



## PĀHOA TRANSIT HUB POP-UP EVENT SUMMARY

February 26, 2023, 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Maku'u Farmer's Market

### Event Description

The purpose of the pop-up event was to share information about the Pāhoa Transit Hub and Library project and gather community mana'o on the preferred sites and potential design features of the Transit Hub and Library. The pop-up was hosted at Maku'u Farmer's Market and was promoted via flyers, radio ads, press releases, and the project website.

The event was intended to capture people attending the farmer's market that may not otherwise have heard about the project, as the market attracts thousands of people within the Puna region and beyond. The project team set up a colorful display and engaged passers-by by handing out fact sheets, inviting comments, and answering questions. Attendees were invited to provide their input by filling out comment cards and placing post-it notes and sticky dots on the display boards. The fact sheet and display board posters are included in the appendices of this summary.

### Project Team Attendees

- SSFM: Melissa May, Jennifer Scheffel, Austen Drake, Dee Eppright, Genevieve Runningwind

### Pop-up Attendees

Hundreds of people stopped by the farmers market booth to look at the boards. Flyers and fact sheets were also distributed to the farmers market vendors.





## Display Board Comments

The Pop-Up event was set up to enable people to learn more about the the Pāhoā Transit Hub and Library project. For each site, attendees were asked to indicate their level of support for each site number by placing a sticker in one of three columns: thumbs-up, “neutral”, thumbs-down. Participants were also asked to indicate their top three features or services the future library could include using dot stickers. Comment cards and post its were also available for written comments. See Attachment A for pictures of policy station posters with dot voting results.

Handwritten comment cards and post its were submitted by meeting attendees and the following notes were transcribed verbatim below.

## Comment Card Comments

### 1.) Site Selection

- These sites are much better than the previous ones they were looking at that were far from the city center. (Heard about this event on Facebook)
- Prefer existing huts near HS - used as gathering place for lava evacuees. Current sites are now too congested with traffic vacant. The roundabout already breaks up when there is an accident.
- Would prefer site across highway next to loop (see yellow dot)

## Post Its Comments

### 1.) Site Selection

#### *Dot Voting*

Top Three Sites	Thumbs up	Neutral	Thumbs Down
Site #2	5	-	1
Site #8	2	-	
Site #8	1	-	

#### *Comments*

- Revitalize Pahoā Marketplace
- #2 good connection between old & new shopping centers should be a road to connect
- #2 concerned about congestion around roundabout





- Run Hilo-Pahoa Bus every 30 minutes to get more rides
- Bus Shelters should be prioritized based on inclement weather
- Alternate site (land for sale) 8 + acres (need dot)
- Security-being adjacent to a business area with 24-hour security for added peace of mind
- Needs to be on major highways not in town
- Would like bus route from Leilani to Pahoa High School
- Site #2 and #8 are bigger - one of these two
- Combine site 8,9?
- Site #9 #8 good to connect new and old town

## 2. Design Features

### *Dot Voting*

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Expanded physical collection	1
Technology, digital resources and high-speed wi-fi	2
Community meeting spaces	1
Library program spaces	-
Reading areas	2
Information and self-checkout areas	2

### *Comments*

- Whole property should have internet. - Use library card to access internet for security
- Would use the library if it was accessible & close to destination
- Phone charging
- Kona airport bus connection
- Bulletin board to post library events
- Morgan Hill (CA) public library for inspiration
- Like bike share but not sure how it would work in Pahoa
- Lockable bike rack would be good





## Pāhoā Transit Hub and Library

- Would ride bus if they had a better system
- Would be great not to have to go to Hilo to go to the library!
- Like secure bike parking
- Current library often not open
- Use smaller buses to go through neighborhoods. Stage them @ transit hub
- Elderly day care no need playground since big park in Pahoā
- Book scanning system ScannX
- Need earlier bus route from Pahoā to Hilo to catch flights
- Parking important at library - challenging to park all through Pahoā town
- "Library of things" tools, equipment
- Richard Solie - landowner (need dot) (referred by Claude)








