “C” level of service. Correcting the traffic congestion problem, however, depends on the Alternative selected, and it appears that three of the Alternatives proposed, could make the traffic problem worse. One, however, will relieve traffic congestion and offer Luxury SkyCars for commuters seeking convenience and upscale services. This Alternative will also offer Half Price Busses (HPB), for those seeking economy fares, and allow tollpaying motorists the opportunity to access the elevated fixed guideway. Rail is problematic because it will operate in a “rail trough” that is too narrow. When the scope of the traffic problem is correctly analyzed for Leeward and Central Oahu one sees a wide plain of commuters that must be served. Rail is primarily useful in serving “vertical” population densities like New York, Tokyo, and Hong Kong. The primary reason for rail’s inadequacy in serving spread out single- family home communities is that commuters in these homes do not want to walk more than a quarter mile to get to or from a rail station--that’s a four-football-field walk. The problem with the rail Alternatives proposed, is that that not one rail

track covers enough population density in the quarter-mile from the stations to keep from developing the “empty train syndrome” for lack of ridership. Commuters, living more than a quarter mile from the tracks, for example, must first wait for a bus, or drive their cars down to the train station and pay for parking then wait to board a relatively slow 22-mph commuter train. The managed lanes Alternative, however, allows vehicles from the entire service plane area (including Mililani, Central Oahu, upper Waipahu, upper Pearl City, upper Aiea, parts of Ewa, Nanikuli, Waianae, and upper Kalihi Valley) to access a speedy alternative. This Alternative has the added advantage of being the ONLY proposed alternative that offers a Waikiki leg. We are fortunate, in that when considering rail, that we can look at the “successful” model of Salt Lake—a city with much single-family home development like the Leeward corridor. The Utah City’s 15-mile line Salt Lake to Sandy line with 2.3-mile university spur is a total of 17.3 miles...very similar to the proposed 18-mile Kapolei to UH route. The Salt Lake train runs at an average 24 mph. Similar to the HADA- projected 22 mph for the Hawaii train (which, of course doesn’t take into account the trip to the train, any parking necessary, and the average wait time between trains when making comparisons of travel times). The “successful” Salt Lake train carries only 28,000 passengers a day. Because it was built at grade with much on existing rights-of-way, their train cost \$300 million. If ours (any of the rail Alternatives) were as “successful” as Salt Lake’s we’d serve the same 28,000 passengers daily, but our train would cost \$3 billion. If one takes a current cost of money on the \$3 billion Hawaii rail, the proposal has annual money costs of \$150 million and if operating costs total another \$150 million a year, Hawaii’s rail costs would be \$300 million each year. If we were to be as “successful” as Salt Lake, each “passenger” would represent an expenditure of 30-dollars-per-passenger. Since 28,000 passengers won’t much dent the 229,000 number that travel the Leeward corridor each day, a number that may climb to 300,000 before the train could be built, Hawaii’s solution to traffic congestion will require something different. The elevated fixed guideways described for the “managed lanes” alternative would allow Luxury SkyCars to follow a laserlight path on the roadway, creating spacing and even speed. Future personal car technology may even take advantage of this capability. These new, clean-running personal vehicles, may use hydrogen. It’s a wonderful vision. One that moves traffic congestion from an “F level” to a reasonable C at most times and occasional, tolerable D. But the train, continues to give us “F” and it seems, we can do better than that. Respectfully submitted, David H. Rolf Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association 1100 Alakea St. Suite 2601 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel: 808 593-0031 Fax: 808 593-0569 Email: drof@hawaiidealer.com

David Rolf

Leeward Corridor Transportation Plan Comments A futuristic alternative to the current proposals The transportation plan for Oahu’s Leeward corridor must have a scope that includes reduction of traffic congestion along this busy corridor. Ease of travel is what everyone in the corridor wants. The current transportation alternatives being proposed, however, project a defeatist gloom about future traffic congestion and only offer transportation alternatives that are less-than-convenient in their

current configurations. A solution that should be considered is San Bernadino's sbX futuristic fixed guideway transit system, which is like an above-ground subway with multiple stations. Such a system, with its "futuristic flyers" is cost-efficient and could be modified to also serve the hard-to-access heights in the Leeward area as well as provide service to many other suburban areas, downtown, UH, and Waikiki. For many commuters, it could prove ultra-convenient; no transfers would be required. These thousands of commuters would enjoy speedy, air-conditioned, easy on/easy off transportation service from home to work. The cost would be less than half of the proposed transportation systems in the current list of alternatives, and would require no additional taxes. The current alternatives, in final form, will likely require even a larger increase in the general excise tax which is soon to begin, to the growing consternation of many taxpayers since no reduction in the intolerable Leeward traffic congestion is projected. The traffic congestion in the corridor is currently rated "F." The traffic solution, however, is to provide workable choices for commuters: including the futuristic flyer transportation system with its modified 3-lane fixed-guideway / tollway fly-over -- that also carries toll-paying vehicular traffic, freeing up the current roadways. Let's fix the "F" level traffic problem with a solution, not settle for defeatist gloom. Respectfully submitted, THE HAWAII AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION Contact: David H. Rolf, executive director 1100 Alakea St. Suite 2601 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel: 808 593-0031 Fax: 808 593- 0569 Email: drolf@hawaiidealer.com

Theresa Rudacille

The proposal is nothing more than a dog and pony show. Where are the cost figures? Where are the actual designs and projected timelines? Where are the documented studies about ridership? This project should be halted immediately and defunded. At this point, the project is nothing more than an excuse for tax increases.

Lehua rupisan

I would want a rail transit at all in oahu .a better idea is just to have the bus have the own lanes and another idea is . some of the bus is packed to the max we should get new big bus for thebus company and other stuff and if not even people ride that route we should put it on another one . combine . (really want to help out oahu with the bus transit system) I have a really good idea with the bus system in plan .

Gareth Sakakida

Although Hawaii Transportation Association is on the mailing list, our organization would like to request a presentation as part of the public outreach process.

Gary Sato

We keep stating that, when in Hawaii make use of the sunshine and enjoy the outdoor activities and sceneries but we don't allow for a "safe" method to explore these venues. I say "safe" because when you're riding your bike and then all of a sudden

the bike lane ends without you knowing, that's not "safe". As we vie for the next generation of Japanese tourists, we've got to remember that they, unlike their parents like to explore on their own with different methods of transportation. Have you noticed more Japanese in odd places? This gives them a sense of freedom and accomplishment that events like the Honolulu Marathon, Century Bike Ride and Honolulu Triathlon have seen, providing majority sponsorship and participant support. I'd like to see Hawaii as a totally outdoor friendly State, taking advantage of our beautiful, free weather and allow tourist and locals a safe and complete bike path around our islands. I have hopes that Mayor Hanneman has a good vision and supports this and am confident that it will happen in his term

Pauline Sato

I was not able to attend any of the scoping meetings so my knowledge is limited. However, I support the alternative to build a rail system. The other alternatives do not seem adequate enough to handle the traffic we will have on Oahu. I don't have a preference for a particular route at this point but it would make most sense to build the route where it would be convenient to get on/off and displace/disturb as few residences/businesses as possible. Also, special care must be made so that native and endangered species and habitats are not disturbed.

John Scarry

The monorail is the only sensible solution. It is above ground on pilings taking up less area at ground level. This allows for commuter parking lots at highway connection points. People will not have the closed in and trapped feelings experienced in busses and cars or ground level trains. It gives a great view which will encourage locals and visitors to ride just for the view bringing in more money. Also I believe that it should funded with a tax free municipal bond issue allowing residents to have an ownership interest which will make them want to use it and encourage others to use it. Also all the tax payers will benefit by not breaking the budget causing a need for tax increases. This public money savings could be put toward fixing the schools and increasing teachers pay so we can attract and retain more good teachers. This isn't rocket science, it's plain ordinary common sense. Come on people we can do this and we will all benefit.

Marsha Schweitzer

To project funding sources, add charitable contributions. I think billionaires around the world would love to give \$1 million or more to get a car named after them (or after their company, or in memory of someone). I have experienced several transit systems around the world -- bus, train, light rail -- and my favorite is rail, esp. the Washington DC Metro. I like it so much that when I go there, I stay in outlying Maryland or Virginia so I can spend more time riding the Metro. The quality of the stations is the key -- large, not claustrophobic, clean, with newstands, coffee stands, artwork and sculpture, even live musicians. The Star-Trek-like blinking lights announcing the arrival of the trains is the best. If Honolulu's transit system is

designed carefully with these quality issues in mind, it could be a major tourist attraction and even a money-maker. Give price incentives to Honolulu residents and those riding during non-peak hours. There is no question that such a quality system would be jammed with riders from the first day. When they built H-1, people said no one would use it. Look at it now.

Karen Sender

Oahu has one of the best bus systems in the country. Has a study been done comparing the long range costs of enhancing the bus system (something that can happen now and in the future) vs. a high-impact, high-cost, not be available until years down-the-line system? I think that buses should be free, frequent, clean, and convenient. Let's start with our successes and build on them.

g. shaffer

i read today's article to opinions on the rail (12/29/05 Advertiser). i've lived many years in boston and years in central california. on had a wonderful subway & public transit, while the other was very spread out and you needed your own car for everything. what i've noticed here are the number of parents who feel they must take their kids personally to school and usher them around to every activity - that's a lot of traffic. i've also noticed a high number of vehicles with young people 'cruising' around...in boston, they did that on the subway because there's no parking. perhaps, that would happen here, too (which would remove more cars from the roadway). folks here all are 'busy'...lot's of shopping, etc. it's important to everyone to have their own car for their own needs. if it could be presented in a manner that would appeal to the average person the benefits of a rail system- if it could be proven they would not be standing for 45 min waiting in the rain for the next ride; if it could be proven that it would be cost effective as well as time efficient (i read somewhere recently it will only save 10 min on a rider's commute...that's not so good), if there are not numerous hoops to get through just to get to the pick up and drop off terminals, if...well, you see? folks don't know the beauty of a rail system- can you send everyone to boston for 1 week? then they'd get it. i'd love to see minimal cars, less concrete & parking lots, more people walking, cleaner air, quieter streets...it could work here, but people need to know it will. it's a very expensive 'if'.

Jennifer Shishido

I agree with purpose and needs. Traffic congestion is a serious problem. State needs to address issue (as per Economic Momentum Commission) in order to ensure strong economy, diversification, and quality of life for citizens. Alternatives: (1) No Built is NOT a viable alternative, and neither is TSM. Bus in managed lane is too little too late. Strongly recommend Fixed Guideway. Good examples abound nationwide - SF BART, DC Metro, Chicago El, at first ridership was down - but gradually increases. Even Atlanta's system is good. Keys are Fast, Reliable, Safe, Clean. Fast - frequent trains (people don't mind standing), Reliable - better than the bus right now, Safe - gotta be safe, and Clean - no urine smells, no winos, no litter. Routes: Prefer 4a - the

simplest - straight lines - looks like it will provide the fastest ride. Feeder buses can serve Ewa and other communities. Probably best to reduce noise through bedroom communities. Don't like 4b - system goes through downtown - prefer 4a with underground component. 4c is ok too. No problems with termination points. Note: feeder buses must also be frequent. If someone has to go through a lot of hassle to get to the Fixed Guideway system - they will give up. PS: don't make the trains too cold like the buses - everyone has to sit away from the windows (where the air comes out) because they freeze otherwise.

Gerald Siegel

partly reports earlier msg this day. Of basic scoping designs and corridor, alternative 4d with Waikiki spur seems most attractive. But note, none of the alternatives presented provide any rough indication of where the stations will be located nor any connection via bus routes to the interchanges. It is my view that even at scoping stage, this would be a strong enhancement to the total project public acceptance of such a massive venture. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment. Gerald Siegel, former Vice Chair, NB No 25 (retired/resident in Mililani Town)

Gerald Siegel

Strongly favor a fixed guideway, grade separated light rail or fixed rail system. To include as a use incentive, a mass transit bus intersect from Mililani Town and other high density places in Central Oahu where I live. I would use this system as a means of retiree transportation to both the Central Business District and to Manoa (for Continuing Ed classes). Both of us were involved in the planning committees for Waiawa interchange in the aborted 1992 project. Could not make your info mts but have a fair idea of the alternatives via Neighborhood Board presentations per Parson Brinckerhoff Outreach. Am a firm supporter of getting something going. But to include firm plan for the bus connections to H2 commuters....

Scott Siegfried

I believe several options need to be looked into that will help the overall traffic situation. Some form of transit system, along with HOT lanes and the idea tunnel from Ewa, all need to be looked at seriously and implemented. One item will not do it all. What needs to be looked at is the timing of completion for these various ideas. Whichever can be done the fastest, should be looked at first, and then work backwards. If mass transit of rail is going to take until 2020 for completion, and HOT lanes can be completed by 2010, then the HOT lane needs to be implemented while the other transit is being worked on. To wait for one system, when multiple options are going to be needed anyway, is futile. My other concern in this process has been the dismissal of the HOT lane idea from the beginning. When Mayor Mufi Hanneman takes out an editorial a few months ago to portray the HOT lanes negatively, before any form of data collection or public survey, one questions the real process here. The mayor seems set on one form of transit, no matter the results of the

data collection process. It concerns me that we may be dealing with someones political legacy as opposed to what is most important, public interest.

Edgar Silva, Jr

DO NOT LET THIS PROJECT STALL AGAIN!!!!!!!!!!!! I would like to see a light rail system installed. I care more about how it functions than how it looks. It's a trade-off that we should be willing to make. Bus stops need to be placed at each station. If the station is big enough, or in select stations, some parking for cars, motorcycles bicycles and mopeds should also be provided, (for a small fee of course) Racks should be made available to lock and secure bicycles and mopeds (included in the fee). A private concern should be hired to manage all aspects the system. The government should definitely NOT be involved with the care and maintenance of the system. Rates should be based on a set profit margin for the private concern, and break even for the city. This should not be a profit cow for the city. In addition to this, more bike/moded lanes should be added city-wide. Freeways should be re-stripped to add a lane for 2 wheeled vehicles of 125cc or higher. I truly believe more people would utilize 2 wheeled vehicles if they had their own lane on the freeways, (it only needs to be wide enough for 1 vehicle, i.e., a third the size of a normal car lane). A trade-off could be implemented by making it mandatory to wear a helmet if utilizing the two wheel vehicle lane, and no passing allowed. WIN-WIN for the environment, energy use, congestion and safety.

Rosita Sipirok-Sirear

Greetings: Having lived in Singapore for many years, the following is my opinion. Singapore and Oahu are almost the same size except in the population count. Singapore has approx. 3 million people and Oahu has approx. 800,000 people. -- 1/4 of Singapore's population. Therefore, it should not be that difficult to manage people movement. Before the Metro was built in Singapore, they have good bus system as well as TheBus system and they still do. But, in addition and in order to alleviate the traffic jam, they have CBD (Central Business District) toll. Those who enter the CBD area during rush hours, have to pay fee. I believe it is \$5.00. As far as car goes, they also charge 200% on car duty. If your car is more than 10 years old, you have to pay special permit to operate it, hence minimize the break-down cars on the freeway causing traffic jam. What the Singapore government is doing is not to ban people from buying cars, but to slow down the purchase of cars. If you notice in Oahu, one house can have 4, 5, 6 cars and this is what is causing the traffic jam!! Too many cars. I think we can cut cost by having tolls around the clock with higher charge during rush hours. This can be done electronically as has been done in Australia. It is also done by private companies. The other think we can do is to upgrade the bus system -- at least temporarily. Build a secure park and ride in Kapolei. This way, people from Waianae/Nanakuli area can also park their cars in Kapolei then catch the bus to town instead of driving all the way. There is NO place for parking for people coming from Waianae/Nanakuli, therefore they prefer to drive to town. This can be alleviated somewhat by having park and ride in Kapolei. For

your information, I am the owner of two cars but catch the bus daily to work downtown. I also enjoy catching the bus on weekends. My car is there for "emergency" and to take me to the bus stop. Considering that the transit system will take at least ten years or more to finish, I do believe my suggestion is one to be considered, at least for immediate relief. Thank you.

Jim Slavish

After looking at all the information available I have come to the conclusion that the fixed rail cannot under any circumstances be economically feasible. When you look at land acquisition costs, security, cost of the cars, maintenance and the fact that it will not alleviate traffic, few will use it and their fare will not come close to paying the cost. Why does the city continue after all these years to pursue a dead end solution to the problem? Let's try other alternatives first rather than the most expensive.

Paul Smith

The presentation gave me zero hard information upon which I could base a decision to support such a large expenditure. For example, there is no way I can judge if highway (H1 and H2) traffic will be reduced in 10 years when whatever is decided is in place and working. Without a clear commitment on the benefits (not a promise but a commitment) I would not spend \$2 or \$3 billion dollars of taxpayer money. My comment is stop the work on this project until you can show clear results.

Thomas Soteris-McNamara

It would appear that no one alternative captures the best potential mix of residential areas and workplaces. The fixed guideway I believe is the best alternative of various modes. However, it is likely that from Kapolei, there should be as few stops as possible (as most people will drive to them anyway) until Pearlridge. Once there, the route should make sure to have easy access to Pearlridge, Aloha Stadium, the Airport, Naval Command, and if possible Tripler. A tunnel may prove helpful in downtown. Further east, the guideway should pass close to Ala Moana before heading up north to UH. The fewer at-grade crossings throughout the alignment, the better.

wilfred Souza

Changing civil servant work & school hours (high school and on) to 9-5:30 or 10-6:30 would have deep impact on traffic at the lowest cost to all. If leaders were able to lead. I place most of the rush hour traffic blame on HGEA.

Wilfred Souza

Change Civil Servant, High School & UH hours to 9-5:30 or 10-6:30. Highest impact on traffic and actually serve public. Can't be done, then put rail issue on ballot then allow voters decide rail's fate.

Andrew Speese

Please explain why the eastern terminus of the proposed system is planned for U.of H. It would seem logical that it should go to Hawaii Kai, especially since the Kalaniana'ole Hwy. corridor is the only way in or out. There are just too many people and cars in East Honolulu to ignore. People cannot be counted on to take the bus or drive to the University from E. Honolulu in order to use the system. Entirely too much hassle and wasted time. As for me, I live in Kailua. Don't count on me to make much use of the system. Nevertheless, my taxes will be contributing to it as much as the next guy's and I want it to be a success. I feel failing to acknowledge the ridership potential of E. Honolulu is a mistake, and you should revisit the scope of the project. Thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion.

jonathan st.thomas

you know what the new mayor of honolulu said:as long as he is in the mayor's office NO BUS RAPID TRANSIT WHATSOEVER !!!! so there are 2 other choices:light rail transit or historic trolley rail transit and remember THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION is saying NO to \$1,000,000,000.00+proposed rail projects so the proposed light rail project or historic trolley rail project will have to be THE BARE BONES DOUBLE TRACK TYPE that will serve the communities they would run in.don't mention anything about bus rapid transit to the mayor of honolulu or the governor of hawaii unless you have a billionaire who is willing to build and run a bus rapid transit system with his or her money,that is a bus rapid transit system with it's own bus lanes or busways to run on.here are 4 websites with information on bus rapid transit.wikipedia the free encyclopedia has BRT info at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bus_rapid_transit and there are 3 cities with bus rapid transit proposals:the euclid corridor silver line of cleveland,ohio at www.euclidtransit.org [please watch the video],the long island transportation plan 2000 at www.litp2000.com/index.html [please watch the video] and the metropolitan affairs coalition speedlink website [detroit,mich. at www.mac-web.org/Speedlink/SpeedlinkPage.htm] [click onto the video link at the bottom of the page].good luck!!

Elizabeth M. Stack

Dear Sirs: I am opposed to any adverse impact that the proposed Transit Project may cause in Honolulu's Historic Chinatown. It does not appear (to me), that proper consideration is being given to the "secondary" effects that WILL be a result of this project, and may be brushed aside in the rush to glory. Sincerely, Elizabeth M. Stack

Lee Stack

I oppose any mass transit project that would involve major construction, excavation, vibration, or otherwise negatively impact irreplaceable buildings in the historic Chinatown district (this goes for elevated transitways as well). The area is a

designated national historic district many of whose buildings are constructed of unreinforced masonry and built on silt beds. Furthermore, I attended the scoping meeting and did not see anything about costs and benefits of this proposed project. It has also been admitted that this project would not relieve traffic congestion. Then why is it being promoted? I strongly oppose a frivolous transit project that would not help to alleviate traffic congestion. Expanded bus service (maybe conversion of some routes to electric bus service) sounds more feasible. I think that the dollars collected from a hike in the excise tax would be better spent to repair the aging sewage system and stem the repeated sewage spills.

Linda Starr

PROPOSAL: The preferred alignment's Leeward terminus for the selected mass transit system should be moved from Kapolei further out to Ko'Olina. **REASONS:**

1. To provide transit alternative to the historically under-served communities of Makaha, Maile, and Nanakuli.
2. To provide transit alternative to locals and for tourists to get to the following attractions:
 - a. The World Class Aquarium at Ko'Olina
 - b. Paradise Cove Luau
 - c. Hawaiian Adventure Water Park.

ross stephenson

1. the fixed line should go to Ewa Beach
2. the Puuloa segment should go Diamond Head of the Stadium, pass the Arizona Memorial, the entrances to Pearl Harbor and Hickam, the the Airport.
3. The University stop should be in front of Hawaii Hall, not the lower campus.
4. The system should allow future extensions into Waikiki and Hawaii Kai.
5. Preferably underground to lessen disruption -- perhaps a landowner incentive to

Richard Sullivan

Light rail does not make economic sense for Honolulu. There will not be sufficient ridership in this population to offset operating costs and retire construction bonds. Commitment to rail will saddle Honolulu with an inflexible expensive transportation mode. Buses on a dedicated right-of-ways (busways) excluding other vehicle types is less costly, can be implemented in a shorter time, and offers more flexibility. Buses cost much less than rail cars and can be replaced when technology improves. Buses can also be powered from overhead electric lines (such as in San Francisco) if pollution is an issue. Busway stations can be raised platforms so expensive "knealing" buses and buses fitted with lifts are not required to provide wheelchair access (this system is used in Curitiba Brazil). Buses (except those operating off overhead electric lines- unless they are dual mode) are more flexible because they can operate both on a busway or on city streets. Buses can pick up passengers on local streets then move rapidly to destinations along the dedicated busway. Routing can be altered as demand changes.

Richard Sullivan

This is an addendum to my previous comments supporting a dedicated busway system. In addition to the points I made in that communication, I add the following:

1. Buses can accommodate much tighter horizontal and vertical curves than rail transit resulting in more right-of-way selection options.
2. Honolulu already owns the rolling stock for a bus way system.
3. Infrastructure for servicing a bus fleet already exists in Honolulu, a rail system would require creating one from scratch.
4. Existing freeway lanes SHOULD be used as dedicated bus lanes. When express buses go speeding past while stuck in traffic perhaps drivers will recognize there is a better alternative to driving.
5. MUCH more must be done to encourage bicycle commuting in Honolulu (I am a bike commuter using the bus in incimate weather), especially within a ten mile radius of downtown (or Kapolei)
6. For those who bus into downtown (or Kapolei) a fleet of small electric vehicles can be made available through a debit card arrangement. The city of Turin Italy has pioneered this idea.

Rich Sullivan

A Tabar

Aloha e Mahalo to the Project Planners., ie., Parsons, and for allowing coments from residents I attended scoping presentation in Honolulu. Thanks again for all the work completed so far. My comments are not in any priority unless individually noted. It is vital to have a scoping meeting in Waikiki. I observed no plans to include one now or in the near future. The alternatives presented give a clear impression after viewing all charts and materials that the fixed rail alternative is preferred by the planners. None of the plans document how vehicular traffic in the corridor will deline or be reduced under each of the alternative plans. The argument that other smaller/larger metro areas on the mainland and foreign countries already have "a train", implies Honolulu is behind the times. Honolulu is a special place and deserves better respect. Not too many seniors were in attendance. I believe they will not participate in large numbers as all the future forecast numbers is interpreted "as why should I care as I will not be around then." I did not see associated expensed or monetary figures associated with each plan. Very disappointing. Overall conclusion, more input is needed by local residents and kamainas from all areas of O'ahu.

Ira Tagawa

Traffic in the leeward area continues to get worse with more and more development. An efficient mass transit system is necessary to help relieve the congestion during peak hours. Reliable and proven technology that is easy to maintain, such as light rail, should be used to meet our needs. We do not need a sophisticated system that would be expensive to maintain. The rail system should also be easily accessible, with convenient feeder systems, parking garages, and stations with restrooms, automated ticket vending machines and convenience stores. Something like the El in Chicago would fit our needs. Once again, don't buy expensive technology that may present problems in the future (a good example is Aloha Stadium, where maintenance

costs greatly exceed the original construction costs). Thank you for allowing citizen input.

Carol Mae Takahashi

I see the horrible traffic jams going into town from the No. West side each time there's an accident and traffic is backed up on Kamehameha Hwy., and or the H1 and H2. There are no other alternatives at this time for us who live more than 5 miles from town (Honolulu). It is very important that we implement this "light rail system" or something comparable ASAP. Things are only getting worse as we sit on ideas that will surely make life better for most of the citizens of Oahu, as well as the environment. Thank you for listening. From a concerned citizen. Aloha, Carol Mae Takahashi

JAMES TAKEMOTO

I drive from Pearl Ridge to downtown about four times a year. I leave Pearl Ridge between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. I get on the H-1 and get off at Nimitz. I see moderate traffic. I have never seen "gridlock". I get to downtown in about a half hour. I don't think we need a rail mass transit system.

glen tanaka

I vote for the lowest cost rail that has the lowest cost repair with the best warranty for repair and maintenance. I love the levitation rail though, so wish I could see the costs for that. The route I prefer is on Kapiolani Blvd. since King street is one way, in case we want to go the opposite direction when we get off the train!

Glen Tanaka

The rail should go along TWO way streets in case ground travel requires a bus from the rail. Thanks, Glen

Chad Taniguchi

1. Bike and pedestrian paths should be budgeted and planned alongside, parallel to, and intersecting with the transit path. We need to make it convenient for people to use transit by walking and biking to transit. We also need to allow people the option of biking or walking instead of taking transit. It is not physically difficult to commute up to 25 miles each way, but the path must be safe and convenient. Our island will be healthier, safer, and use less oil energy if this is done. The study should factor in the cost and benefits of the complementary bike and pedestrian paths. 2. Space on transit for bikes to be transported is necessary. Secure, covered parking for bikes at transit stops should be planned and installed. There are such installations in Portland, Seattle, and other cities. I can get you the information. 3. Others and I am willing to put in time and energy to provide information that will help make biking

and walking integral components of the transit system. I bike commute to and from Kailua to Honolulu daily, using the bus when necessary.

Justin Tanoue

I support a monorail, or some sort of fixed, elevated rail. It will have exclusive right of way and provide world-class views for users, which will encourage people to ride!!! By providing a rail/bus combo pass, everyone who uses The Bus will ride in addition to all of the new riders. If you have to pay separately for Bus/Rail, then less people will ride from my experience in Las Vegas.

