

CHINATOWN ACTION SUMMIT

Summary Background Resources

1. Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 – Summary of Meeting Minutes from November 2014 to May 2015
2. Chinatown Community Discussion – March 18, 2015
3. Chinatown Discussion Part II – Summary of Comments: Key Topics (January 28, 2015)
4. Downtown Neighborhood Transit – Oriented Development Plan (Draft Final – 2015)
5. Chinatown Riverwalk Revitalization and Downtown Connectivity Study (2011)
6. Rediscovering Chinatown Honolulu: A Commitment to Partnership (2006)

Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 – Meetings minutes summary table

Summary of meeting minutes from November 2014 to May 2015

| Nov-14 | Dec-14 | Jan-15 | Mar-15 | Apr-15 | May-15 |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Meter Parking on Pauahi Street – In an effort to reduce the drug activities in the Downtown area, the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) received a letter from the Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 (NB) to remove on-street parking on the mauka side of Pauahi Street between Maunakea and River Street for a trial period of 45 days.</p> <p>New Surveillance Cameras – The (3) new surveillance cameras are at Maunakea Street and Beretania Street, College Walk and Beretania Street, and College Walk and Kukui Street. The cameras have not yet been installed.</p> <p>Youths Harassing Pedestrians – Representative Rhoads received a complaint regarding youths harassing pedestrians on Maunakea Street between Kukui Street and Hotel Street.</p> | <p>Prostitution – Occurring near Kukui Plaza and Longs Drugs. Question about law that states the distance between prostitution and schools.</p> <p>Cameras – The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) responded that eight (8) cameras are down and noted that the contract has been awarded to a company that can assess and fix the problems</p> <p>HPD Presence – It was noted that there has been good improvements in the Chinatown area and suggested that HPD be more visible in the Chinatown area.</p> <p>Neighborhood Citizens' Patrol – Only two (2) members have been walking.</p> | <p>Prostitution – It is illegal to solicit prostitution near schools and public parks if it is within 750 feet.</p> <p>Cameras – The contract for the cameras was awarded and the vendor is currently fixing the issues with the cameras.</p> <p>HPD Presence – HPD announced that there will be new 4th watch with officers on foot and they should be more visible.</p> <p>Bill 48 – Sidewalks are so much cleaner and safer - with majority of homeless relocated elsewhere.</p> <p>Crime Report – Few drug or prostitution arrests - HPD data shows increase in burglaries and car thefts.</p> <p>Gambling – Complaint regarding a suspected gambling establishment upstairs of 1157 Maunakea Street.</p> | <p>Safety</p> <p>Statistics – Request for HPD to put together a monthly report that shows the difference between crimes to previous years. Note: Issue was never resolved. HPD states they present the same type of data to all NB.</p> <p>Maunakea Liquor – Representative Rhoads received a complaint regarding suspected drug dealing activity in front of Maunakea Liquor.</p> <p>River/Pauahi Citizen's Patrol – Report that the River/Pauahi Citizen's Patrol group is also getting smaller and noted that the group has not had a chance to patrol in a while.</p> <p>Drug Dealing – Representative Rhoads received a complaint regarding suspected drug dealing activity at the Maunakea Street entrance of 111 South King Street.</p> | <p>CBCA – There are drug activities on the mauka end of Maunakea Street by the Bank of Hawaii side entrance.</p> | <p>Statistics – A concern was raised about the drug statistics being low, and noted that drug activity is seen occurring everywhere.</p> <p>Removal of Parking Stalls on North Pauahi Street – The removal of stalls was supposed to be only for six (6) months and noted that it has been removed for eight (8) years. Several shop owners would like the stalls back.</p> |

| Nov-14 | Dec-14 | Jan-15 | Mar-15 | Apr-15 | May-15 |
|--|--|---|---|---|--------|
| Homelessness | | | | | |
| Complaint regarding the homeless blocking the sidewalk in the morning on River Street between Hotel Street and North King Street. | Concern about the Ewa side of River Street and North Beretania Street because there are big homeless camps. | | Safe Haven – Will be moving from Beretania Street to Pauahi Hale in May 2015. | CBCA – Homeless camps are getting bigger and bigger on both sides of Beretania Street and Kukui Street, as well as Aala Park. | |
| | Institute for Human Services (IHS) – IHS has been focusing on the Downtown/Chinatown area since they started and IHS has been working with Kokua Health, Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW), and the Kaili Palama Medical Center. | | Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Park – A complaint was received regarding the homeless blocking the entrance to businesses on Hotel Street and camping at Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Park. | | |
| Cleanliness | | | | | |
| | Power Washing Schedule - A question was raised whether CBCA, Chinatown Improvement District and other community agencies can power wash the streets themselves. | Current City resources permit a pressure wash schedule of about an eight (8) week cycle to complete the Chinatown/Downtown area in one (1) time. | | | |
| Restrooms | | | | | |
| Bathroom is being build at Safe Haven. River of Life has one bathroom but no one to staff it. | Safe Haven bathroom is close to completion but there are some budget issues. | CBCA – Urge River of Life to open their bathrooms to their customers, a few hours after passing the meals, three times a day, Monday to Friday to keep our streets clean. | Safe Haven has started a bathroom/shower service that is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the average number of people served a day is roughly 60 to 70. | | |
| Chinatown Business and Community Association (CBCA) asked the City and Safe Haven to work with River of Life to activate two (2) public toilets while the City looks for sites to install restrooms. | Restrooms\Rail – Question whether the restrooms at the stations will be for patrons only because the stations are being built near a major marketplace. One suggestion was to add a baggage storage area as well. | | | | |
| CBCA – Public toilets are a priority. | | | | | |
| Walmart recently closed off its restrooms. | | | | | |

