



PĀHOA TRANSIT HUB COMMUNITY MEETING #1 SUMMARY

March 1, 2023, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Pāhoa Neighborhood Facility

Event Description

The purpose of the community meeting was to present information and findings about the Pāhoa Transit Hub and Library project. Among shared topics included project and outreach efforts to date, site suitability analyses and layout features. Another purpose of the community meeting was to gather community mana’o on the preferred sites and potential design features of the Transit Hub and Library. The meeting was hosted at the Pāhoa Neighborhood Facility and intended for neighboring residents and community stakeholders.

Attendees received copies of the agenda, presentation print outs, a project fact sheet, and instructions for Mentimeter. The project team shared a presentation, received questions and mana’o from the attendees and answered inquiries. The handouts and presentation slides are included in the appendices of this summary.

Community Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Team Introductions
- Presentation
 - Project Overview and Schedule
 - Site Selection
 - Polling and Discussion
 - Design Features
 - Polling and Discussion
- Q&A Discussion Session
- Wrap up and Next Steps





Project Team Attendees

- Hele-On: John Andoh
- Hawai'i State Public Library System: Mallory Fujitani, Kathryn Tipton
- SSFM: Austen Drake, Melissa May, Jennifer Scheffel, Genevieve Runningwind, Melanie Cussac

Community Meeting Attendees

Attendees of the meeting were asked to sign in. The attendees are listed below.

1. Kathy Tilton
2. Gaila Vidunas
3. Jon Olson
4. Bill Tilton
5. Terence Scanlan
6. M. Baj
7. Kapohokealoha Miller
8. Steve Sparks
9. Kevin Kushez
10. Ben Ruco
11. Bob Veetch
12. Quinn Wellone
13. Amedeo Markoff
14. Eddie Cardines
15. Andrea Rosanoff
16. Anne Kamau
17. Cindy Horwitz
18. Nakia
19. Michael Brestovsky
20. Hannah Hedrick
21. Jill Raznov
22. David Chan
23. Michael McGuire
24. Bo Breda
25. Michelle Farrar
26. Sam Carlos
27. Pete Wilson



Presentation

A copy of the presentation given at the meeting is appended to this summary. Attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Project Team about the project and provide their input through discussion and written comment cards. The project team also gathered input using Mentimeter polling. The polling results are included in the appendices of this summary.

During the discussion, comments were recorded on chart paper in the front of the room. Handwritten comment cards and chart comments were submitted by meeting attendees and the following notes were transcribed below.

Comment Cards

- Definitely bullet trains. I understand this is a volcano but things can be figured out if not trains more lane roads. Also conservation of energy tapping into free energy.
- I feel like it is working backwards to continue to fund a bus system. It would be better if big Island has a train system. Hawaii needs to be updated.
- It seems like site #2 is great. I think a way up from lower/downtown Puna would also be great as others have said. More tables/sitting areas for adults in the library especially w/ outdoor wifi/charges would be nice so we can do business calls/meetings. Or private meeting rooms in the library.
- Any roundabout should be a much larger diameter and a minimum of 2 lanes.

Discussion Comments

Key: Questions (Q), Answers from Project Team (A), Comments (C).

- **Q:** Were any sites considered outside Pahoā?
 - **A:** Looked at sites as far north as the police station; as far south as the elementary school. The bus routes already go to Pāhoa so didn't want to put it too far outside town and adjust the routes.
 - **A:** Library looked at sites near Ainaloa, now partnering with transit will make it easier to get to the library.
- **C:** Preference for site 13
- **Q:** If choose the site near Puna Kai, can sidewalks be extended to at least to the post office?
 - **A:** The project can improve the sidewalks along the street frontage of the site, but not necessarily beyond that. The roads through Pāhoa town are narrow in some places, making expansion of sidewalks and other features challenging.
- **C:** Important to be able to walk/bike from old Pahoā to newer area
- **C:** Site 8 is Lava Zone 3. Opportunity for federal funding.