Brian Taylor

To Whom it may concern, Let me begin by offering some context for my comments to follow. I am the Director of the UCLA Institute of Transportation Studies and a Visiting Scholar during 2005-06 at the University of Hawaii. I have published extensively on public transit patronage and finance. I have followed this planning process carefully since moving to Honolulu last summer and am disappointed, albeit not surprised, to see so many of the mistakes made in other cities being repeated here in Honolulu. Accordingly, I offer you here several comments and suggestions on improving this planning process: 1. Are you aware of the clearly documented track record of forecasts in studies like this one that have consistently UNDERestimated actual costs and consistently OVERestimated actual patronage? I recommend that all those involved with this project review the following refereed scholarly publications on this topic: Flyvbjerg, Bent, Mette Skamris Holm, and Soren L. Buhl. 2005. "How (In)accurate Are Demand Forecasts in Public Works Projects? The Case of Transportation," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 71(2): 131-146. Flyvbjerg, Bent, Mette Skamris Holm, and Soren Buhl. 2002. "Underestimating Costs in Public Works Projects: Error or Lie?" *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 68(3): 279-295. Kain, John F. 1990. "Deception in Dallas: Strategic Misrepresentation in Rail Transit Promotion and Evaluation," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 56(2): 184-196. Pickrell, D. 1992. "A desire named streetcar: Fantasy and fact in rail transit planning," *Journal of the American Planning Association* 58(2):158-176. Wachs, M. 1986. "Technique versus advocacy in forecasting: A study of rail rapid transit," *Urban Resources*, 4(1): 23-30. What specific actions have/will the planners and consultants involved in this planning process take(n) to insure that the natural optimism and advocacy of those involved in the planning processes like this one will not allow the widely documented biases in cost and patronage forecasting to be repeated in this case? What assurances can you offer that the oft-observed pattern elsewhere that, once a particular fixed-guideway project has been selected, estimates of costs subsequently go up, while patronage estimates go down so that, by the time the project opens, it can be declared a success relative to the final, substantially more conservative forecasts? Will the consultant agree to publish an analysis AFTER the project is ultimately opened comparing their cost and patronage estimates AT THE TIME THE PROJECT WAS SELECTED (and not with the later, post-selection revised estimates) with the actual costs and

patronage? 2. Given both the documented history of bias and the obvious uncertainty in any travel forecasting exercise, I recommend that the consultants calculate and report 95% confidence intervals around all forecasts presented to decision makers. While decision makers may crave single point estimates, it is professionally irresponsible to present such estimates in a climate of such uncertainty. Should the consultant choose to do the professionally responsible thing and present all estimates with these confidence intervals, it will make it quite clear to decision makers just how wide the possible range of outcomes is, and just how speculative these estimates are. This, of course, exposes the consultants as less expert than imagined by those who hire them, and thus may be an uncomfortable thing to do. But doing so is not unprecedented, and including such intervals in the planning process will increase both its transparency and honesty. 3. Linked trips are harder to count, but a much better metric of transit use. Converting modified grid transit networks around new trunk-line transit service can create a misleading picture of increased patronage if unlinked trips (or boardings) are used as the measure. If the new trunk-line, feeder-bus service substantially increases the number of transfers, the total number of unlinked trips (which are easy to count and most often reported) can go up substantially, while the total number of linked trips may actually go down. I recommend that throughout only linked trips be used as a measure of performance. 4. Transportation sales taxes are regressive with respect to both income and transportation use. That is, they disproportionately burden both poor households relative to wealthy households, and residents who travel little relative to those who travel a lot. I request that your analysis of the alternatives in this process include consideration of income and spatial distribution of tax costs and ridership benefits -- i.e. who will be paying for this project, and who will be benefited from it (by both income of residential location). See: Garrett, Mark and Brian Taylor. 1999. "Reconsidering Social Equity in Public Transit," Berkeley Planning Journal, 13: 6-27. 5. As any self-respecting economist will tell you, expenditures of subsidy dollars on building and operating any transit system DO NOT increase economic activity or wealth, rather they are transfers that must consider both the diminution of economic activity and wealth by those from whom the subsidy dollars are collected. To present such expenditures as economic growth is simply misleading. And I am afraid that this has been done in this process. There is an enormous literature on this topic; I refer you to a couple of items here: Halperin, Libby G. 2005. The Benefits and Costs of Highway and Transit Investments: Highlights of an Expert Panel. GAO-05-423SP. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Accountability Office. Taylor, Brian D. and Kelly Samples. 2002. "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: Political Perceptions, Economic Reality, and Capital Bias in U.S. Transit Subsidy Policy," Public Works Management and Policy Journal, 6(4): 250-263. 6. Even in a spatially-constrained city like Honolulu, corridors are a misleading way to conceive of urban travel. Mapping origins and destinations of a sample of trips will clearly show that, even if most trips are conducted partly in major corridors, they usually begin and/or end away from areas of concentrated activity. This explains why flexible automobiles have proven so popular. Thus, congested corridors can present a misleading picture of the potential for high-capacity, fixed-route solutions. The public transit patronage literature is quite clear that network-wide improvements generally outperform any improvements

made to a single line or corridor, and improvements in out-of-vehicle travel time outperform improvements to in-vehicle travel time. By excluding consideration of even the most basic network-wide improvements from your analysis, you by definition exclude more cost-effective alternatives from your analysis. To wit: system-wide real-time monitoring of bus location and speed can significantly reduce vehicle bunching and, thus, increase schedule adherence. When combined with real-time “next bus” information at the busiest 20% or so of the stops system-wide, the effect on traveler perceptions is to substantially reduce the perceived burden of out-of-vehicle travel times and, thus, increase patronage system-wide. Further, off-peak hour and direction fare discounts can substantially increase patronage on parts of the system that already have excess capacity, thereby increasing patronage at very low cost. I submit that such network-wide improvements, which have been shown in the research to increase patronage, are likely to be excluded from this alternatives study on the pretext that they are outside of the scope of this analysis, but actually because they are likely to substantially outperform any of the analyses to be considered in this study. Do you intend to exclude such low-cost, easy-to-estimate network-wide improvements from your analysis? If so, on what grounds?

7. The transit patronage literature is also quite clear that the two most important factors explaining transit use are (1) the relative proportion and spatial concentration of households with low number of registered vehicles to licensed drivers (termed “auto deficit households,” these are most often in low income areas), and (2) trips made to or from areas where parking is limited and priced. Given this, how do the planners of this study intend to emphasize serving low-income, auto-deficit households and promote (politically unpopular but unquestionably effective) policies to limit the amount and increase the price of parking?

8. Most, though not all, previous studies of transit corridor alternatives have excluded capital costs from estimates of cost-effectiveness, presumably on the logic that earmarked capital subsidies from federal, state, and regional governments are dedicated and, thus, “free” (see the Li & Taylor article below). This is, from the perspective of the taxpayer, an unsupportable position. I recommend that the consultants and planners involved in this exercise estimate fully-allocated and amortized capital and operating costs in all of their estimates to facilitate apples-to-apples comparisons (see the Taylor, Garrett, and Iseki article below): Li, Jianling and Brian D. Taylor. 1998. “Outlay Rates and the Politics of Capital versus Operating Subsidies in Federal Transit Finance,” *Transportation Research Record*, 1618: 78-86. Taylor, Brian D., Mark Garrett, and Hiroyuki Iseki. 2000. “Measuring Cost Variability in the Provision of Transit Service,” *Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, 1735: 101-112.

9. I must take issue with the claim by Lawrence Spurgeon in the 3 January 2006 Advertiser commentary that “There are some who mistakenly believe that these meetings were a time for making decisions. Not so.” Deciding what alternatives to include and exclude from any analysis are among the most important decisions in any planning process. While it is absolutely essential to include public participation at every step along the way, the planners in this process (assuming that many of them are members of the American Institute of Certified Planners) have a professional responsibility to include viable alternatives – like HOT lanes, RapidBus networks, road and parking pricing options, and marginal-cost approaches to fare-setting, and network-wide service

improvements like those I describe above – even if such alternatives are not popular with elected officials and community members when first vetted in an informal way. As such alternatives have been shown the research literature to be very cost effective and likely to outperform many of the alternatives being considered in this process, attitudes toward them are likely to change when subsequent analyses reveal their relative effectiveness. To exclude such obviously viable alternatives from consideration at this point is to “make a decision” to stack the deck in favor capital-intensive, cost-ineffective, albeit politically popular transit corridor options. Thus, I respectfully disagree with Mr. Spurgeon that decisions are not being made; important ones ARE being made, and in the absence of good information. 10. Finally, in the interests of full disclosure, I should note that several of my former students from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and UCLA now work or have worked for one division or another in the Parsons family, mostly in southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, and in New York. I don't believe that any of my former students are involved in this project, though I don't know for sure. Respectfully Submitted, Brian D. Taylor, AICP Visiting Scholar University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Lawson Teshima

I believe the exits from the highways need to be fixed first before anything construction of rail, hot lanes, etc. For example, H1 Eastbound, Vineyard and/or Ward on ramps should be closed during the mornings. Need improvement on Vineyard off ramps from H1 and Punchbowl to eliminate stoplights on Vineyard as much as possible. Need a passover for Nimitz and Sand Island Access Road. Waikamilo and Ward Avenue stoplights need to be resynchronized. H1 Westbound in evening needs a second cut-off lane for Waipahu exit. High occupancy lanes should be on the right side of highway instead of left (or off-ramp from left side like H1 to Nimitz) to avoid need to cross over so many lanes twice (on and off).

Bob Thompson

Aloha Dedicated cycling/pedestrian lanes would not only make these modes of transportation safer, but would increase the mix of transportation, reducing the dependency of auto-only movement. All it would take is 3 feet of pavement—just a slightly wider shoulder. As an aside, my hometown always ran a campaign titled "Save 3 miles a day" to promote fewer & combined auto trips. This could be tied into bike & pedestrian use in Hawaii to combat congestion, promote a healthier living & reduce oil usage. Who could say no to this? Thank you for your time, Sincerely, Bob Thompson

David Thompson

Limit the amount of vehicles allowed into Hawaii. Begin with one car on, one car off. HOT lanes work. Take the 1/2 per cent tax increase and do a free bus service. Insurance pay at the pump. No rail system will work well. No parking for rail riders. There are too many families with both working adults going in different directions

every weekday morning. The cost to build and maintain rail will have a tremendous negative financial affect on future generations. Aloha, David Thompson

Summer Thomson

We do not need a Rail. It's not feesible for Leeward people. We would still need to drive our cars to a parking area, pay, find a way to Rail. That's another extra transportation cost. I'm for more buses to go into residential areas to pick up passengers. This way we don't need to walk to far out to the main roads or worry what to do with our cars.

monico tiongco

Honolulu/Oahu is in dire need of an alternate transit system. Just make it happen, it does not matter, light rail, monorail or magnetic levitation, but not more buses; the bus system is clogging up the streets causing more traffic (most of them do not even have any riders). We are all getting so frustrated with the amount of time we have to drive to and from work considering that this is one of the the least populated city/island in America. Politicians ... let your conscience be your guide!

Rudolph Tolentino

Driving is my occupation, my commute & work hrs. spent on our highways is avg. 13-15 six days a wk. I take great pride on my professional knowledge of every inch of highway here on oahu, especially honolulu. If interested please contact me for detailed info. Our quality of life is being threatened due to time spent in our personal vehicles getting from point A to B. At least 90 or more min. reduction in our daily commute will get the public to appreciate the system you choose. Aloha Rudy Tolentino (CDL Driver 25 yrs.)

Dennis Tsuruda

I am in favor of a fixed guideway system as I have had a favorable experience using the rail system in San Diego. The only problem I have with the routes that are suggested is that they miss many key locations that could increase useability. Although the system is designed for locals it would be wise to accommodate visitors also. Visitors will enhance the system by using the system during off peak hours to get to key locations such as Aloha Stadium, Pearlridge, Waikele Shops, Ala Moana, etc. It is very important that you consider putting stations at key locations similar to San Diego. San Diego's trolley goes to Petco Park, the convention center, and other key shopping destinations (Old Town, Fashion Valley Mall, etc). It does function well to bring in the worker to downtown San Diego but I've noticed that during the day the key ridership is visitors and school children on excursions. Let's keep an open mind and include all aspects to make this system as functional and successful as possible.

RICHARD TUDOR

I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE ALREADY EXTENSIVE AND EXCELLENT BUS SYSTEM. THE BUS SYSTEM IS "FLEXIBLE" AND CAN CHANGE ROUTES WHEN NEEDED. WE NEED TO DEVELOP A "24 HR" SYSTEM, WITH TRANSIT POLICE TO KEEP ORDER, AND TO DEVELOP A "JITNEY" SYSTEM TO DELIVER PASSENGERS TO BUS STATIONS ON MAJOR THOROUGHFARES. JITNEYS COULD RUN UP AND DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ROADS TO THE VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS(LIKE NEW TOWN OR ROYAL SUMMIT) , OR THE COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDES IN EAST HONOLULU AND THE WINDWARD SIDE. THE JITNEYS COULD BE FINANCED BY "SUBSCRIPTIONS" OR MONTHLY FEES--AND COULD BE "RADIO CONTROLLED" TO RESPOND TO THE " TRANSPORTATION DEMAND" OF THE SUBSCRIBERS. THE JITNEYS COULD BE A PRIVATELY RUN SYSTEM, WITH A "FRANCHISE" TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO SPECIFIC AREAS.PERHAPS THE TAXI DRIVERS MIGHT MAKE IT WORK!! THIS TO WOULD NEED TO BE A 24 HOUR SYSTEM. THE RAIL SYSTEM WILL REQUIRE PARKING LOTS, AND THERE WILL BE TRAFFIC JAMS GETTING TO AND FROM THE STATIONS---HOW DO YOU GET THERE?? VIA CAR OR BUS!---AND THE RAIL SYSTEM WILL HAVE "NO FLEXIBILITY"!! AS WELL AS COSTING A FORTUNE!! WE NEED TO GET CARS OFF THE STREETS, AND HAVE A VISION OF AN OAHU "WITHOUT PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES". IT CAN BE DONE, IF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS "GOOD ENOUGH"--- RAISE THE GASOLINE TAX ---MAKE BASIC PUBLIC TRASPORTATION "FREE"--TO BOTH RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS!! WE NEED TO HAVE A "MAJOR CHANGE" TO OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM----I DRIVE BECAUSE I "HAVE TO ", NOT BECAUSE I "WANT TO"!! THE AVERAGE RESIDENT HAS NO REAL IDEA HOW MUCH THEY ACTUALLY SPEND ON THE CARE AND FEEDING OF AN AUTOMOBILE.

Lawrence Uchima

How much will it cost each taxpayer in the State of Hawaii to build, operate, and maintain the mass transit system that is being proposed? Whatever happened to the Pearl Harbor tunnel proposal? It would divert traffic away from the H1-H2 merge. How about a ferry system from ewa beach to downtown Honolulu? We need to create more incentives for people not to drive their cars.

Lawrence Uchima

Continuation from previous email. Are there sufficient stops along the route to make it convenient for people to take the transit. Will there be buses along the stops to serve the people's final destination.

MELVIN UESATO

I think the rail system would be good for us, take some traffic off. And I hope they're able to do all, what you call it, research or whatever that they have to do, and I hope they do it in a -- I want them to do it fast, not take till, like it says, to 2030. My hope is it's done earlier 'cause we need the relief right now, especially with 'Ewa Beach and Kapolei growing really fast. Also, if they can right now, temporarily, try to put more express buses 'cause it does help in the morning and afternoon. I know during the day you really don't need all those buses because everyone's at work or at school. But that would be right now temporarily. Thank you.

Eva Uran

We definitely need fully developed bike paths on Youngs St. all the way from Pensacola (as well) till Eisenberg, and also from intersection of Date and Kapiolani until where the bike path starts (two blocks east). Bike paths are the best investment in solving gridlock as safety concerns prevent many would be bikers to bicycle (people told me personally they are too scared of traffic). The time is now when there is enough money, no excuse to delay any longer!

Joey Viernes

The federal funding which would be allocated for partial funding for a mass transit system in Hawaii, I thought was to be only used for just that, mass transit. No new construction for roads or existing bus systems will be allowed to receive federal funding, Is this true. And if its true, would the only choice really be rail? So are we just deciding what type of rail we will use?

Joey Viernes

To whom it may concern, I speak as a private citizen, a private citizen that just so happens to drive a city bus. By the words of your own people during the scoping meetings, " a rail system will not help in reducing traffic on our freeways". It will be an alternative to sitting in traffic. OK, I can understand that, but then you have Mayor Hanneman giving an interview to the Advertiser about rail saying it will get cars off the road. Which is it? First I have a problem with a multi billion dollar alternative that know one seems to know how much its going to take to subsidize its yearly operation. I mean we are talking about initial buildings cost. Second, Rail and bus service will need to be funded yearly. more tax money. Third, guaranteed cost overruns. We all know the history of Honolulu's so called experts. Moreover, politicians keep harping on its for the future of Hawaii, well we should have thought about our future 25 years ago. Traffic is here now. Are we committed to really go after real traffic solutions. It seems as if we have rail, and dont get me wrong rail is the choice of our politicians, we are settling on the most expensive part of so called traffic relief. When I wrote a comment prior to the scoping meetings and did not get a response, my only thought was same old same old non-responsive government rhetoric. Finally, is building bus only lanes an option at all. I would think this would

be cheaper to do, plus it would give more options and flexibility than fixed rail. Just wondering,

Marie Wagner

The scoping document is too detailed and voluminous for the general public to digest. We need to see a side by side comparison of the benefits/costs/disadvantages of each alternative to make an informed and intelligent decision. Would you be able to provide this? As this will be a gargantuan project in cost, duration, and long-term consequences, I would like to see less costly and permanent alternatives pursued initially, such as using the waterways, maximizing the efficiency and convenience of the bus service, monetary incentives for carpooling, increasing the minimum driving age and providing many more express jitneys/buses from the Kapolei area into Honolulu. In short, I DO NOT SUPPORT RAIL TRANSIT at this time and am completely against it being pursued until and unless we, the public, are part of a completely transparent evaluation process, uncontaminated by personal, union or political interests. With no specific plan or cost/benefit analysis, it is impossible to judge the merits of this project.

Helen Walker

The Bus route (the fourth feature) seems to be less intrusive on the environment and I favor that means of transportation. The monorail or any form of transportation that invades the air space is visually unsightly and you're just adding more cement. We are running out open air space, especially in Honolulu.

Richard Wallis

1. Most importantly, I do not believe the new transit system, in whatever version is built, will be effective unless the transit time between Leeward Oahu and downtown is less than current times. If it still takes an hour to hour and a half or more on the new system to get from Kapolei to downtown why would anyone get out of their car? I suggest that the number of stations that the train/bus stops at be minimized to reduce the transit time. One reason I do not ride The Bus is because currently it seems to stop every 150-200 feet. For instance, on King street between McCully and Isenberg, The Bus stops four times. The most frustrating is it stops in front of McDonalds, then Long's Drugs at Old Stadium Park, then in front of First Hawaiian Bank; every stop within sight of each other. Another example, when I was active duty in the Navy and before I got my car, it took over an hour and a half to ride The Bus from Pearl Harbor to Ala Moana, a distance of approximately 11 miles. That works out to a little over seven miles an hour! Now, if the number of stations is reduced, the bus system would need to be modified into a "hub and spoke" system to feed the stations. 2. As to the alignment, what about Ewa Beach and Mililani/Wahiawa? After the initial sections are built then spur lines could be added to Ewa Beach, Mililani and eventually Wahiawa. This would only work if the core sections could handle the additional traffic, but I think this should be seriously considered. Also in this regard, why stop at University or Kapolei? Though it would have a major impact, long term

plans should be considered for extending the line out to eventually Hawaii Kai and Waianae.

Ann & Frank White

The transit system must accomplish 6-goals, at minimum: 1. Relieve traffic congestion; 2. Serve all commuters not just West Oahu/Honolulu; 3. Save commuter-time and reduce aggravation; 4. Reduce travel expense; 5. Reduce/eliminate parking and parking expense; 6. Cost and function at minimum to taxpayers. Forget about rail transit and starting a system from scratch. We need to build-on what we have ie. highways, streets and busses. We need to: --Enhance and expand the bus system; --Add various-size busses---maybe hydrogen- powered, energy efficient, non-polluting; ---Neighborhood vans to feed bus-stops; ---Dedicated lanes for busses only; ---Easy parking at bus stops, where available; ---Use tihe tax money to make busses free!

Robert Windisch

1. "No build" or adding buses to the existing system will not solve the problem of heavy traffic. People who don't use the bus now will likely not use it then. Traveling time will not be reduced and pollution will increase. 2. HOT lanes will not reduce traffic but will spread it out. Traffic congestion might be reduced and commuting time slightly decreased. Hot lanes should be used exclusively for buses, van pools, and multi-person carpools. Single drivers should continue to use the existing travel routes. 3. The high-capacity transit project is the best solution to existing problems. Of the 4 alternatives I believe that 4C with some modification would be the best route. From Kapolei to Saratoga Ave., up Geieger to Fort Weaver and to Waipahu would serve the greatest amount of people and reduce the most traffic in the shortest amount of time. A, B, and D which would serve the possible West Oahu campus of UH and avoid Campbell and Ewa would not alleviate much traffic. Most college students already commute by public transportation plus the college population comes nowhere near the population of Campbell Industrial Park, Barbers Point, Ewa and Waipahu. Service to the planned campus could be added in the future if feasible or served by an additional, cheaper bus route. However, alternative 4C should be modified to eliminate the Beretania St. route and approach closer to the downtown area as Alternative 4D before heading to Manoa. There must also be service to the airport and Ala Moana with an additional spur line to serve Waikiki and the hotels. The point of the new transit project is to reduce traffic on our highways and lessen commuting time. Therefore the system must serve the areas with the highest population and the greatest concentration of people.

Dexter Wong

I believe that if a rail alternative is chosen it should be completely grade-separated for speed. Mixing with traffic would only slow it down. Possible models might be a monorail (like Seattle or Las Vegas) or Vancouver's Skytrain. Tunnels should be avoided if possible to keep down costs and disruption.

Michael Woo

Honolulu is long overdue for a high-capacity transit system. However, let's not be short sighted and under provide for the needs of all. The system should also include Ala Moana, Waikiki and all the way out to Hawaii Kai in East Honolulu. No tunneling should be done as it is too costly not only in engineering, building and maintenance but also in unforeseen emergencies due to quirks in Mother Nature's weather conditions. Raised guideways for a monorail system seems to be the answer that's least invasive on the existing infrastructure. It's very important that as many people, including tourists, be given the option to utilize this new transportation system. In this way, all our streets would be free of gridlock and not only those from Kapolei to downtown

Michael Woo

Although I've never rode the bus, I would definitely use a fast and high-capacity transit system if it came out to East Oahu (Hawaii Kai).

Betty Wood

The transit system should have: 1. parking at transit stations 2. service to the airport 3. taxi services at transit stations 4. connecting neighborhood bus service (with frequent neighborhood buses) 5. free transfer between buses and trains 6. urban stations should incorporate neighborhood shopping services (groceries, dry cleaners, food service, etc)

Klaus Wyrski

Before any commitment is made about mass transit it is absolutely necessary that the public is fully informed about: 1. The cost of the project 2. the financing of the project 3. the annual operating cost 4. The impact on the city and or state Budget We need full disclosure and a complete cost/benefit analysis Aloha Klaus Wyrski

Jon Yamaguchi

Enough already with the plans, we should have had this built in 1990. Please make it go to the airport, UH and Waikiki - and allow bikes on the train like the mainland. But not up in the air. Trains on the ground or underground. Trains up in the air will make the streets look dark like the train in Manila. With things getting more crowded here - there is only so much land for cars or people. If there are more roads then less land for housing ... and then have to go leeward side to live and the long car/bus ride. Mahalo JY

harry yoshida

I favor a people mover rail system such as can be found in Bangkok Thailand in conjunction with improvement of our existing bus system for areas that would not be

serviced by the rail system. The system in use in Bangkok would be ideal for Honolulu. Have you studied the system in Bangkok? Also, there needs to be a rail route that would service Waianae and Wahiawa/Mililani as part of the first phase of the system. Alternatives 1 and 2 are losers. Packing more buses on our already crowded roads/highways would be like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

Mae Yoshino

I am definitely against a fixed rail system in Honolulu. I have lived in Honolulu for 60 years and driving for 35 years. I am against taking any lanes away from autos because it will make traffic worse. University Avenue (to U of H) will be more congested if any of the present lanes are used only for a fixed rail system. Definitely against what was proposed for the B.R.T. (UGH!) I feel this way about any of the city streets. Any improvement in transit would have to consider who would be using it. Many times, especially in families with children attending school or babysitters or activities, parents and adult children working in different areas, probably will continue to use their cars--in case of young children, there is the safety factor where parents want to make sure their children reach their destination safely. I am in favor of running more buses at the peak times (schools, UH, community colleges, work), perhaps scheduling more express buses to colleges, downtown, Waikiki, and other dense locations in Honolulu. I feel our present bus system is very good; it could improve by scheduling more buses during the peak periods. In regards to traffic from Leeward or Central Oahu to/from Honolulu: When I did live in Village Park (Kunia) and Waipio Gentry for a total of 3 years, we had young children we had to drop off to/from school and we worked in town, so I don't think I would have used a transit system. When I looked in the alternatives which were presented at the meetings, only the 2 bus alternatives were there; all other alternatives were blank. I would have liked to comment on the other alternatives and it should have been available to us. Although I don't have a specific question, I would like to have an acknowledgment that this comment has been received.

Rodney Yoshizawa

I have received the Office of The Mayor's Honolulu News Special Edition and still wonder whatever happened to the "studies" that the local governments have conducted throughout Honolulu. These were sessions that my wife and I attended several times and we the citizens had discussed and even offered some alternatives to help alleviate Honolulu's traffic problems. One major proposal which seemed to be quite obvious to many of the panel and citizens was to reroute some of the traffic by changing the traffic flow. As was presented at our sessions, we Americans drive on the RIGHT-HAND SIDE of the roadways. As such, it is much easier and safer to make RIGHT TURNS, rather than Left Turns. The group therefore suggested having the traffic in Honolulu flow CLOCKWISE, starting at Beretania and King Streets in the Iwilei area, to King and Waialae in Market City, then along Kapiolani Boulevard to King and South Streets, then along King Street to the start, at Iwilei, where King and Bertania meet. The section of King Street from South Street to University

Avenue also was recommended to be TWO-WAY, which would effectively give you two minor CLOCKWISE CIRCLES to handle the localized traffic along that corridor. South Street was suggested to be made TWO-WAY between King Street and Kinau Streets, to complete the two minor CLOCKWISE CIRCLES. Punchbowl Street was to be ONE-WAY Makai, from Vineyard to Nimitz, to handle traffic from East and West getting off the Freeways, going into Downtown Honolulu. Keeaumoku and Pensacola Streets were supposed to be reversed to handle Egress from and Ingress onto H-1 Freeway, Westbound. That way, the traffic turning to, and from, Ala Moana Center, which is a major bottleneck of traffic, would be able to flow more freely. Also recommended was for the Right Lane of H- 1, Westbound from Keeaumoku, to connect to the left lane of the Ramp leading to the Vineyard viaduct. It was supposed to be slowly sloping up to meet the Vineyard viaduct, going Westbound. Part of this proposal was also dropping the elevation of the short H-1 ON-RAMP from Pensacola, Westbound, to allow the necessary clearance for vehicles going under the proposed new H-1 Vineyard OFF-Ramp. Other street realignments could be made as deemed necessary. This was one of the biggest schemes that the task force felt would truly help alleviate Honolulu's traffic congestion problems. We were asked to participate in a couple of this kind of "study" and wonder if this is just "blowing smoke"! We surely don't want our local governments' traffic experts working overtime for nothing! Perhaps our new City and County Government and State Government will take action instead of doing so many studies that go nowhere. Other than the task force's proposed new ramp from H-1 to Vineyard, it would seem relatively inexpensive to institute the changes suggested by the study group. Regarding the High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, other than changing some people's view channels, it would seem that a corridor along the South side, over or under the waterways of Honolulu Harbor, then North of Honolulu Airport, and South of H-1, and finally across, or under, the channel of Pearl Harbor to the former Barbers' Point would be the most direct and efficient route for the commuters from West Oahu. This would probably provide the best balance in redirecting the traffic, not only from the Second City area but also for people from Central Oahu, should there be a tie-up along the present H-1 Freeway between Pearl City and Downtown Honolulu. A Park and Ride, large capacity parking lot, somewhere in the Barbers' Point area would help diminish the amount of vehicles coming into town. Also, has any consideration been given to having a Toll System to help minimize traffic into the downtown business area? This would help commuters seriously consider alternate means of transportation, i.e., the Bus or whatever other transit system is eventually instituted. Thank you for allowing input, again, into this really sensitive issue. True, many people will object for personal reasons. However, when they look at the broader picture, they should realize that some sacrifices need to be made for the sake of resolving the traffic congestion situation.

stephen yuen

It would be great if the initial link would be a series of tracks running from either Kapolei shopping center to Kahala mall. Then as time progresses, work on a windward bound like to Kane'ohe via Kalihi valley along side the Likelike Hwy.