| Nov-14 | Dec-14 | Jan-15 | Mar-15 | Apr-15 | May-15 |
|--|---|--------|--|--|---|
| Events and Nightlife | | | | | |
| Arts District Merchants Association (ADMA) – The Board was asked to write a letter of support to the DTS for cab lines on First Fridays. | Hallowbaloo Event – Roughly 8,000 people were in attendance and Tarone commented that 58% of the people in attendance said they would not have gone to Chinatown if it was not for the event. Event had a loss of \$20,000. | | Mardi Gras – No off duty officers, portable toilets, or trash containers, some food booths were set up on our sidewalks on Pauahi, Hotel and Bethel which is not acceptable. | | |
| ADMA will collaborate with the Night Market Event. | Noise complaints – Hallowbaloo Event. | | Mardi Gras – Promoters pushed hard for attendance through social media and TV interviews but failed to inform the community of their plans. Event had noise complaints. | | |
| Cabaret License – The Fix is requesting a cabaret license. A cabaret license allows the establishment to legally operate until 4:00 a.m. Complaints about noise, mix business, and safety. | | | Bar 35 is the second bar that has applied for a Category No. 1 License (cabaret license). | | |
| | | | First Friday - HPD issued at least 50 jay-walking warnings at the last event. | | |
| Design and Construction | | | | | |
| | Kekaulike Mall – A concern was raised about a sunshade being really low on Hotel Street between Kekaulike Mall and Maunakea Street. | | Sun Yat-sen Park Renovations – The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has completed the removal of the water feature. DPR has requested assistance from Department of Facility Maintenance to remove the large concrete electrical vault/box and replace it with a smaller electrical vault/box. | | Dragon Decal – CBCA finally got the Chinatown Happy Dragon installed. |
| | Hotel Street Roadway – Hotel Street from River Street to Richards Street is part of the Department of Design and Construction reconstruction of concrete roadways for FY2015 or FY 2016. | | Bicycle Lanes – Smyth noted that bicycles are not permitted in the Business District and commented that HPD cannot enforce if there are no signs. | It was noted that due to sign proliferation, additional signs are not recommended. DTS will work with HPD. | DTS will replace the stools at the bus stop on Hotel Street in front of Chinatown Gateway Plaza with a bench when funds become available. |
| | | | Crosswalk Signals – A concern was raised about the Crosswalk Signal numbers, with the suggestion of having a system of so many seconds per traffic lane. As of now, they vary from street to street, even when the number of traffic lanes are the same. | Downtown/Chinatown Projects for Fiscal Year (FY) 16 : - \$10.8 million for the construction phase of Department of Environmental Services' (ENV) Chinatown sewer rehabilitation project. - \$200,000 for a Storm Drainage Best Management Practices project. | |

| Nov-14 | Dec-14 | Jan-15 | Mar-15 | Apr-15 | May-15 |
|---------------|--|---|--|--|--------|
| | <p>St/Lie Bill – Concern about the HPD process of removing the homeless from business fronts. HPD stated that a warning is first given, and then followed by a citation.</p> <p>CBCA, CID, ADMA supported Bill 48. ADMA is happy to see HPD enforcing Bill 48.</p> | <p>Bill 48 – Most Appreciated ordinance by the Chinatown business and residential community as well as visitors.</p> | <p>Bill 62 – Warning phase.</p> | | |
| | <p>Honorary Mayor – Mayor Caldwell awarded Dr. Joseph Young the title of Honorary Mayor of Chinatown.</p> | <p>CBCA – CBCA is one of the sponsors of this Chinatown Community Briefing by area legislators and community leaders. The idea is to set up a Chinatown advisory/Working Group to set policies and implement them regardless of the cyclical mayoral administration or elected officials so plans can move forward for Chinatown regardless of who the elected officials are.</p> | <p>Jay-Walking Citations – February 2015 was a busy month with a lot of activities and a lot of citations given. HPD stated that a lot of people are not aware of the rules at crosswalks and a follow up will be done on the request.</p> | <p>Micro Units at Winston Hale – Brief presentation on the nine (9) micro units that will be renovated at Winston Hale on Hotel Street and River Street.</p> | |
| | <p>Rail – HART should invite local Chinese Organizations to contribute to the design or the opening of the two (2) stations in the area. Concern and disappointment on design of Chinatown Station.</p> | | <p>CBCA – CBCA held its second Tuesday CBCA Chinatown Meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 and the next CBCA Meeting is on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at Empress Restaurant from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>Chinatown Master Planning Meeting – The meeting took place on Wednesday, March 18, 2015.</p> | |
| Others | | | | | |