# Pāhoa Transit Hub and Library





# Pāhoā Transit Hub and Library

## Attachment A: Site Dot Voting Results

Top Three Sites	Pros & Cons		What do you think of the sites?
<p><b>Site #2</b> (Parcel Size: 9.572 acres, Ownership: Private Owned)</p> 	<p><b>PROS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Large parcel with good shape; 2) Location provides a gateway opportunity for Pāhoā; 3) Bus access can be placed away from high pedestrian traffic areas; 4) Adjacent to the more pedestrian-oriented side of Puna Kai Shopping Center; 5) Opportunities to enhance walkability, connectivity and pedestrian safety along Kahakai Blvd and Pāhoā Village Rd frontages; 6) Opportunities to create pedestrian friendly environment from Puna Kai Shopping Center to the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>CONS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) No existing raised sidewalk;</li> <li>2) Existing traffic signal could be point of congestion for bus access.</li> </ol>	<p>Thumbs up, Neutral, Thumbs down</p> <p>Site #2 and #8 are larger - one of the better</p>
<p><b>Site #8</b> (Parcel Size: 10 acres, Ownership: Private Owned)</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Large parcel with good shape;</li> <li>2) Slightly separated from congested Puna Kai Shopping Center area which might be easier for bus access;</li> <li>3) Good street frontage;</li> <li>4) A single parcel with relatively low land costs.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) No existing raised sidewalk and limited asphalt shoulder space outside of property frontage;</li> <li>2) Site will need to be cleared;</li> <li>3) Adjacent to fewer pedestrian-oriented uses.</li> </ol>	<p>Combine site 8 &amp; 7?</p>
<p><b>Site #9</b> (Parcel Size: 5.641 acres, Ownership: Private Owned)</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Good parcel size;</li> <li>2) Located at the corner site of Keeau-Pāhoā Rd and Apaa St, close to commercial points of interest and separated from the congested Puna Kai Shopping Center area;</li> <li>3) Good street frontage.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Parcel size just meets basic minimum footprint with no room for potential expansion;</li> <li>2) No existing raised sidewalk;</li> <li>3) Adjacent to single-family development with less pedestrian oriented;</li> <li>4) Potential increase in acquisition costs due to existing structures on site.</li> </ol>	<p>Site #9 good to connect new and old town</p>





# Pāhoā Transit Hub and Library



## Project Overview

The County of Hawai'i Transit and Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan (Master Plan) was completed in August 2018. One of the goals of the Master Plan was to "Create transportation hubs and bus stops with amenities that provide rider comfort and safety and that help support community and village gathering places." To implement this goal, the County of Hawai'i Planning Department and Mass Transit Agency (the Department and MTA) are initiating the planning phase of a Transit Hub in the Pāhoā region.

In addition, the County entered into discussions with the Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) regarding co-location of the transit hub with a new State library. HSPLS intends to construct a new library in the Pāhoā region and desires to support the County's Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD) initiatives and explore the possibility of co-locating the library with the future transit center. Co-location of these key public services will enhance the ability of both facilities to serve the Pāhoā community and advance TOD principles.

Read the County's Transit and Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan here



<http://hawaii.gov/transportation-master-plan>

## How to Get Involved



For more information and to sign up for the project mailing list, please scan the QR code below and visit the project website:



<http://pahoatransithub.info>



Drop by an upcoming pop-up event!

February 26, 2023  
7:00 AM-12:00 PM

Maku'u Farmers Market

15-2131  
Kea'au-Pāhoā Rd.  
Pāhoā, Hawai'i 96778



Participate in in-person community meetings

Community Meeting 1  
March 1, 2023  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Pāhoā Neighborhood Facility  
15-0322 Kauhale Street  
Pāhoā, HI 96778

Community Meeting 2

Location: TBD  
Summer 2023  
Details to be announced



A display with information about the project and ways to provide comments will also be available at Pāhoā Public Library.

## Previous Efforts on Transit Hub Site Selection

- MTA initiated public outreach in 2019 along with initial identification of locations for consideration of a transit hub.
  - A community meeting was held in March 2019, where four possible locations were proposed, along with parcel ownership, address tax map key (TMK), size (in acres), and zoning.
  - A second community meeting was held in July 2019, where two additional sites were added by the Department.
  - A seventh location was added after research results were presented, and site advantages/disadvantages were discussed by attendees.
- After the public outreach, the Department and MTA added additional locations and ranked 13 potential sites based on the criteria previously identified. Of the 13, three were removed from consideration.
- Site suitability analysis of the remaining ten sites was conducted, resulting in three preferred sites.
- \$100,000 in State Transit-oriented Development Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Planning funds were awarded to support the planning study.

Community input is currently being sought on three sites.

## Previous Efforts on Pāhoā Public Library Site Selection

- The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) consultant, G70, completed an Environmental Assessment for the Pāhoā Public Library Site Selection in September 2021, with a Finding of No Significant Impact.
  - The document identified six State-owned and County-owned sites in Pāhoā.
  - The identified sites were not satisfactory for HSPLS to proceed with the design phase.
  - HSPLS has begun coordinating with State/County TOD efforts to explore the possible co-location of the library with the transit hub.
- HSPLS/DAGS contributed \$350,000 in HSPLS CIP funds to support the planning study for the co-located library.

## Project Schedule



John Andoh, Administrator and General Manager  
County of Hawai'i Mass Transit Agency  
Phone: (808) 961-8555  
Email: john.andoh@hawaiicounty.gov



Stacey Aldrich, State Librarian  
Hawaii State Public Library System  
Email: stlib@librarieshawaii.org



Melissa May, Outreach Lead  
SSFM International  
Phone: (808) 628-5861  
Email: mmay@ssfm.com



If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation to attend a meeting due to a disability, contact Melissa May at (808) 628-5861 as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible will allow adequate time to fulfill your request.



# Pāhoā Transit Hub and Library

## Pāhoā Transit Hub and Library

### Design Features

Below is a conceptual drawing of what the transit hub and library could look like, and the design features that it could include. The design will be customized to fit the final preferred site.



