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THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:        March 18, 2008  
TIME:        10:30AM  
PLACE:      Conference Room 329  
              State Capitol  
              415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

SB 3165, SD2  
(HSCR1104-08)  
Status

RELATING TO TAXATION.  
Specifies that a county shall not grant an exemption from GET or receipt taxes for a mixed-use transit-oriented joint development project; exempts from GET a project developed to provide affordable rental housing or a community health care facility within a mixed-use transit-oriented joint development project. (SB3165 SD2)

TRN, HSH/HLT,  
FIN

DECISION MAKING TO FOLLOW

Persons wishing to offer comments should submit testimony at least 24 hours prior to the hearing with a transmittal cover indicating:

- Testifier's name with position/title and organization;
- The Committee the comments are directed to;
- The date and time of the hearing;
- Measure number; and

HSH-HLT 03-18-08



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\* H S H - H L T



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- The number of copies the Committee is requesting.

While every effort will be made to copy, organize, and collate all testimony received, materials received on the day of the hearing or improperly identified or directed to the incorrect office, may be distributed to the Committee after the hearing.

Submit testimony in ONE of the following ways:

PAPER: 3 copies (including an original) to Room 326 in the State Capitol;

FAX: For comments less than 5 pages in length, transmit to 586-6189 (Oahu) or 1-800-535-3859 (Neighbor Islands); or

EMAIL: For comments less than 5 pages in length, transmit to [HSHtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HSHtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov).

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If you require special assistance or auxiliary aids and/or services to participate in the House public hearing process (i.e., sign or foreign language interpreter or wheelchair accessibility), please contact the Committee Clerk at 586-8460 or email your request for an interpreter to [HouseInterpreter@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HouseInterpreter@Capitol.hawaii.gov) at least 24 hours prior to the hearing for arrangements. Prompt requests submitted help to ensure the availability of qualified individuals and appropriate accommodations.

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Rep. Joshua B. Green, M.D.  
Chair



Rep. Maile Shimabukuro  
Chair

HSH-HLT 03-18-08



STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1104-08

Honolulu, Hawaii  
, 2008

RE: S.B. No. 3165  
S.D. 2

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred S.B. No. 3165,  
S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to encourage the development of affordable rental housing and other services, programs, and facilities, including community health care facilities, within a mixed-use transit-oriented joint development project by exempting these projects from the general excise tax.

The Hawaii Association of REALTORS and Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development testified in support of this bill. The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) supported the intent of this measure. The Department of Taxation opposed this bill. The Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu provided comments.

With the expected development of Honolulu's mass transit system, transit-oriented development along the transit route that takes into consideration and meets the different needs and concerns of the communities affected is of the utmost importance. Through thoughtful, deliberate, and careful planning, access to and development of affordable housing, senior care centers, health



care centers and medical facilities, and other modes of transportation are just some of the factors that can lead to revitalized and sustainable communities along this corridor.

While your Committee recognizes of the concerns raised regarding this measure and agrees that passage of this bill may be premature given the fact that the City and County of Honolulu has only recently begun its transit-oriented development program, this measure follows a forward-thinking approach that attempts to promote careful and coordinated development and thus deserves further consideration and discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3165, S.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committees on Human Services & Housing and Health.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the  
members of the Committee on Transportation,

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JOSEPH M. SOUKI, Chair



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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that whatever form of  
2 mass transit that is adopted by the city and county of Honolulu  
3 will have an impact reaching far beyond transportation issues  
4 alone. Development of a new transportation system provides the  
5 State and the city and county of Honolulu the opportunity to  
6 maximize affordable housing facilities, and add to and improve  
7 care of the elderly and related public functions as mass transit  
8 development is planned between west Oahu and the University of  
9 Hawaii at Manoa.

10           The legislature further finds that in areas with a  
11 higher-than-average senior citizen population, which also lack  
12 adequate long-term care facilities, there is an opportunity to  
13 meet the objective of "aging-in-place" through creative  
14 distribution of services, for example, aggregating services for  
15 condominium building residents in close proximity to one  
16 another, etc.







