

February 6, 2009

Mr. Romy Cachola
Councilmember, District 7
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96813

Mr. Duke Beinum
Councilmember, District 5
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96813

Gentlemen:

We noted your recent votes against the change in alignment for the City's elevated transit system. We'd like you to be aware of **Personal Rapid Transit (PRT)** and its potential to meet Honolulu's needs. The most important argument to be made for a 24/7/365 elevated PRT system over light rail (LRT) is costs – our vendors can build systems and supply vehicles for about \$30 million/mile, *three to five times less than LRT* and likely even more given you're planning a fully elevated system.

Since funding today is a special challenge, we'd also emphasize that PRT is very amenable to **Public/Private Partnerships**. For example, as we've proposed here for the City of Anaheim and the Disney Resort, partial funding could be had from hotels who'll wish to build stations on the system, and lease or own private vehicles. Other investors might include big box retailers and housing complexes (e.g. apartments and condominiums) which increase revenues and property value by supporting in-building stations. This is also easily encouraged via tax incentives.

PRT is going to be much less visually impactful than the elevated double rail concrete configuration which LRT will require. However, please also don't assume, due to its small vehicles, that PRT lacks capacity. Vehicles can carry up to six people at headway intervals of four seconds or less. Most importantly, a PRT system would support hundreds of computerized vehicles that are best distributed in a network, rather than an inflexible linear alignment. This means your Districts could be served as well as the Airport and Naval Base -- especially since PRT costs will be far less than light rail. We'd strongly recommend that any ridership projections be computer modeled for LRT and PRT to prove and cost justify this argument.

You'll also be interested that the City of San Jose, California recently declared PRT as "ready for primetime" and is reviewing over a dozen proposals to link their International Airport with their nearby light rail, bus and future BART commuter rail station. Important to their plan is the participation of private sector employers and businesses which will add ridership and invest in the system.

Thank you for your review of this and our enclosed material. If a strong interest for PRT developed in Honolulu, we'd be happy to make a comprehensive presentation to your Council. We'll follow up by month end, and would be happy to answer any questions if you'd like to give us a call.

Best regards,

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