- Legend**
1. Transit Center
  2. Bus Loop/Bay
  3. Pāhoā Library
  4. Potential Community Uses
    - Pavilion
    - Cultural Space
    - Day Care
    - Playground
    - Community Garden
    - Goodwill Dropbox
  5. Parking/Park & Ride
  6. Sidewalk
  7. Bicycle Parking
  8. Bike Share Station
- Vehicle/Pedestrian/  
Bicycle Access:

*Handwritten note on pink sticky note:*  
 Parking important as library - challenge with parking - transit hub

What other features you would like to see in the Future Transit Hub and Library? Please use a sticky note to record your idea and add it to the board.

PLACE STICKY NOTES HERE

- Sticky note 1:* Bike Share bike parking
- Sticky note 2:* Current library open midday
- Sticky note 3:* Use smaller buses to go through neighborhoods sign this as transit hub
- Sticky note 4:* Biking Bay lanes No car/pedestrian lanes near bike park in future
- Sticky note 5:* Front to Back Scanning System ScanX
- Sticky note 6:* Would be great next to Lane drop to take to the library!
- Sticky note 7:* Would use the library if it was accessible closer to destination
- Sticky note 8:* Would like bus + they had a better system
- Sticky note 9:* Increase bike rack would be good
- Sticky note 10:* Bus bike share look into more use of shared assets in station
- Sticky note 11:* Air purifier connection
- Sticky note 12:* Bike charging
- Sticky note 13:* While property could have internet - low looking could be a common resource for community
- Sticky note 14:* Bulletin board to post library events (can Magn Hill Public Library be inspiration)

Below is a future library dot stickers to think

Features/Photos Expanded physical co



Technology, digital res



Community meeting spa



Library program spaces



Reading areas



Information and self-checkou





# Pāhoa Transit Hub and Library





# Pāhoā Transit Hub and Library

Below is a list of features or services the future library could include. Please use dot stickers to select the three features you think are most important.

**Features/Photos**

- Expanded physical collection
  - VOTE HERE** (Yellow sticker: Library of Things, Tools, equipment)
- Technology, digital resources and high-speed Wi-Fi
  - VOTE HERE**
- Community meeting spaces
  - VOTE HERE**
- Library program spaces
  - VOTE HERE**
- Reading areas
  - VOTE HERE**
- Information and self-checkout areas
  - VOTE HERE**

*Other visible text on the board:*  
 Features that it could...  
 Center  
 Loop/Bay  
 Library  
 Mental Community  
 Wilson  
 Natural Space  
 by Care  
 Playground  
 Community Garden  
 Foodwall Dropbox  
 Pedestrian/  
 Access  
 Parking/Park & Ride  
 Sidewalk  
 Bicycle Parking  
 Bike Share Station

*Handwritten notes on the board:*  
 - Pink: "Please include... at library... building... park... Hawaii..."  
 - Yellow: "I would like... make it have... include... library!"  
 - Purple: "I would like... include... of... information..."

...nary) was completed. One of the goals of the Master Plan was to:

**“Create transportation hubs and bus stops with amenities that provide rider comfort and safety and that help support community and village gathering places.”**

Read the County's Transit and Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan here



## What's Been Done So Far

To implement this goal, the County of Hawai'i Planning Department and Mass Transit Agency (the County and MTA) are initiating the planning phase of a Transit Hub in the Pāhoā region. MTA launched public outreach in 2019 along with initial identification of locations for the transit hub.

Two community meetings were held in March and July 2019, where 13 possible locations were proposed and ranked. Of the 13, three sites were removed from consideration. This project conducted site suitability analysis of the remaining 10 sites and is currently seeking community input on the top 3 sites.

In addition, the County entered into discussions with the Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) regarding co-location of the transit hub with a new State library. HSPLS intends to construct a new library in the Pāhoā region.

Co-location of these key public services will enhance the ability of both facilities to serve the Pāhoā community and advance Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) principles. This project has received \$100,000 from State TOD Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Planning funds and \$350,000 from HSPLS CIP funds to support the planning study for the transit hub and co-located library.

Visit the project website to learn more about the site selection process and provide your input.



*Handwritten note:* "I'd earlier... bus route... station... to... web... projects"

**Top 3**

*Handwritten note:* "Review the... Pāhoā... site..."

**Site #2**  
 TMK 1-5-007-00  
 Parcel Size: 9.2  
 Zoning: A-1a  
 Ownership: Priv

**Site #8**  
 TMK 1-5-007-005  
 Parcel Size: 10 ac  
 Zoning: A-1a  
 Ownership: Priv

**Site #9**  
 TMK 1-5-007-07  
 1-5-007-08  
 1-5-007-08  
 1-5-007-08

*Handwritten note:* "I'd... Concern... about... around... (around...)"

**Top Three**

**Site #2 (Parcel Size: 9.2)**

**Site #8 (Parcel Size: 10)**

**Site #9 (Parcel Size: 5.64)**