

Honolulu On The Move

June 2007

An Update on the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Aloha! In our last newsletter (March 2007) we reported on the Honolulu City Council's selection of the First Project of the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project – as the fixed-guideway transit system from East Kapolei (at the planned University of Hawai'i West O'ahu) to Ala Moana Center. We also described the next steps required to begin project construction in 2009: the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Preliminary Engineering.

In April, the City completed the scoping process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the EIS. Scoping includes collecting public and agency input on the environmental process and is the first step in the preparation of the EIS. The information collected on the Fixed Guideway Alternative during the Alternatives Analysis process was presented at three public meetings. Input was requested on the project's purpose and need, the alternatives to be considered in the EIS, and the impacts to be evaluated.

The results of that process are contained in the NEPA Scoping Report, which is now available on our project website at www.honolulutransit.org. Over a hundred comments were received from the public, community and civic organizations, and government agencies. These comments covered the entire range of issues for which we solicited input, and also covered several topics unrelated to the EIS process. All of the comments received are summarized in the NEPA Scoping Report and are included as an appendix to the



report. Here is a summary of what you'll find in the report:

Purpose and Need

In response to comments related to the purpose of and need for the project received from members of the public and consulted agencies, the EIS will include three build

alternatives – a fixed guideway route directly serving Salt Lake, a fixed guideway route directly serving Salt Lake and the Honolulu International Airport, and a fixed guideway route directly serving the Honolulu International Airport.



Technology

Comments on transit technologies for the Fixed Guideway Alternatives were reviewed; however, no information was received that would eliminate one or more of the transit technologies currently under consideration.

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Environmental

Comments on the scope of the environmental analysis included concerns about several topics. Aesthetics and views were widely mentioned, including the effects of an elevated system, impacts on trees, and effects of advertising on the visual environment. Other concerns were raised about construction impacts and project phasing, noise impacts, right-of-way requirements and displacements, economic impacts, air quality, community connectivity, energy consumption and conservation options, emergency services and public safety, service to elderly and disadvantaged populations, natural resources, natural hazards, effects on land use and zoning, utility relocations, maintenance of traffic, and impacts to parks and recreational facilities. The identified topics of concern will all be evaluated in the EIS. Other issues of concern that were identified, but are not directly related to impacts on the environment, are the future financial and transportation performance of the system. The analysis will follow applicable U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines. Appropriate mitigation measures will be evaluated during preparation of the EIS.

We invite you to stay informed with accurate information by visiting the project's website and joining this newsletter mailing list at www.honolulutransit.org.



Saturday, July 14

8:30 a.m. - noon

Leeward Community College Theatre
96-045 Ala Ike • Pearl City

Join Mayor Mufi Hannemann at this kick-off conference for the City's Transit Program focusing on Community Participation in Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Expert speakers will be with us to share their experiences with TOD.

- What is Transit-Oriented Development?
- Portland's Experience with TOD
- Honolulu's TOD Program

The Transit project can have exciting impacts upon communities. Get an understanding of what TOD is, how it can enhance your quality of life, and what is needed to make it successful.

Learn how and why TODs create vibrant, livable communities - Get On Board!

RSVP by Friday, July 6 requested - Register today!
Waynette Tamashiro, Pacific Rim Concepts • phone 429-3313
email: PacificRimConceptsRegistrar@hawaiiintel.net



map and directions: www.honoluluapp.org

Department of Planning and Permitting