Pāhoa Transit Hub and Library

- **C:** Opportunity to connect to Ainaloa
- **C:** Need to connect w/upper Puna and Need inter-subdivision connectivity
 - **A:** In summer 2023 van service will be provided through Hele-On to service the subdivisions
- **C:** Interested in library being accessible and safe for kids & adults
- **C:** Library should be 100% solar & have fully functional wifi system
- **C:** Site 2 is only site that keeps big buses out of town
- **C:** Site 2 connects Puna Kai to Ace shopping center
- **C:** Need roundabout @ Kahakai/Bypass Rd.
- **C:** Site 2 only one w/infrastructure
- **C:** Land behind sites is state land. Provides opportunity for future connectivity/development.
- **C:** Congestion is a concern for the area
 - **A:** Traffic impacts will be looked at in the EA.
- **C:** Prefer to site it at the corner of Kahakai/Bypass Rd. Currently being leased
- **Q:** Who prefers Site 2? (show of hands) - Majority of attendees raised hands
- **Q:** Any consideration for shuttle from hub to downtown?
 - **A:** Yes, the idea is that the transit hub will have “spokes” with service provided to Downtown and other areas
- **C:** Lava hazard zone impacts ability to get federal funds
- **C:** Pahoia needs community auditorium
 - **A:** There are plans for one in Pāhoa as part of another project
- **C:** Security is necessary so that homeless don't take over the hub and scare people off - recommend police substation
- **C:** Day care would be OK as long as there is appropriate security
- **C:** Make it look like Pahoia, not Puna Kai
 - **C:** Pahoia has Design Review Guidelines, Puna Kai actually followed them, they are just newer buildings
- **C:** Top 3 Design features: Bike storage, garden, playground
- **C:** Puna needs gathering places, places for events, to see art, come together
- **C:** Library should have a kids program space
- **C:** What is sq.ft of proposed library?
 - **A:** To be determined depending on the site selected. Conceptual planning phase will have more details.
- **C:** Outdoor grassy concert space w/stage like Waikiki Shell for live events is planned in Phase II of Park expansion
- **C:** Library reading area should have comfy chairs/couches





Pāhoa Transit Hub and Library

- C: All the listed design features should be included
- C: Like the atrium at Hilo Library. It's open and light and inviting
- C: Location is important to prevent criminal element - Site 2 ideal
- C: Balance between connectivity & surveillance
- C: If able to park and ride would take bus to Hilo
- C: Need more frequent bus service





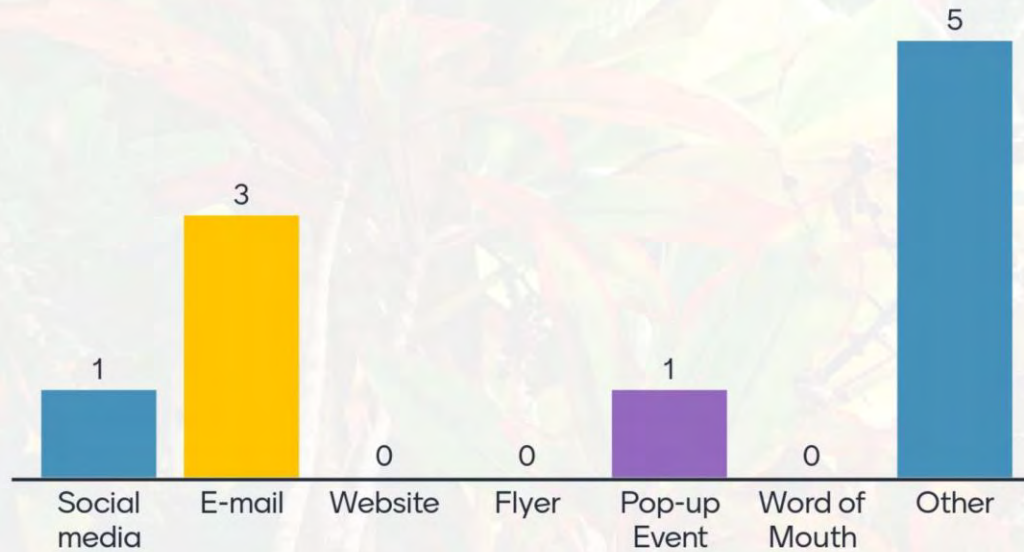
Mentimeter Results

During the meeting, attendees were invited to provide their input via Mentimeter, an online polling app. The results are shown below:





How did you hear about today's meeting?





Do you have other suggestions for getting the word out to the Puna community?

