Based on the member responses from the recent mass transit survey (provide link), the AIA Honolulu Transit Task Force has proposed amending the chapter’s existing transportation public policy and position statement. As an AIA member, you are invited to review the proposed changes and encouraged to offer your comments and suggestions. You can view the proposed changes here (provide link). Please respond no later than 5:00pm Monday, August 18, 2008.

The proposed amendment expresses continued support for all mass transit solutions while bringing attention to four specific areas of concern:

- preservation of mauka-makai view corridors
- preservation of historic areas
- public heath and safety
- sustainability

It was felt that most members could share these common objectives particularly because these comprise many of our professional responsibilities to the public. Please let us know what you think. Please also note that the Primary Urban Center Development Plan (PUC DP) referenced in the statement is part of the City’s policy over the next 20 years to shape growth and development from Pearl City to Waialae-Kahala. The entire PUC DP can be viewed here (provide link).

Why should our transportation policy statement be amended at this time, and how will it be used?

- Mass transit has become an increasingly controversial issue for the community, and media coverage has expanded greatly. We anticipate that AIA Honolulu will soon be asked to weigh in, and it is important that our response reflect as much as possible the sentiments of the chapter membership. An updated public policy statement would provide our chapter leadership a foundation from which to respond intelligently to media requests.

- AIA Honolulu continues to encourage further constructive dialogue with the City on mass transit. Our goal is to promote the creation of a better city and a better future for residents. An updated policy statement would offer the chapter a means to reaffirm our support for mass transit while coherently and objectively highlighting our concerns as design professionals.

Following the one week review period by the membership, the Transit Task Force will make further amendments to the policy statement as necessary. The AIA Honolulu Board of Directors will then decide whether to adopt the proposed amendments as part of our public policy. We look forward to your feedback and thank you for your continued involvement!

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