Sources

Agenda and minutes listing

Nov-14

Dec-14

Jan-15

Mar-15

Apr-15

May-15

<http://www.honolulu.gov/cms-ncc-menu/site-ncc-sitearticles/865-site-ncc-agenda-minutes-list-cat/20543-neighborhood-boards-agenda-minutes-listing.html?>

<http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ncc/nb13/14/13201411min.pdf>

<http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ncc/nb13/14/13201412min.pdf>

<http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ncc/nb13/15/13201501min.pdf>

http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ncc/nb13/15/13_2015_03Min.pdf

http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ncc/nb13/15/13_2015_04Min.pdf

http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ncc/nb13/15/13_2015_05Min.pdf

Chinatown Community Discussion March 18, 2015

Summary of Comments: Key topics, processes, and resources or tools

1) March Chinatown community discussion summary:

The comments received at the Chinatown Community Discussion held on March 18, 2015 have been summarized and organized in Table 1. Key topics (numbered and shaded in gray) were formulated by table groupings and noted with number one being the most mentioned theme.

Table 1: Community discussion summary by topics

| |
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| Q1: As you review the key topics listed on the handout, are your issues or concerns on the list? If not, please add or expand to it. |
| 1. Chinatown as a Destination |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locals, tourists, and investors. • Develop activities and programs (i.e. Taipei Night Market). • Revitalize key destinations: Hawaii Theater, Cultural Plaza, Sun Yat Sen Park, etc. |
| 2. Character - Heritage - Cultural Preservation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnic and cultural values. • Community heritage. • Define and maintain Chinatown's identity. • Representation and participation of under-represented ethnic and other community groups. • Expand Chinatown's boundary (Ewa) to A'ala Street and (mauka) Vineyard Boulevard. |
| 3. Parking |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More public parking and for a variety of users: Motorcycles and handicap. • Affordable, convenient and removed from pedestrian core. |
| 4. Connectivity - Mobility |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase walkability and pedestrian safety. • Connect Chinatown with the Nuuanu and Pali area. • Wayfinding. • Provide access to ocean. • Rail station. |
| 5. Regulations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better enforcement of Bill 48 and Bill 62. • Expand curfew hours Bill 62. |
| 6. Sanitation - Community Beautification - Cleanliness |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrooms. • Street cleaning: Restore power washing once a week. • Improve maintenance of open spaces and parks. |
| 7. Homelessness - Housing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate homeless and shelters (River of Life). |
| 8. Safety - Security |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrols. • Better enforcement - focus on illegal activities (drugs). • Visibility - HPD Kiosk. • Better lighting. |

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| 9. Activities - Events |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support activities for children and youth. • Events in Chinatown (i.e. First Friday without alcohol on the street). |
| 10. Increase commerce |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Chinatown with an Economic Investment Zone. |
| Q2: What are some processes that you feel will be effective to move things forward? |
| 1. Collaboration - Coordination |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of stakeholders. • Continue to solicit stakeholder input (Chinatown's stakeholders and outside input). • Hold small groups/specific topic meetings. • More government involvement. • Need for expertise to support collaboration (facilitators). • Define geographic boundaries of Chinatown. • Create and maintain a volunteer base. |
| 2. Planning |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain grassroots effort with government support. • Build consensus. • Attainable, well designed goals. • Locate and secure funding. • Identify resources. • Collect data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview and survey stakeholders. - Site visits throughout Chinatown. • Conduct a feasibility plan. |
| 3. Communication |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of digital tools (i.e. internet, social media, interactive sharing, etc.), but maintaining personal engagement (face to face). |
| 4. Safety - Security |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More police visibility (HPD kiosk) and patrol. • Additional cameras. |
| 5. Parking |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More loading, commercial, and street parking. • A'ala Park - modify commercial large vehicles and underground parking (Rail park and ride). |
| Q3: What resources or tools do you believe are needed to continue the process and sustain this group's desired solutions? |
| 1. Collaboration - Coordination |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots - people power - community based effort. • Bring experts to provide support. • Regular community meetings. • Community volunteers. • Consensus on priority projects. • Identify venue (community hall, Hawaii Theater, etc.). |

| |
|---|
| 2. Planning |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding (sponsors, private, public, and state/city permanent funding, etc.) |
| 3. Communication |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation assistance. • Efficient communication method (website, social media, email blasts, etc.) |
| 4. Homelessness - Housing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentrate community services to Iwilei - utilize HIS and Safe Haven Resources for treatment. |
| 5. Safety - Security |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More emphasis on security. |

