

CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

ERNEST Y. MARTIN
CHAIR EMERITUS
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 2
TELEPHONE: (808)768-5002
FAX: (808) 768-1222
EMAIL: emartin@honolulu.gov

September 27, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TO: Council Administrative Services

FROM: Chair Emeritus Ernest Y. Martin

RE: Railvolution: Building Livable Communities with Transit
September 17-20, 2017

Attached is my report from my attendance at Railvolution in Denver, Colorado that focused on transit oriented development and projects that have transformed cities.

If you have questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to call me directly.

2017 RAILVOLUTION CONFERENCE

The following are my notes and observations from the Railvolution Conference that was held in Denver, Colorado from September 16-21.

September 16th:

Activity: Walking Tour of Union Station

While the conference official activities did not begin until September 17th, a number of pre-conference activities was available for the attendees. One of these activities was a self-guided tour of the downtown Denver corridor and specifically, Union Station, the signature transit station in Downtown Denver. Through the expansion of the transit system, Denver has undergone a dramatic revitalization in many communities that were previously deemed of limited development potential. With the investment of public funds in the revitalization of the Union Station, private investment has dramatically altered the landscape of downtown Denver which continues through this day and beyond. The Union Station project is a prime example of the potential for Public-Private Partnership (“P3”) through rail and a model that Honolulu would be best served to emulate.

September 17th:

Activity: Walking Tour of the Golden Triangle Neighborhood

The Golden Triangle Neighborhood is a mix of arts, culture and history for the State of Colorado. Of significance is the location of the State Capitol, City Hall and Judiciary (i.e. “Golden Triangle”) within the downtown Denver urban core that all interconnected by a expansive mall that also includes urban gardens managed by homeless service providers.

Activity: Opening Reception

Served as the official opening of the 2017 Railvolution Conference. Attended the reception with Jennifer Sabas of Move Oahu Forward and Terrence Lee, Vice-Chair of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (“HART”).

September 18th:

Activity: Opening Plenary

An overview of the development of transit from 2000-2017 for the City and County of Denver was provided by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, Christine Marquez-Hudson, President/CEO of The Denver Foundation, David Genova, General Manager/CEO for the Regional Transportation District, and Mizriam Cordero, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Denver Chamber of Commerce. Panelists discussed the expansion of system, to include both public and private investments, tangible benefits and contrastingly, adverse effects of its rapid expansion.

Earl Blumenauer, U.S. Congressman, 3rd District, provided an analysis and commentary on the current state of affairs for transportation, health care, budget and immigration from the federal perspective.

Activity: Signature Stations as Economic Drivers: The G Line (Mobile Tour)

Site visit of the G Line that leads to Olde Town Arvada. Presentation included \$227 million in transit-oriented development projects to include a multi-level transit hub, 780 new homes and a hotel development. Presenters described the diversity of funding investments, both public and private, in the development of a walkable town center in Arvada.

Activity: Pittsburgh’s Ecoinnovation District: Helping Residents Shape Outcomes (Workshop)

Workshop focused on the development of the Ecoinnovation District Plan, a resident-based approach that lead to the creation of a bus rapid transit line that connected Pittsburgh’s two largest economic centers.

Prior to the creation of the plan, Uptown residents were faced with an economic uncertainty of disinvestment. This “bottom’s-up” approach allowed residents to shape overall outcomes and strategies which culminated with zoning and parking guidelines for future development.

September 19th: Headwinds or Tailwinds? Riding Research into the Future (Plenary)

Activity: General presentation by John Martin, President and CEO of the Southeastern Institute of Research, Inc. on the role that transit will play in building livable communities, both presently and in the immediate future. Presentation include current policy development and funding opportunities as well as the viability and likelihood private investments and partnerships.

Activity: Bringing Permanently Affordable Rental Housing to TODs (Mobile Tour)

Site visit of transit oriented development projects along the West and Southwest rail line stations in Denver which includes over 200 permanently affordable rental units to date. Also toured a 5 level park and ride facility that will be cornerstone for the development of additional affordable rental units. Denver has established a dedicated transit-oriented development fund specifically for these developments which should be considered in Honolulu. Ironically, an admission was put forth that a significant portion of the rail line was placed where land was available and inexpensive thereby necessitating an “after-the-fact” planning of transit-oriented development projects.