This way not only will long time residents will use it, but visitors as well. When fees are initiated, there is for bus. But the higher fee would be for rail. I like the draft statement. Keep up the good work

Robert Yumol

I support the fixed guideway alternative. I think the goal should be to get people out of vehicles. I've seen how rail systems in Boston and San Francisco aid in daily commutes and would be very excited to see some sort of fixed rail system happen in Honolulu. Thanks for listening, -Robert (RJ) Yumol

Appendix D Scoping Meeting Written Comments

December 13, 2005 Scoping Meeting (Neal Blaisdell Center)

Written comments received during the scoping meetings have been organized by the date of the meeting. The comments are presented in alphabetical order by the author's name. The complete written comments follow the list of authors. The addresses of individual authors have been obscured to protect their privacy.

List of Comment Authors

Anonymous	Jim Hayes
Anonymous	Howard Hoddich
Anonymous	Robert Hughes
Anonymous	Jan Ishihara
Anonymous	Gregory James Kauwe
Karen Awana	Amy Kimura
Joan Bennett	Paul Kimura
Dave Bourgoin	Sherman Kwock
Robin Brandt	Alexandra Lake
Liane Briggs	Henry Lee
Made Brunner	Ray Leonard
April Cadiz	Bob Loy
S. Cain	Frank Mak
Ian Capps	Paul Mattes
Shawn Carbrey	Helen McCune
Stan Dalber	Jay McWilliams
Joe Davis, Sr.	Mel
Solray Duncan	George Melenka
Frank Genadio	Mark Mesler
Megan Giles	Marilyn Michaels
Mike Goluich	Ted Miller
Jerry Greer	Sandy Moneymaker
Frederick Gross	Donn Motooka
Stanley Hamada	Daisy Murai
M. Hashimoto	L. Muraoka
Reid Hayashi	Maureen Muraoka

List of Comment Authors (continued)

Robert Nickel

Christine Olah

William Pelzer

Richard Port

Rodolfo Ramos

Will Rich

David Rolf

Ann Ruby

Norman Sakamoto

Lane Sato

Rod Schultz

Charles Scott

Troy Seffrood

Frank Smith

Scott Snider

Jessica Spurrier

Debbie Stelmach

Annie Stevens

Mike Uechi

David Webre

Pablo Wegesend

Richard Weimer

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Welcome to the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project scoping meetings. The project is early in the planning process and seeking your input on the purpose of and needs for the project, the alternatives being evaluated, and the scope of the evaluation to be completed in the Alternatives Analysis and the Environmental Impact Statement. At this time, comments should not focus on a preference for a particular alternative. The opportunity for that type of input will be after the release of the Alternatives Analysis in late 2006.

Please review the project information and ask project staff any questions about the project that you might have. The information presented at the scoping meeting is also available on the project website at www.honolulustransit.org. Because the project is still early in the planning process, many specific details have not yet been worked out, and staff may only be able to provide general answers on many topics.

You may provide official comments in several ways. Here at the scoping meeting you may provide oral comments to one of the court reporters who will record them for the record or use this form to provide written comments. After the meeting, you may provide on-line comments at www.honolulustransit.org or use this form to send written comments to the Department of Transportation Services.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I have no preference as to routes; however, I am particularly concerned about environmental justice issues, aesthetics & ~~the~~ the "look" ~~of~~ I do not want flyovers or elevated routes. Keep the view plane open - at or below-grade only.

A2

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Elevated infrastructure will
DESTROY our established + landscaped
Street Scapes —

NO on Kapiolani

NO on University

NO on King

NO on Kukeo

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

FOR DECADES, WAIKIKI HAS BEEN RELATIVELY ISOLATED
FROM THE REST OF HAWAII BOTH PHYSICALLY/GEOGRAPHICALLY
AND IN COMMON REGARD - i.e., AN AREA TO WHICH TOURISTS
ARE DIRECTED & CONFINED (MORE OR LESS) EXCEPT FOR COACH
TOURS OUT OF WAIKIKI. THAT IS, WAIKIKI HAS NOT BEEN
INTEGRATED INTO THE LARGER CULTURE -- BY INTENT. PERHAPS
WE CAN ALL GAIN IN THE LONGER RUN BY FACILITATING TRAFFIC
(ROW), COMMUNICATION, IN & OUT. OTHERWISE, THIS CONCERN MAY
BE UNDERSCORED BEST BY A DISASTROUS TSUNAMI OR HURRICANE,
OR EARTHQUAKE. WAIKIKI IS A POTENTIAL 'DEATH TRAP'
AS WELL AS A TRAP OF SORTS IN OTHER WAYS, CULTURAL,
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL.

A4

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Will you be taking away my bus
 long the rail line? IF yes, I do not
 like it. IF NO I hope the bus service
 remains ~~convem~~ good.

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

~~10~~
A5

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Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

This project is needed; Kapolei
to UH. Manoa + Waikiki.

Please build it this time.

Traffic is only getting worse.

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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Name: KAREN AWANA Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Ø REQUESTING AMPLE AND FREE
PARKING AT TRANSIT SITES.

Ø REQUESTING BUSES DEDICATED TO
TRANSIT SITES (DROP-OFF / PICK-UP) -
15 TO 20 MINUTE INTERVALS TO
TRANSPORT RIDERS IN/OUT OF
NEIGHBORHOOD

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Name: JOAN BENNETT Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I am against any elevated system in Waikiki. We are losing too much scenery with all the high-rise buildings.

Create some kind of road toll on all cars and trucks to pay for this project and encourage public transportation.

Thank You

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Name: Paul Biggs Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

My central ^{issue} is:

1) You have got this great
infrastructure, but how will you
get people out of their cars?

Which leads to a more fundamental Question-

2) Why do people drive?
3) Will any type of Transit System
address the fundamental incentives
for driving?

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Name: Jose Bourgeois Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

like rapid transit Rail
& people mover

Consider diamond rail UH

↓ Downtown

↑ Kahala

↓ Waikiki

Also consider
underground
in city

in town

& shorter plan to East

fill more funds
2nd phase

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Name: Robin Brandt Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

1. It is inappropriate to ask my race/ethnicity next to identifying information. ~~I entered on the sheet~~
2. There ~~is~~ no discussion of bicycling and pedestrian facilities in all this scoping.
3. This is at least the 3rd scoping activity I have attended in many years. This is getting very old.
4. Why do you need identifying information on these comments?

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Name: Liane Briggs Address: _____
Phone _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

Careful consideration must be given to infrastructure. How will people get to the transit line? What park and ride facilities will be available? If buses are incorporated as feeder lines, what is the fare structure for transferring to the transit line? What is the cost for parking? What size lots are needed to accommodate the numbers of riders projected for the transit line? I worry that

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Name: Mahe Brunner

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I support the transit system project using a fix rail system. One reason is that there is no alternative for commuter ~~to~~ along East West corridor ~~if~~ ~~to~~ travel if H1 should be shut down for any particular reasons. Other is that there is NO transportation mode in HNL that is time dependable, the Bus if not too late it too fast out of schedule. No body can tell how many minutes they need to travel between downtown to Kapolei - for example. However, for the route I think it should go through Kakaako Area since this area is underdeveloped and it can become a new TOD in the future.

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Name: APRIL ADI2 Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

please make displays available for public review. Information presented on the story boards were extremely helpful. It would be equally helpful to be able to continue to review ~~them~~ them (i.e., on website).

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Name: Sechyi Cain Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

Please remember the obvious. Whatever option is picked has to service residential areas to 3 of the primary "work" areas (Waikiki, downtown, U. Hawaii at Manoa). ~~and~~ If it is faster than driving, it will be a very popular option.

I saw very little discussion about using the buses as part of a hub-and-spoke system to feed into the ~~the~~ possible transit lines

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Name: IAN CAPPS Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I have lived for many years in major cities around the world. I do not know any of them which could possibly have survived without some fixed rapid transit system. As soon as new highways are completed then are out of date & the congestion is worse. Honolulu must have such a system as soon as possible or it will choke to death. ~~None~~ Of the alternatives suggested I have used monorail and light rail systems. I suspect that monorail or maglev would provide the most effective solution, & would ~~improve~~ allow the bus and car traffic to improve.

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Name: Shawn Carrey

Address:

Phone ¹⁻⁸⁰⁸ _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- I would like to see other alternatives that could be implemented quicker
- #1 Example: Tax credits for local businesses that provide telecommuting options
- H1 is the "most wired state" in the U.S. for high speed internet - we should leverage this advantage to ^{help} solve our traffic problems.
- #2 Commuter bike lanes can be built much quicker & less expensively than new roads/Hov lanes. HI does not have the weather problems that other cities do that offer bike commuter lanes - this has multiple benefits for our environment, fitness of our population, & the saving of multiple resources.
- Many will not use bike lanes - but some will - together with other options all of those incremental amounts add up ~~to~~ to a lot. I live in Ewa Beach, & drive 22 miles to work - I would ride my bike if there was a safe place to ride.

#3 Ferry between Barber's Point & Alahe tower

#4 Much of the morning traffic includes parents taking their children to school. Schools could be given tax incentives to reduce the number of cars that drop off/pick up. This could be done with designated drop points throughout the city for bus pick up, free ridership of public transportation for school aged children during peak hours, bike lanes connecting communities + schools, Vanpools set up by schools. The combination of school participation will help reduce some of the traffic. Goals could also be set with fines for not reaching reductions.

#5 Tax people on the Horsepower +/or Horsepower to tonk ratio of the cars they drive to + from work; to reduce emissions, + encourage car pooling or use of multiple public transportation options. Impose

"Congestion Charges" on trucks + other slow moving vehicles during peak hours. There should be positive + negative forces working together toward reaching the goals.

Return Address

S. Carberry
91-1045 Kai Kukuua St.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Place
Postage
Here

Department of Transportation Services
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

STAPLE HERE

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Name: JAYSON CHUN Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

1) Please make some info sheets in Japanese as well. Japanese-speaking residents (used to mass transit in Japan) will make use of the future transit system, so get their input.

2) Please consider the future UH West OAHU campus in KAPOLEI. If the rail/BUS CAN RUN thru KAPOLEI, future UHWO (AND) ELWA, you'll help ~~create a campus~~ ^{make it easy} to get to campus

- TOURISTS and residents will like the elevated views from the trains. Please get rid of the downtown tunnel & use 4b's vision of an above ground path downtown. I loved riding the monorail IN TOKYO TO GET A GOOD VIEW OF THE CITY!
- Don't have the train run ^{on} too close to SALT LAKE BLVD. THIS IS NOISE POLLUTION

Remember what makes Hawaii a special place! beauty, clean air, and (less increasingly) quiet. Spend more money (now) for quiet technology & avoid unsightly power lines, use a pedestrian-safe tech (no light rails). Our future generations will thank us for it.

DON'T CUT CORNERS

Return Address

Place
Postage
Here

Department of Transportation Services
 Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
 City and County of Honolulu
 650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
 Honolulu, HI 96813

STAPLE HERE

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Name: STAN DALBERG Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Corridor routing and technology are moot if the
new system does not attract the 'discretionary'
driver (those who can afford to drive). Equal
thought and planning is essential to develop a
flexible feeder system to the high-capacity
trunk. What set of conditions and services will
make individuals choose public transit over private?
Will there be convenient, flexible comfortable secure
services to carry travellers from 'A' to 'B'?
Would jitney services be encouraged?
Guaranteed ride home?
Access to rail stations acceptable for disabled riders?

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Name: Joe Davis, Jr. Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

Buy Tom Buses for now!
\$ 500,000 each 50 passengers!
100 Buses - \$50 Million -
to carry 5,000 passengers
\$ 10,000 per seat,
VERSUS
ABOUT \$ 500,000
to 1,000,000 per seat
on the train.

Thanks
Joe Davis

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Name: Sol Ray Duncan Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

If Tunnels are utilized they need to be made flood proof. I like most of the fixed-guideway alternatives. I think that No-build option and Managed lanes are not preferable. Rail Transit is the best alternative.

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Name: FRANK GENADIO Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

WILL DEFINITELY NEED TO "MIX AND MATCH" AMONG THE
PROPOSED FIXED-GUIDEWAY PROPOSALS, BASED ON THE
TECHNOLOGY ALTERNATIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, IF 4D. IS
THE SELECTED ROUTING, IT WILL NOT ACCOMMODATE
A MONORAIL DUE TO THE "STREETCAR" PORTION THROUGH
DOWNTOWN. ALL I HEARD MENTIONED WAS A SYSTEM
WITH TWO TRACKS — AND 20-22 STOPS. IF COMMUTERS ARE
FACED WITH A KAPOLEI TO DOWNTOWN COMMUTE LONGER
THAN 45 MINUTES, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DRIVE.

(OVER)

A THIRD TRACK IS NEEDED FROM KAPOLEI TO
MANOA, WITH EXPRESS STOPS ONLY AT UH-WEST
OAHU, PEARL CITY, AND DOWNTOWN. THOSE STOPS
SHOULD BE EXTREMELY LARGE, ^{WITH} A SECURE PARKING LOTS
(E.G., 20,000 STALLS IN KAPOLEI, WITH MAINTENANCE AND
SECURITY FUNDED BY RETAIL OUTLETS IN THE TERMINAL).

A WAHIAWA-MILILANI SPUR INTO PEARLRIDGE SHOULD
RECEIVE EARLY SUPPORT. THE PROPOSED RAIL SYSTEM
SHOULD BECOME A "SHINING EXAMPLE" OF HAWAII'S
MOVE TO ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF ENERGY. THINK
SOLAR PANEL-COVERED TERMINAL/STATION ROOFS, H-POWER,

N-POWER, WIND. PERHAPS WE CAN RECEIVE THE FIRST NEW
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN THE U.S. ALSO CONSIDER WAVE AND HYDRO.
FOLD POWER.

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Name: Megan Giles Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Although an environmental statement is required by law for all developments in Hawaii, will any of these transit options go beyond the legal standards to be environmentally safe? I worry by increasing the amount of buses, for example, that although congestion might clear up, larger amounts of engine fuel will be put on Hawaii's roads each day.

Continue projects, Hwy & Milburi-
one to Hospital Ksi &
connects to Kailua & Kawaeho-
-span to Ewa Beach too-

At the point it is needed, we can't
forget the bus and ferry ~~at~~
where they are needed!

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Name: JERRY D. GREER

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO CHOOSE A SYSTEM
THAT MEETS ALL OF THESE REQUIREMENTS: SAFETY,
ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY, AND EASY ACCESSIBLE
TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. WHAT EVER
SYSTEM IS CHOSEN, IT SHOULD BE ONE THAT
CAN BE UP-GRADED IN THE FUTURE. I ALSO
BELIEVE THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD SERVICE
WAIKIKI.

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Name: Frederick C. Gross Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Is this rail only? If not when and what is
the other travel surface?

At what speed will the vehicles travel?

Have you used the old RR track around
P.H. near Hiea?

3 routes around Salt Lake are shown.

OK In many scenes several routes are
shown. Which are you using?

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Name: Stanley Hamada Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

As I understand if the objective is to provide an alternate
that is faster, more reliable. My major concerns are
1) based on realistic number how many people will actually use
the alternative, from what little I've learned there wouldn't
be a big percentage increase in the utilization of most alternatives.
2) What are the cost benefits numbers, that is how much is
it going to cost us to build the system per rider?
3) What are the cost per rider or person for the maintenance?
I'd like to see the numbers for the above (2 & 3) utilizing
worst, most likely, best & current % ridership

↓

As I understand it reducing traffic is not a goal of this project. But it is generally assumed it would help traffic indirectly. I think people this should be made clear to the public. I believe many people are under the assumption that reducing traffic is one of the major goals of this project.

Finally to emphasize my main concern, that we develop a cost effective system on a per user basis. Also that we are informed of the cost of maintaining the system(s).

----- FCLD -----

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Name: M. HASHIMOTO Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I AM ADA DISABLED & WAS WONDERING
IF ANY THOUGHT HAS BEEN PLACED
W/ GETTING TO & FROM THE RAK STATION.

NEED TO INCREASE THE HANDI-VAN
RUNS

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Name: J. HATA Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

WHY NOT USE PART OF IKAHAKA DEVELOPEMENT
AS A TRANSIT CENTER. INSTEAD OF HEDA PUSHING
THIS AS A HIGH DEVELOPEMENT RESIDENTIAL AREA. BY USING
PART OF THIS AREA NEXT TO NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL
YOU NOT ONLY HAVE ACCESS TO PDAOWAYS, BUT STILL
HAVE THE ABILITY TO DEVELOPE A SYSTEM LINE THERE
ALSO ALONG THE NIMITZ-ALAMOANA CORRIDOR, SINCE OUR
MAYOR DOES NOT WANT TO FIX THE MEDIAN THERE WHY NOT
JUST ADD THE RAIL TO THIS AREA + CONNECT ALONG TO ALOHA
TOWER FOR ANOTHER TRANSIT /PKUP STOP. STOP? ADDING TO COST
BY THINKING YOU CAN GO UNDER GROUND THIS IS AN ISLAND
WHAT'S UNDER THE GROUND IS CORAL + WATER??

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Name: REID HAYASHI PE. Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

1. DISAPPOINTED THAT NO PRELIM RIDERSHIP STUDY DONE.
2. WHAT ASSUMING THAT MASS TRANSIT PROJECT IS BUILT FARE PRICING STRUCTURE WILL BE CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS.
CONSIDER FARE STRUCTURE/TYPES USED FOR CALTRAIN THAT SERVICES SAN JOSE TO S.F. SHORTER DIST = LOWER FARE.
3. ALSO CRITICAL IS METHOD OF TRANSPORTING RIDERS TO STATION. i.e. FEEDER BUSES THAT ARE INCLUDED IN FARE PRICE.
4. WOULD RECOMMEND THAT A RIDERSHIP FORECAST BE DONE ASAP. BECAUSE INPUT BY PEOPLE WHO WILL ACTUALLY CONSIDER RIDING MASS TRANSIT WILL ^{PROVIDES} MOST APPLICABLE/RELEVANT FEED BACK.

~~ALSO THINGS TO CONSIDER~~

LONG TERM FOR MASS TRANSIT PROJECT TO BE SUCCESSFUL

CORRIDOR MUST SERVICE MILILANI / EAST HAWAII
(ASSUMING THIS IS OBVIOUS).

I ASSUME TRANSIT MODEL USED IN SE/BAY AREA
IS MOST SIMILAR TO ONE PROPOSED FOR HONOLULU.

~~NOTE~~

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Name: Jim Hayes Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Good to see this taking off and with thorough planning.
My only comment is on the proposed routes. You show King Street
and ~~Kona~~ Kona as retained alternatives but the King Street
option doesn't seem viable unless you have a connection from
King down Kalakaua to Waikiki so you can get from
downtown to either UH or Waikiki. The route from King
down Kalakaua to Kapiolani is not illustrated as being considered.

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Name: Howard Fiedlich Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

As a citizen of this great state of Hawaii I am very disappointed that both a freeway and a water based ferry system are not considered alternatives to resolving the traffic congestion in central Oahu.

A rail system of any type will not work for the people of Hawaii! The people of Hawaii will not get out of their vehicles. Rail systems are a multigeneration transit system. It will take 20 years before the people of Hawaii learn to take rail.

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Name: Richard Mough Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Good START BY this should be expanded beyond
transportation needs. the project should
be method with comprehensive
engineer projects that ~~expensive~~ ^{address} ~~the~~
future problems in housing, water distribution
and business community needs

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Name: Robert H. Hughes Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: Questions:

1. Is there an option being studied to limit the importation of vehicles?
2. Can the Mexico City control system of odd/even licenses be tried for the city, or an area of the city?
3. Can auto tax rates be structured to tax at different rates (increasing rates) for 1 family car, 2 car families, 3 car family cars, etc?
4. Are alternatives for population control, i.e., reduced immigration via some means of control, being studied?

3. Do government employees pay "market rates" for parking?

6. Will a structure (plan) be considered whereby passengers on buses ride free?

Examples: building elevators are "people movers" and passengers do not pay to ride elevators, or airport horizontal "people movers."

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Name: Jon Ishihara

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Very leery of projections for ridership. After speaking with a representative, I understand models have been improving and that the federal govt has stringent guidelines for use of such models. However, how confident can one be in such forecasts for a first-time project like this for Oahu? Also, please consider the point that after a certain ridership is attained that reduces traffic by X%, other residents in the outlying areas will see the improved highway flow and decide driving is now okay. In other words, ridership on whatever transit system proposed will level off at some point when the perception is taken that traffic has been relieved. Thus forecasts for increasing ridership with time should be questioned.

How about a free or close to free (25 cents a ride) enhanced bus system? Could funds be used that would otherwise be spent to build a \$2 Billion rail or other system, to subsidize the improved bus system for say 30 years? Then slowly increase bus fares and have 30 years to plan for a self-sustaining system.

Finally, please show the models of built-out systems sooner rather than later. The fly-over route on video can easily be enhanced to show examples of stations, lines, fences and all the facilities that go along with the alternatives. People will have more concrete ideas of what they are giving up in terms of space and aesthetics to balance what we will supposedly gain in traffic alternatives and relief.

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Name: Gregory James Kauwe

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Planned route alternatives should be extended from UH to Waikiki. Conventional buses or any other sort of "bus" should be ruled out. Maglev or light rail would be preferable. How much would this cost per year? I think the only thing to fear is the cut down in bus services. This should be done gradually and over time. Also, buses should be used to take people to rail hubs.

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Name: Amy Kimura

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Please put all the charts & info on boards on the web
site soon, to give us time to study the alternative
before submitting our comments.

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Name: Paul Kimura Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

- ① What is the City's preferred alignment?
- ② What is the city's preferred type of rail? heavy or light -
- ③ Wouldn't King Street be the most logical route for a high capacity people mover system? It's the straightest route through Honolulu and is a large one way street.

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Name: S. Kunimura (Kunimura) Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Reconsider Queen Street as a route.
The impact on the businesses would be
great. They are loosing their land and
must pay assessments to HCPA. This
route will kill the businesses.

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Name: Sherman Kwok Address: _____
Phone: _____ 11 _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

My family owns property on the corner
of University & Kapiolani, most of your
routes indicate a turn up along
University from Kapiolani. What are
the requirements for right of way and
easement along that area for
example will condemnation or
forced relocation of property owners
be addressed by your planners.

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Name: Alexandra Lake Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- Would a new transportation system of any kind affect the prices of buses.
- Would an easier to access transit system bring tourists to a uncongested area, or ~~a congested~~ a world this eventually hurt our ecosystem in places like the North Shore because of an influx of more people.

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Name: Henry Lee Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Comments:

I see the transit system being a combination of alternatives 2, 3 and 4. It should include more van pooling, bike lanes and buses.
I have my doubts that one "alternative" will fit all.

I believe a "transit system" will eventually be built and I'd like to see it built sooner than later cause the longer it is delayed will only make it costlier.

A local example of higher cost is Oahu's H3 Freeway - ^{H3} ~~H3~~ was delayed for many years by the court cases, but eventually it was built and the higher cost exponentially higher than initial estimates.

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Name: Henry Lee Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I understand the initial focus being
the between Kapolei and UH MANOA.
I would like to at least see an
acknowledgment that "other areas for future
expansion" extend the system out
towards Hawaii Kai and through central
Oahu.

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Name: Ray Leonard Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- 1) The No Build Alternative ⁽¹⁾ is ridiculous - it will do nothing to get cars off the road.
- 2) The TSM Alternative ⁽²⁾ is not much better than No Build. Increased zipper-lane operation will only provide a fatter pipe, but the pipe at the downtown end will remain the same. Only reducing cars will reduce Bishop St./Alakea St. congestion.
- 3) Managed lanes may help some, but only to the extent that it would reduce cars on the road. Again, who needs a fatter pipe for cars to the bottlenecks in town. ⁽⁴⁾ I think that fixed-guideway is the best option, whether it is light rail, a people mover, monorail or maglev. I strongly recommend a raised bed. I have lived in areas where too many lives were lost trying to cross (pedestrian or car) at grade level.

Alternative Alignment Summary - pick those w/ the most high/moderate ratings
I recommend:

stay away from the red!

- 1.4 Kapolei to N/S Rd. to Farrington Hwy, elevated: moderate cost; not far from UH West
- 2.2 Farrington Highway (elevated): high rating on cost & 3 other criteria, moderate on fifth
- 3.3 Kaneohe Hwy (elevated): high rating for cost & 2 other criteria, moderate on rest
goes by Pearl Ridge, Pearl Highlands
- 4.11 Kuni Hwy to Aolele St. (elevated): high rating on cost & 2 other criteria, moderate on rest
goes by Aloha Stadium, Pearl Harbor memorial, Airport
- 5.3 (Middle St to) N. King street: high rating on cost & 3 other criteria, moderate on fifth
- 6.13 Nimitz Hwy to Queen St: high rating on cost & 3 other criteria, moderate on fifth
- 7.11 Queen St To Queen St. Extension to Kona St: moderate rating on cost, high rating for other criteria
goes by Ward Centre/Marketplace; serves Kakaako
- 8.7 Kapulani to UH & Waikiki Spur: moderate rating on cost & one other criteria, high rating on remaining criteria. Serves Waikiki

----- FOLD -----

Return Address
Ruy Leonard
651-A Malunui Ave.
Kailua, HI 96734-2155

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Name: Bob Loy Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Histone Review: All trees impacted by the project should
be assessed - particularly those ~~are~~ > 50 years should
be included in Histone Review

Visual - Diamond Head must be specified as
a landmark to receive special attention and
consideration re: view planes - Cannot be
lumped w/ "others"

EIS - must address visual impacts of towers,
stations, power sources, and all infrastructure construction

Permit Requirements: you will need an "Exceptional Tree" permit
- over -

Financing options - Advertising must be taken off the table - especially train advertising or any other advertising that would be "Outsill" or visible from public areas or private homes and offices -

Legislation - you have not identified laws/ordinances that might need to be changed - How? - How many? How different?

Public involvement: "This process appears to be staged to limit input and prevent true meaningful dialog." It puts too much responsibility on the public's ability to absorb the information and provide substantive input. It completely precludes a "community discussion" and the synergy that often comes from such. It is a collateral "stumble out of the blocks" for what will become the biggest, most offensive public works project in HI. Also doesn't give City & Consultants to put best foot forward so they lose too.

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Place Postage Here

Alternatives 4 B - what is environmental Kapakahi part of the line ends there?

