

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 HONOLULU, HI
 PERMIT NO. 1023



Paid for by the taxpayers of the City and County of Honolulu.



HONOLULU ON THE MOVE

JUNE 2011

THE HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT NEWSLETTER

HONOLULU ON THE MOVE

JUNE 2011



Contact Us

You can reach us by calling project information at 566-2299 or by submitting your comments to www.HonoluluTransit.org.

Call or email us if you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter or would like to be removed from our mailing list.

Meet The Transit Authority

The responsibility for the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of the rail project is about to shift on July 1 from the Rapid Transit Division of the City's Department of Transportation Services to a semi-autonomous Public Transit Authority that will be known as the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART).

HART will consist of a policy-making Board of Directors, an Executive Director and necessary staff.

O'ahu voters approved the creation of the transit authority during the 2010 general election.

Mayor Peter Carlisle has appointed three members to the board, and the city council has appointed another three.

Serving as board members on the authority will be mayoral appointees William "Buzzy" Hong, Don Horner and Carrie Okinaga. They'll be joined by the council appointees Keslie Hui, Damien Kim and Ivan Lui-Kwan.

APPOINTED BY MAYOR



Don Horner
 Chief Executive Officer,
 First Hawaiian Bank
 4-Year Term



William "Buzzy" Hong
 Former Executive Director,
 Building & Construction Trades Council
 3-Year Term



Carrie Okinaga
 Corporation Counsel,
 City & County of Honolulu
 (tenure ends on 6/20/11)
 5-Year Term

APPOINTED BY CITY COUNCIL



Keslie Hui
 Development Manager,
 Forest City Hawaii LLC
 4-Year Term



Damien Kim
 Business Manager,
 Financial Secretary
 International Brotherhood of
 Electrical Workers
 3-Year Term



Ivan Lui Kwan
 Director & Attorney,
 Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher
 5-Year Term

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS



Glenn Okimoto
 Director,
 State Department of Transportation



Wayne Yoshioka
 Director,
 City Department of Transportation Services



David Tanoue
 Director,
 City Department of Planning and Permitting
 (Non-voting member)

City Holds Transit Authority Orientation



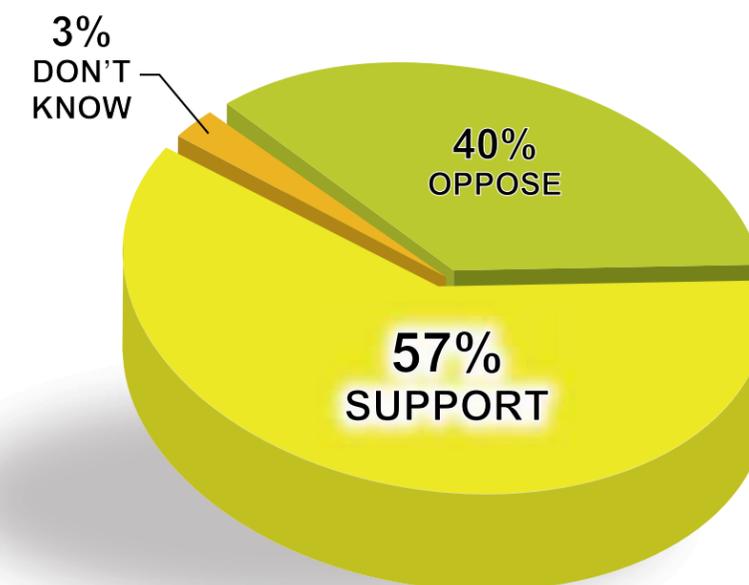
City Managing Director Doug Chin addresses the incoming HART Board members during its June orientation.

The new Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation's (HART) board of directors gathered in June for an orientation session as the board gears up to take the reins of the \$5.3-billion project.

The orientation was open to the public and was held at the Mission Memorial Annex conference room near Honolulu Hale. There were presentations conducted by the rail project's senior management team, which included updates on the project's contracts, financial plan, public involvement efforts and preparation for the board's first official meeting slated for July 1. That is the same date HART will assume oversight of the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of the rail project.

The transition comes in the midst of a disagreement between the City Council and the administration regarding oversight of the rail project's budget. The administration's position is that voters intended to place the money and

Study Shows Majority of O'ahu Residents Support Rail



OVERALL RAIL SUPPORT

A majority of O'ahu residents continue to support rail, citing the need to address traffic, the reliable transportation option that rail would offer and the project's economic benefits as key reasons for their support, according to a new scientific poll released in June.

Fifty-seven percent of residents polled said they support rail transit, while 40 percent opposed the project, according to the survey conducted by QMark Research for PB Americas, Inc., the project's general engineering consultant.

"Taking this snapshot in time is important as we prepare to transition to the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, and it provides useful information for the (HART) board of directors as its members prepare to make major decisions that will guide the rail project," said Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle.

The newly formed public transit authority was created through a city charter amendment approved by voters last November and will begin overseeing the rail project on July 1.

— continued on page 2

— continued on page 2

Tree Relocation Begins Along Farrington Highway

The City has begun the process of relocating trees that will be impacted by the Honolulu rail transit project. Work is currently underway along Farrington Highway in Waipahu, where an initial 50 trees in the project's first phase are being relocated to make way for construction of the elevated guideway.

