

## Public Notice

Notice of Intent to Adopt a  
U.S. Department of Transportation Act Section 4(f)  
*de minimis* Finding for Impacts to  
Neal S. Blaisdell Park

### What is Being Planned?

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) is proposing a minor design modification to Kamehameha Highway along the frontage of the 26-acre Neal S. Blaisdell Park (at Ka'ahumanu Street) relating to the construction of the Honolulu Rail Transit Project guideway within the Kamehameha Highway median in this area. The median is required to be expanded five feet to accommodate the guideway columns, resulting in a shift of the roadway five feet towards the park. This design change occurs within the existing state highway right-of-way with the exception of three elements:

- (1) an existing bus shelter, that currently straddles the highway right-of-way and park boundary, would be reconstructed and shifted less than five feet further into the park, affecting 62 square feet of the park (between Kamehameha Highway and the park's parking lot)
- (2) four traffic and pedestrian signal poles that currently serve park access would be reconstructed inside the park on either side of the park entrance, affecting a total of 45 square feet of the park
- (3) rebuilt sidewalks along the highway right-of-way would be extended slightly into the park on either side of the entrance to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements at the entrance, affecting a total of 310 square feet of the park

A total of 417 square feet (0.0096 acre) of park land affected would be considered a *de minimis* impact under Section 4(f) Regulations.

Other modifications will occur within the existing state highway right-of-way, including the removal of trees and vegetation along the park frontage. Sidewalks will be rebuilt in the highway right-of-way except as noted above, and the park entrance area will be repaved, including within the park. Measures to minimize harm to the park include provision of replacement trees and vegetation within the park.

### Why This Public Notice?

As a publicly-owned recreation facility, the park is afforded protection under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. § 303). Section 4(f) of this legislation seeks to protect publicly owned parklands, recreation areas, waterfowl and wildlife refuges, and significant historic sites from impacts, or the "use" of these resources by U.S. Department of Transportation actions. Section 4(f) implementing regulations in 23 CFR 774.3 allow the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to make a *de minimis* finding for Section 4(f) impacts as long as the impact does not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities qualifying the property for protection under Section 4(f). Before making a *de minimis* finding, FTA requires public notice and opportunity for public review and comment on the finding. Written concurrence is also required from official(s) with jurisdiction over the resource. The City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation has jurisdiction over Neal S. Blaisdell Park and has concurred with the proposed changes and *de minimis* finding.

FINAL - October 25, 2013

**What is Available for Review?**

A summary memo regarding the proposed activities including demonstration that the proposed changes will have a *de minimis* impact on Neal S. Blaisdell Park is available for review at the following website and location: [www.honolulustransit.org](http://www.honolulustransit.org) and the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, 1099 Alakea Street, Suite 1700, Honolulu, HI.

Public comments on the Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding will be accepted until November 27, 2013. Responses or replies to the public comments may not be required, depending on the substantive nature of the comments; however all comments and responses will be considered and documented in the administrative record for the proposed project.

For more information about the project, please contact Faith Miyamoto, Deputy Director of Planning at HART at (808) 768-8350.