1 In areas with limited recreational spaces and facilities  
2 for young people, public, private, and non-profit partnerships  
3 can stimulate development of additional services, programs, and  
4 facilities to serve at-risk youth, families with special needs,  
5 and others, in a school, park, or church setting.

6 The purpose of this Act is to provide the means for the  
7 State and the city and county of Honolulu to meet the needs for  
8 affordable housing, care for the elderly, and services to  
9 Hawaii's disadvantaged, which will be available as a result of  
10 mixed-use transit-oriented joint development project  
11 opportunities.

12 SECTION 2. Section 46-15.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

14 "(a) Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, any county  
15 shall have and may exercise the same powers, subject to  
16 applicable limitations, as those granted the Hawaii housing  
17 finance and development corporation pursuant to chapter 201H  
18 insofar as those powers may be reasonably construed to be  
19 exercisable by a county for the purpose of developing,  
20 constructing, and providing low- and moderate-income housing;  
21 provided that no county shall be empowered to cause the State to  
22 issue general obligation bonds to finance a project pursuant to





1 this section; provided further that county projects shall be  
2 granted an exemption from general excise or receipts taxes in  
3 the same manner as projects of the Hawaii housing finance and  
4 development corporation pursuant to section 201H-36; except that  
5 no county shall be empowered to grant an exemption for a mixed-  
6 use transit-oriented joint development project as defined in  
7 section 201H-36(c); and provided further that section 201H-16  
8 shall not apply to this section unless federal guidelines  
9 specifically provide local governments with that authorization  
10 and the authorization does not conflict with any state laws.  
11 The powers shall include the power, subject to applicable  
12 limitations, to:

- 13 (1) Develop and construct dwelling units, alone or in  
14 partnership with developers;
- 15 (2) Acquire necessary land by lease, purchase, exchange,  
16 or eminent domain;
- 17 (3) Provide assistance and aid to a public agency or other  
18 person in developing and constructing new housing and  
19 rehabilitating existing housing for elders of low- and  
20 moderate-income, other persons of low- and moderate-  
21 income, and persons displaced by any governmental





- 1           action, by making long-term mortgage or interim  
2           construction loans available;
- 3           (4) Contract with any eligible bidders to provide for  
4           construction of urgently needed housing for persons of  
5           low- and moderate-income;
- 6           (5) Guarantee the top twenty-five per cent of the  
7           principal balance of real property mortgage loans,  
8           plus interest thereon, made to qualified borrowers by  
9           qualified lenders;
- 10          (6) Enter into mortgage guarantee agreements with  
11          appropriate officials of any agency or instrumentality  
12          of the United States to induce those officials to  
13          commit to insure or to insure mortgages under the  
14          National Housing Act, as amended;
- 15          (7) Make a direct loan to any qualified buyer for the  
16          downpayment required by a private lender to be made by  
17          the borrower as a condition of obtaining a loan from  
18          the private lender in the purchase of residential  
19          property;
- 20          (8) Provide funds for a share, not to exceed fifty per  
21          cent, of the principal amount of a loan made to a  
22          qualified borrower by a private lender who is unable





1 otherwise to lend the borrower sufficient funds at  
2 reasonable rates in the purchase of residential  
3 property; and

4 (9) Sell or lease completed dwelling units.

5 For purposes of this section, a limitation is applicable to  
6 the extent that it may reasonably be construed to apply to a  
7 county."

8 SECTION 3. Section 201H-36, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "[+]§201H-36[+] Exemption from general excise taxes. (a)

11 In accordance with section 237-29, the corporation may approve  
12 and certify for exemption from general excise taxes any  
13 qualified person or firm involved with a newly constructed, or  
14 moderately or substantially rehabilitated project:

- 15 (1) Developed under this part;
- 16 (2) Developed under a government assistance program  
17 approved by the corporation, including but not limited  
18 to the United States Department of Agriculture 502  
19 program and Federal Housing Administration 235  
20 program;
- 21 (3) Developed under the sponsorship of a private nonprofit  
22 organization providing home rehabilitation or new