Alternative 4 (1) / / /

~~Alternative~~

↓ tougher process
Lose / Lose
Ⓟ

Stations - where? Department of Transportation Services
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How many?
What do they look like?

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Name: FRANK MAK Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I am very impressed by the thoroughness of the research and planning displayed at this meeting. It gives me a lot of confidence that the well-being of Oahu is being carefully considered. I am in favor of constructing a high-capacity corridor, and I think it will be essential to the positive growth of our state. Mahalo for all your great work.

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Name: Gov. Paul J. Mattes Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

AS A TRANSIT SYSTEM IS OK -
KAPIOLANI PARK TO EWA -
KNOCK DOWN CITY HALL -
40,000 SIGNATURES -
PREMIUM - 300,000.00 EVERY 8 YRS.
LEASE - 75,775.00 EVERY 8 YRS.
RENT - ANSIE 1,750.00 A MONTH
MAINTENANCE 650.00 A MONTH -
2 TWIN TOWERS - ON 400,000 SQ. FT.
AST 32 STORIES EA. AS IT WILL
GIVE A GREAT SUPPORT SYSTEM
FOR EVER -

Happy Holidays
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Name: Mattias Gov. Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

As the High Density Area should allow to lower property TAX by 1/3 - Also - as the 4% TAX to 2% TAX and Along the open Area Now More holding land Commercial will add millions Along the way. Also - as the Knot Down City Hall and Alawa Golf Course Raise it 3 1/2 Points Greater 1/2

Merry XMAS

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

*WATCH
off 52
OR
52
CALL
dideo
Thurs
Gov.
MATT*

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Name: Gov. Mattes Address: _____

Phone: _____ 6

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Alotta
- AS from Kapiolani Park -
ACROSS / By RAISING the Alaieai
GOLF Course 3 1/2 stories making
a city underneath - that money
and knock down City Hall plan.
Run from App/Beretania - Dillingham
to Salt Lake to what to sign to
EWA plan - Now that's moving
people. the computer train
has internet portal both - and
seating stations as very much
- 3050 yr. style -

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Name: Helen McCune

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

PLEASE NO ELEVATED ON Kuliio or Kalakaua.
PLEASE NO TRACKS OR OVERHEAD WIRES IN WAIKIKI
Kuliio + Kalakaua Aves have no rush hours or
traffic jams (unless there is a parade)
The best option for Waikiki is "no-build", on
esthetic grounds.

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Name: Jay McWilliams

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

No Rail (!) use metering methods to manage
Lanes, so that at H1/H2 interchange one side (from North shore) waits a minute while traffic from Waianae to town
goes, then the Waianae side waits while North Shore to town goes. You'll lessen the number of cars
in one spot and that will help traffic everywhere
on Oahu. 2) Get traffic accidents/stalled cars moved
faster - Don't close the highways - move the vehicles. Use
videotape, cameras & helicopters to record the scene
and move it ASAP. 3) Get government workers
to work at home, work 4-day work weeks, and
(over)

Other flex-time ideas to eliminate 20+%
of all people travelling on the highways.
4) Build an overhead highway for HOV 3
use free & charge a toll for all others who
want to use it.
5) No Rail of any kind - it's too expensive
to build, to run & no one will use it.
Don't waste our resources building such
a worthless method of transportation.
(I drove in from Waialua and I want my
gas & back for this waste-of-time "Science
Fair.")

----- FOLD -----

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Here

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Name: MEL

Address: _____

Phone: no telemarketing

E-mail: no spam

Comments:

① I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF RAIL MASS TRANSIT.
FIXED RAIL IS A 19TH CENTURY TECHNOLOGY
NOT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.

② THE TAXPAYERS ARE TAXED TOO MUCH.
HAWAII IS ALREADY THE HIGHEST TAXED STATE IN THE U.S.

③ PUT THIS ISSUE ON THE BALLOT & HAVE THE
VOTERS DECIDE IF THEY REALLY WANT A
RAIL TRANSIT OR NOT.

④ EXPAND THE BUS SYSTEM IF YOU WANT TO
DO SOMETHING ABOUT MASS TRANSIT. BUSES ARE
MORE FLEXIBLE THAN FIXED RAIL.

⑤ I AM EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT RISING PROPERTY VALUES & ASSESSMENTS THAT MAY BE LEVIED AGAINST RESIDENTS WITHIN A ONE MILE RADIUS OF ANY PROPOSED RAIL ROUTE. CAN YOU GUARANTEE OUR PROPERTY TAXES WILL NOT RISE BECAUSE THE RAIL PASSES NEAR OUR HOME?

⑥ AN ELEVATED FIXED RAILWAY WILL BE UGLY & SPLIT COMMUNITIES.

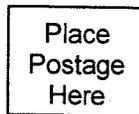
⑦ WE ARE AN AUTOMOBILE NATION. WE PREFER TO RIDE OUR OWN CARS AT OUR TIME ON OUR OWN SCHEDULE.

⑧ THE PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IS TOO SHORT. THE TIMING IS BAD, ESPECIALLY

Return Address

AROUND THE HOLIDAYS.

YOU NEED MORE PUBLIC



MEETINGS & INPUT BEFORE

THIS PROJECT ADVANCES ANOTHER INCH.

Department of Transportation Services
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

⑨ VOTERS SHOULD HAVE FINAL

SAY ON WHAT THE ROUTE IS. A YES OR NO VOTE ON THE ROUTE SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO A PUBLIC VOTE. STAPLE HERE

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Name: GEORGE MELENKA Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

HAVING WORKED ON THE TRANS PLAN
FOR LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT. I STILL
THINK LIGHT RAIL IS THE BEST ON
A RAISED TRACK.
IT IS VERY NECESSARY THAT A
LINK INTO WAIKIKI MADE
EITHER WITH A LIGHT RAIL OR
PEOPLE MONORAIL.

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Name: MARK MESLER Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I AM 100% FOR THE FIX RAIL ALTERNATIVE.
CLIFF SLATER DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT.
I'VE LIVED IN CITIES AROUND THE WORLD WITH RAIL SYSTEMS
AND CAN ATTEST TO THEIR USEFULNESS. EXAMPLES INCLUDE
SINGAPORE, SF (BART), NY, BOSTON, LONDON, TOKYO.
I WOULD PREFER THE ROUTES WITH AIRPORT AND WAIKIKI
ACCESS. I DON'T SEE THE NECESSITY OF GOING UNDER
GROUND DOWNTOWN IF IT SIGNIFICANTLY RAISES COST.

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Name: Maureen Michaels Address: 16

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

We have a need for some form of convenient rapid transit. It needs to be easy to use and stop at places commuters need to go. There should be adequate park and ride lots in suburbs. A system that avoids surface streets (i.e. an elevated system) would least interfere with traffic. It should be routed along streets that are not directly along the waterfront (to the extent feasible), it shouldn't block the view plane). Convenient stops downtown, near shopping, and Waikiki are needed. An elevated, dedicated system (like D.C.'s metro) would be faster and thus be more likely to be used as compared to a slower bus system.

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Name: Teal Miller

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- 1) Any successful transit system must be integrated; the train must go to the airport.
- 2) Transit needs density, eg. downtown, Ala Moana, Waikiki
- 3) A rail system should serve the maximum possible population (see # 1 & #2).
- 4) Failure to focus on these issues will cripple mass transit in Honolulu for decades.

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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Name: Sandy Moneymaker Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

To build anything over head/elevated would be an environmental sin. We have far too much development
ruining open space & view that is a precious commodity.
Open space and the beauty of the island is what brings
visitors and we know we cannot live without them. We've
seen how the concrete has destroyed Waikiki already. Only
now is it being opened up.

We need to make cars inconvenient by taking away
existing lanes and put whatever transit system run
along those lanes. The only way to get people on the transit
is to make the transit more convenient + time
efficient than personal cars. The city has an

excellent, top notch bus system that I believe should be expanded to provide transit w/dedicated lanes etc. The city/state should also be taxing households with multiple cars so that the transit becomes more attractive. The ^{total} number of cars allowed on the island could also be limited & controlled. Tunneling is a ludicrous idea. The transit should be at street level, adjacent to or in place of existing lanes and no overhead elevated concrete or double decked highways. PLEASE!

----- FOLD -----

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Name: Donn Motooka Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

To move people with the most movement
would be to increase the bike lanes and
maintain ^{build} wider sidewalks. People won't
leave their cars at home when it is still
unsafe to walk, bike on current roads.
Police aren't enforcing speed limits on
the main streets into and out of Honolulu
urban. Thus traffic becomes too hazardous
for people to try to bicycle to work.

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Name: DAIJI MURAI

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

1) Traffic Congestion from the Ewa Plains will
continue as ^{more residential} development ^{exists} for the future.
perhaps a Building Maintenance for a few
year could help alleviate traffic flow.

2) The idea of private-public partnerships
could exist such as in Ala Moana with
a major transfer point as it is currently. Because
of the private Trolley, taxicabs, hotel shuttles
and private buses, which pick up & drop off
passengers at this popular stop - residents and
other visitors are able to ~~take~~ board buses back
to Waikiki especially the handicapped, wheelchair ->

- BUS ENHANCEMENT / route change should be tried 1st board, parents with toddlers & strollers. If it were not for the private industry - public would not be able to board buses back to work.
- 3) Under ground caverns exist certain parts of ~~route~~ along the proposed line.
- 4) Transit development center - may enhance and raise the price ~~of~~ for residents & commercial. such as property tax - taxes coming - retailer to raise their prices to the consumer such as gas, ~~stay~~ ^{services} it.
- 5) Electric powered energy source to power transit vehicles - will also raise our Electric Bills by HECO (Hawaii Electric Company).

Capitol
Secur
to KCC
Kegidun
Community
Collp
for
ex-ops
+ more
expen
back

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Name: L. MURAKOVA Address: _____

Phone: 808-531-1111 _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- ① ANY SOLUTION / CHOICE FOR THE TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT REQUIRES AN INEXPENSIVE & CONVENIENT FEEDER SYSTEM. PEOPLE TRAVEL FROM POINT TO POINT & WANT LOW COST w/ CONVENIENCE. ANY MAJOR DISRUPTION IN GOING POINT-TO-POINT WILL DISCOURAGE USE OF WHOLE SYSTEM.
- ② MY CHOICE IS NON-FIXED SYSTEM - MOST FLEXIBILITY AT LOWEST POSSIBLE COST - GUIDED BUS SYSTEM.
- ③ I WOULD A CHART THAT SHOWS THE ESTIMATED COST OF EACH ALTERNATE FOR

CONSTRUCTION & ANNUAL ON-GOING COSTS.

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Name: Maureen Muraoka

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Normal alternative at this time. The people of West Oahu must commit to the way of mass transit options prior to selection of an alternative being selected. "Build it and they will come" is an expensive way as well as not meeting the needs of our communities. More neighborhood meetings are needed in the areas most affected need to be held and at times that are convenient to young families that would possibly use the mass transit alternatives.

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Name: ROBERT NICKEL

Address: 1111 KULUWAHINE

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

Comments:

IT'S TIME FOR HONOLULU TO PROCEED ON
SOME FORM OF ALTERNATE 4C. FIXED
GUIDE RAILS ABOVE SOME AREAS ARE
NECESSARY. UNDER DOWNTOWN IS ALSO NECESSARY.
WE CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER TO GET
STARTED. OUR KIDS & GRANDCHILDREN WILL
EXPERIENCE TOTAL GRIDLOCK IN THE FUTURE. AS
A RESIDENT OF EAST HONOLULU, I DON'T MIND
HAVING TO PAY ADDITIONAL TAXES FOR THIS
PROJECT. WE NEED TO MOVE ON IT NOW.

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Name: Christine Olah Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- Nice event, with knowledgeable representatives.
- Look to future events when more specific plans will be explained.

Re: Current Bus System

To keep + encourage more bus riders, there is a need for more service at night. Going to an evening event leaves riders little alternative other than to take a cab home. There is a curfew for safety at 10:30-11 pm at night
Example: Going to a play at Ft DeRussy
Going to any event at OH + getting back to town or Ala Moana

Re: New Rail Construction

- Will there be financial consideration given to businesses who are affected by the lack of ingress/egress to their businesses?
- Will the budget of the future have enough guaranteed funding to subsidize the low ridership at the outset?
- Will the transit stations have restrooms, (public) that will be maintained by the rail service?
- How will the new rail service affect the livelihood of the current bus drivers + mechanics
- Are you developing plans now for the other islands or are you waiting until it becomes a problem, like on Oahu?

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Name: G. Onishi Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Ward area route - Please consider
the impact on the existing businesses.
They are faced with impact fees from
the state and land condemnation
in regards to ID-11 + ID-13 HCDA
developments. Any further disruption
may be the death of these
businesses.

7. William Pelzer

Date: 13 December 2005
To: State of HAWAII
and: City & County of HONOLULU

Subject: **High Capacity Transit Corridor Project**

Aloha kākou.

*I am a resident of HONOLULU since 1965, and for all those years, two items have been perennial subjects of public discussion: the Waikīkī Natatorium and Rapid Transit. I'm delighted that one of them is at last considered for solution. As a "**High Capacity Transit Project**" is now in the early pre-planning stage, I'd like to offer the following comments:*

*We can all agree, that the goal of such a project is to **reduce present and future traffic congestion**. An estimate of this congestion can be derived at by the very crude basic formula*

Traffic congestion = number of cars / lane-miles of major highways.

*That points to two things we definitely do **not** want to do: **reduce lane-miles** by making them exclusive for any transit system, busses, etc. and thus removing them from general traffic. (That was the folly of mayor Harris' BRT idea.) And secondly, we don't want to **increase the number of cars**.*

*Unless we intent to condemn huge amounts of land under Public Domain for new right-of-ways, the first (no reduced lane-miles) means going into the third dimension (kike the highrises) with an **elevated system**, to make multiple use of existing right-of-way.*

*Now I read that the automobile marketing lobby is pushing for something on the order of an elevated Toll-way – for more cars, of course, which they want to sell. – But let's remember Parkinson's Law,¹ that problems will increase to fill the capacity of their solutions. More road, toll or no toll, means more cars! – Clever little devils, those car sellers. – So where do those extra cars go once they leave the toll-way? That only makes for more congestion, as the above formula predicts, because it would in the long run only **increase the number of cars!***

That leaves as the only reasonable solution an Elevated Fixed Guide-way System – hopefully a bit more advanced than Chicago's old "L"; but something alnog that line. And since Monorails (with or without "mag-lev" feature) use lighter guide-ways railroad-style tracks, and since their trains are unlikely ever to derail, that would be my choice and recommendation.

Friendly Greetings,

Bill Pelzer

¹ Cyril Northcote Parkinson, Ph.D. (1909-1993), Ref.: Essay in the London *Economist* in 1955,

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Name: RICHARD POAT

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

Dec 13, 2005

Testimony on the Future of Oahu Transportation

To: The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
From: Richard Port

Now that the decision has been made to proceed on the Master Plan for Transportation for Oahu, the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization must be visionary in its effort to come up with a plan whose execution will not be out of date by the time it is implemented. The Honolulu Advertiser made this same point recently in an article "How to Derail Transit Plans This Time Around." OMPO must look at its proposals in terms of how the plan and the planners will be perceived 50 years from now.

I spent much of this summer in Boston, and I think that when OMPO looks to the West Coast, or Asia, you may be looking in all the wrong places for a solution. Boston has not only put its rail system underground, it has just eliminated its elevated super highway and placed all its in town traffic underground, leaving room for 28 acres of parks and green space where the highway used to be.

Like Honolulu, Boston's underground is in very close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, and in some places is actually in the Atlantic Ocean. In one location the transit system is only ten feet below the underground highway. In discussing the practicality of placing Oahu's new transportation system underground from Middle Street to Kahala with two engineers and a geologist, they have told me that Honolulu's transit system can be placed underground. Therefore, I would urge OMPO to at least bring to Hawaii one of the planners and one of the project managers from Boston to discuss how Honolulu could build an underground transportation system.

What are the alternatives? Place our new transportation system on grade and you will eliminate present or future traffic lanes; elevate our new transportation system above ground level and you will reduce sight plains and create another downtown Chicago, reducing Honolulu's attractiveness for our visitors and locals alike.

A person traveling between Middle Street and Kahala underground with four or five stops in between will make the entire route in ten to twelve minutes. Each stop can be under a major area of our city: e.g. Bishop Street, Ala Moana Shopping Center, UH Manoa, Kaimuki with a separate spur to Waikiki. This is very similar to Boston's system, which has been built under skyscrapers. This can be combined with an interconnected bus system similar to New York City.

I hope that, at the very least, the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization will look seriously at the alternative I have suggested, bring in Boston's experts and provide cost estimates for decision makers to review.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Name: Rodolfo Ramos Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I am in support of alignment 4C, must have railway transit in Ewa corridor.

1. Ewa was the first community in the Ewa plain
2. The population support the need for an alternative mode of transportation both rail transit or Ferry system in Eragost Point.

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Name: Will Rich Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Please study PRT (Personal Rapid Transit)
Some facts: ① One line of PRT is equivalent
two 3 lanes of highway freeway
② PRT (when cross-over capacity is achieved) will
be self sufficient, i.e. no subsidy - even profit.
③ The ~~national~~ expert on PRT is Dr. J. Edward Anderson
I will be pleased to provide more info
and to introduce you to Dr. Anderson

Will Rich

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Name: DAVID ROUF Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

The issue is traffic congestion relief
in the leeward corridor.
^(locally-preferred Alternative)
Will the decision be made using
numbers that display such relief?
If not... this presentation ~~is~~
seems ~~to be~~ ^{to be} a proposal for an expensive
alternative to the current congestion.

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Name: Ann Ruby Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I have lived in Honolulu (off cam) from 1973. Have ridden the bus most of that time. The buses have become packed at all hrs of the day. Buses are not a long term fix. Need bus only lanes as a temp fix to move people faster.

Must have RAIL eventually: Elevated only. NO Tunnels - you can cause downtown to collapse. not ground based rail as it is subject to cross street traffic stops, ^{auto} accident ROAD closures, etc. need thin trim sleek monorail. A narrow one can be built above existing roads (not have to buy land for right of way). a slim trim monorail will NOT ~~block~~ block the view plane (High Rises block view plane)

So

NO TUNNELS built Anywhere.

NO GROUND level RAIL

Hot lanes good for bus traffic only.

Rail must serve Kapolei, Waipahu,

Down Kamehameha past Pearlridge,

Dillingham (US King), Downtown (King Ala

Moanani - maybe better), Waikiki, UH.

ALSO - FIREYS could provide transportation -

Even to Downtown Downtown to Waikiki.

IF you will build it - I will Ride it.

* THINK SLIM TRIM SLEEK FAST OFTEN.

-----FOLD-----

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Name: Norman Sakamoto Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- a) The selected system must be quiet and with minimal vibrations to nearby homes.
- b) With the thousands of residents in Salt Lake the route should serve that community.
- c) Fixed guideway makes more sense than No Built or Add'l highways

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Name: LANE O. SATO Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

The problem is not lack of a rail or transit system. There are too many automobiles on the island. Suggest two two lane highways ~~at~~ in the ocean traveling in both directions from Waianae to Waimanalo and further if necessary. Examples include the Florida Tampa Bay area where many causeways run along the coastal region alleviating traffic problems. Another example

is Lake Ponchartrain in Louisiana. They have two highways running in both directions over a 40 mile stretch of water. (The whole South Coast of Oahu stretches maybe 35-40 miles.) The highways can be built far enough to not affect the view and surfing activities and big enough to allow shipping traffic underneath. The engineers have stated that they can overcome any construction challenge. If this cannot become an option, recommend using the same transit route to build a three or four lane highway instead of rail.

----- FOLD -----

Return Address

Place
Postage
Here

Department of Transportation Services
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

STAPLE HERE

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Name: ROD SCHULZ Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I think the project is short-sighted and unfair in that it doesn't address the needs of residents island-wide. I don't see any considerable improvements to traffic flow with any of the alternatives. I see only more restrictions to flow with minor improvements to a select few. It appears that funding alternatives as all the people of Oahu to pay for this project that helps only a small minority. As I said -- short-sighted and unfair.

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Name: CHARLES SCOTT Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I do not believe that Oahu can support most of the proposed plans. Already the City has strongly supported a 12 1/2% increase in the state GET. Unrelated to any new project city fees + services have or will be significantly raised and the real property taxes have been increased on average of 28% this year. I have seen no plans to cut back the size of city government (by attrition or otherwise). I think the community, including city officials, need to look very carefully at the research done by Cliff Slater.

The bottom line is - we cannot afford most of the proposed ideas!

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Name: Troy Seffrood

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I am all for the idea of a mass transit system - to improve quality of life and get some people out of their cars.

We seem to have a well prepared consultant team.

My main concern is that we are

going forward with some minds already
decided; sure there will be opportunities
to speak up — but will the public
input be heard or is it really
already set down

Mary DeFoor

----- FOLD -----

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Name: Frank Smith Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

A neglected issue: why not make our
city core more dense? Moiliili, Kakaako, etc.
are way underdeveloped. People living there
wouldnt need to spend hours in their cars.
Is this a going problem or what?

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Name: SCOTT SNIDER Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: * HAWAII BICYCLING LEAGUE

TRANSIT CORRIDOR PLANNERS SHOULD LOOK AT
CYCLING AS AN ALTERNATIVE AND INCLUSIVE FORM
OF TRANSPORTATION WITH RAIL SYSTEMS. RIGHT OF
WAYS SHOULD INCLUDE CYCLING FACILITIES WHEREVER
POSSIBLE INCLUDING CHANGING STATIONS, SHOWERS
AND LOCKERS. PATHS SHOULD BE INCLUDED TO
TIE IN TO STATIONS.

BIKING IS ANOTHER FORM OF TRANSPORTATION.

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Name: Jessica Spurrier Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Please help us understand how bicycles
and pedestrians fit into the big picture
plans! Thank you!

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Name: Debbie Stelmach Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

I support any alternative that doesn't revolve around the automobile. I won't use the new system as a commuter but would use to hit malls + retail on weekends. - Pearl Ridge, Waikale, Koliua

I own no car - been riding the bus for 30 yrs. I earn \$10 a month ~~but~~ by not owning car - bus pass = \$40
Parking stall rental = \$50 = \$10 profit per month - a no brainer

~~chip
stater~~

UH 40
King St.

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Name: Anne Stevens Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

- 1) Thank you for providing this public event.
- 2) I live along Ala Moana and reviewed the route alternatives. Although I know the Ala Moana shopping center is an important stop, - I would urge the alternative 4c (along King St. to UH) as the route. I believe a shuttle from the train to the mall is appropriate.
- 3) I believe the system was backwards. This hearing with the proposed alternatives should have been held before the Excise Tax increase.

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Name: MIKE UELU Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

① I believe future will be mass transit using rail type vehicles

Pro - ① predictable destination times

② Don't have to drive

③ CAN sleep / read on vehicles

Con - ① COST may be prohibitive

② Feeder buses are notorious for not being on time - this may be the achilles heel that makes ridership poor.

② I believe now we should look @ ways to help freeway congestion.

- Suggestion -

① Extend Airport Viaduct to travel over Nimitz - create an elevated freeway extending past downtown ON toward Ala Moana

② Creation of HOV toll Freeway with ADJUSTABLE Fee schedule dependent on how busy freeways ARE.

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Name: Robert Vega Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

This Project will increase Salaries. With many different
Departments of transit an other Companies that
will generate (Higher paying Jobs) Systems.
To honor the Students of VH any money that (usually)
goes to waste of non Scholarship Plans should go to
Transit. The Future (like me)

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Name: DAVID WEBRE Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THE MONORAIL FOR THE TYPE
OF MASS TRANSIT TO BE USED.

- I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SUGGEST TO UTILIZE SOUTH
KING STREET.

* MORE THAN ENOUGH LANES ALREADY EXIST ON S. KING &
THE ROAD COULD EASILY ACCOMMODATE AN ELEVATED RAIL SYSTEM.

* VEHICLE
TRAFFIC ~~IS~~ ON SOUTH KING IS MODERATE WHEN COMPARED
TO OTHER STREETS IN THE AREA.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MY SUGGESTIONS.

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Name: RICHARD WEINER Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

PLEASE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO EXCELLENT SERVICE
IN & OUT OF WAIKIKI. WE LIVE IN WAIKIKI FOR ITS RELATIVE
CONVENIENCE TO MANY MEDICAL FACILITIES, TO WHICH WE
TRAVEL VIRTUALLY EVERY DAY - CLINICS, QUEENS, STARBUCK,
KAISEA, KAPIOLANI, TRIPLEA, ALA MOANA (LONG), - PEUC SHIPPING
AT SAFeway BELETAIN + SEAR UNIVERSITY, ET AL...
AND PLEASE ESTABLISH [GOOD] SERVICE TO & FROM
TRIPLEA IF FEASIBLE - AT LEAST TO ALLEVIATE THE
NUMBERS OF CARS AT TRIPLEA & THE VA
(OK, + PLEASE ADD BACK THE REMOVED TRAFFIC
LANES ON KAAKAWA, KUHO, & ALA WAI BLVD - THINK
EMERGENCY & DISASTER AS WELL AS GENERAL IMPEDIMENT
TO TRAFFIC FLOW.)

December 14, 2005 Scoping Meeting (Kapolei Middle School)

Written comments received during the scoping meetings have been organized by the date of the meeting. The comments are presented in alphabetical order by the author's name. The complete written comments follow the list of authors. The addresses of individual authors have been obscured to protect their privacy.

List of Comment Authors

Anonymous	Daniel Mueller
Anonymous	Gregory Mueller
Harold Asato	Anita Mueller
Matthew Bio	Dean Muramoto
James Boyer	Colleen Neely
Charlie Bracken	James Pacopaco
David Bremer	Kimberly Pine
Margaret Byrne	Douglas Pratner
Charlie Chang	Dave Rae
C. Chong	Roy Reyes
John Claucherty	John Rogers
CC Curry	Brian Shiro
Dan Davidson	Holli Shiro
Jack Epstein	Curtis Takano
John Flores	Charlene Tarr
Judy Flores	Mark Taylor
Frank Genadio	John Thomas
James Grenbel	T. Lei Torres
Robert Hartsfield	Larry Vaughan
Frank Hayashida	Marien Vaughan
Larry Howard	Mo Wearstler
Dana Jones	Robert Willing
Stan and Roberta Jones	Vernon Wong
William K.	Darrell Yagodich
Leonard Kama	P. Young
Adrian Lau	Beverly Yow
David Lemon	Ernie Yow
Jessica Lomaoang	Paul Zavada
David Mercil	

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Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

*How do people in Milan connect with fixed rail?
What kind of rate structure do you envision for fare?*

- Need for regular, dependable, frequent local connections*
- Reliability is paramount*
- Transportation late at night to accommodate people who work late, attend sporting events, etc. (cultural)*
- Safety first!*

Three principles: Safety, Reliability, Convenience

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Name: _____ Address: _____

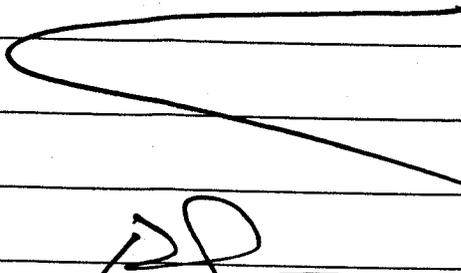
Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

WHERE'S THE MAYOR?
HE WAS @ NBC LAST NIGHT!
WHY ISN'T HE HERE TONIGHT?

SHIBAI



Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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Name: Harold K. Asato Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Recommend: 1st Phase Start from Waikiki to Pearl City/Waipahu Area.

