

Testimony of Cliff Slater, Chair of HONOLULUTRAFFIC.COM, given on Friday, February 15, 2008, to the Evaluation and Selection Panel for the Fixed Guideway Technology.

Chair Tober, members of the panel, I am testifying on behalf of the over-400 members of HONOLULUTRAFFIC.COM.<sup>1</sup>

Nowhere in the Alternatives Analysis,<sup>2</sup> Council Bill 06-79 establishing the LPA,<sup>3</sup> or Council Resolutions 07-039 defining the MOS,<sup>4</sup> and 07-376 establishing the expert panel,<sup>5</sup> is there any mention of the Fixed-Guideway Alternative being elevated, or at-grade, or grade-separated. In fact, the only reference to elevated or grade-separated in any of the relevant documents is when the Alternatives Analysis defines the Managed Lanes Alternative (p. 2-3).

Since all these documents are silent on the issue of grade-separation for the Fixed Guideway, but not the Managed Lanes Alternative, it is obvious that whether the Fixed Guideway is to be partially or completely grade-separated, or even elevated, has yet to be decided.

As you all know, Fixed-Guideway can mean as little as a single lane in a road that is only partially exclusive to the buses running on it as, for example, Honolulu's now defunct In-Town BRT program. As the FTA's Ray Sukys explained Fixed Guideways in a deposition given during our lawsuit against the City and FTA in 2003, "We have allowed semi-exclusive lanes, peak period semi-exclusive lanes, and so it has reached that range of variability."<sup>6</sup>

Therefore, there is nothing to preclude a fixed guideway for buses that comes elevated to the edge of Downtown and then follows the designated alignment at-grade in semi-exclusive lanes to the University of Hawaii.

Such a plan would assuage the current opposition to an elevated Fixed Guideway through Honolulu shown by members of the Hawaii chapters of the American Planning Association, and the American Institute of Architects, together with the Outdoor Circle, ourselves, and the League of Women Voters.

Thank you.

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**Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.honolulutraffic.com/whoweare.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.honolulutraffic.com/AAD.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.honolulutraffic.com/Bill79Final.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.honolulutraffic.com/Reso\\_07-039.pdf](http://www.honolulutraffic.com/Reso_07-039.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.honolulutraffic.com/Reso\\_07-376.pdf](http://www.honolulutraffic.com/Reso_07-376.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.honolulutraffic.com/Sukysdepos.pdf>