1 homes for qualified families in need of decent, low-  
2 cost housing; [~~or~~]

3 (4) Developed by a qualified person or firm to provide  
4 affordable rental housing where at least fifty per  
5 cent of the available units are for households with  
6 incomes at or below eighty per cent of the area median  
7 family income as determined by the United States  
8 Department of Housing and Urban Development, of which  
9 at least twenty per cent of the available units are  
10 for households with incomes at or below sixty per cent  
11 of the area median family income as determined by the  
12 United States Department of Housing and Urban  
13 Development [~~-~~];

14 (5) Developed by a qualified person or firm to provide  
15 affordable rental housing units within a mixed-use  
16 transit-oriented joint development project approved by  
17 the corporation; or

18 (6) Developed by a qualified person or firm to provide a  
19 community health care facility within a mixed-use  
20 transit-oriented joint development project approved by  
21 the corporation.





1 (b) All claims for exemption under this section shall be  
2 filed with and certified by the corporation and forwarded to the  
3 department of taxation. Any claim for exemption that is filed  
4 and approved[7] shall not be considered a subsidy for the  
5 purpose of this part.

6 (c) For the purposes of this section:

7 "Community health care facility" means a health care  
8 facility as defined in section 323D-2, that is leased or sold to  
9 a person who is controlled by:

10 (1) A person who has received recognition of tax exempt  
11 status or who is a subordinate person of a person who  
12 has received a group exemption letter under Section  
13 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as  
14 amended;

15 (2) The State;

16 (3) Any political subdivision of the State;

17 (4) A county;

18 (5) A state agency or any instrumentality of the State; or

19 (6) A county agency or any instrumentality of a county.

20 "Mixed-use transit-oriented joint development project"

21 means a transit-oriented joint development project that:





- 1        (1) Combines residential development with any combination
- 2        of commercial and industrial development, including
- 3        the development of community health care facilities;
- 4        and
- 5        (2) Is approved by the county in which the project is
- 6        located.

7        "Moderate rehabilitation" means rehabilitation to upgrade a  
8 dwelling unit to a decent, safe, and sanitary condition, or to  
9 repair or replace major building systems or components in danger  
10 of failure.

11        "Substantial rehabilitation":

- 12        (1) Means the improvement of a property to a decent, safe,
- 13        and sanitary condition that requires more than routine
- 14        or minor repairs or improvements. It may include but
- 15        is not limited to the gutting and extensive
- 16        reconstruction of a dwelling unit, or cosmetic
- 17        improvements coupled with the curing of a substantial
- 18        accumulation of deferred maintenance; and
- 19        (2) Includes renovation, alteration, or remodeling to
- 20        convert or adapt structurally sound property to the
- 21        design and condition required for a specific use, such
- 22        as conversion of a hotel to housing for elders.





1 (d) The corporation may establish, revise, charge, and  
2 collect a reasonable service fee, as necessary, in connection  
3 with its approvals and certifications under this section. The  
4 fees shall be deposited into the dwelling unit revolving fund."

5 SECTION 4. Section 237-8.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

7 "(d) No county surcharge on state tax shall be established  
8 on any:

- 9 (1) Gross income or gross proceeds taxable under this  
10 chapter at the one-half per cent tax rate;
- 11 (2) Gross income or gross proceeds taxable under this  
12 chapter at the 0.15 per cent tax rate; or
- 13 (3) Transactions, amounts, persons, gross income, or gross  
14 proceeds exempt from tax under this chapter[+];  
15 provided that the surcharge on state tax shall be  
16 assessed, levied, and collected on transactions,  
17 amounts, persons, gross income, or gross proceeds  
18 exempted under section 237-29 pursuant to section  
19 201H-36(a) (5) and (6)."

20 SECTION 5. Section 237-29, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended by amending its title and subsection (a) to read as  
22 follows:







1           "§237-29 Exemptions for certified or approved housing or  
2 community health care facility projects. (a) All gross income  
3 received by any qualified person or firm for the planning,  
4 design, financing, construction, sale, or lease in the State of  
5 a housing or community health care facility project that has  
6 been certified or approved under section 201H-36 shall be exempt  
7 from general excise taxes."