Call me and let me know	Mass text	Fliers
Mass text or tweet	Fliers and commercials	Commercials and fliers
Big Island Thieves Facebook page	Community outreach meetings	1. Communicate with Puna bus users by putting information on buses and at bus stops and communicating through Hele-On info line. Have the events during Puna bus times (Mtn View stops around 5 pm)

Do you have other suggestions for getting the word out to the Puna community?

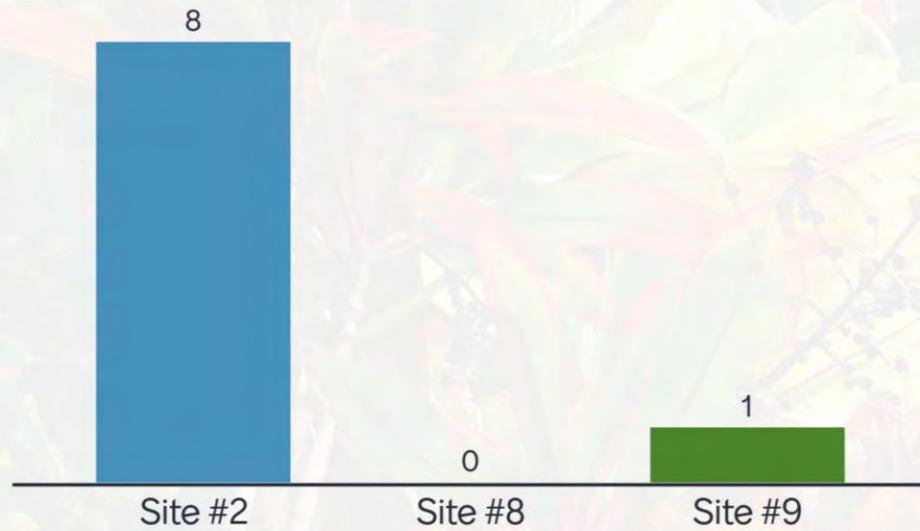
Hl Tribune Herald newspaper	2. Puna Strong Newsletter	3. Fliers at community boards at Puna laundrymats, Island Naturals, Ke'au Naturals etc and various churches, as well as Neighborhood Community Centers. There are approx 30 community boards. Directly contact some on Soc Media.
Call aunties	Newspaper	Newspaper
Fliers at businesses		

- Call me and let me know
- Mass text
- Fliers
- Mas text or tweet
- Flyers and commercials
- Commercials and flyers
- Big Island Thieves Facebook page
- Community outreach meetings
- Communicate with Puna bus users by putting information on buses and at bus stops and communicating through Hele-On info line. Have the events during Puna bus times (Mtn View stops around 5pm
- Tribune Herald newspaper
- Puna Strong newsletter
- Flyers at community boards at Puna laundromats, Island Naturals, etc. various churches as well as Neighborhood Community Centers. There are approx. 30 community boards. Directly contact some on social media.
- Call aunties
- Newspaper
- Newspaper
- Flyers at business