Chinatown Discussion Part II

Summary of Comments: Key Topics

Heritage • Ethnic Events • Cultural Preservation

Historic Preservation • Cultural Preservation • Spiritual Practice • Cultural Activities & Promotion • Cultural Businesses

"Love to see happy visitors/residents/business owners/people of all ethnic backgrounds/ages enjoying their experience"

"Hawaiian and other local talent (musicians, singers, etc)"

"Stability and preservation of river street cultural district as an important part of Chinatown"

"Community involvement for cultural experiences – resident involvement to strengthen visitor experiences & integrate local with tourists"

"Love the energy and history of Chinatown" • "People striving to be better – immigrant mentality"

"Culture" (mentioned multiple times)

Safety • Security

"Places that families feel safe, friendly/safe gathering places throughout"

"Safety and cleanliness" • "Personal safety is a concern" • "Safety and security for residents and visitors"

"With increased business activity brings the possibility of crime"

"Modernize the traditional Chinatown "feel" (safety & lights, homeless population, etc)"

"Taking care of elderly and vulnerable members of the community"

Homelessness • Housing

"Establish a physical and economic community plan"

"Places that families feel safe, friendly/safe gathering places throughout"

"Increase housing opportunities" • "Bathrooms for homeless"

"Mental health support for homeless" • "Increase outreach for homeless"

"Homelessness is negatively impacting businesses" • "Too many homeless"

"Move homeless shelters and support services to a more appropriate location"

Sanitation • Community Beautification

"Keep Chinatown authentic" • "Iconic elements at entrances" • "Clean up the river" • "Family friendly"

"Remodel/restore/redevelop buildings that have fallen into a state of disrepair" • Beautify streetscape (esp. River St)

"Remove cars" • "Pedestrian friendly" • "Bicycle Friendly/Bike Stations" • "Bathrooms"

"Design and Implement needed improvements to streets and parks, housing and commercial buildings"

"Establish a physical and economic community plan"

"Attract visitors with commerce, artisans, eateries, street artists, musicians"

"Implement district lighting, signage, information kiosks, online schedule/map/app"

Increase Commerce

"Lifting everyone up is good for commerce"

"Making the area bicycle friendly will assist commerce" • "Vision: Energy"

"Community-based service district with its own governance and management"

"Establish a physical and economic community plan"

"Implement and design needed improvements to infrastructure"

"Commerce, Artisans, Eateries, Street Artists, Musicians"

"Commerce is: kiosks • streetscapes • Chinatown authentic"

"Clean, family friendly, schedule of events, tour guides/docents"

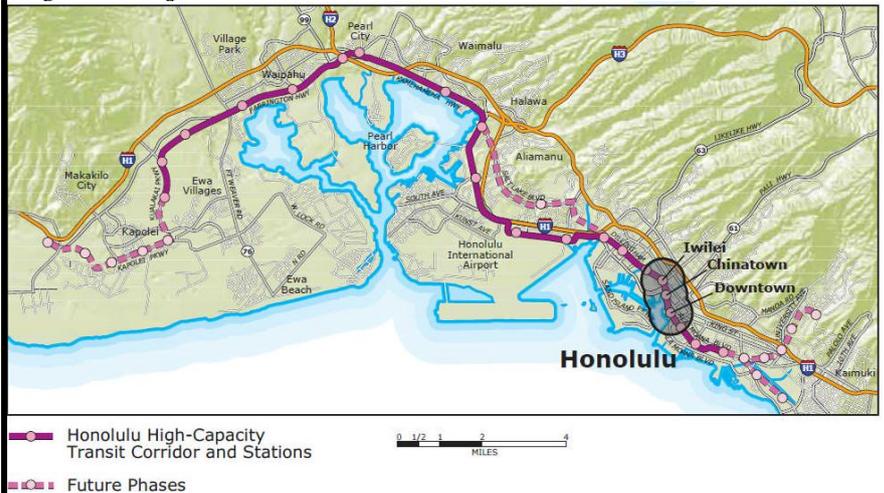
Downtown Neighborhood Transit-Oriented Development Plan (Draft Final - 2015)

Prepared by the Department of Planning and Permitting.