8           SECTION 6. Section 238-2.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

10           "(c) No county surcharge on state tax shall be established  
11 upon any use taxable under this chapter at the one-half per cent  
12 tax rate or upon any use that is not subject to taxation or that  
13 is exempt from taxation under this chapter[-]; provided that the  
14 surcharge on state tax shall be levied on the use of property,  
15 services, or contracting that is not subject to taxation under  
16 section 238-3(j) as a result of an exemption under section  
17 237-29 pursuant to section 201H-36(a)(5) and (6)."

18           SECTION 9. It is the intent of the legislature that in  
19 adopting rules pursuant to section 237-29(c), Hawaii Revised  
20 Statutes, for the purpose of this Act, the director of taxation  
21 and the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation shall  
22 consult with the director of health and representatives of any





1 interested county in an effort to streamline the approval  
2 process for mixed-use transit-oriented joint development  
3 projects and maximize the coordination among federal, state, and  
4 county governments with respect to the projects.

5 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 9. This Act, upon its approval, shall apply to  
8 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007.





**Report Title:**

Taxation; County Authority; GET Exemptions; Fixed Guideway  
Transportation System; Affordable Rental Housing; Community  
Health Care Facility

**Description:**

Specifies that a county shall not grant an exemption from GET or receipt taxes for a mixed-use transit-oriented joint development project; exempts from GET a project developed to provide affordable rental housing or a community health care facility within a mixed-use transit-oriented joint development project.  
(SB3165 SD2)





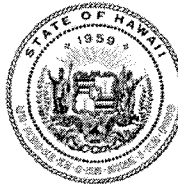
**SB 3165 SD 2**





LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.  
LT. GOVERNOR



KURT KAWAFUCHI  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

SANDRA L. YAHIRO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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## HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING AND HEALTH

### TESTIMONY REGARDING SB 3165 SD 2 RELATING TO TAXATION

**TESTIFIER: KURT KAWAFUCHI, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION (OR DESIGNEE)**

**DATE: MARCH 18, 2008**

**TIME: 10:30AM**

**ROOM: 329**

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This legislation, among other things, exempts from Hawaii general excise tax (GET), amounts received for developing an affordable housing project or community healthcare facility within a mixed use transit oriented joint development project. The bill also exempts amounts received by the operator of a county fixed guideway transportation system.

The Committees on Economic Development & Taxation; Transportation & International Affairs; and Human Services & Public Housing amended the bill by retaining the county surcharge on state general excise tax for properties exempt from general excise tax under this bill.

The Senate Committee on Ways & Means amended the measure by eliminating the general excise tax exemption for the operator of a fixed guideway system. The Committee also made corresponding use tax amendments, among other conforming amendments, for the remaining tax incentives.

The Senate passed this measure on third reading.

The House Committee on Transportation passed this measure unamended.

The Department of Taxation (Department) **opposes** this legislation.

#### **I. CONCERN OVER TIMING.**

The Department understands that development of large housing or healthcare facility projects could take several years. However, the Department is concerned that this legislation is far too premature at this point, especially since the details of the mass transit project have yet to be finalized



and a project could be decades away from being complete. In the interest of ensuring that any generous tax incentive is not relied upon to the detriment of any taxpayer that relies on current information prior to the mass transit project's finalization, this legislation should be considered only after all project detailed have finalized.

## **II. CONCERN BECAUSE GET EXEMPTIONS ALREADY EXIST**

The Department is further concerned with the necessity of this legislation because very similar general excise tax exemptions already exist. For example, the general excise tax exemption for development of affordable housing is currently being administered. Though this legislation extends the current exemption to specifically apply to those projects that are within a mixed-use transit oriented joint development project, there is nothing to suggest that the current exemption could not be extended to such projects if it were determined acceptable by the housing agencies. The Department defers to the housing agencies on the viability of encouraging development of affordable housing near mixed-use mass transit oriented projects.