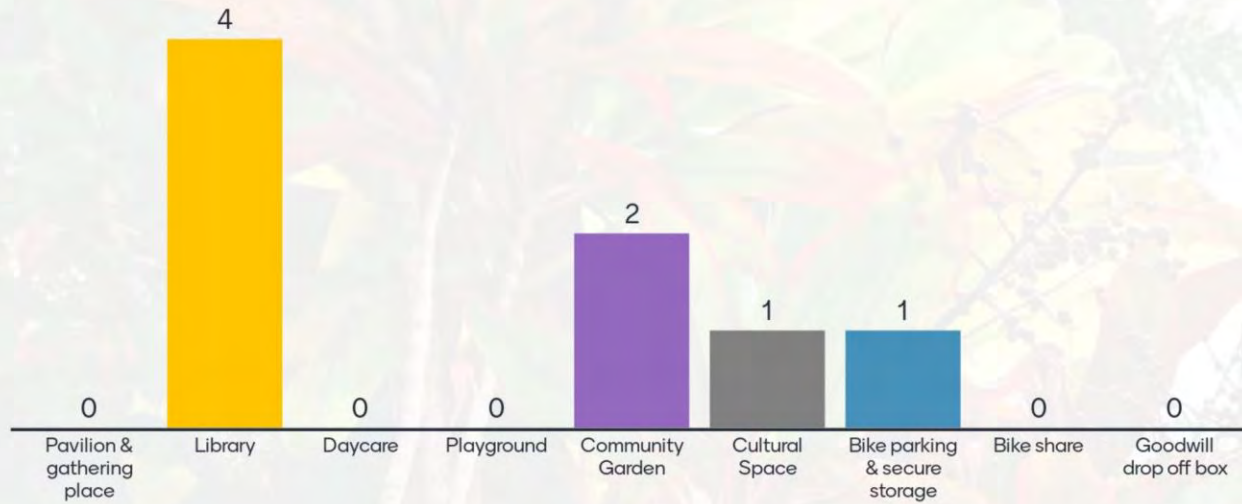


Of the top three sites, which do you prefer?





Which of the following features or services would motivate you to use the transit hub? Select your top 3.





What other features would you like to see in the future transit hub?

Train

I would like to see a train on the Big Island. Having a train would cut time and traffic in half. Its the update Hawai'i needs.

1 Security during all scheduled times2. Security cameras3. Substantial dry areas with roofing and sidewalks ample enough for Social Distancing4. Phone charging including wireless5. Rain poncho, umbrella and cord vending machine

Restrooms, Wi-Fi, sidewalk outlets/charge ports, art

4. Schedules posted5. Direct phone to emergency services (Kea'au PD's is broken, for example)6. water fountain

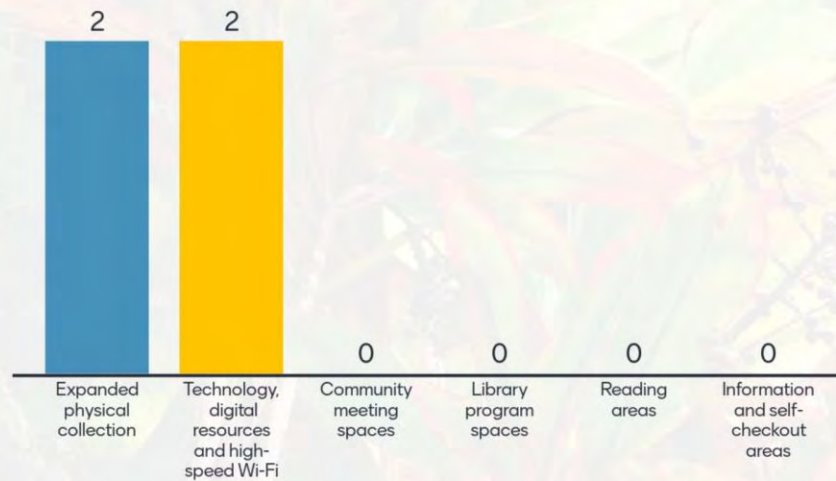
Grocery shoppingDrugs storeMedical officesPost officeCommunity auditorium

- Train
- I would like to see a train on the Big Island. Having a train would cut time and traffic in half. It's the update Hawai'i needs.
- Security during all schedules times;
- Security cameras;
- Substantial dry areas with roofing and sidewalks ample enough for Social Distancing;
- Phone charging including wireless;
- Rain poncho, umbrella and cord vending machine
- Restrooms, wi-fi, sidewalk, outlets/charge ports, art
- Schedules posted; direct phone to emergency services (Kea'au PD's is broken); water fountain
- Grocery shopping; drug store; Medical offices; Post office; Community auditorium





Which of the following features or services would motivate you to use the library? Select your top 3.





What other features would you like to see in the future library?

1. Phone, laptop and ebike charging — the angels in Mountain View Library and Hilo library allows phone and laptop charging, it's often safer to use your own equipment. 2. Academic e-books. 3. Nap pods (dreaming).

4. Dry place outside to sit and snack, for when you're doing long work online. 5. Train librarians to help patrons to access the state tax site and other government programs. 6. Privacy nooks for the "well-behaved". 7. Therapy dogs.

Your previous screen asked for top 3 but only one was possible with the software.

- Phone, laptop and ebike charging — the angels in Mountain View Library and Hilo library allows phone and laptop charging, it's often safer to use your own equipment
- Academic e-books
- Nap pods (dreaming)
- Dry place outside to sit and snack, for when you're doing long work online
- Train librarians to help patrons to access the state tax site and other government programs.
- Privacy nooks for the "well-behaved" :)
- Therapy dogs