Activity: The Long Game: Innovative Financing Options for Transit (Workshop)

Session included presentations from three jurisdictions on financing formulas for recent and planned transit expansion projects. Oakland’s primary source of funding was from California’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Program which receives its revenues through the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Program. This fee based cap and trade program generated \$2.7 billion for transit infrastructure and affordable housing projects. Miami utilized a P3 partnership to fund its Tri-Rail Coastal Line rail expansion project. This \$70 million dollar project, with no federal or state funds, include 7 local and 1 private funding sources. Its Brightline inner-city project was all privately funded. Philadelphia’s expansion project was successful primarily through the investment of a major university, Drexel University, which contributed land and capital to the project.

Activity: Go Fearless: Meeting Your Big and Bold Affordable Housing Goals (Workshop)

Discussion on various affordable housing policies from Denver, Seattle, Oakland, Atlanta, Durham and Boston. Each jurisdiction shared information on its affordable housing policies and goals, hardships and funding streams. Each jurisdiction emphasized the relationship between transit and affordable housing and generally defined affordable housing as serving those at or below 80% median income. Most jurisdictions had a goal of 20% of all units in the affordable range with Oakland having the highest goal of a 35% aggregate of all projects.

September 20th:

Activity: Q&A Session with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Department of Transportation (DOT)

Presenters provided an overview of federal tools, initiatives and funding resources such as the FTA TOD Technical Assistance Initiative that focuses on value capture and joint venture development, FTA Mobility on Demand Sandbox Program, DOT Build America, the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA), and the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) Program. Of particular interest to Honolulu, is the TIFIA program which could augment funding for transit infrastructure. Individual technical assistance was offered to attendees whereupon it was confirmed that the TIFIA program is a viable financing tool for the Honolulu rail project.

Activity: Introduction to 2018 Railvolution (Closing Plenary)

Welcoming remarks from Bill Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA, host for the 2018 Railvolution Conference. Other speakers included Michael Hancock, Mayor of the City and County of Denver and Libby Schafer, Mayor of Oakland, CA. Discussion focused on challenges at the local level, ranging from emerging trends in transportation (TNAs and driverless vehicles), climate change, resiliency, prosperity, and clean transportation.

Activity: Downtown Boulder (Self-Guided Tour)

Rode the Bus Rapid Transit (“BRT”) public transportation that is a vital component of Denver’s multi-modal transportation system. Smart Card technology system is utilized for all forms of public transit and the Union Station transit system serves a Denver’s major hub. Very well coordinated and efficient system.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 09/27/17

Traveler: Ernest Y. Martin

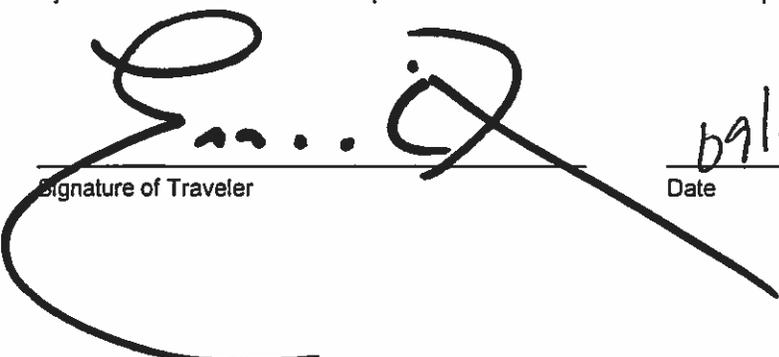
Event: Railvolution 2017

Location: Denver, CO

Dates: From September 17, 2017 To September 20, 2017

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	0	Already reimbursed
2. Airfare	✓ 789.80	Round Trip to LAX & Round Trip to DEN
3. Hotel	✓ 1256.50	Sheraton; 09/16-09/21
4. Meals	✓ 168.25 167.93	Copies of all receipts attached.
5. Ground Transportation	✓ 66.00 132.00 112.00	Receipt of taxi service attached. (2)
6. Tips	✓ 29.13	
7. Other	✓ 117.00	Parking at Honolulu International Airport
Other	✓ 50.00	Baggage Fees
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	2447.53	
	✓ 7355.53	
	✓ 8517.26	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:


Signature of Traveler

09/28/17
Date