The Department is not clear why a statute to regulate the development of healthcare facilities is contained under Chapter 201H, which relates to development of affordable housing. The Department suggests that the incentive for healthcare facilities be removed from any reference to Chapter 201H because it appears misplaced. Also, a general excise tax exemption exists for hospitals that operate as nonprofits. Depending upon the structure of the healthcare facilities development, this exemption may be unnecessary. However, if a third party constructs the project, the third party stands to benefit.

As amended, the add-back of the exemption provided under general excise and use tax laws relating to affordable housing and a hospital as contemplated by this bill will benefit county collections and not the state general fund.

## **III. CONCERN OVER COST.**

The Department is also concerned with the potential revenue loss for this legislation. These costs have not been factored into the Executive Budget or its fiscal priorities.

Due to no hard data on the gross income received by taxpayers for the affordable rental housing projects or community health care facility projects, the revenue impact is indeterminate.



Linda Lingle  
GOVERNOR



ORLANDO "DAN" DAVIDSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO

Statement of  
**Orlando "Dan" Davidson**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

March 18, 2008, 10:30 a.m.  
Room 329, State Capitol

In consideration of  
**S.B. 3165, S.D. 2**  
**RELATING TO TAXATION.**

The HHFDC supports the concept of transit-oriented development as a strategy to address the growing affordability crisis by tackling the escalating cost of housing and transportation at the same time. This measure provides a financial incentive for the private development of mixed-income housing near transit. We must, however, defer to the Department of Taxation with respect to the cost implications of the specific tax exemptions established in the bill.

We are concerned, however, that this bill inappropriately requires the HHFDC to certify community health facilities near transit for a General Excise Tax exemption because we do not have any expertise in this subject matter.

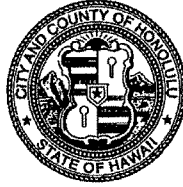
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



HENRY ENG, FAICP  
DIRECTOR

DAVID K. TANOUE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 18, 2008

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Human Services  
and Housing

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Shimabukuro, Green and Members:

**Subject: SENATE BILL 3165, SD2  
Relating to Taxation**

The Department of Planning and Permitting's primary concern has been that this bill is **premature and an infringement on home rule**. That said, the Department can **support Section 4** of Senate Bill 3165 SD2. The bill provides for the exemption of the general excise tax (GET) for affordable rental housing units and "community health care facilities" within a "mixed-use transit-oriented joint development." Section 4 of the bill provides that the country surcharge of state tax remains imposed on these types of projects.

Following are the Department's **comments on the rest of the bill**. The department has just started its transit-oriented development (TOD) program. We are eager to develop a toolbox of financial incentives and options to encourage the most successful kinds of TOD projects. We are also aware of concerns about gentrification as an unintended consequence of TOD, and will be looking at this issue carefully. However, financial tools and incentives should be considered broadly and in the context of what the community needs and wants in TOD projects in specific neighborhoods. This bill interferes with the free flow of development ideas offered by the community under a community-based planning effort and does nothing to complement TOD. Rather it is an attempt to dictate and/or impose uses in our TOD's.





The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Human Services  
and Housing

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
Re: Senate Bill 3165 SD2  
March 18, 2008  
Page 2

Senate Bill 3165 SD2 is also **redundant with existing statutes and confusing**. Section 3 of the bill would amend Section 201H0-36(a), HRS by assigning the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation (HHFDC) the responsibility of certifying that any project with affordable rental housing in a mixed-use transit-oriented joint development project can be exempt from GET. We believe that affordable rental projects, especially those in urban areas already qualify for this exemption under other given eligibility criteria under this section, making the proposed language redundant.

The language is confusing in that it is not clear whether the entire mixed use project is eligible for the tax exemption, or just the affordable housing units. We also note that the proposed definition of "mixed-use transit-oriented joint development project" does not define "transit-oriented," nor "joint development." Can a project next to a bus stop qualify? Can a project ½ mile away from a rapid transit station qualify? What does "joint development" refer to—a partnering of different landowners? A grouping of separate lots of record to be developed under a unified project concept? The participation of a particular government entity?