"I think the tree mitigation plan is a very good plan. We've found homes for the trees. We've done our homework," says arborist Steve Nimz, who is supervising the tree removal.

Still, Nimz says, there are challenges that need to be overcome when conducting the tree relocation work.

"Our biggest challenge is the unknown depth and size of the utilities that are in the medial strip that haven't been documented," Nimz says.

"We need to be able to dig and excavate around a tree safely without any harm to any of the workers, and still get a large enough root ball that will survive."

Some of the initial trees in the project's first phase of the project are being transplanted along Nimitz Highway as part of a beautification project. Others are being relocated to other state roads near Keehi Lagoon and the H-1-Waikele Interchange. Still others are being kept at a nursery in Wahiawa and will be transplanted at a later date.

Approximately 700 street trees along the entire rail transit route are anticipated to be relocated, pruned or removed as part of the project. The City is coordinating much of the effort with the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation landscape architect since much of the rail route runs along state right-of-way. Relocation of all trees along the entire rail route will be done in phases to ensure adequate storage for the trees, if needed, during the transplanting process.

Once the City begins work on the rail stations, the community again will be asked for input regarding landscaping around the stations. Landscaping is also planned along the elevated guideway.

RAIL SUPPORT BY COUNCIL DISTRICT									
	District 1 Berg	District 2 Martin	District 3 Anderson	District 4 Chang	District 5 Kobayashi	District 6 Gabbard	District 7 Cachola	District 8 Harimoto	District 9 Garcia
Support	57%	55%	51%	55%	50%	62%	57%	68%	59%
Oppose	40%	43%	44%	41%	46%	39%	37%	30%	37%

Rail Transit Support Study

— continued from page 1

The poll surveyed 902 O'ahu residents, about 100 from each of the nine City Council districts, and found that rail supporters outnumbered opponents in all districts. Support ranged from a high of 68 percent in Councilman Breene Harimoto's District 8 (Aiea-Pearl City-Moanalua) to 50 percent support in District 5 (Kaimuki-Manoa-McCully-Kaka'ako-Ala Moana).

Opponents cited cost, the fact that rail will not service their area, a lack of ridership, and a preference for other transportation, such as the bus, as some of the top reasons for their opposition.

Among supporters, concerns over costs were also clear, with 31 percent of supporters saying they worry about the project's cost.

"Concerns over cost underscore the importance of bringing the project in on time and on budget," the mayor said.

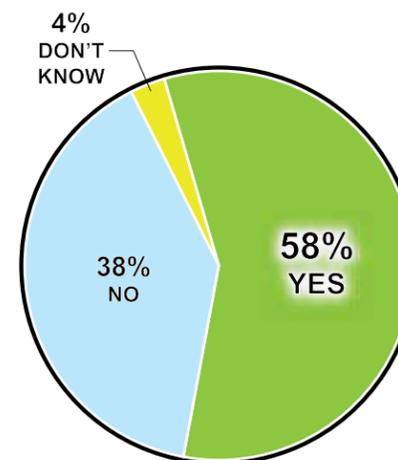
Other poll findings include:

- Fifty-eight percent feel that rail is a good investment in the future of O'ahu; 38 percent do not agree; and 4 percent had no opinion.

- Seventy percent agree that the rail project will bring jobs to O'ahu and improve our overall economy; 27 percent disagree; and 3 percent had no opinion.
- Support for rail transit is strongest among younger residents. In the 18-34 age group, 70 percent support the project and more than half of all supporters have lived outside Hawai'i at some point.
- More than half of those who oppose the project, 52 percent, cite cost as the major reason for their opposition. One in four opponents, 26 percent, say they oppose rail because they will not directly benefit from it, and another 25 percent say they believe ridership estimates are not high.
- The top three benefits of HART identified by respondents are the authority's single mission and focus of managing the rail system; the ability to prepare and manage its own budget separate and apart from the city budget; and the semi-autonomous authority's ability to make decisions faster.

The scientific poll was conducted May 9, 2011 through May 20, 2011 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.27 percent. The survey report can be viewed by visiting www.HonoluluTransit.org.

RAIL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR HONOLULU



Transit Authority June Orientation

— continued from page 1

control of the transit project in the hands of the semi-autonomous transit authority. The Council's position is that the Council should retain oversight over the project's budget to provide necessary checks and balances and greater accountability.

The transit authority, which was created through a charter amendment approved by voters last November, will be the policy-making arm of the project and will have oversight of the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of the rail project.



Rail Transit Project staffers from PB and Waipahu High School students paint mural.

PB Helps Sponsor Adopt-A-School Community Mural

Rail Transit Project staffers who work for Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) adopted Waipahu High School for Hawai'i Jaycees 3rd Annual Adopt-A-School Day project. They worked with students to stamp out graffiti in the Waipahu neighborhood by painting an urban community mural.

The mural is located across from the school along Farrington Highway. It incorporates artistic elements representing the nature and history of the community, the result of numerous brainstorming sessions held by students and professional artists. The goal is to beautify the surrounding neighborhood and provide an artistic entrance into and exit out of Waipahu.



A portion of the finished mural fronting Waipahu High School.

GOT QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the rail transit project that you would like to see addressed in our newsletter, e-mail them to info@HonoluluTransit.org or call our project hotline at 566-2299.