SUMMARY

Neighborhood Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Plans help integrate land use and transportation in anticipation of the Honolulu Rail Transit project completion. The Downtown Plan addresses opportunities for new development and orderly growth and improved accessibility around the Iwilei, Chinatown and Downtown station areas. The Chinatown station will be located on an elevated structure centered above Nimitz Highway between Kekaulike Street and River Street. The following sections focus as much as possible in the Chinatown station area, however majority of the plans findings oversee the three mentioned stations.

Figure 1: Regional Location and Rail Transit Corridor



VISION

“Downtown Honolulu will continue to be the region’s premier employment center with a substantial residential population and easy access to stores and everyday amenities. An accessible and activated waterfront with promenades and community uses, a vibrant, historic Chinatown, and a new high intensity and mixed-use Iwilei district as an extension of Downtown, will create a new image for Downtown Honolulu.”

Guiding Principles

1. Develop a Vibrant Mixed-Use Downtown
2. Enhance Downtown’s Waterfront Orientation
3. Expand Housing Opportunities and Provide a Range of Housing Types
4. Balance Density with Green Space
5. Create an Integrated and Convenient Transportation Network
6. Provide Quality Public Improvements

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Community Character

The Chinatown neighborhood, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, will retain its historic character and scale following rail’s arrival, but transit access is improved and key opportunities for development are pursued. It will continue to have a wide mix of uses and new uses, and public services will accommodate the needs of seniors, children, and families.

Chinatown’s Main Constraint

The possibilities for the Chinatown Station Area for TOD are limited. The area is almost entirely built out and there are few opportunities for redevelopment. In addition, special district regulations designed to preserve the area’s historic and cultural character restrict development density and height. However, several vacant sites along Nimitz Highway and the waterfront do represent significant opportunities for TOD.

TOD Zoning

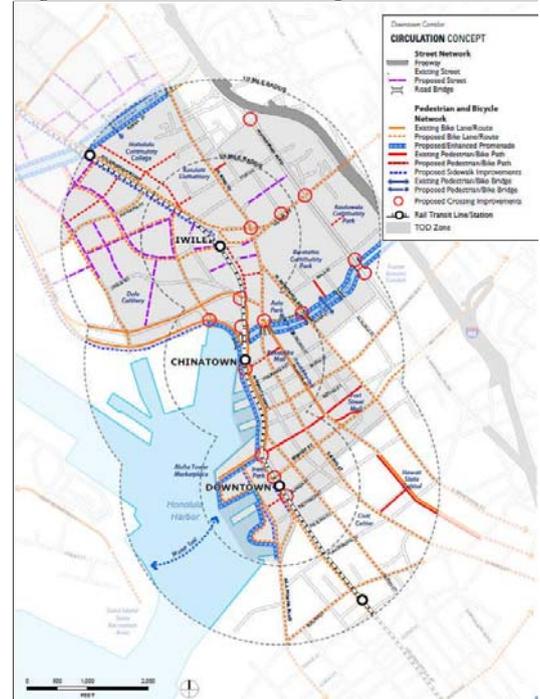
- **Affordable Housing:** Maintain and produce affordable housing in the Downtown corridor is a central component of the community’s vision for TOD.
- **Land Uses:** Maintain the scale and fabric of the historic Chinatown District, while promoting newer, higher intensity development at the edges of the district.
- **Building Heights and Density:** Tall high-intensity buildings are anticipated along North Nimitz Highway in the Chinatown station area, but lower heights and intensities are anticipated in the historic Chinatown core, consistent with the Chinatown Special District regulations.
- **Parking:** The areas closest to the rail stations provide the right conditions for significant reductions in parking requirements.

Streets and Transportation

The Downtown Neighborhood TOD Plan recommends creating an integrated and convenient multi-modal circulation network that emphasizes transit and pedestrian movement. Local streets will be designed and maintained to accommodate all users, consistent with the City’s Complete Streets policy. The street network directly surrounding the Downtown and Chinatown stations forms a compact grid with small blocks and a walkable environment. The following are improvements identified by the plan.

- Waterfront Promenade: A promenade is proposed along the Downtown/Chinatown waterfront and along both sides of Nuuanu Stream.
- Bicycle Facilities: The Plan’s recommended bicycle routes, lanes, and paths efficiently and safely connect bicyclists to the rail stations, to destinations within the Downtown corridor, and to the regional bike network.
- Sidewalk and Crossing Improvements: Improvements include installing sidewalks or striping where appropriate; adding lighting, directional signage, and other pedestrian amenities.