Reasons: ① Where do young couples leaving in Kapolei and Ewa Beach area go for child care help? ② The biggest or heavy ridership is probably between Waikiki and Kalih.

Type of system: Elevated type would be best.

Design of System: Attached sketch = Explained to Alex and Jennifer at Kapolei Middle School

12/14/05. At Leeward end need a huge parking structure, restrooms, Food/court, Child care facility, etc.

Future: When Kapolei matures, extend transit system.

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Name: Matthew T. Bio Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

If it helps traffic, it all right with me, so long
it doesn't interfere with homes.

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Name: James E. Boyer Address: 1111 Kalia Rd
Phone: 1-808-261-1111 1-808-261-1111
E-mail: _____

Comments:

- ① Managed Lanes are a must have project, now!!
- ② plan 4b looks best as it could be planned into the Kapolei Parkway and North-South Roads about to be built.
- ③ Must have Large Park and Ride Parking Lot in Kapolei and Ewa/North-South Road and Waipahu, etc.
- ④ Must have bicycle access for Fixed-Guideway (Tram) so ~~bike~~ bicyclists can use this system, too.
I bike Kapolei to Tripler 2 times/wk with taking the bus in, ride home.

⑤ Train stops need to be 3-4 blocks away from major housing areas or there needs to be enough buses and park and ride parking lots to get people to each stop or they will not use it.

⑥ No monorails - they suck!

----- FOLD -----

Return Address

Place
Postage
Here

Department of Transportation Services
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

STAPLE HERE

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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Name: Charlie Bracken Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

We have an
I. ~~Arise from the~~ absolute need to change the very nature of personal travel away from private cars; you have to build a fixed-rail, ground, elevated, tunnel, etc. because cars take too much energy, government services, and time. We'll soon look like every mainland city, smoggy.

II I think of all the children who now know only the family car or waiting for the Bus. Hawaii will progress only if we build another way.

III Honolulu is the only International city without rapid transit - NYC, Boston, Miami, London, Paris, Hong Kong, Tokyo. Honolulu, as we are without rapid transit, is a little sister.

IV I think about how pretty the view is from an elevated rail. Honolulu has some of the best scenery in the whole world. People will ride this just for fun.

My personal experience would go down Salt Lake Blvd rather than Himitz. also would prefer elevated through downtown just for fun.

Dear Planners:

Adequate bicycle corridors for commuting to Honolulu from all communities should be included in any transit plan. This is a relatively low-cost solution that would have significant impacts - reducing automobile traffic and exhaust pollution, improving cardiovascular health and fitness, enhancing environmental quality and tourism, etc.

As a Mililani resident employed in Honolulu, I currently commute daily via bicycle and generally enjoy the scenic, one-hour ride each way. However, I feel the route is unnecessarily dangerous at some points. The unsafe conditions discourage others from taking advantage of this opportunity to combine daily exercise with commuting. For example, Kamehameha Hwy through Kipapa Gulch has been red-lined in the State Bike Plan since 1994 as dangerous for cyclists. I drive my car through the gulch, park at Waipio Gentry, and ride from there. I would prefer to ride the whole route if there were an adequate route through the gulch.

I tried taking TheBus through the gulch but gave up on that due to the very infrequent bus scheduling on Kamehameha Highway to Mililani - less than two buses per hour even during rush hour on this major corridor. The resulting wait times often were longer than my pedaling time - sometimes an hour or more at a bus stop.

Due to the City's inability to budget adequate amounts to provide minimally acceptable levels of bus service, I do not have faith that the City will be able to manage a rapid transit rail system. The City will be heavily in debt before the rails are even completed, will likely not invest sufficient monies for fully operating the system, and the result likely will be an enormously expensive and inflexible transit failure.

I would recommend that the City invest its limited resources first in developing an integrated and continuous bicycle network enabling safe and enjoyable bicycle commuting throughout the island - great improvements could be made even just using an amount of \$10 million that is currently being invested in the transit planning process.

Second, I think the City should invest more money in TheBus since the problem is under-funding - too few buses, too few drivers. Dedicated bus lanes as used in many other cities would make TheBus an even more desirable mode of transit. If the City offered TheBus either free or at low fares, more people would be willing to give up their cars resulting in less need for highway construction and maintenance and reduced traffic congestion. The loss in revenue from fares would be more than offset by reduced highway expenses and less need for investment in more costly and inflexible rail projects.

Rail is a poor solution. Construction will take years during which time the technology adopted is likely to become obsolete. Even if fully successful, the rail will serve only a limited portion of the island. For less cost, the City could provide a first-class bus system with frequent service on all major corridors, plus construct bicycle-safe facilities to all major destinations. As needs change and the City learns from mistakes, the bus lines can

be realigned. A rail remains in the same place forever, carrying only one type of train, regardless of changing demands.

One further thought is that the proposed rail lines all run parallel to the ocean, exposed at places to the tsunamis that we know will hit the island from time to time. The rail provides no help in evacuating residents to higher ground. The tsunamis also will likely wash out the rail in places resulting in months to years of interruption in the transit service in addition to adding enormous costs to reconstruction efforts that will be needed after each tsunami. A bus system would foster more rapid recovery since alternate routes could be used. Buses also provide flexibility that could be used to evacuate people from tsunamis, or to hurricane shelters.

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Bremer, PhD, MPH
Chair, Public Health and Safety Committee, NB#25
Member, Community Affairs Committee, Hawaii Bicycling League

P.S. Although I prepared this statement before the meeting, I had reviewed the web site + prior news articles. Nothing I saw tonight provided any basis for changing the comments I have made.



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Name: Margaret Byrne Address: _____

Phone: c _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

must be a Park'n Ride station (lot at
Kapder terminal, so residents of Waianae
Coast don't have to rely on bus-feeder system
to get to rail.
Park'n Ride lots will not be used alot if there is
a charge for them!

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Name: Charlie Chang Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

If we are thinking 10-15 yrs from now for completion,
would this be effective as the growth of the population
and economy affect transportation on transit likewise
freeways? There should be emergency kits and phones
attached to the transit. Would there be handicaps
and elderly seats? There should be a stop every two
miles - reason - buses can transfer people within a
two mile radius. The less stops, the efficient of the
transit would be more affective for the public use

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Name: SIAM CHONG Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

AS A LOCAL "KAMAHIHA", I
CAN SEE THE FUTURE WITH TRAFFIC
AT "NOT" GETTING BETTER. WE NEED TO
DO SOMETHING TO EFFECTIVELY WORK.
"LIGHT RAIL" SEEMS TO BE MY CHOICE.
BUT WITH HESITATION ON HOW FAR "I"
GOING TO "AFFORD" IT, AND WILL I
REALLY USE IT. "THANK YOU" FOR
THIS COMMUNITY MEETING, AND SHOWING
US A SOLUTION TO OUR TRAFFIC SITUATION.

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Name: John Clancherty Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Comments:

The train is essential.
The engineers can figure a plan.
Tax me! Put a toll on the H-1!

Just do it. Don't let this
fail again!

Respectfully
John Clancherty
(Voter)

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Name: "CC" Curry Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: HC Definitely !!!

Also make sure the 5.2 million that is awarded each
years goes to the Wibi Wibi Ferry NOT to Airports
Dir as it has been diverted in the past by
State DOT!

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Name: Dan Davidson Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I work for Aina Nui Corporation, which is part of Lybelle Estate. I favor Alternative 4B. It runs through Kepolei on Kepolei Parkway where there is committed right-of-way. It then goes through U.H. West Oahu which is crucial.

The only other viable alternative is 4D.

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Name: JOHN P. FLORES

Address: _____

Phone: 808 531 1204

E-mail: na

Comments:

PREFER ALTERNATIVE 4D. THIS WOULD ALLOW A QUICKER TRANSIT TIME FROM KAPOLEI TO DOWNTOWN. A FEEDER BUS FROM EWA WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE THIS RIDERSHIP. LOOKING AT THE VARIOUS MODES OF TRANSPORT I WOULD LEAN MORE TOWARDS A MONORAIL VEHICLE. SOMETHING WITH SOFT TIRES OR MAGNETIC SYSTEM WOULD REDUCE THE NOISE.

AND WOULD USE
I SUPPORT AN ELEVATED MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM.

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Name: JUDY FLORES Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- 1) DO NOT USE EXISTING ROADWAYS
 - 2) USE FIXED TRANSIT, ^{ELEVATED} PREFERABLY ALTERNATIVE A D
 - 3) PROVIDE EITHER PARK + RIDE AREA FOR
MAKAKILO / AREAS WEST OF KAPOLEI TO USE
OR BUS FEEDER SERVICE BY-PASSING CURRENT
BUS TRANSIT AREA WHICH IS IN AN ALREADY SATURATED -
CONGESTED TRAFFIC AREA.
- WE (OAHU) CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER NOR ~~WASTE~~
ANY MORE TAX MONEY; FOR A MODERN CITY WE
ARE WAY BEHIND THE TIMES.

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Name: FRANK GENADIO

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: — 14 DEC (ALSO PROVIDED INPUT ON 13 DEC.)

I HAVE HEARD THE CONSULTANTS MENTION POSSIBILITIES FOR A RAIL SYSTEM AT GRADE LEVEL IN ACCOMMODATING AREAS (E.G., A PORTION OF THE EWA PLAIN). PLEASE DISCARD THAT IDEA. BY THE TIME THE SYSTEM IS BUILT, THE PLAIN WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLY MORE DEVELOPMENT — AND THE RESULT WILL BE ROAD CROSSINGS AND GATES. THERE SHOULD BE ZERO GATES ON THE SYSTEM AND NO IMPEDIMENTS TO VEHICLE TRAFFIC, AND, THEREFORE, NO REDUCTION IN TRAIN SPEED AND TRAIN-VEHICLE ACCIDENTS.

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Name: James Greubel Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

I am in favor of the fixed rail alternative
4a. I think that routing through Salt Lake
would increase ridership & effectiveness.

I can strongly encourage bicycle
capacity for whatever rail system that
is built.

Mahalo,

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Name: Robert Hartsfield Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

Connections for H2 + Airport should be explored.
If intra-island ferry is in operation system should support quicker buildout over time before 2030

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Name: Franklin Hayashida Address: _____ st

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Personally I would like to see a monorail system
like in Japan. No underground in downtown area
(too ^{business} disruptive for too long a period) ~~and~~ and
no ground level rail downtown (too disruptive for cross-street
Should pass by Leeward CC & UH. If rail is a "no-go", then
we should have a building moratorium on the Leeward
coast and central Oahu. Build in Kaneohe, Kailua,
Hawaii Kai - all high rise low & moderate income
high rises.

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Name: Dana Jones Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: uj@o.com

Comments:

I left comments on the verbal recorder but wanted to offer my experience with the MARTA System in Atlanta, GA.

I lived through 20 years of construction + pretty much know the plus + minus. Atlanta still is #3 (I think - at least top 5) for worst traffic. MARTA is not a complete failure, but I can give you further insight if you are interested. I also worked on interiors for the trains.

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Name: Stan + Roberta Jones Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

We are in favor of fixed rail option #7
Alternative 3: Figure 2-1 Managed Lanes.
* Rail beginning in Kapolei all the
way to U of H. Have bus feeder
lines to rail stations. Perhaps a
monorail from airport directly to Waikiki.

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Name: William K. Kahan

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: ✓

Comments:

I feel it will be a waste of tax payers money end the transit Idea. Mandatorily during morning & afternoon traffic two or more carpool

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Name: LEONARD LEO KAMA Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

WHERE'S THE MAYOR !!!
WAIANAE LEFT OUT OR LEFT BEHIND?
EMPLOYMENT FORCE - 80 OR MORE.
WHO DECIDE ROUTE - START TO END
WHERE IS U.H. WEST !!! "PROMISES"
SHORTEST ROUTE - KAPOLET TO TOWN
WAIANAE TO TOWN.

NO TUNNELS IN PEARL HARBOR.

Mayor Hannemann...

I like your go get 'em, no scared 'em attitude... keep up the good work!...

I have two go get 'em, no scared 'em wild ass ideas for the homeless and traffic... these are just brain storming type ideas and I don't know if it's feasible or the legalities of it... I figure that's your folks job... I hope you guys can incorporate some of my ideas with your ideas to come up with one good idea... :)

Homeless

1. This would be a City and State joint venture to clean up our State and utilize part of Barber's Point NAS (or some other large facility or designated area).
2. The City and State can work together to pass stiffer vagrant laws that prohibit people from sleeping in parks and cars (don't know if one already exists) so police have authority to arrest these people. Now the police have someplace to take them, Barber's Point NAS.
3. My thoughts are to use a portion of Barber's Point NAS and create a homeless city. They already have vacant buildings and there are fences around the perimeter that can be used to house and contain the homeless. The area is out of sight of the visitors and the public.
4. Move all services into that area for reasonable rent or have a place they can set-up to provide whatever services to these people (e.g., churches, food providers (IHS), medical assistance, psychologists, educators, potential employers, and all types of services to care for these people and get them back into society).
5. Give them a choice of getting an education or to provide public service (cleaning the streets, parks, cutting tall grass, cleaning hiking trails, etc.). If they want training or an education to get a job and get back into society and be productive again, great. If not, if they refuse, they can be put into a work force to clean our parks, schools, streets, or wherever they're needed. They can be bused to and from Barber's Point to areas where they can be used daily. In this way, we can keep this beautiful place we live in clean. While visiting Philadelphia, I saw people cleaning the streets, parks, cutting tall grass, cleaning hiking trails, etc..
6. Provide a big open space with trees where if they want, they can set up and live in tents (I noticed lots of homeless have tents or sleep under trees).
7. A Homeless Council can be set up with City, State, Church, and homeless represented to make rules to govern the homeless city.

Bike Lanes and Trains - A City and State venture...

Bike Lanes instead of rail:

1. Extend and complete the bike path east and west from Hawaii Kai to Waianae so people can ride their bikes safely.
2. Hawaii has almost year round sunshine, lets take advantage of it. I was in Philadelphia and there were hundreds of people riding bikes. Also, in cities like Amsterdam, they have lanes dedicated for bikes. We just gotta bite the bullet and take away a lane on our roads and reserve it for bikes. We can't keep widening the roads for cars, there's no more room. Fixed rail and mass transit is too costly and the citizens of this state will have to foot the bill. It will also mar the view of this beautiful island. It will start to look like any mainland city. Let's keep Hawaii, Hawaii.
3. Who's going to ride it, the tourists? The same people riding the buses?
4. Our cost of living is already going way up. Pretty soon the local people won't be able to afford living here. Only the rich.
5. Can we afford to pay for and maintain such a system with a population of only a million?
6. The excise tax, sewer fees, shipping, electricity, phone, food costs, gas, property taxes, housing costs, shipping costs, everything is going up, up, up. Our take home pay is surely not keeping pace with all these increases. Please, think very hard about it.

Trains instead of rail:

1. This is such a beautiful island State. Roads can only expand so much before it ruins the Aina and the scenery. This land is limited and it's time we stop paving over it. Asphalt only makes the land and air hotter.
2. Elevated rail systems are ugly. Instead we should try to use what we have, like the bus system and train in Kapolei. The City, State can work with those people that run the train and see if they would like to expand the system to run from Waianae to Hawaii Kai.
3. The bike path should also be expanded to run from Waianae to Hawaii Kai along the same train route. There needs to be lights and barriers installed for safety. Biking is healthy and there are many more bike riders today, just look at the Century Bike Ride, hundreds turn out for that event every year.
4. People can pack their bikes on the buses and trains and then get off closer to

work and ride the rest of the way. When I was in Philadelphia, there were hundreds of people riding bikes everywhere. In Amsterdam, they've dedicated lanes for bikes only.

5. We have one of the highest obesity rates in the nation so this a way to get people to exercise while going to work.
6. The train doesn't have to go very fast. I think a steady speed of 40-45 mph is good enough to get people from Waianae to Hawaii Kai, even with all the stops. Then the bikes can take people the rest of the way, to their final destination.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my voice and my ideas.

Sincerely,

Adrian Lau

A Concerned Resident almost ready for retirement

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

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Name: DAVID LEMON Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: lemon@hawaii.gov _____

Comments:

Feeder Bus service - local shuttles
are needed to feed any alternatives,
Get started now in building "spokes"
to support local service to "Bus" Hubs
which can grow into rail service
facilities. Older communities
need public transportation for
local quality of life - not commuters!

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Name: JESSICA LOMADANG Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

I believe that mass transit would be ideal if this were a utopian society. Instead, the west side continues to become developed at a higher rate than what the rest of the island experiences. Kapolei has yet to prove itself as a second city. I feel that companies will never relocate away from town. While the mass transit would provide an alternative form of transportation, I think it would also create additional problems within the smaller locales of the station areas. I believe the city and county should take a closer look at the housing

boom. It is also their responsibility to help maintain a balance.
Furthermore, I cannot truly have an opinion on the matter.
I think more information needs to be released. My main
concerns involve the turmoil that can and will follow
with the construction of the system. In every metropolis,
there are at least three ways of mass transit. Oahu
has the bus and maybe one day the rail. I think a third
would be something to consider as the rail continues to develop
in plan. Maybe the city should hire more urban planners.
Maybe the city should address the "house" less problems.
As a community, I believe more communication and less
corruption needs to occur before Oahu can maintain its character.

----- FOLD -----

Return Address

Place
Postage
Here

Department of Transportation Services
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

STAPLE HERE

AR00017035

To those who are building our future,

Efficient automated trains on separate grade are a must.

I don't understand why more trains are not automated. If you run the train on a separate grade from traffic, you could totally do away with the operator. That would not only eliminate the possibility of driver error making things safer, but it would also be more economical since that would be less salary to pay out.

Some people may argue that you need an operator to react incase something jumps in front of the train, etc. But face facts, if something jumps in front of an on coming train, there is probably not much an operator can do anyway. If you run the train on a separate grade, you really don't need to worry about this problem anyway.

You could go one step farther and do like they did in Singapore. In many of their subway stations getting on a train is more like getting on an elevator. That is there are elevator like doors to keep people from falling or jumping into the path of an approaching train. That also keeps people from wandering off the platform into train tunnels helping to improve security, something to seriously consider in this day and age.

In any case, we must not share the grade with regular traffic. Any money saved on construction will be ultimately paid back in the long term in the form of delays and accidents, some of which may be deadly.

Sincerely,
David Mercil

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Mercil', written in a cursive style.

To those who are building our future,

Build it to be bicycle friendly.

It's not practical to have a station within walking distance of everyone. But a lot of people wouldn't mind riding their bicycle. If you make the train bicycle friendly you would get that many more riders.

It seems like it should be easy to do. Just make the deck of the train level with the platform, and provide a large open area in one of the cars for people to put their bikes.

It's ashamed that not many trains are bicycle friendly. When I lived in San Diego, I found it extremely difficult to load a bike on the Trolley. The trains were cramped and you had to negotiate a set of stairs to get on board. I probably would have used the trolley every day if they would have designed it more like the San Diego Coaster, which has a lower deck that was easy to load a bike onto. The Coaster even went so far as to put a bike rack downstairs so you could leave your bike and go upstairs to a comfortable seat.

Sincerely,
David Mercil

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Mercil', with a stylized, cursive script.

To those who are building our future,

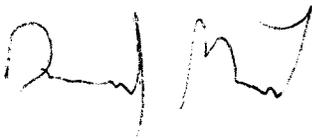
We need flexible, yet fast

We need a rail system capable of serving as many people and places as physically & financially possible. It should be easy for a person to walk or bicycle to the nearest stop, take the train and then walk or bicycle the rest of the way. That means any system will need as many stops as possible. But it needs to do this *without* sacrificing trip times. Now anyone who has ever ridden a train will probably agree that with every stop you increase trip time, making it impossible to have both a flexible yet fast means of transit.

They have solved this problem in Japan, and we should follow their example. Basically what they have done on many of their lines was build dual type rail systems utilizing 4 tracks instead of two. Basically, you have express and local trains that run on the same course. The local train stops in as many places and the express only stops at major stations. If we run the trains frequently enough, it would be easy for commuters to go from their house to a nearby stop. They would jump on the local train and ride it to the nearest major stop. There they would transfer over to the express to go the bulk of the distance.

The thing to remember is anytime you want to compete with something, your product has to be easier to use than the competition's. In this case, personal automobiles are the competition. In San Diego & Los Angeles trains lost because it is still much easier to drive than to take the San Diego Trolley or the Los Angeles Blue Line. In Tokyo, mass transit won. It is much easier to take a train in Tokyo than it is to drive.

Sincerely,
David Mercil

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Mercil', written in a cursive style.

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Name: Daniel Mueller Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

- ~~A)~~ ~~I want~~ Please put ~~to~~ rail line down Ft. Weaver Road & includes service to Waikiki.
- ~~B)~~ Bring line into airport.
- C) How about the possibility of an express line under/over Pearl Harbor in addition to H-2 corridor Cir. 2 lines
- 1) UH to Kapolei via ~~the~~ H-2 corridor, etc
- 2) ~~to~~ Waikiki, Ewa Beach, Kapolei ~~to~~ express
-) common line thru downtown

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Name: DR GREGORY MUELLEN Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: gymullen@comcast.net

Comments:

I AM FOR A RAIL SYSTEM THAT IS ELEVATED FOR SPEED & FOR SAFETY.

I BELIEVE A SINGLE RAIL SYSTEM WILL NOT ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL OF MAINTAINING TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE PRESENT LEVEL NO MORE THAN THE SINGLE BLUE LINE DID GOING FROM LONG BEACH, CA TO LOS ANGELES.

YOU NEED A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM FROM THE START OR IT WILL NEVER BE BUILT. YOU HAVE TO HAVE A WE CAN DO THIS ATTITUDE, NOT A WE CAN'T DO IT BECAUSE..... LIKE IN PRAGUE.

LIVING IN EWA BEACH IT TAKE ALMOST AS LONG TO GET TO THE H-1 AS IT DOES TO GET FROM FORT WEAVER TO DOWNTOWN.

YOU NEED A RAIL LINE DOWN FORT WEAVER RD.

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Name: Anita Mueller Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Want railway down Fort Weaver
Road to Waikiki. Prefer
monorail or above ground means
of transportation.

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Name: DEAN MURAMOTO

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

PREFER ALTERNATIVE 4B IN COMBINATION WITH MAG-LEV
OR MONORAIL TRAIN, SUGGEST ALTERATION WITH
STOPS AT HAIL AIRPORT (NOT NEAR) AND ALOMA TOWER
(FOR CRUISE SHIP PASSENGERS). TRAIN CHOICE IS
BASED ON SMOOTH, FAST, QUIET OPERATION.
OVERALL, AGREE WITH THIS PROPOSED ROUTE.
PREFER TRAVEL TIME KAPOLEI - ALAMODANA IN
ABOUT 30 MINUTES OR LESS.

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Name: Colleen Neely Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

We NEED to find an efficient way to move large groups of commuters in AND out of the Keeward to ? Downtown - Honolulu ? Waikiki ? Seriously poll the people - make a system that will make sense to use. Make it convenient - I am in favor of increasing our bus system; dedicated "HIGHWAY" bus lanes. Town buses seem to effectively move people, but getting TO TOWN - is the monster that needs to be tamed.

Nice presentations - informative speakers -

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Name: James Paopao Address: 1111 Kalia Rd

Phone: 808-941-1111

E-mail: paopao@hawaii.edu

Comments:

Full support of + TRANSIT (RAIL) SYSTEM
Areas such as KAPOLEI, GWA, WEST OAHU
UNIVERSITY SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO SYSTEM
Also access AT AIRPORT ALSO

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Name: ^{R.P.} KIMBERLY FINE Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

ROUTE AC WILL BE MOST FAVORABLE
TO THE PEOPLE OF EWA BEACH IF
CURRENT TRAFFIC CONDITIONS ARE
NOT WORSE.

ROUTE AB WILL ALSO BE FAVORABLE
IF MORE CONNECTOR ROADS ARE
MADE FROM EWA BEACH TO THE
RAIL LINE.

(MONORAIL)

PLEASE USE THE QUIETEST TECHNOLOGY.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO GIVE INPUT!

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Name: DOUGLAS PRATHER Address: 1000 KALANIANA'OHU BL
Phone: 808-261-1111
E-mail: prather@hawaii.gov

Comments:

THANK YOU FOR HAVING INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR US TO REVIEW.
LIVING IN WAIANA'E, I HAVE USED THE CITY BUS FOR REGULAR TRANSPORTATION
TO WORK, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALTERNATIVE 4 USED. I LIKE
ALTERNATIVE 4A THE BEST, BUT I THINK THAT THE ROUTE THAT
WOULD SERVE THE MOST PEOPLE SHOULD BE USED.

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Name: Dave RAE Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

YES TO MASS TRANSIT DO IT STOP
TALKING

Route 4B !!!

40 IF YOU HAVE TO
BUT TO BYPASS UH WO IS

DUMB!

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Name: Roy Reyes Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

1) I think if Transit Corridor project is not harmful to the environment and creating jobs for the people of Hawaii then in all for it. 2) Also if the Transit corridor project can give some relief on traffic jams from downtown to the leeward district, then it's even better. Now the only problem we might have is finding where the Transit corridor project should be routed. 3) The big question how much money it's going to cost the people of Hawaii.

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Name: John Rogers Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Comments:

- 1) I AM IN FAVOR OF A RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM (FIXED GUIDEWAY)
- 2) Route - ANY PROPOSED ROUTE SHOULD INCLUDE
EWA BEACH & KAPOLEI PASSING BY UH WEST
- 3) THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE AS QUITE AS POSSIBLE
EVEN IF COST IS AN ISSUE
- 4) ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ^{SOURCES} (PHOTOVOLTAIC, H₂, WIND) SHOULD
BE INCORPORATED INTO THE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE ALL THE
POWER NECESSARY TO RUN THE SYSTEM ^{FULL} SO THAT NO GREENHOUSE
GAS IS PRODUCED. ~~STATIONS~~ STATIONS CAN BE USED IN A DISTRIBUTIVE
SYSTEM (PHOTOVOLTAIC)

QUESTION - WHAT WOULD BE THE POWER CONSUMPTION
OF THE DIFFERENT ALTERNATIVES

THIS IS
THE MOST
IMPORTANT

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Welcome to the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project scoping meetings. The project is early in the planning process and seeking your input on the purpose of and needs for the project, the alternatives being evaluated, and the scope of the evaluation to be completed in the Alternatives Analysis and the Environmental Impact Statement. At this time, comments should not focus on a preference for a particular alternative. The opportunity for that type of input will be after the release of the Alternatives Analysis in late 2006.

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Name: Brian Shiro Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I am a strong supporter of having a rapid transit system on Oahu. We desperately need a high-speed light rail or other train system with a trunk that connects outlying areas to Honolulu and branches that reach each major population center. Trains along Ft. Weaver Road, the Farrington Hwy., and H-1 are all needed to cut down on the traffic and pollution caused by the cars on our roads. In particular, I think a bridge and/or tunnel is needed from Iroquois Point to downtown across Pearl Harbor. We need to cut the

travel time with this more direct route. I like the route 4C the best because it goes on Fort Weaver Road, and the 4D plan was good because it serviced all of Waikiki to Diamond Head. Any train system should include improved feeder buses, park + ride, carpool lanes on the freeway, and integrated bike ways. Don't be afraid to ~~not~~ consider a train system with branches and multiple lines, including one ^{crossing} ~~across~~ a bridge or tunnel across Pearl Harbor. Feel free to contact me anytime.

----- FOLD -----

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Name: Holli Shiro Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I am in favor of Alternative #4 - Guided Rail System.
This alternative has the best potential to alleviate
traffic congestion now and far into the future.