Figure 2: Circulation Concept



| Local plans improvements within Chinatown TOD area | |
|--|---|
| Statewide Pedestrian Master Plan | - Vineyard Boulevard, between Palama Street and Aala Street (Iwilei/Chinatown Station Area) |
| Oahu Bike Plan (within the ½ mile area) | - King Street Chinatown Bike Lane (project 3 –94) - King Street Middle Section Bike Lane (project 2–122) - Nuuanu Stream Bike Path Extension (project 2–131) - River Street Bike Route (project 2–136) |

Urban Design

Urban design determines the character, feel, and livability of an area. The basic elements of urban design that the Plan proposes relates to the public realm and open space, such as parks and plazas.

- Public Realm: Defined as the space between buildings, including the street, the public realm is integral to user’s experience in an urban area. The Plan’s goal is to create memorable, livable streets and streetscapes that promote identity, and enhance pedestrian comfort and safety.
- Open Space: The Plan proposes several new parks and open spaces, and green connections between them. The spaces include community parks, small urban parks and plazas, “green streets,” and promenades.

Implementation

Some development may take place in the short-term in advance of, or soon after the rail is fully operational in 2019; other development projects and improvements may take as many as 20 or 30 years to come to fruition. The City is preparing zoning regulations that will create a TOD Special District to explicitly promote TOD and help implement the Plan’s vision.

| Improvement/Regulation | Action |
|---|--|
| Amend Chinatown Special District | - Amend the Chinatown Special District height map to bring the makai precinct into conformance with the maximum building heights presented in the Plan. |
| Improve Sidewalks, Crossings, and Streets where Missing or Inadequate | - Crossing improvements to enhance safety along North Nimitz Highway/ Ala Moana Street and Nuuanu Stream. - A new pedestrian bridge is proposed from Chinatown to Aala Park at the end of North Pauahi Street |

Chinatown Riverwalk Revitalization and Downtown Connectivity Study (2011)

Prepared for the Office of Economic Development.

SUMMARY

The Chinatown Riverwalk project involved a limited study area of the Ewa edge of Chinatown, specifically the pedestrian zones of both sides of Nuuanu Stream between the H-1 freeway and the Honolulu Harbor (see Figure 2), both of which have a design and landscape architecture approach. Supporting elements of the study included interactive workshops, investigations of current land use, pedestrian access, transportation and connectivity, visual resources analysis, tourist attractions, green spaces, facilities, sense of place, and current social context. Recommendations are primarily in the public right-of-ways and public open spaces, and include considerations upon uses, activities, and design elements. The implementation action items focus on strategies to organize the community to address main issues. Overall, the Riverwalk study provides an overview of the issues, needs and considerations for the specific study area.

VISION

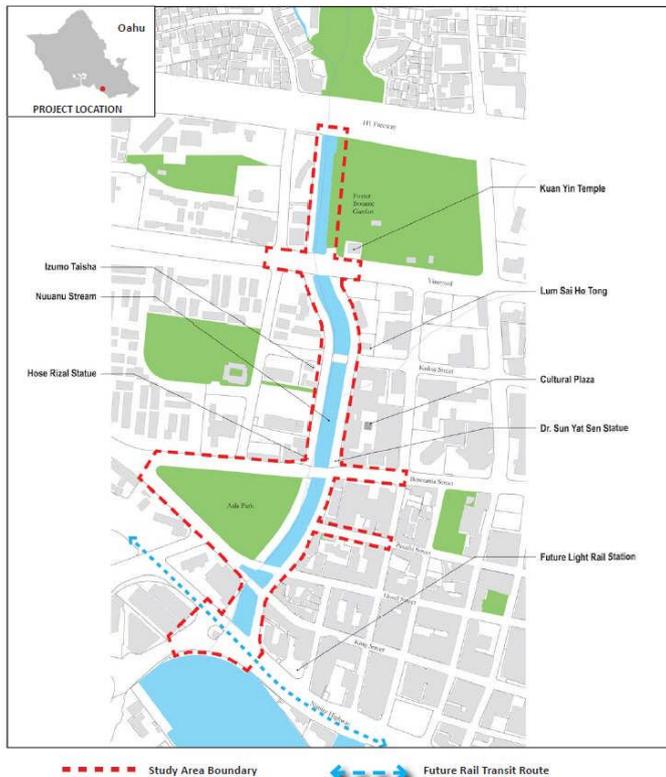
A unified vision statement was not elaborated in the study; conversely group visions were portrayed in diagrams during the community outreach process. The main concepts that came out from that process were:

- Connectivity
- Beautification

Objectives

- Identify ways to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of the area
- Develop an urban design concept that serves the community and Oahu's tourism industry