I also believe that a rail system is the alternative
that will be accessible to a greater number of
people at one time. Trains can also be counted on
to move people faster and more reliably because
it won't be affected by motor vehicle congestion.

As a second choice, adding bus-only lanes would
probably help with the reliability and popular
appeal of bus transportation.

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Name: Curtis Takano Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- 1) something needs to be done
- 2) i am against any new taxes or Fee being introduced to implement this plan
- 3) better review of alternatives need to be studied - what happened to the 2nd city?? - wasn't that supposed to slight traffic patterns?
- 4) alternate routes - why no bridge across the harbor? -
- 5) P.R.T. is a more viable alternative that would drive ridership.

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Name: Charlene Tarr Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Thank you for finally getting this project "on the road."
I may not benefit from using it for everyday
transportation to work however it will be beneficial
to the environment + others. Congratulations on
taking that step towards assisting the people
of the west + central Oahu

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Name: MARK TAYLOR Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I'M A MEMBER OF THE ALIAMANU-SALT LAKE-FOSTER
VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD. ON DECEMBER 12, 2005,
THE BOARD APPROVED A MOTION TO NOTIFY THE H.H.C.T.C.P.
TEAM THAT THE BOARD BELIEVES ANY TRANSIT
SYSTEM DEVELOPED SHOULD BE ALIGNED ALONG SALT
LAKE BOULEVARD SO THAT IT DIRECTLY SERVES THE
COMMUNITIES OF FOSTER VILLAGE, ALIAMANU MILITARY
RESERVATION, ALIAMANU, AND SALT LAKE. I SUPPORTED
THIS MOTION. ALSO, AS AN INDIVIDUAL, I RECOMMEND →

(OVER)

THAT A TRANSIT STATION BE DEVELOPED ABOVE THE
PORTION OF SALT LAKE BOULEVARD BETWEEN THE INTERSECTIONS
WITH ARIZONA ROAD AND PELTIER AVENUE, WITH
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE CONNECTIONS TO ALA NAPUAA
PLACE AND OTHER CUL-DE-SACS BRANCHING
MAKAI FROM ALA ILIMA STREET. SUCH AN
ARRANGEMENT WOULD ALLOW FOR EASY ACCESS
TO THE TRANSIT SYSTEM BY THE APPROXIMATELY
25,000 RESIDENTS WHO LIVE WITHIN A MILE
OF THE PROPOSED STATION LOCATION. FAILING
TO DIRECTLY SERVICE SUCH A HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
AREA WOULD BE A HUGE ERROR IN MY ESTIMATION. MAHALO.

----- FOLD -----

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Name: JOHN THOMAS Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I LIKE PART OF EACH PLAN BUT NOT ONLY ONE PLAN.
AS I LOOK AT THE TIME IT TAKES TO BUILD IN
HAWAII THIS PROJECT WOULD TAKE FIFTY YEARS TO COMPLETE.
I HAVE NEVER SEEN ENOUGH WORKER ON ANY ROAD PROJECT
TO FINISH IN A TIMELY MANNER, THE CONTRACTOR NEED TO
PUT FULL CREWS TO COMPLETE, ALSO GIVE TIME LINE TO
COMPLETE EACH SEGMENT AND MAKE THEM STAY WITHIN BUDGET
ROADWAY THAT ~~WAS~~ HAD CONSTRUCTION OVER THE LAST
TEN YEARS WILL BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NEXT
FIFTEEN YEARS.

THE FIRST PHASE SHOULD BE IN KALIHI OR CLOSER
TO HONOLULU SO RIDER CAN USE IT WHILE THE OUTER
AREA'S ARE BUILT. BY THE TIME IT IS COMPLETE THERE
WOULD BE A RIDER SHIP ALREADY IN PLACE.

YOU SHOULD NEVER START AT ONE END BECAUSE IT MAY
NEVER GET COMPLETED. YOUR BIGGEST BOTTLENECK
WOULD BE THE KING STREET KALIHI AREA,

THE ONLY ONE THAT WILL WORK IS A RAIL SYSTEM
BUT THE ROUTES NEED CHANGE,

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Name: T. Lei Torres Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: L _____

Comments:

① How much energy will it take to run this?

Just concern about CA electricity problem.

② Will the tram system run 24/7?

③ ~~Did~~ I noticed there were no information on stops (to get on + off)?

④ Faith Miyamoto was very helpful.

~~⑤~~

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Name: Larry Vaughan Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

As a resident of west Oahu, I believe that a convenient, fast transit system for Honolulu is desperately needed. From what I've learned at the meeting tonight a fixed guideway system has the capacity and speed to satisfy our needs. In addition, however, I believe that the guideway should be elevated or underground in order to minimize traffic impediments.

~~I~~ I think it would also be beneficial
to reroute the buses to serve the
transit stations and use an
integrated fare and pass ~~two~~ system
between the bus and transit systems.

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Name: Marilee Vaughan Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

please consider a single
fare structure for all
public transit vehicles.
This is the way in
Munich, Germany, eg. bus
subway, trains, streetcars, etc
are under one fare.
I hope a single fare structure
will help the riders who are

now currently using
express buses to downtown
and Waikiki, for they
may have to transfer from
shuttle buses to train
station.

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Name: Mr. Wearstler Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: vi _____

Comments:

Preferred Alternative 4C which includes the
vital Fort Weaver Rd Ewa Corridor?

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Name: Robert Willing Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

- I would like to suggest adding a bike route as part of the plan. Whether it be added to the no-build or build alternative.
- I also like the idea of a route going through Ewa.
- My suggestion would be for an aerial (or above Road structure). That way it wouldn't take away road space.
- ~~area~~ questions which arise ^{are} about parking, different arms of the system, & accessibility for those living on the Waianai Coast (i.e. bus to train transfers)

Regarding the planning and construction of a Mass Transit system for the C & C of Honolulu, I would like to voice my opinion. Although I am presently retired from the City of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii, I have traveled and used the transit systems in Paris, London, Seattle, Portland and San Francisco. I also have about 28 class credits for the UH Masters of Urban and Regional Planning Program.

Looking at the future of Oahu, say 50 years from now, is there any question that the population will be increasing? If so, the best time to allow for this population growth is now, at least providing the dedicated corridor for a transit system from the west end of the island to downtown. Eventually, there may be a need to provide a mass transit system to the windward side and even to the east end. If a dedicated corridor is not provided now, any development will not have any guides. Already, options are limited because of existing development. Waiting longer will only preclude other options and require more dislocations. For example, space must be planned and provided for stations and parking along whatever route is selected.

Any attempt to just add car lanes, HOV, HOT, etc., will not provide a long term solution. Just allowing the cars to reach downtown faster will only result in increased congestion in parking and traffic in town. I am inclined toward a fixed rail transit system, be it monorail, suspended, magnetic levitation or whatever technology is reliable and safe. I recognize that a rail system may require city or state subsidy at least for while but eventually, as population pressure increases, there will not be a choice. I expect that as transit times and travel costs increase over time, there will be more users of a transit system. At least there will be alternatives for commuters who do not wish to drive for 1-3 hours twice a day.

While it may make sense for a short bridge over the mouth of Pearl Harbor, will the Federal government allow a potential blockage of the harbor? As long as a significant military presence is desired in Pearl Harbor, that is a matter of national security. A ferry will someday be desirable and feasible between Waipahu and downtown.

I agree with Mayor Hanneman that any further delay in implementing and building a mass transit system now may mean that Honolulu will always be traffic congested. With some planning and design, this could be an additional tourist attraction. For example, as a tourist in the above mentioned cities, I enjoyed the convenience of traveling by rail.

Vernon Wong

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Name: DARRELL YAGODICH Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I prefer the N-S Road alignment since it is located in the middle of the Ewa plains, midway bet. Ewa/Gentry and Kapaemāhāhā. It is best suited to serve the most people since distance/time to reach the transit stations on N-S Rd is reduced. Further, this area is not yet developed

so you can still shape the form
of urban development to complement
the system. ROW land acquisition
costs should be low.

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Name: P. Young Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

I think that the first phase of the project should include a Central Oahu alignment. With its large population and the upcoming development of Koa Ridge and Waiawa, Central Oahu should not be reflected in the planning of the project.

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Name: Beverly Yow

Address: _____

Phone: 808-261-1234

E-mail: byow@hawaii.gov

Comments:

NO SERVICE TO MILILANI? - MISSED A VERY LARGE
COMMUNITY WHICH IS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE
LEeward TRAFFIC - MAJOR OVERSIGHT!
- MUST CONSIDER MAINT & SUPPORT FOR A SYSTEM
HIGHLY RELIED ON AN ISLAND IN MIDDLE OF PACIFIC OCEAN.
REQ'S SAME TURNAROUND AS MAINLAND CITIES RECEIVE.
- MUST BE MADE OF MATERIALS THAT CAN SURVIVE THE SALT AIR
ENVIRONMENT
- ENERGY EFFICIENT WHICH OAHU CAN SUPPLY + NOT COMPLETE
WITH CURRENT HOUSING ENERGY DEMANDS.
- CHOOSE 4D + #7 Rapid Rail, IF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS
ABOVE ARE ADDRESSED SATISFACTORILY.

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Name: ERNIE YOW Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:

Need a route to Moloai! Need to
take trip to Vancouver Canada. & take the ALRT

To Whom It May Concern:

Below are a number of my suggestions and criticisms of designing the new public transportation here on Oahu.

First let me say that after living there for over 30 years I moved here from Washington D.C. / Northern Virginia, so I have some experience in dealing with unimaginable traffic. I also lived through all the changes in traffic designs that had to happen. From Metro Rail, Highway bypasses, timed traffic lights during peak traffic hours, converting four way intersections that would bottle neck out of sight into over/under passes to keep traffic flowing with out having to stop for a light. Pedestrian bridges and tunnels built so you don't stop hundreds of cars in both directions just to let a couple people cross not to mention it's safer for the pedestrians. The one thing I have noticed about the local vibe on the traffic problem and inevitable growth is there is no forward thinking done in this state. It is inevitable that our traffic is only going to get worse. The design from the beginning has been terrible to say the least. When we came here on a house hunting trip I really noticed how bad your public transportation was and how limited and inconvenient it is for your average traveler. It would nice to be able to get on a train from downtown Waikiki and go up to the North shore and visit for the day on the beach then come back and go back to your hotel and enjoy the nightlife on Waikiki. Instead on any given day not to mention the weekend you spend the majority of your time in traffic. This is a once in a life time for some people to come here and others like coming back annually I've met both. All of them complained about the lack of a rail system and one couple said they would never visit this backwards thinking Island again because of the traffic situation and the amount of time they spent in it instead of vacationing.

My wife and I talk about the situation with our neighbors and colleagues that moved out near us in Ewa Beach, Ocean Point. The number one topic is Ft Weaver Rd. Why is there never any forward thinking on traffic design? There should be no four way intersections instead all the intersections should be over/under pass to keep the traffic flow outbound and inbound flowing. Why is there a traffic light with no intersection so a couple usually only person can stop traffic to cross the road when there is a bridge already there less than 200 feet away that a pedestrian under pass could be put at alleviating the stop of hundreds of cars for usually one person? There are hundreds if not thousands of new homes that are being built from this side of the island that will only add to the problem. The new Kapolei parkway that is being built is not going to utilize over under passes but instead and again use untimed traffic traffic lights that will be bottle necks again every morning and every evening. Also is there a plan of action if lets say a tsunami was to hit over near Ewa Beach. How would all the cars get up the hill towards Kunia? Let me answer that one for you as well. They wouldn't. There would be bottle necks again at the two biggest intersections in the middle of Ft. Weaver road and thousands would die because of the lack of forward thinking by our Government and Dept of transportation. Even if they changed nothing in design timed traffic lights would help keep traffic moving at the peak hours. Instead they always change too quickly and frequently giving the side streets the right of way. I have called the Dept of transportation to ask them about this only to be told they done traffic studies and it doesn't warrant any changes. Are you kidding me! Who did the study? And when, at 10:30 in the morning? Once again I could go on and on about the lack of forward thinking by our Government and department of transportation. It's time to realize that the problem is here it is going to

get worse so make this place the kind of city people want to live in and visit. Do some traveling and study other designs. But design it right make it as convenient and modern as possible use some forward thinking. Everybody is complaining about how much we are going to have to pay for it. Use some forward thinking and change some ways in which you collect taxes and not just from the citizens but from the developers and the visitors and the Airlines and the Hotels and the students and all the people that will reap the rewards of a state of the art well thought out public transportation and highway system. Why do we not have a Lottery here? Sure charge every ticket on the Airlines. Raise the sales tax to 7.5% for Non residents and leave the existing sales tax where it is for residents, a Kamaaina rate for residents. Make developers to pay a certain amount for every house they build. Ask the hotels to put a surcharge on every person that stays there. There are hundreds of ways of collecting the money with out taxing the residents here on Oahu. Use some forward thinking and then put it to a vote. Let the people decide.

Now for the design:

It would be nice to have a modern train that goes all the way around the island. If it can't then one thing is for sure. Putting finger lines down Ft Weaver Road and up towards Kunia as well. Finger lines All the way down the H2. These are major veins where people could come out of their neighborhoods and get on a dedicated system that takes them to the main train line. Make it easier to get to and more people will use it. A campaign on the TV and radio to get slower traffic to get out of the left lane! You have commercials for safety and other issues now put some on for getting slower traffic to move over. If you look t an aerial shoot of traffic you will see that the traffic is staggered all over the lanes keeping faster traffic from getting by and backing things up. Education on lane educate here on this Island is a huge must! And won't cost that much. Use the left lane to pass then get over if you are traveling in the left lane and a faster moving vehicle comes up on you get over and let them pass. Motorcycles should be aloud to split traffic. Especially on stop and go situations. Have more meetings like this to get the suggestions you obviously need then use some forward thinking and Implement it!

Sincerely,
Paul Zavada

Appendix E Scoping Meeting Oral Comments

December 13, 2005 Scoping Meeting (Neal Blaisdell Center)

List of Speakers

Eve Anderson
Pablo Wegesend
Jan Bappe
Chad Taniguchi
James Nakano
Linda Starr

Ian Capps
Richard Port
Sherman Kwock
Richard Kane
Dale Evans
Lane O. Sato
Amy Kimura
Jayson Chun
Katherine Kupuka`A

Transcript of Oral Comments

HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT

Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room

777 Ward Avenue

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Tuesday, December 13, 5-8 p.m.

BEFORE: ELSIE TERADA, CSR NO. 437

Certified Shorthand Reporter

Eve Anderson

I understand the state apparently is only talking about this light-rail thing, but we have to also look at a fly-over asphalt roadway over the freeway, then the bus, express bus will come from all the different points coming right to town. They off-load their people right downtown and then the other shuttle bus will take them to the offices.

If we use the other suggestion was asphalt, buses, and then people could pay a toll fee and ride on top, but if we do that, it will be jammed with people on top, the buses would get stuck, and when you get to the other end in Honolulu, it's like a funnel, because you got Nimitz and all the other highways that are jammed, now you got the top.

So this fly-over has to be only used by the express buses, and they can come from all the different spots starting at 6:00 in the morning, so the people there don't have to get up at 3:00 in the morning and get in their cars and sit in that traffic. They can come in, in the bus, if it didn't have any traffic, would come shooting right in, then turn around and go back. During the rest of the day, the schedule can be altered, maybe the bus goes every hour, I don't know.

But also, the emergency vehicles can use this. When there are massive accidents on the freeway like we see and it's tied up for five hours, the police can route people onto it. If there's a big event at the Aloha Stadium, people coming from both sides could get on this bus and shoot right out. So it gives us a lot of flexibility.

If we do the light-rail or whatever they're going to call it, we have to buy a whole new technology, pay for the buses, because that's still going to go, and then pay for a whole new technology, and I don't think enough people are going to ride that.

So if we keep the buses rubber-tired, they will clearly run back and forth, and then after rush hour, the taxis can use it going to the airport. You know, I'm going home and I see an ambulance trying to get through rush-hour traffic, they can't do it, but they could scoot on and then fly over right to downtown.

So I hope they consider that. I know apparently the state, not state law, but the resolution or whatever they pass, it's asking for only the light-rail, but I think our team has to also look closely at a fly-over asphalt, maybe three lanes above the freeway shooting right through.

Now, the students can get off downtown and get right on the bus going to the University of Hawaii, the buses that we already have on the surface streets. It will be like a terminal, so other buses could come and then go right to Waikiki. So this shuttle bus would only come along the whole corridor down, and it would fly in. It would take 45 minutes for a ride instead of the two hours of traffic, five hours, you know, when there is an accident. Nobody is talking about that.

Cliff Slater is talking about paying a toll, so anybody could ride it, but the more traffic we put on it, then it just gets clogged up again. And if we're going to get the buses and cars to off-load in Honolulu, everybody will be stopped, you know, it won't make it any faster.

So in order for people to ride it, they have to know they can get up in the morning and get to the bus terminal at, say, 6:00 or 7:00, and they'll be in town at eight o'clock for their meeting, you know, one-hour ride or 45-minute ride; and the first runs would start way out, and then another bus would start at the next, Waipahu or Pearlridge, you know, so people from those valleys could just get on that bus. They don't have to wait for the Ewa bus to come up and pick them up, and then the people running this would then fix the schedules.

It wouldn't run every ten minutes, but during the rush hour, afternoon and morning, in the morning it could be, I don't know how many lanes, I'm saying three lanes. Two lanes could go to town if there's that much traffic, and one go out, and then reverse it. See, what Cliff Slater is saying, everything going to town in the morning, and then noon, everything goes out, but some people want to go the other way.

So anyway, I don't hear anybody talking about it and I really would like them to look at it, even though that's not on their game plan. Thank you.

Pablo Wegesend

My main concern with building the light-rail project is that you got to move people out of the way, to make room for the light-rail, to make room for the light-rail stations. So, like, who is going to be forced out of the way to make room for it? Could be homes, could be businesses, and it will cause a lot of unnecessary trauma and lot of resentment among people who are being forced to move out of the way, to make room for a light-rail and light-rail stations.

And it's also a special concern to me because I live right near U.H., and if they plan to build a light-rail station near U.H., so, would I have to move, and will it cause a lot of inconvenience for me and my neighbors? And for moving, like it's going to be hectic just to find a new place to live. So it's going to cause a lot of unnecessary problems. That's all I have to say.

Jan Bappe

Well, mainly, I just want to say if they're going to do it, do it right, in the first place, not add things later. They have studied this enough for years, and they have gone around the United States and Europe, even, to study mass transit. And I'm saying this because one of the men over there was saying that we'll add things later. Like there's already the need to go to Mililani, because many there do work in town and every day they face that traffic jam, and on the radio they talk about it, at meetings they talk about it.

I just think all those corridors that they think the potential is there, should be considered right now, not five years down the line, ten years until things get worse and worse, because that's what they've done with the bus, they wait until the problem occurs, big problem, and then they will try to resolve it. You know, they could have prevented it.

I rode the bus. I moved here in 1948. Out of those about 27 years, I rode the bus off and on between cars and whatnot. And it's improved a lot.

With our suggestions, even, they didn't pay any attention. They knew there was a complaint and need, but they're down in the office, where they don't have to deal with us. I hope they will listen to the people as much as they possibly can.

Chad Taniguchi

No matter what alternative is chosen, there needs to be safer bicycle and pedestrian pathways. I'd like to see those pathways alongside the main line, more parallel to it, so that people have an alternative that if they don't want to ride whatever mass transit is there, they can walk along that corridor safely and they can bike along that corridor safely.

It's really not that far for a biker to make the whole trip because they're just physically bicycling it, but the difficulty for a bicyclist is not the physical terrain but the cars and the traffic lights, and the danger that comes with that. So if this safe alternative can be provided at the same time that this thing is built, then it's going to have a long-term impact and, you know, it doesn't take much to maintain a bike and pedestrian path. It's not like cars, which wear out pavement, the bicyclists and walkers are really light on the pavement.

And the other thing is, to get bike paths and walkways from the neighborhoods to the main transit so that if people want to get from their home to the main transit station, then they have an easier way to get there by walking or biking also.

And finally, on the transit system itself, they need equipment to hold bicycles so that bicyclists can ride the transit from one point to another, get off, take their bike off and then go wherever they want to go.

I'd like to see the study cost out the alternative of having bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly facilities so that you can compare how much providing the bike- and pedestrian-friendly facilities will be, in contrast to the main line.

If we can do this now, that is, make bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly facilities, then no matter which alternative is chosen, you're going to provide for people to exercise, use less fuel, and enjoy their lives better.

James Nakano

How I'm addressing this is, first, these are all saying a hundred percent growth in the Ewa side and deviating traffic coming from the Ewa side, they haven't pulled enough people from the west side and Mililani area, why they're coming into town. Are they students or do they work for the government, what specifically are the reasons why.

My proposition is to have satellite offices in the Ewa Beach area, on the west side area, and giving tax breaks from the state or federally to companies, to have satellite offices out there as well as universities or schools. Also, in providing flexible hours for state officials or state workers, that they're able to stagnate the time when coming into town.

By offering tax breaks to companies, I think it's going to give them financial incentive for them to open offices out there. Every one of the alternatives is raising somehow taxes to people that aren't affected; Kailua, North Shore. They have to pay for this, any of these rapid transit ideas.

I do see that traffic does need to be alleviated with alternative means, but instead of financially spending billions of dollars into these rapid systems, why don't we just develop into that area, and people don't have to go, they can go opposite way of traffic coming from Mililani or Salt Lake area, they can drive into the Ewa Beach, Waianae area for their businesses, University of Hawaii, if they have their satellite school there. These are all opportunities just for government people there. People can make choices if they want to go to U.H. or stay on the west side.

The other thing is I saw the population growth, it says there was a hundred percent growth in the Ewa Beach area or Waianae area, but what's the population right now? Is it 200,000, 100,000, what? That area is still so undeveloped in certain areas.

I'm thinking instead of giving it to a lot of the hotels, start giving it to businesses where they can make actual economic development, you know, possible prosperity for people over there. It alleviates gas problems for people driving, because lot of these rapid transit systems, I don't think people will use. I mean, the bus is a perfect example. It's not a perfect system, but it's not a mass system at all, by any means, for a lot of people, especially those who are paying \$2 a ride.

That's kind of what I wanted to say, just to have at least a tax break, satellite offices on the west side.

Linda Starr

My name is Linda Starr. I've been involved in traffic issues since 1987. Actually, I worked for Department of Transportation from 1971 to 1979. And my concern is that we have to find out why people get into their cars. There's a saying that people are in love with their cars, we have to find out why they have this love affair with their cars. I did an informal survey, and I found out that people on the Leeward Coast get into their car because, first, they have to get to work, but after work, they want to go to Ala Moana Shopping Center, and then after that, they want to go to Ala Moana Beach Park, okay?

What it is, is on the Leeward side, they don't have any structured shopping centers. They have a dozen strip malls, so the person has to know which strip mall to go to, park their car, buy it, get back into their car, go to another strip mall, buy what they want, get back into their car, go to another strip mall, eat their dinner, get back into their car, go to another strip mall, and go to a theatre. Very inconvenient. They'd rather get in their car once,

park their car once, Ala Moana Shopping Center, and then do whatever it is that they want, do shopping, you know, or dining.

And then on the weekends, there is no family-oriented beach park. All the good beaches on the Leeward side are taken up by the private sector, by the Ihilani hotel, by Paradise Cove, by the military, by the state, by the water park. There is no good recreation for families. In order for a community to be a second community, not only do we have to have a place where people work and live, but work, live, play, go to good schools.

Right now, for the last 50 years, the Leeward side has what you would call the plantation image, the blue-collar image, and people want to be in the middle class.

The Legislature needs to spend the money or the D.O.E. needs to spend the money so that the schools on the Leeward Coast are given the comparable share as downtown or East Honolulu. When they do the survey of broken-down schools, they're almost all Leeward schools.

Also, the transportation, the transportation roads, they're all minimally qualified roads. There's no median dividers with landscaping. When they need road-widening, they just add more lanes with concrete barriers, if that. Lot of times the only thing dividing oncoming traffic is the magic yellow line, and as a result we have head-on collisions, we have pedestrian deaths. We have the minimum construction of roads. Whereas as you go into town, Waikiki, Kahala, East Honolulu, you have enhanced roads, you have wide sidewalks, you have landscaped medians, you have paradise. Whereas you live on the Leeward side, where 60 percent of the people are, all they have is a concrete jungle and not much more.

So, in summary, instead of just looking at traffic, find out is it the cause or the effect, you know. So I think it's just the effect, find out what the real cause is that causes the traffic that causes people to have to get on the road. In order for a

second city to be viable, the second city must incorporate the whole family concept of living, working, worship, school, play, entertainment.

My involvement with transportation issues came to a peak during the 1991 Kalaniana'ole Highway widening project. I was involved in testifying before City Council when State D.O.T. was applying for their S.M.A. for the project. My testimony essentially said thank you D.O.T., but no thank you. Originally what they wanted was they wanted six lanes of road with no median barriers. So what I did is I came up with three sketches showing how the right-of-way that was acquired could be redesigned to incorporate landscape medians and landscape shoulders.

And after about a year of testifying, the City Council finally gave conditional approval to State D.O.T., and at that time, the director, Ed Harada, approached me and said, "I like what the D.O.T. is coming up with," because, in essence, they took my three sketches and they combined it to come up with what you see on Kalaniana'ole, East Honolulu today.

BEFORE: JOY C. TAHARA, RPR, CSR 408
Notary Public, State of Hawai`i

Ian Capps

I've lived in Hawai`i now for four years. My wife was born in Waipahu and went to UH before travelling around the world. And we met in New York.

Both of us, and particularly myself, have lived in major world cities and U.S. cities all my life for many years and months at a time. And there is no major city in this world that I know that has succeeded without some form of rapid transit service.

Honolulu is now the 11th largest city in the country and is growing at a fast rate in a very narrow congested area. It has no chance of surviving as a viable expansion city unless it has a fixed rapid transit system.

Every city which has tried to solve the problem,

starting with London, by increasing the highway system, even when there is space, has discovered that the new highway is out-of-date by the time that it's built. At the moment, there is very little space to build new highways in Honolulu. The time to commute about 10 miles into the city is often more than an hour, which is worse than any other major city.

There is no space, and there will be no solution by simply expanding the highway system or even altering it to allow rapid limited access highways for bus systems and paying travelers, paying motorists.

If a fixed rapid transit system is put in place, then the road system can be managed in order to maximize on the rapid lanes and the bus service and all systems of people-carrying will improve. You understood me, right?

My personal experience favors a light system which is environmentally and, in terms of consumption of energy, as efficient as possible which probably means using monorail or magnetic levitation systems. The magnetic levitation systems; you know about that because it's all around here, isn't it?

The congestion on the highways at the moment, and the future congestion that will occur, is going to reduce the productivity of the city's workers by more than the cost of introducing a fixed rapid transit system, in my mind. Let's leave it at that.

You can add at the end, this is all based on personal experience, over 60 years -- London, New York, San Francisco, Miami, Paris, Rio, San Paulo, Beirut, Hong Kong, and Sydney and Tokyo. I've lived in all those places. Thank you very much. Good luck with everything.

Richard Port

Now that the decision has been made to proceed on the master plan for transportation on O'ahu, the O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization must be visionary in its effort to come up with a plan whose execution will not be out-of-date by the time it is implemented. The Honolulu Advertiser made this same point recently in an article entitled, "[Here's] How to Derail Transit Plans This Time Around." OMPO must look at its proposals in

terms of how the plan and the planners will be perceived 50 years from now.

I spent much of this summer in Boston, and I think that when OMPO looks to the West Coast or Asia, you may be looking in all the wrong places for a solution. Boston has not only put its rail system underground, it has just eliminated its elevated superhighway and placed all its inbound traffic underground, leaving room for 28 acres of parks and green space where the highway used to be.

Like Honolulu, Boston's underground is in very close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. And in some places, is actually in the Atlantic Ocean. In one location, the transit system is only 10 feet below the underground highway.

In discussing the practicality of placing O'ahu's new transportation system underground from Middle Street to Kahala with two engineers and a geologist, they have told me that Honolulu's transit system can be placed underground. Therefore, I would urge OMPO to at least bring to Hawai'i one of the planners and one of the project managers from Boston to discuss how Honolulu could build an underground transportation system.

What are the alternatives? Place our new transportation system on-grade and you will eliminate present or future traffic lanes. Elevate our new transportation system above ground level and you will reduce site claims and create another downtown Chicago, reducing Honolulu's attractiveness for our visitors and locals alike.

A person travelling between Middle Street and Kahala underground with four or five stops in-between will make the entire route in 10 to 12 minutes. Each stop can be under a major area of our city. For example, Bishop Street, Ala Moana Shopping Center, UH Manoa, Kaimuki, with a separate spur to Waikiki. This is very similar to Boston's system which has been built under skyscrapers. This can be combined with an interconnected bus system similar to New York City.

I hope that, at the very least, OMPO will look seriously at the alternative I have suggested, bring in to Honolulu Boston's experts and provide cost estimates for decision-makers to review. And I thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

Sherman Kwock

My family's owned property in the Kapi'olani area since the 1930s and one of the line routes, or three of the line routes, actually, go along Kapi'olani and turn up University Avenue. I'm concerned that when the routes start taking shape, that the amount of property that they're gonna have to condemn will probably include our property, you know, 'cause it makes an up-turn in that area. So that was our main concern; it would displace us, take away property that's been in our family for generations.

It doesn't make sense if, in later years, that the thing doesn't have that much ridership and our family gets displaced or, you know, our property gets taken away from us. So it would seem like it kinda wipe that out, something that maybe, actually, if they can put it on the taxpayers. That's all.

Richard Kane

First of all, I'm here representing the Pacific Resource Partnership, which is the market recovery arm of the Hawai'i Carpenters Union. And Pacific Resource Partnership supports this whole idea of mass transit, and more specifically, the light rail concept of this mass transit.

We do, however, have several concerns about the presentation here and some of the information that may not have been presented. Let me say the good thing right away. There's not one mention of congestion which is a measurement that should not be used. It was not mentioned and that's something that's very positive.

Some of the other measurements that might have been included, but were not, we included reliability as a measurement. But they did not include, on this board here, headway as a measurement. And there are differences in the two; headway would be very important in terms of the frequency of the service.

When you choose between the three alternatives, especially the light rail and all the rest, some of these things, like the mass transit, make no mention of grade

separating. And I spoke to one of the representatives. He says, well, we're looking at either exclusive lanes or grade separations. And I think that distinction should be made known because I think that exclusive lanes might unduly influence pedestrian traffic; whereas grade separated overheads may not. So those are the things.

One of the project goals also concern me. Although this is inherently a transit conversation right now, when they talk about what they're looking for, is they're looking for Smart Growth. Smart Growth can exist with or without transit. This is a transit-associated growth and so it should be termed a transit-oriented development, which is more the correct term.

I spoke to a specialist again, and he feels the terms are interchangeable. But I think there are important distinctions to be made. That's pretty much my comment. That was very painless.

Dale Evans

First of all, as to this meeting, I'm disappointed because I think that, given that 10 million and the amount of time that will be spent on it, I think that it would have been more productive and helpful for it to be interactive. In other words, talking and talking out instead of just there's no dialogue. They cannot know what I'm thinking without being able to question me. And I cannot understand what they have presented which was supposed to be a study of alternatives or an analysis of different alternatives, and so I'm disappointed that, uh, the public or the community or stakeholders.

We are a stakeholder. Our company has been in business since 1938. We are a paratransit operator. We are a paratransit service; and therefore, we are what FTA defines as a stakeholder. And the general law requires input and participation by stakeholders, the private sector. Our company is a privately-owned small business, woman-owned, a paratransit service company since 1938.

I have several questions. What is the problem? What is the city trying to sell us? What is the project purpose? What the goals and objectives and assumptions are?

And so I feel, I believe that one of the assumptions

was that we were going to improve our transportation and traffic. And my sense of what has been presented is that we will be worse off. The people of Honolulu have to understand that we will have worse traffic congestion, just like they have in Portland.

It troubles me that this is more about passengers than about the movements of -- the diverse uses of roads and the different transportation needs of users. Users are not only passengers. Users can be businesses. It could be deliveries, freight deliveries. It could be motorists. It could be truckers. It could be people. And it could be people who are not able to ride the bus but need to go door-to-door, because they are too young, too old, too infirmed, too demented, to ride transit. So, to me, this is not a challenge for transit as far as a challenge to meet diverse user needs.

I was reading the project purpose, and they have defined the project purpose as to provide improved person mobility in the highly congested east-west corridor. But that's not the problem. That's not the purpose. The purpose is to relieve traffic congestion so that you can move, you can serve diverse transportation needs better and more efficiently and quicker. So I question the person mobility statement.

It also says that the purpose is to provide reliable public transportation services in the corridor. But what about the other services that are used in the corridor, such as freight, motorists, paratransits, the vast, vast array of uses?

And then it says the purpose is to serve areas designated for urban growth. I'm puzzled by that because we have existing needs that are not being met. They don't even mention existing needs.

And then the project would provide an alternative to private automobile travel. But what do we do with the motorists today, the people who are using the roads today? I mean, I'm just baffled. This is not the way that I think transportation service companies look at transportation. I'm just baffled why engineers and consultants look at the transportation business this way. I'm very puzzled.

And so I feel that they have summarily dismissed the alternatives that have been talked about. I believe that the managed lanes they are suggesting is nothing more than like

Hotel Street transit mall, one lane in each direction only for buses. Even though they say, oh, we're gonna have transit buses and we're gonna have paratransit -- and oh, we're gonna charge toll for motorists that fill in the empty spaces; but during peaks, there's no empty spaces on Fort Street. And they're talking about spending all this money for something that's not gonna improve traffic.

So I'm questioning whether these people are truly doing an alternative analysis. There is only one alternative that they are producing, and it's a nonexisting alternative today. They're not talking about all the existing modes today. They're talking about a nonexisting mode for tomorrow which may or may not happen.

I think that why traffic congestion is a problem is because public safety and security are compromised due to poor roads, insufficient capacity that lead to accidents, injuries, death, loss of property, loss of business, income, and loss of job opportunities and loss of quality of life. And I believe that the public safety, the quality of life need requires that we be able to address the traffic congestion that we have today or else we're gonna end up worse. So that's about it.

Lane O. Sato

I would like to say I'm surprised that no one has considered putting a two-lane highway in both directions, run along the South Shore of O'ahu from Wai'anae to Waimanalo and further on to the North Shore if necessary. It seems to me the main problem is too many automobiles on the island. That's nothing to do with mass transit, buses, rails, or whatever else there is.

I don't think people can give up on their cars. You know, there's over a million automobiles on the island. That's not gonna change. So, to me, the best solution for this problem is to run the two-highway along the South Shore. Of course you're gonna have people complaining about ruining the view and whatnot, but I think they could build it far enough outside where it won't affect the natural, for the surfing or, you know, stuff like that.

The other reason I suggest this is because in Florida, they have a lot of causeways that stretches for miles and high

enough to let big ships underneath, and it hasn't seemed to fail in areas that they have these causeways. Also in Louisiana, across Lake Pontchartrain, they have two-lane highways that stretch for 40 miles across the lake from the main land to that peninsula thing of Louisiana, and that hasn't been affected by any natural disaster, hurricane, or anything. It's still there. They still use it. If they can do some kind of engineering feat like that up there, I don't see why we cannot consider doing that over here.

That's basically it. But the main thrust is too many automobiles on the island. I don't think people gonna give up on that, driving their cars. So it's mainly to alleviate traffic from the land and divert it somewhere else.

Amy Kimura

Well, I want to suggest that a lot of these charts -- which aren't in the handout we got tonight -- be included on the web site quickly and not just before the deadline. But if it's submitted in the next week or so, it would give us more time to look at before we submit our comments because you need the charts in order to understand some of the reports that we got tonight. But I know they cannot provide us with these kinds of huge charts, but if they had it on the web site, we could look at it ourselves in color. That's all.

Jayson Chun

Please make any technology used quiet and safe. I know people can get hit by light rail trains going by and cars can get hit as well. So please consider something that runs separate from traffic.

One more, then I guess. I already submitted my written, so. It's going to be please consider servicing any new UH West O'ahu campus and tying it to 'Ewa Beach and Kapolei community so it's easy to access. That's it. Thank you very much.

Katherine Kupuka`A

I don't like any of the -- anyway, I'm against a fixed rail system. I guess the best solution would be to enhance the bus system. I don't believe that they should even think of having a rail system going from Kapolei all the way to UH when there is a bus system that goes to UH and I see the bus not even filled with passengers, right, at times when I seen the bus going from, let's see, the transit system in Kalihi all the way to UH. I don't see it filled with students or, you know, people who would travel to the UH.

Another thing is we have the UH West O`ahu being constructed in Kapolei. Why would we need a rail system going from Kapolei to UH? It is too expensive. Anyway, that's about it.

December 14, 2005 Scoping Meeting (Kapolei Middle School)

List of Speakers

Leonard L. Kama
Maeda Timpson
David Lemon
Delta Westcot
Senator Brian Kanno
Dana Jones
Senator Will Espero
"CC" Curry
John Clauncherty
Dan Mita
Charlie Bracken
Linda Young
Terry Slattery
Paul Zavada
Catharine Lo

Jo Ann Abrazado
Alan R. Gano
David Mercil
Glenn Oamilda
Ed Alakea
Ann Freed
Melvin Uesato
Richard Mori
Dick Porier
Clarence Nishihara
Irvin Sugimoto

Transcript of Oral Comments

HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT

Kapolei Middle School Cafeteria
91-5335 Kapolei Parkway
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
Wednesday, December 14, 7-9 p.m.

BEFORE: ELSIE TERADA, CSR NO. 437
Certified Shorthand Reporter

Leonard L. Kama

I had one concern, and my concern is why Waianae is not part of this transit. According to your board over there, it shows that Waianae has 80 or more percent of job, heavy traffic. And several years back, we tried Navatek over here. They tried to run them out of Kapolei, whereas we shuttled the bus from Waianae to over here, at the harbor, and from there they ran into town. But when they had an accident, they shut down the road.

So my concern is that if you get something like this, and if they looking for heavy traffic, people, especially working people, and kids going to school on the west coast side, from Makaha all the way down, you have a density of people there compared to what they have on top of the road right now. That is one concern.

The other concern is why they don't bring the university down over here, the west university they said was going to be here so long ago, but we neva get 'em yet. And then we cut one portion of the traffic going to town, especially the kids that are going to the university. Lot of them decided instead of going to the university, end up at Leeward College, but that is over-jammed, and that is filled up in no time, so the rest that get stuck, gotta go all the way to U.H.

If you really want to take people off of the road, and especially for the school kids, I mean, that's one option, by that coming out of here, which was promised back in the '90s.

And the other concern is who decided the route of where this transit is going to go? And I understand because this is a second city, that's why there was one other option why they chose Kapolei going through. Has anybody thought about since they tried it by sea, they know that there is no traffic out there.

What about running, if they do run this rail thing, why not running something like that in the commercial that they've been showing on T.V.? If you look at it real good, you'll find that the transits

running right next to the bridge, by the water, and if they can do that, it will actually cut the thing, the traveling space in half. Instead of going around the bay, you can go from Kapolei straight to Honolulu, and it might interfere with the airlines, but they have that all over the world, train tracks and airlines. I mean, just looking and observing, this is my comments.

And the last one is why the mayor not here. He was on NBC last night. I remember when he was here when he wanted to get in, and the community was all for him. But it's kind of disappointing that he's not here. If he's not showing any interest in this, and I looked at it, the bus isn't doing a great job right now, but that's another problem that they have. Thank you very much.

Maeda Timpson

Looking at all the different options, I'm not totally happy with any one in particular, but what I would like to see is a possibility of getting Ewa Beach into the mix, so it will be Kapolei, West Oahu. I mean, you have to do West Oahu. It would be foolish to not have one of the options going through West Oahu. So I think we need Kapolei, West Oahu, and Ewa Beach, because those, unless you cover all of them, the other community surrounding will still have all of the traffic roads.

But as a neighborhood board, we totally supported this whole transit project, and we're going to follow it pretty close and want to be supportive of it and do whatever it takes to come out and have our say, but we really would like to see if we can add everyone in.

So Option B is good. We could sort of live with D, but my first choice would be to have it all, you know, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, and U.H./West Oahu.

David Lemon

I'm very concerned that we're not driving the whole concept to eliminating automobiles, so driving to the train station does not eliminate automobiles, it just means I park it in a different place. So the design concepts other than the TSM Alternative 2 is the only one talking about feeder bus service. But we need to design the whole concept to get rid of automobiles on the island, so that I don't have to drive anywhere, that the system supports my transportation needs locally as well as for commuter traffic.

So when I don't have to go to a shopping center, I don't have to get in my car, I can eliminate the car, but I need feeder service between my home and my shopping center and those other attractions other than commuting to and from work.

So right now, 40 or 50 percent of us are in retirement ages and we don't need to commute to work, how are you providing transportation services to support the local community's needs from home to shopping centers, from home to my food stores, to home to my sports attractions without having to get involved in a long transit to commuter rail service to Manoa? I don't go to Manoa, I don't need transportation in Manoa. I do need transportation to Foodland.

Make sure it's included in all the transportation studies so that we can get rid of automobiles and we provide local support for local transportation needs and connect with the longer transportation in the mass transit system.

Delta Westcot

I just want to say that it's important that since we are now paying extra taxes, that this one alternative and preferably the simplest alternative be implemented in order that we can have something. Because we have done six different studies over the last 20 years or so, and nothing has eventuated out of all these studies. Huge waste of the taxpayer money, and I want something to happen so that we have some

kind of rail that even if it's just a simple system to start with, that takes people from Kapolei to U.H., to Waikiki and back, and it needs to happen this time.

Because we're now paying more taxes for it. I'm not going to pay taxes for surveys that never have any product. Why should I? The sooner we do it, the better; otherwise, I'm going to be dead. I'm already old. I've been waiting 20 years. I want it so I can use it.

Senator Brian Kanno

Well, first of all, I think that one of the most important things is to have the route go to or along U.H./West Oahu site. I think, and then, of course, we'd like a stop that serves Kapolei well. Looking at the options, I don't see one that is really optimum at this point.

And I think one of the other things that I wanted to see, if possible, was, could there be an alignment that serves U.H./West Oahu along with the Fort Weaver corridor? I think that Kapolei, being the secondary urban center for the city, for the island, I'd like there to be more community discussion about the routing in the Kapolei portion by the Kapolei community because the route, I think, is going to really determine the future growth for our area and it's going to have a huge impact on everyone's life, and so besides this meeting and then public meeting next year, I would like to see a community effort. I don't know if it will be by these organizers or it will be a community-based effort to have further discussion. And I would hate for the decision to be made by people from outside of our community about what the route is, in our community specifically, and so I don't know what the process is, but by looking at the four routes, I don't see one that's ideal, and I would like there to be the maximum amount of community participation in determining the route in this area.

Dana Jones

I'm from Atlanta, Georgia, and I lived through 25 years of putting our mass transit systems in. It doesn't work. People don't use it because it doesn't stop at the right places, and where it does stop, there is no parking available. Parking, to get on the transit system, is anywhere from 5 to 15 dollars a day, plus the \$2 to get on the transit system one way, and then \$2 to get back to your car.

So if you're going to do this, you need to have parking available, you need to have kids who ride available, which you don't even have available for your bus system at this point. So, there's nowhere to park, catch the bus, if you wanted to take the bus into town. On a catch-22, you gotta have space to put the cars that are going to catch the transit system.

Atlanta has sold all their parking lots, so no one no longer uses the rapid transit system because there's nowhere to park, to get on it. So I know that taking my mother in the bus systems here in town, I can't take her to the bus stop at Kapolei and park and wait for the bus to come, with her in the car. I have to let her off at the corner, she has to walk across the street, across traffic to catch the bus. There's nowhere to park, so that's the main, huge problem with the land and it's going to be a problem here.

I like the idea of the toll roads, those work. Four hundred in Atlanta works much better than MARTA works in Atlanta, and it's good revenue for the city, and everybody pays for it that lives in the outlying areas and they're the ones that use it the most, so they should pay for it.

Senator Will Espero

I believe that there is a strong, strong need for an elevated rail system for Oahu. The system should have been built 10, 15 years ago. Unfortunately, we didn't have the political will then, and now is the time. For the last 10, 20 years, traffic on Oahu has gotten much worse, particularly for those of us who live in West Oahu and Central Oahu. With government directing growth and development to

this area, more people are moving out here and having to drive in, or some people, they do think it's a crisis at this stage.

A rail system will not alleviate traffic. We will always have traffic, but it will give people another option, which they currently do not have. With the rail system, you won't have to worry about traffic accidents on the highway, stalled vehicles, debris on the road, inclement weather that slows down traffic. You're looking at a system that should run, should be fully automated and would run smoothly, consistently, on time, and provide that alternative for those that don't want to use their cars.

There are several options here, and I believe the route going down Fort Weaver Road is a strong contender, as well as the one going down north/south road, and that would connect to U.H. West Oahu, that's also a very good route for the people in West Oahu.

But it definitely must go to downtown, Waikiki, U.H. Manoa, maybe as far as Kahala Mall, and on our side here, up to Mililani, go through to build this as the transportation system for the future, for our future generations.

What will we be using 50 years from now, a hundred years from now, we expect more cars on our roads where we'll have something that the people will be able to use. Projections also show that in 25 years we're going to have an additional 250,000 people living on Oahu, and where are those people going to live? West Oahu and Central Oahu.

So we need this now, we needed it yesterday, and I'm willing to work with our mayor and council to make certain we do this right, and that we do build a system that will help us economically and deal with our transportation problems and give our residents a system that they will use and be proud of.

"CC" Curry

CC Curry, Interagency Coordination Councils,

Voting Agency with the Citizen Advisory Committee,
Division of OMPO.

We really, really strongly prefer the 4C corridor, the one that includes Ewa, Fort Weaver Road, because the most logical reason on the planet, it's the highest growth on the whole island, it speaks for itself, that it has the most gridlock and has to have the future transportation infrastructure more than any other corridor alternative.

In addition to the 4C alternative, we want to make sure that the \$5.2 million, which both Alaska and Hawaii received 5.2 million every single year because they're not in the continental United States. So the 5.2 for the Wikiwiki ferry was only used for the Wikiwiki ferry one year, and all the other times it's being diverted to the airport.

So in addition to the 4C corridor choice, we want the Wikiwiki ferry returned, which is already funded. It's not a matter of getting money or asking for money. We just don't want the money that's funded or it diverted to other purposes. We want it to go in addition to the monorail, and that's what we prefer is monorail over any other type of rail.

4C corridor, Wikiwiki ferry, and paratransit. They're in noncompliance, we've got a federal noncompliance award against Handi-Van, but yet they're not improving, and it's not money again. It's just internal improvements or paratransit, which is Catholic elderly van, which is also getting federal money.

Hand-Cab, all the different paratransit, Malama Lima, but Handi-Van is in the worst shape of all and needs the most improvement.

John Claucherty

We need the train. It's foolish not to put up a train system in Honolulu. If you want this to be a real city, if you want a Chinese corporation to invest here and make some other industry besides military and tourism, then build the train. The capacity of Honolulu has met, that's why we built the Kapolei in the first place. We were foolish not to involve engineers at the time and lay out a long-term plan. There's however many thousands of acres of cane field out here, we open it up to building neighborhoods, and the neighborhoods are going to get built.

Okay. So let's act like we have learned our lesson and build the train. Okay? I'm a commuter. I live in Makakilo, I work in Halawa Heights. If I leave at four o'clock in the morning to go stand watch, it takes me 20 minutes, maybe 22 minutes to drive in the gate at Camp Smith. If I leave at 5:30, it's a lottery, absolute lottery. If it's raining, there's no way I'm making it to work on time, because there's going to be a wrecked vehicle, there's going to be a stalled vehicle on the H-1, and it's going to be backed up, all the way back by Fort Weaver Road.

So, personal opinions. If I was married still, and we had two vehicles, living out in Makakilo, and I'm going to drive downtown to work, and she's going to want to be able to go to the grocery store and whatnot, feed the kid, right? If you build the train, if I can ride the train to work every day, my family doesn't have to have the expense of the second vehicle, right? If you build the train, my vehicle is left at home or my wife has got the vehicle, and I go downtown, and if 30,000 of my best friends are doing exactly the same thing, then there's 30,000 less vehicles downtown. The capacity of parking downtown, right?

Dan Mita

After looking at all of these displays, I've come to the conclusion that they haven't really looked at the basic problem, the basic problem being that

there's too many cars on Oahu. And seems to me they need to find out, go to each driver and get their feedback on what it will take the driver to get out of his car and leave it at home and catch some form of public transportation.

And I think the first, probably one of the answer is convenience. It has to be convenient to them to be able to go to a bus stop or whatever, catch the bus, go to some terminal point, which they talk about, and try and get that expressway into town or wherever they want to go to.

So, seems me that if they can find an answer in all the different areas on what it will take the drivers from those areas to use the public transportation system instead of the cars, then I think that that will result. It would cost money, I'm sure, but at the same time it won't cost as much as the rail system, I don't think.

And as long as they keep up the bus system, sure a lot of people are willing to leave their cars at home, use it only for weekends maybe, but at least during the rush-hour going to work, they can catch the public system. So there really needs to be that study, I think.

Charlie Bracken

We have an absolute need to change the very nature of personal travel away from private cars. You have to build a fixed rail, whether it's on the ground or elevated or we use the tunnel, because cars take too much energy, too much government service, and they waste too much time, and more and more of that in the future. And also because of the smog from cars, we'll soon look like every mainland city with brown skies.

Right now, all the children in this whole city, the whole island, all they know is the family car or waiting for the bus. We have to build an alternative for them, so that they have a future without a crowd that seems to be growing in all directions right now.

Honolulu is the only international city without rapid transit. New York City, Boston, London, Paris, Hong Kong, Tokyo, they all have them. And Honolulu, as we are without a rapid transit, is a poor little sister, and it's really sad that we have taken such a long time to get to this point, and I hope we do this right away.

And also, think about how pretty the view is, from an elevated rail. I've been on some other places like in Seattle, Chicago, and Los Angeles, and every time it's elevated, it's the most wonderful view, and Honolulu has some of the best scenery in the whole world. Even just a short distance up in the air, it will be such a beautiful view and people will ride this just for fun. Thanks.

Linda Young

Personally, I believe that we need a rapid rail system from the Leeward side going into town, and then going into a light-rail when we're in the downtown area. I believe that we could start in the Kapolei area, it has to hit Ewa Beach, and it also has to hit West Oahu campus that's coming up on this end. And then once you get the main thoroughfare going, then you can add spurs on, like bringing in the people in from Nanakuli and adding that on to the Kapolei route, and then also going up central, you need to go up to Waipio and Mililani area.

So another alternative, other than the plans that it's showing going up through Kapolei and up through Waipahu and Pearl City, is to run straight along the bottom and go right in from Kapolei into the Kalihi/downtown area, that would be another ride. So then you get the people from the Leeward side not even going into Pearl City and Aiea, and not even hitting and making more traffic for the people there. So that's another alternative that might be considered.

Terry Slattery

I'm a commuter riding the bus, and I would look at the alternatives proposed, 1 and 2, as being no different at all from what the conditions are now, so I almost view them as if you're satisfied with the options now, then you don't have to do all the rest of the work. From my perspective, I call them throw-away options. Maybe somebody would see value in them, but I don't.

And the issue with No. 2 in particular is that we have the means now to implement what it's suggesting, and we're not doing it because the system isn't disciplined, isn't resourced properly, and isn't managed in the refined way that it needs to, to allow it to be a feasible option.

So I come in and say to myself, we really only have three in the multiple options of four, I guess that those are multiple considerations but pretty much out of the same design. So I'm not really sure it's useful to project there's four alternatives, but I don't, as a person that does the commuting, think there is.

The other one is I wonder how they measure, and I'm going to use the term called "the psychological effect." If they put a route, let's say up Fort Weaver Road, and lot of people are sitting in their car and the transit system is passing them by, the effect that that would have of moving people from cars to the transit system versus having it along lanes that are less trafficked, because some of these pattern showed in areas that are not very heavily trafficked, and the enticement is kind of lost to get people to use it.

So, in that regard, I wonder if they do measure that, and whether that, then, has potential to be considered a factor or an element of analysis in the system.

Paul Zavada

Well, I wrote down my comments and I put them in the suggestion box, and I wrote them down before I came here, but I guess this stuff has been going on the radio and on the T.V., and I moved here from Washington, D.C., with my wife, so we pretty much come from the capital of traffic. And we lived there our whole lives, so we've seen all the changes they've made throughout the years and all the corrections that they've had to make for growth. And one of the biggest things I see here, talking amongst my friends and amongst other people, is the lack of forward-looking thought here in Hawaii as far as designing anything, and the way that they're going to collect the funds for it, I see a lack of that, too.

I mean, I keep hearing about tax the residents when there's a lot of alternatives. They could put like a kamaaina rate and leave the tax rate the way it is, and make like a seven and a half percent sales tax for visitors, and you have to show proof like with a license or some sort of military I.D., or whatever it is, show proof of residency here in Hawaii to get the normal sales rate; otherwise, you pay the seven and a half percent sales tax. They should put a surcharge on every airline ticket being sold, everybody coming in here, every hotel room being rented out.

I think that they could also do some things with just the regular roads here. There's a couple roads, one being Fort Weaver Road, where it's a nightmare in the morning, and I've called the Department of Transportation and they said they've done studies and it doesn't warrant any change. I mean, I don't know who's doing the studies or how they did the studies because it's insane. Every morning I'll get to the two main lights, and it takes me 45 minutes to get not even a mile on Fort Weaver Road.

And the way it's designed is you have the traffic coming from the side roads, they just keep flowing, keep flowing, and the people going this way, you know, you sit there and you see the light and it turns green, and you wait and you don't move, and it turns red, and it turns green, and it turns red, and

finally, after about the tenth light, you get through it.

They should put over-/underpasses all the way down Fort Weaver, all the way to the end, so that the side roads coming this way don't have to wait for anything, no lights, and the traffic going this way can constantly flow in and out and then just have off-ramps, you know, when you need to get off on whatever side ramps they are.

I also think that they should bring the rail or whatever they're going to use, as far as the high-capacity transit, all the way or something to get the people from, you know, down Fort Weaver to the main line. Whether it's more buses or whatever, just don't make it so people have to get in their car and drive to the main line, park in a parking lot, because it's going to take them just as long to get down Fort Weaver Road.

And I think another thing they need to do here is education on just some of the drivers, in general. I mean, you see all over the country these commercials that governments put out for safe driving or for aggressive drivers and how they're going to crack down on aggressive drivers, and maybe if they did a little education and maybe some aerial shots and showing how people here constantly drive in the left lane, and they drive slow in the left lane, and they don't get over.

I mean, if you really read the law, it says the left lane is to be used for passing and then you're supposed to get back over. Nobody does that, and none of the police officers here do anything about trying to enforce that law.