Figure 1: Riverwalk - Approximate Study Area



FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

| Ten Considerations: Key Ideas for the Riverwalk | |
|---|--|
| 1. Reinforce existing activity zones | Support diverse type of uses and activity zones (from active to passive). |
| 2. Restore and maintain civic life | Reduce presence of homeless in public areas; improve sanitation, safety, and security. |
| 3. Improve connectivity | Improve pedestrian access and street crossings, widen sidewalks along River Street, connect with transit, and provide better bike access. |
| 4. Active downtown frontages | Use sidewalks for outdoor dining and entertainment. |
| 5. Interpret the cultural landscape | Displays, self-guided tours, preserve significant historical features, etc. |
| 6. Activate the water sheet | Create access to water level and program events and activities. |
| 7. Program Aala Park and Sun Yat Sen Mall | Program festivals and special events. |
| 8. Improve water quality of Nuuanu Stream | Develop wetland park and bio retention tree inlets. |
| 9. Develop and revitalize key destinations | Cultural Plaza, Aala Park and Sun Yat Sen Mall. |
| 10. Implementation issues | Need to incorporate Riverwalk planning into other district plans, expand legacy activities (Chinese New Year) to the area, and look for business support to implement a Business Improvement District. |

Opportunities and Constraints

The study analyzes opportunities and constraints. Many of the constraints are not physical but social in nature. Many stakeholders feel that addressing these issues is a pre-requisite before the City makes any capital improvements to the Riverwalk. The following is a summary of the opportunities and constraints found in the 'Site Analysis' and the 'Working process' chapters.

| Opportunities | Constraints |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual resources - Development potential - Chinatown transit station - Pedestrian access and connectivity - Public open spaces - Transportation - Sitting area - Trees for shade - Tourist attractions - Parks / Green spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insecurity and crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drug dealing and prostitution - Gambling - Homelessness - Cleanliness - Parking - Difficult pedestrian access - Fast traffic movement - Serious street congestion - Landscape, design, and maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough shade - Not enough streets lighting - Deteriorated buildings and empty units - Lack of sense of arrival |

Figure 2: Downtown connectivity opportunity



Downtown Connectivity

- Develop stronger connectivity with downtown: A city-wide pedestrian network that interconnects the Riverwalk with the Downtown area can be developed (see Figure 2).
- Create pedestrian-prioritized streets: Woonerf or Home Zone or Shared Street design concepts can be applied.
- Opportunity for TOD plans and rail stations: Riverwalk could be planned to have a strong connection to the Chinatown Transit Station.

Implementation Actions

- Develop a Riverwalk Task Force: A joint community and business task force should be formed to further develop an implementation on strategy for the Riverwalk.
- Establish a Business Improvement District (BID): A BID should be considered to fund and manage improvements and programs for the Riverwalk.
- Organize a Community Patrol Group: A Community Patrol Group should be organized with local residents to connect with people engaging in illegal activities.
- Funding: Funding sources are needed to fund future efforts and projects.

Rediscovering Chinatown Honolulu: A Commitment to Partnership (2006)

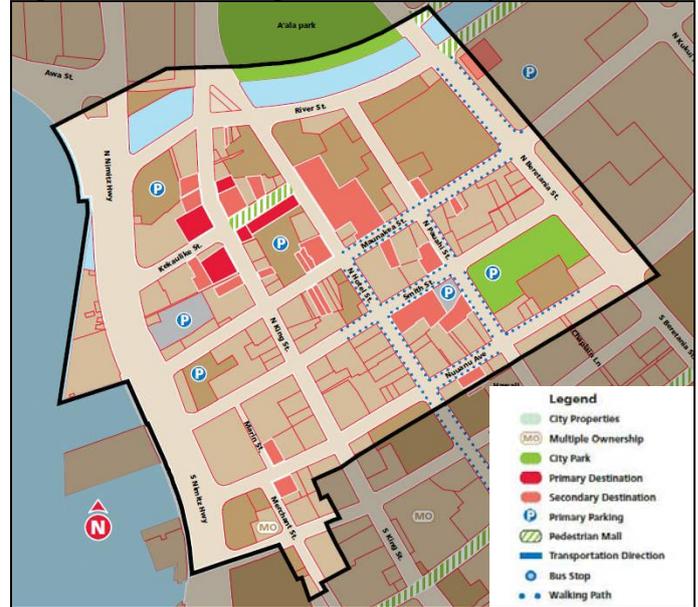
Prepared for the Department of Planning and Permitting.

SUMMARY

‘Rediscovering Chinatown Honolulu’ focuses on branding and reinforcing the character of Chinatown from the perspective and context of the ‘customers.’ Customer is used in the study as a term for any person who comes into contact with Chinatown. The goal of the study is to focus on the people of Chinatown and to enhance the customer’s overall journey and experience in Chinatown. The attributes of Chinatown area aimed to be assessed and preserved, while providing space for social and economic development. The study identifies three priorities to improve the customer’s experience:

1) address the basic needs, 2) emphasize and encourage sustainability, and 3) improve communication (internal and external). Examples of other Chinatowns are included to learn from their experiences and to guide the Honolulu Chinatown planning process. Findings, recommended strategies, and action items are presented in different sections of the study. Key elements are summarized in the following sections.

Figure 1: Rediscovering Chinatown - Study Area



VISION

“We envision Honolulu’s Chinatown to be a “one-of-a-kind destination” for Hawaii’s residents and visitors – an example for other communities here who, together, desire to capture and preserve the quality and distinctive lifestyle of their community while envisioning, and providing for the future needs of their people.”

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the study are the result a community outreach process and the analysis of different elements, such as the history and character of Chinatown, the people that live, work or visit the area, Chinatown as a journey and a destination, and considerations of other Chinatowns.

Opportunities and challenges

| Opportunities | Challenges |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross-cultural interactions that can create a unique social and cultural experience. - Chinatown role as a major element in Oahu’s destination marketing. - Chinatown could become a place for increasing housing supply/business incubation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulations: Impact on cultural resurgence and economic growth. - Lack of pride or care of the environment allows the negative issues and qualities to exist. - Current economic forces increase the threat of gentrification. |

Chinatown as a destination and a journey

Understanding what drives customers to Chinatown and what deterrents - both real and perceived - would cause them not to return, is a crucial step to provide solutions to existing issues and challenges. Drivers and deterrents are interrelated, they affect one another, and they also affect the customer journey. The customer journey can be understood as the accumulation of individual experiences or touchpoints that ‘add up’ to define an experience as a whole. The study tracks six different routes, highlights specific areas that influence each route in a positive or negative way, and identifies potential actions for each route.

| Key Destination Drivers | Key Destination Deterrents |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shopping - Food - Shopping - Gifts - Dining - Events - Nightlife - Arts & historical buildings - Cultural diversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking - Cleanliness - Crime/safety - Homelessness/vagrancy - Immigration/migration - Ordinances/regulations - Public facilities - Communication |

Improved customer experience

The following three groups of priorities organize key issues that affect Chinatown in a variety of ways, from the customer experience, to the vitality of the area, and to the relationship across stakeholders. Each group addresses key priorities for the economic development of Chinatown. The result of addressing these priorities will be an enhanced customer experience, with increased pedestrian traffic, customer spending, and private investment.

| Priority No. 1 - Findings | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Key Priorities | Strategies/Actions |
| 1. Parking | - Wayfinding - Extend time limits |
| 2. Cleanliness | - Implement cleaning schedules - Graffiti and posters - Improve trash pickup methods |
| 3. Safety | - Reduce vagrancy - Police visibility - Lighting |
| 4. Public Facilities | - Restrooms - Visitor Center |
| 5. Affordable Housing | - Create model to encourage development - Collaboration among stakeholders |
| 6. Regulations and Ordinances | - Review and revise ordinances - Find balance between historic buildings and encouraging mixed use |

Priority No. 1: Address Basic Needs

Six key issues have been identified and are noted (see chart) as a priority that will help remove existing obstacles and negative perceptions of Chinatown. This is the essential first step.

Priority No. 2: Emphasize and Encourage Sustainability

This priority focuses on Chinatown's viability and success; it outlines three components that address current sustainability issues, and helps perpetuate desirable qualities of Chinatown. The three components are to:

- Redefine and rediscover the historical significance of Chinatown through architecture and culture
- To emphasize and encourage accessibility
- To perpetuate authenticity promoting diversity and distinction

Priority No. 3: Communication

The last group of issues identified focuses on the root of disputes and misunderstandings. Internal and external communication needs to be improved to increase respect, build bridges, promote understanding, and facilitate interactions.

- Internal communication: Residents, merchants, employees, landowners, organizations, the artistic community and the government
- External communication: Locals and visitors

Understanding other Chinatowns

Best practices and key components from other Chinatowns are examined to best realize the potential of Honolulu Chinatown. Some of the strengths that were identified are that there is strong community and City interest in improving conditions of Chinatown, however there is no long-term funding or a comprehensive strategy to address improvements. Compared to other Chinatowns, Honolulu Chinatown is still in the early stages of planning process and needs to be conscious of the following issues that exist in other Chinatowns:

- Prohibitive regulations that don't allow for positive changes
- Gentrification:
 - Due to rising property values
 - Due to changes in industry and relevance of the industry to the residents
- Ensuring that preservation of people, place, and culture are core qualities to maintain
- Considerations about name changes or utilizing different names
- Understanding the impacts of assimilation
- Understanding the organic nature of Chinatowns