So, I mean, some education, some T.V. commercials, some radio, you know, somehow educate the people that, look, when you're rolling down the road, get out of the left lane, and if someone comes up behind you, let them go. Don't stop them. Your job is not to stop them. If they're speeding, let them speed, let them go, you know. You're only causing more problems by stopping, and then you cause the situations

of aggressive drivers, or a guy trying to whip out of a lane to whip around you, to whip back in front of you, when you could just simply get over and get out of the left lane.

I mean, if you look at an aerial shot, we took a helicopter ride, and you can see a group of cars going down the highway, you know, when it's not solid traffic, and you'll see like 50 cars driving and they're all over the lanes, rather than getting over, use the left lane, get over and then continue going, and you use the left lane as a passing lane.

Over in Europe, when people come up on the back of you, they flash their lights, you get out of it at fault for it.

And so I think that that's another thing they need to do here, is some education to get the people to get out of the left lane, because someone told me that in Japan, the left lane is actually the slow lane. So I don't know if that's funneling over from Asia somehow to the island or what the deal is, but I've been all over the country, and people here drive in the left lane, you know, 45, 50 miles an hour, like no other place I've been in my life, so, those are some of my things.

And I think that they should put a rail system however they choose, whether it's train, magnetic, whatever, and I think they should put it all the way around the island. It would be nice for somebody to go to, like, Waikiki, and get on the train, go to the North Shore with his towel, get off, go to the beach, get back on the train, go back to his hotel, you know, then go out to dinner in Waikiki and not have to sit in three hours worth of traffic at Haleiwa on a weekend.

I mean, it's absurd that we're one of the states in the United States, it's one of the most sought-after places to visit, and we can't get with modernizing this. I've already had two people come here from the traffic capital of the world and say they're never coming here again because it's so backwards-thinking here and the traffic is so insane,

that they spent more time in their cars in traffic than they did actually getting to have a vacation. I mean, so when you have people coming here, to the best place in the world and saying that, I mean, something needs to change. That's all I got.

Catharine Lo

So my comment is that I would like them to include in their analysis of the different alternatives which options will be the most effective in relieving congestion not only in the short term but in the long term, because from what I've been hearing, none of these alternatives is really going to get rid of the traffic. So I'd like for them to consider at least which one has the best possibility or would eliminate the most traffic. And I think it should be made clear that just because we implement any of these systems, that traffic is not going to go away, and I think it's important for people to understand that.

BEFORE: JOY C. TAHARA, RPR, CSR 408
Notary Public, State of Hawai`i

Jo Ann Abrazado

I was thinking like if they're gonna do, like a rail system, instead of putting a rail system, would they be considering redoing the railroad tracks that go from Wai'anae to Pearlridge? And with that in mind, maybe what they can do is in Wai`anae areas, instead of making a park-and-ride in Kapolei, make it in Wai'anae and have them catch the rail system to Pearlridge and then catch the monorail from there to town. That way the traffic coming from Wai`anae and out from here won't be as heavy. You know?

And just even now, traffic is so terrible – by 3 o'clock when the kids get out of school. You know? And to get to the store, you gotta get there before 3:00. It takes you half an hour to get out if you're stuck -- or more.

But if they use the -- because I feel the railroad system is still there, why not just improve it, get a better

railroad, or what you call that, a caboose or whatever, the cabin, and maybe that way people don't have to drive to Wai`anae to town.

And if they put a parking lot at the end with security, I think people will feel much better because there's one in Kunia, nobody uses it because there's no security. You know. And that area is known for being hit with vandalism.

So if they do that kind of configuration, I think traffic will be much, much lighter. 'Cause now they want people to come from town to come to Kapolei, right? So it's gonna be even worse. But I think if this railway system be used, it won't maybe cost so much as to make the rail all the way down that way. That's it.

Alan R. Gano

I commuted from Waikiki to the airport before and then from Makakilo to the airport. And I know how bad the traffic has gotten, especially in the Leeward corridor over the last 30 years plus.

I really feel that we need a fixed rail mass transit. But I would also consider buses with dedicated lanes both on major arterials and on the freeway. The only thing is the labor request for buses would be much higher since your fixed rail is usually automated.

The only better thing I'd see about buses is that you'd have dedicated bus lanes which would actually take away lanes for vehicles which would force more people on the ridership on the bus mass transit.

But if we do go into fixed rail, I'm in favor of a route starting at Kapolei and maybe even by the time they're ready to build it, up to Ko Olina and going down Farrington Highway and Kam. Highway and Nimitz, with local trains and express trains. You have to have enough stops for local trains, and they have to have stops right near the gates at Hickam and Pearl Harbor and the airport so that you can get a lot of the people working at the military base, then the military people on it.

Then I'd like to see it continued through Kalihi and

Downtown and then spurs off to Waikiki and up to the university, with the university spur eventually going Kaimuki and Kahala Mall and eventually all the way to Hawaii Kai.

The most important thing though is if we go some type of fixed rail magnetic levitation, we've got to make it cost effective and we've got to conserve energy. Also the stations, the land that the stations are at, we've gotta try and use city, county, or state land so we don't have to buy land.

The stations should also generate electricity by wind power and solar. They have to provide their own electricity. The system itself should kickback electricity since anything using kinetic energy can make electricity.

I also feel that the stations should have shopping centers. The larger ones and even the smaller ones, those should be revenue producing. So we're trying to cut down any deficits, hefty operating deficits, to a minimum. And I think that can be done.

Basically, at this time that's about it. But I think fixed rail is probably gonna be more acceptable than the express local buses feeding into the dedicated lanes. In other words, if they're expanding Fort Weaver Road to three lanes, one of those lanes, the curb lane, would be buses only. You'd have to have fly-overs under the freeway. The left lane on the freeway would be buses only. So you'd be taking away traffic. I say that would increase ridership.

But I think fixed rail will get heavier ridership than people realize. When it takes you somewhere in-between 2 3/4 to 3 1/2 times as long to go on your own private vehicle as it does fixed rail, that's about the point where people start using the fixed rail. And it would also be a cost economy measure for families. A lot of two-car families would be one-car families when you have fixed rail.

So I think it is necessary and I hope it's completed in my lifetime.
David Mercil

I have a couple of suggestions. The first one I have is that when we build this rail line, I think that we should have a sort of a dual train system. One would be a local train that would make many stops so it would be flexible and be able

to pick up the most amount of people. And the other line would be more of an express. It would only make a few stops and it would be much faster. That way people would be able to easily get to a nearby station, ride the local train to the nearest major stop, and then transfer over to the express train and ride the majority of the distance into, say, town or wherever they need to go.

I think if we build that in such a way, it would make it very easy for people to ride the train into a point where they might be willing to get out of their cars and actually ride the thing.

They use this kind of system in Japan. I've ridden it over there and it seems to work very well. I think we should do some research in the Tokyo area and see exactly what would work best for Hawai'i 'cause it seems that there's a lot of similarities between the two areas if you look at 'em, honestly.

My other suggestion is basically to build the entire length of the rail system on a separate grade from the traffic. I haven't seen too much of what their plans are right now, but I think it's very important that the trains, their cars, or the buses or whatever -- I shouldn't say buses, just trains -- that they don't share the lanes of traffic because, for one, it's gonna slow everything down. People are just gonna get in the way of each other. You run the risk of having accidents, some of which would be deadly. If you look into the Los Angeles Blue Line, I'm sure you'll see a lot incidents where people have tried to beat the trains and have gotten killed because of it.

I think if we build the system on, say, an elevated grade or, say, below grade, then we could also build it in a way where it would be automated. And I think automating a train so there's no operator would have some great benefits because you eliminate the possibility of driver error or operator error, and you also make it more economical because that's one less salary you have to pay for every train in service. It also gives you the option of having more trains because it'll cost less just because of less operators.

In one country, in Singapore, I notice that in the subway stations, they had sort of like elevator doors so people couldn't fall into the tracks, say, in the path of an approaching train, and it made it a little safer. I think that was also good for security, to keep people from wandering off

down the tunnels. I don't know if they're gonna build a subway or an elevated train, but I think it's something we should consider, at least for the Downtown areas.

My final comment is I think when they build this thing, they need to make it bicycle-friendly. I think this is important because there's no way you're gonna able to create enough stops to service anybody. And I think that if a lot of people go and have to get in their cars and drive to a train station, they're just gonna drive all the way to work anyway.

If you make the trains bicycle-friendly, then people will be more likely to be able to ride a bike to the station. And if you can carry that bike on the train with ease, then you'll probably get a few more riders that way.

I think a good example of a bicycle-friendly train would be the San Diego Coaster which has a lower deck and I've even seen where they have bicycle racks on the lower deck where you park your bike and then you walk upstairs for a comfortable seat into work each day or wherever you're going.

I think a bad idea and a good example of a train that is not bicycle-friendly would be the San Diego Trolley. Although they allow bikes on these trains, it's very difficult to negotiate and get your bike on the train. The entrance to the trolley is very narrow and you have to negotiate a set of stairs, and then you kind of have to hold on to your bike in a very cramped car. I think they should avoid this kind of system just in general. That's all I have to say.

Glenn Oamilda

I think I mentioned this. I've been involved with the community for about 25 years, 'Ewa Beach community. And ever since they came up with the second city, the community had great input into it. And it's been rolling along all this time until government got involved. I think now that government has gotten involved, it's like the horse before the cart -- or the cart before the horse.

I've been considering that government move the planning process along in this Kapolei area, the 'Ewa region. I think there's not enough planning has been done in this area, where businesses, moving of people, tax credit, tax incentive to

businesses to move out here, I think there's not enough adequate planning done.

I think the alternatives, the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, I think it's, to me, I think it's no confidence. I've heard it in the past that we gotta use the money, we gotta take the money the federal government is offering us and move with the project. I think that's wrong. I think you put a false confidence into the people in this area that you have a plan. And I don't think they have a plan.

There have been alternatives in the past that have never worked, like the ferry system, like carpooling, park-and-ride. It hasn't worked because the trend is to move people back to town. If you're gonna create a second city, I think there's gotta be a planning sufficiently enough until we all exhaust it. Then we can say let's have an alternative.

Furthermore, I think an alternative in this case, where the fallout from this project will be a tremendous impact on the senior citizens and the landscape of Hawai'i, the rail transit. And the blight on the environment and the landscape, I think, really would be affected.

If this project is to work, I think we gotta make a concerted effort to get people out of cars. I think, in Hawai'i, people love their cars. There's a romance with cars. I think if you don't get people out of cars, this project is not gonna work and because we saw it in the past.

You can't give people alternatives for a project this big. I think they gotta consider no-drive zones down in the civic center, no-drive zones, no-park zones. I think you gotta limit cars if this project is gonna work, and I don't think they have an inkling or an idea that there's, you know, things like that that gotta be considered.

I think the money is being wasted if they continually push people back to town. It's not gonna work. If government constantly dictates what the plans are and try to push it on the communities, I think we gonna run into a lot of trouble, a lot of waste of money, and a lot of frustrations.

So lastly, if we don't consider alternatives and the need for more planning in this area, I think it's just gonna be forced down the community's throat and it's not gonna be

successful at all. So thank you. I think I said enough, right?

I think the idea of planning before you have the money, I think it's a good idea. But in this situation, I think they want the money first. They went after the money first and now we gotta start planning. Because the money, they all say the money is there. You know, let's not squander the money.

So I think that's it. I think I better go home.

Ed Alakea

I was talking to the guy out there. I was trying to get him, you know. You have various ways of getting this transportation system improved. That's what his is all about, trying to improve the mass transit.

My question to him is, how you going get the people out of the car to ride something that runs either fixed rail or a better bus system, you know, all this other things that you trying to get the transportation improvement? I think they trying to push for the fixed rail. How you going to get the people out of the car?

I give you a good example. I worked quite some time in Downtown Honolulu. I drove my car from here to all the way down to Richards Street. It cost me about 40 bucks a week for gas. But now with the price of gas, I think that has elevated to almost hundred dollars up. And I have to pay for parking. At that time they used to charge us \$150 a month for parking. And you know how much that gonna be a year for parking Downtown. The other one, the city parking, you gotta pay your quarters, and hour or two hours run out and get quarters.

So at that time -- I'm not a rocket scientist, but I could figure I'm wasting a lot of money, bringing my car to work, paying for parking. And the city has a perfect express bus run from Makakilo to Downtown. And at that time it would cost us only \$40 for a bus pass for a month. So we used to save on parking, save on gas. I used to ride the bus; it was very comfortable. You were delivered right to where I wanted to go. I can leave home right where I wanted to go without any problem.

And I used to look at all these people riding in the car. Some of them are working. I hear them grumble; they going

raise the parking fee. Well, I cannot stop at the store, I gotta go all the way home, get my car and then go to the store. So I see their logic in the sense of it really does not make sense. I'd rather leave my car home and go shopping maybe once a week and then save my car usage and maintenance and all that.

And then I say if you're gonna put in a mass transit, what's wrong with routing a route that runs from here, Campbell Industrial Park straight to 'Ewa Beach, Iroquois Point, tunnels or bridge, draw-kine, over Pearl Harbor entrance on to Hickam? Hickam, there's an area, there's an old road you call Ke`ehi Lagoon Drive, it used to run all the way into Hickam.

And you have the reef runway which already has a tunnel. Cars go under that -- it just has to be made bigger -- all the way and come out, you know, from here, go all the way into town and get out at Lagoon Drive and then merge with the rest of the traffic up there. That, I think, we move the track from 'Ewa; at least some from Makakilo, Wai'anae, all use that.

Now if there's an emergency -- let's say you put a drawbridge over Pearl Harbor and the navy needs to move ships in and out because of war or whatever, we always can put signals out "drawbridge down" and then those of us use the old route.

But at least we have that 'cause we're not at war right now, in a sense. So we should be able to use that area during peak traffic hours to move traffic eastbound and then in the evenings westbound, get 'em out of town and they can use that route to come over, bypass all that congestion by the stadium and all that. You know.

He say to talk to you. And I don't know how far this is going. I wanted to write it down, but I figure I get hard time explaining what I'm trying to say.

Because two things bothers me. If they don't pick the right transit route, they try to utilize some other route that's not comparable, you still gonna get the same congestion because you cannot get the people out of their car. You going say this is now much better, you can travel faster. They still going use the car.

I found way back in 19, what, '92, right after I work Downtown. So '92 we already had traffic. Ride the bus; cheaper. I save money. I save my car. I have money in the

pocket. I could give my son \$40 to go spend. Or whatever, buy new clothes or whatever.

So I see all this. And, you know, we have young people living, middle-aged people that have children, some are going private schools, and I can see them dropping 'em off, like Punahou, St. Louis, before they go to work, whatever, private schools. Except I think the only ones that I see is Kam School on buses. Not all the private schools.

So you save a lot of -- with the price of gas nowadays, good to get them. I cannot understand why they cannot get the people out of the cars. That's the easiest thing to get to, you know, to our city, our regular rapid transit that we have now. That's all I have.

Ann Freed

I'm on Neighborhood Board 25, and I represent the Mililani area, Neighborhood Board 25. So I just want to make sure that whatever transit system is in place considers park-and-rides, a sufficient number, I would say probably three or four park-and-rides along the H-2/Kamehameha Highway corridor to make sure that people on the North Shore and below can marry up with the transit system easily.

Right now, it doesn't sound like there's pretty much thought to that, people thinking only light rail. Well, yeah, down the road or maybe not. Let's pray that the population doesn't get that big up there. I hope it never does. But that's okay.

The other thing is -- and I understand that this project is not planning to build bike paths. But I would like to highly encourage and I will encourage our legislators to consider building bike paths that run along these same corridors and to really work very hard to make sure that bikes can get on whatever type of transit is ultimately put in place.

And having said that, I think it's essential that we have some type of rapid transit, whatever it is, that is the best economically noise-wise and is in the realm of possibility in considering having to buy property and neighborhood objections, not-in-my-backyard phenomena. Whatever they can do, I think it's essential that we do it because I don't want to see

O`ahu turned into one vast parking lot. That's not what I moved here for.

Oh, yes. Again, this is not related to the transit project, but certainly will be related to city and state regulations. And that is, I think there should be very high taxes on second automobiles once this is built. I think we should consider down the road a ban on certain types of automobiles on this island, including large trucks, except for commercial vehicles. I think there should be a ban on commercial vehicles within certain parts of the center of Honolulu and Waikiki, commercial traffic only, as they do in Europe.

And then I guess the last thing is I think the military should be approached and asked to pass regulations that limit the numbers of vehicles soldiers, sailors, airmen, and the marine corps are allowed to bring here as a part of their PCS move. That's all.

Melvin Uesato

I think the rail system would be good for us, take some traffic off. And I hope they're able to do all, what you call it, research or whatever that they have to do, and I hope they do it in a -- I want them to do it fast, not take till, like it says, to 2030. My hope is it's done earlier 'cause we need the relief right now, especially with 'Ewa Beach and Kapolei growing really fast.

Also, if they can right now, temporarily, try to put more express buses 'cause it does help in the morning and afternoon. I know during the day you really don't need all those buses because everyone's at work or at school. But that would be right now temporarily. Thank you.

Richard Mori

They shouldn't make it, what you call that, ground level systems because you getting 340 deaths every year in the U.S. from train wrecks that the cars have gone over. So it should be elevated all the way into town. I think they should put a magnet system where they said they can build it in three years and it's the same cost and you getting a higher speed,

less noise, and it's gonna be built faster.

And then the hub-and-spoke system for Kalaeloa should have the stations with free parking and security and then you can add stores or retail nearby and have all the buses come in, the circulators come in to drop the people off from all the bus stops and have the bus circulators running more frequently during rush hour. So the city has to plan now to order smaller buses for more frequent runs and the planning for the bus drivers 'cause you're not going get as much express bus drivers but more circulator drivers. So just using anticipated 5 percent usage of 300,000 people in Leeward and Central area, I'm guessing they should maybe plan for 5,000 people per hour during rush hour going from Kalaeloa into UH on that system.

And they also said there should also -- because they have the planning now from the studies that they've done in the next 25 years of 250,000 additional people in the Leeward and Central area -- they should make the stations also expandable to accommodate the anticipated growth.

They should also keep the number of stations down to a minimum to lower cost and increase the speed of the trains going into town. So the main, I guess, Kalaeloa parking and maintenance yard should be maybe about 50 acres in that corner, that north corner of Kalaeloa.

And about 2,000 parking spaces with provisions for kiss-and-rides and park-and-rides and security, retail. That's one stop. West O`ahu College, Stop No. 2. Renton Road and Fort Weaver, No. 3, the vacant lot. Leeward Community College. Aloha Stadium. Airport. Iwilei. Ala Moana. And UH. That's it.

Dick Porier

Basically, the problems with the project corridor, okay, the corridor does not show a spur and extension to Mililani. I think it must do that, not necessarily to have a rail system up there, but to have some kind of access to where the rail system is going to be. In order to do that, we've got to change the project definition and geographic demarcation 'cause otherwise it's gonna be planned as an afterthought like the last time. The last time we would go to Leeward college and nobody had any idea how people in Central O`ahu were gonna get down there.

And we gotta look at things, like a dedicated bus way from the area so the bus can bring the people down to the station in order they can catch everything. It's extremely important.

It's a matter of funding 'cause a lot of money is gonna go into the corridor and a lot of money we're gonna use is supposed to be island-wide widening, right? And so if we're a part of that, then more money can go into buses as well as rail, etc.

So the bottom line is we gotta plan that spur now. The planning for that spur should be included as part of the rail alignment. And the reason for this is that the City and County's planning policy on growth originally is supposed to go to 'Ewa. You know, Kapolei's the second city.

Then under the Harris administration, that changed. So now central O`ahu is just an important. Although they call it a community plan, it's not. It's a development plan. By the year 2030, there will be just as many people in Central O`ahu as in 'Ewa. So therefore, you gotta service them in terms of coming up with a transportation solution 'cause what was originally was supposed to be an urban or rural fringe area is gonna be a bona fide development area. That's it.

Senator Clarence Nishihara

I guess my comment would be on that alignment where it passes Leeward Community College, currently there is no secondary access road that goes along that area where I guess is

the dump storage area, which would be where, if you do the alignment and you need to do the rail system through that area, that having that secondary access road is of paramount importance. So in terms of, I guess, multimodal use of the area running through that area, that I think if this goes forward using the rail system, that that should be considered in its construction planning to build that second access road if it doesn't occur before then.

What don't they increase the accessibility to the area to the college and also what they need to do, do the repairs, or whatever else they need to do for the trains when they're running back and forth.

Something else about the system that we had. I notice that in the computerized visual rendition of it, they stop as you approach toward Pearl City where the twin towers are. You don't have anything further beyond that. So I'm not sure if it's because it cost more money to produce going forward into, like, town so they didn't go any further than that in terms of its production. But I thought that it would at least go on through to Pearl City and then maybe around the Pearl Harbor, I thought, at least a visual representation.

Also in the visuals that they have on the large charts, they essentially knock off about 2 to 4 miles off the route, because where it ends in Waipahu, it picks up again, you're already in town or along Nimitz, I think, Dillingham/Nimitz. So there's a huge section that's not in on the map and I'm not sure why they don't put it on. Maybe because they don't plan to do any stops along the way between those two areas, I don't know. But it doesn't show up. It's kind of conspicuously blank.

In some systems, like in Portland, I think you can ride the bus and the rail, or I think they use it interchangeably. But will that be the case where you have the hub-and-spoke system connected to the rail system? What's the integration between how they do the fares? What system they would use to determine how you get on or off? Would it be like a plastic card? Would it be like a paper ticket like you get on the bus?

And also to coordinate the buses so that when they arrive there at the station, it's within that period when the trains are gonna leave. So you wouldn't want guys to get there

to the station and find that they've gotta wait awhile because they missed the bus when they do the routing. But I'm sure that they gotta figure that out too, the routing.

The cost factors; I noticed on some of them, they include tunneling, some don't. So if cost is a factor and when they do the tunneling, then would they reroute through the area because the cost might be too high or the opposition to go aboveground might be too high? It might be a combination of both which also could affect the routing. But if the choice is between if you go with rail, one of the four choices, or is this gonna be a modification of somewhere of the four, a fifth choice would be made, according to this process, I'm not sure.

I think the last one, which has four options for rail, would be still rail. The other two are basically leave it alone, nothing. The other one was using buses. The other one is more high occupancy buses. If they go with more buses, that money that was -- well, the tax that was passed, the half a percent excise tax for the city to use, could they still use that if they did one exclusively working with buses? They said they could, but.

Because I know when the legislature did it, they were thinking more rail. I know they left it to the counties to decide. But with the, I guess, with the other counties, if they decide to pick up the half a percent, they had more latitude because of what they could do. I think they pretty much decided that the other counties couldn't do rail anyway. They'd have to do buses or something because of their tax collections for their automobiles.

But I think it was a great presentation and I think the turnout is pretty good considering the night what it is and the people generally here are interested about it. Looks like had a lot of ordinary citizens who are interested in it, not people who work for an agency or whatever. As the case, a lot of times you have these, you have a lot of, they either work for the one who's presenting it or they have some other interest that's related to that. So this is nice, I thought.

I think it's a good representation for the public.
But thank you.

Irvin Sugimoto

In a nutshell, my concern is that nobody has been able to give me any ideas as to the cost of any mass transit system. And there is so much -- you know, I mean, all of this is for naught if the cost is going to be so ridiculous that we can't afford it. But I think the first thing that we ought to do is try to figure out what this is gonna cost. They can't tell me all the lands they have to purchase and -- well, that's my concern.

The other concern I have is that it's just one linear line. They have proposals as to how it's going to feed off, but the bus system, they can't even get the bus system to function efficiently as it is right now. What makes them think that an expanded bus system to service this line is going to be successful?

Time savings. Unless you live directly on the line, I don't anticipate anybody being able to save time. I think that anybody who lives off the line, when they find out that they need to get into their car, whatever, and get down to the station, wait for the train or whatever system comes by, get off, and then they need to go another two miles to get to their workplace or destination and then reverse the process, will find that jumping in the car is going to be quicker than trying to make all the stops. I just don't see it as an efficient system. It's very limited in its usage.

People in Hawaii especially, our needs are just --. It's the population base also. I don't think it's big enough to make this. If we had a larger population base, I think that maybe it might be worth the dollars that's going to be spent. But the population base isn't large enough to justify the cost that's going to be involved.

Somebody needs to come up and start telling the public how much this is really going to cost. From all my conversations with all these people that I'd spoken to, nobody wants to make any educated guess. They're afraid to try to project anything, to try to project the cost. It's ridiculous. They need to address the issue. They need to address that issue.

I think that the best alternative is an elevated system that will service buses and automobiles, probably over

Kamehameha Highway, to alleviate the traffic over the existing H-1. And make it open; it should be at least a four-lane raised highway system rather than just two lanes as they propose. The cost of doing four lanes is probably not going to be that much more than doing two lanes. And if they build only two lanes, we all know that as soon as they're built, people are going to say why only two lanes. But I think an elevated system would allow people the use of their vehicles. It might be the best thing right now.

An inexpensive immediate solution to the congestion on H-1 along the Pearl City corridor is to do a contraflow lane on Kam. Highway because Nimitz Highway has proven to be, has just been so successful. I think we need to apply the same, just do the same thing to Kamehameha Highway and that will alleviate the bottlenecks that exist in H-1 right now.

But what I'm saying is that there are immediate solutions. We're into traffic every day. There are immediate solutions. They did that Nimitz Highway so quickly and so inexpensively, why can't they do Kam. Highway? And it's worked. It's worked tremendously. But that's an immediate solution. This thing is going to take decades. Decades. Okay.

Appendix F Scoping Telephone Comments

Anonymous

12-4-05

In the long run, it's going to cost a lot more than you think. Look at Seattle and some of these places that have had it, it's getting so expensive to keep it up that they're worried about what they're going to do. Don't look at now but also look at the future and how it's going to affect the people then.

Patricia Bruce

12-9-05

I am very much against the mass transit. I think it's a waste of money. The bus system is a tremendous thing. The local people don't want to ride it and I don't think they will ride the mass transit. They won't park their car and get out, they want their cars but if you need more transportation put a few more bus lines in. It would be a lot cheaper and a lot better and the buses are not in the way of the cars, it's the cars in the way of the buses.

Patti Bruce

12-13-05

I'm in complete support of the mono rail system which would pass through highly density populated areas like the malls where people could exit and board.

Michelle Campos

12-30-05

The rail should run in the middle of the H-1 Freeway and should be as quiet as possible.

Carolyn Crandall

12-4-05

You have 2 votes for the electronic express bus and managed lanes alternative.

Darryl Lambert

12-4-05

The train absolutely must come through Ewa Beach. People from Ewa Beach are taking the back roads to Kapolei because the Kapolei flows that much better. Currently, the most houses being built on the island are in Ewa Beach. Please focus on an Ewa Beach stop.

Barney Smith

12-4-05

I'd like to know about East Oahu. Are we going to have anything out in Hawaii Kai? That area needs a transportation system as well. Thank you.

M. Utleg

12-29-05

I am opposing it (rail/transit system) and am totally against having one in Hawaii because for number one, the reason would be of the monies spent should be used for better things like safety in the road meaning like there are lots of racing and a lot of accidents on the streets now so I don't know how this would solve it. It will probably be okay if it wasn't in such a small place like this but Hawaii is such a small place if you're comparing it to places that have transit systems like in the mainland or other countries. Also, the monies should be used on other things like building more drug rehab places to make a Hawaii a nice drug free place and very loving community instead of mass transit which won't really help everybody