We find it odd that a bill designed to promote the objectives of HHFDC is opposed by this same agency. A committee report also indicates that this measure is opposed by the Department of Taxation, the Department of Transportation and the Building Industry Association.

While we are aware of the desire to "age in place," the solution to accomplish this is far more complex than simply offering a GT exemption. If the state legislature believes this is a serious public issue, then it goes far beyond future TOD projects, and should be addressed comprehensively. Other actions that should be weighed include: encouraging daily support services for the independent elderly, more senior day-care facilities, new incentives to keep rental units affordable for the long term or in perpetuity; and deep income and re-investment credits for existing affordable rental projects. At the regional scale, state subsidies into the upgrade of infrastructure systems can also help reduce



The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Human Services  
and Housing

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
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House of Representatives  
Re: Senate Bill 3165 SD2  
March 18, 2008  
Page 3

construction costs to individual projects, and help maximize the use of land by increasing infrastructure capacities to accommodate new development. Clearly all these incentives could have financial repercussions on the state's budget, and therefore, should be evaluated simultaneously to determine what actions will make the most difference and at the same time, are financially supportable over the long term.

In summary, we are deeply committed to a good TOD program, and fully aware that state incentives can be a key element to success. Thus we welcome supportive state actions on this important initiative. But this bill is premature, and should be weighed with other state actions that could address affordable housing and social service issues and opportunities associated with development near rapid transit stations.

If you must adopt a GET exemption bill (without affecting current provisions on the county surcharge), consider retaining the exemption for community health care facilities, regardless of their location to transit stations. In addition, serious consideration should be given to questions posed in paragraph 4, above which would hopefully result in further amendment to the bill to clarify intent and to reduce confusion.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,



Henry Eng, FAICP Director  
Department of Planning and  
Permitting

HE: jmf  
sb3165sd2-kh3.doc





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March 15, 2008

**The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair**  
House Committee on Human Services & Housing  
**The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair**  
House Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 329  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: S.B. 3165, S.D.2, Relating to Taxation**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 @ 10:30 a.m., Room 329**

On behalf of our 10,000 members in Hawaii, the Hawaii Association of REALTORS® (HAR) **strongly supports S.B. 3165, S.D.2**, which exempts from General Excise Tax (“GET”) a mixed use transit oriented joint development project which provides within the project affordable rental housing or a community health care facility.

The January 2008 Final Report of the Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives Interim Task Force on Smart Growth sets forth the following ten principles of smart growth:

- (1) Create a range of housing opportunities and choices;
- (2) Create walkable neighborhoods;
- (3) Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration;
- (4) Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place;
- (5) Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective;
- (6) Mix land uses;
- (7) Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas;
- (8) Provide a variety of transportation choices;
- (9) Strengthen and direct development toward existing communities; and
- (10) Take advantage of compact building design.

**HAR believes that Smart Growth is our road map to sustaining and enhancing the quality of life in our communities and that this bill can be consistent with all of these principles.**

At a Smart Growth briefing held at the Capitol on January 9, 2008, HAR distributed to Legislators and their staffs the attached April 2007 Executive Summary (the “Executive Summary”) of a report prepared by Reconnecting America’s Center for Transit-Oriented Development entitled Realizing the Potential: Expanding Housing Opportunities Near Transit, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”).



The April 11, 2007 FTA/HUD introduction letter to the Executive Summary states in part that:

The average American family spends more than half of their income on housing and transportation. There is increasing awareness that while a growing number of families are moving further out to suburban or even exurban location to find affordable housing, the rising cost of transportation reduces much of their cost savings. As a result, demand for housing near transit, so that transportation costs are contained, is expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years.

...

The report suggests that to better respond to this challenge we need to:

- Coordinate housing plans with local transportation plans, so that affordable housing is served by high quality public transportation.
- Housing investments must take place in the context of other development, such as retail and commercial [which in the case of Section 3 of S.B. 3165, S.D.2, include “community health care facilities”], so that more daily trips can be made on foot and by transit; and
- The private development market must become a partner in achieving the goal of better connections between housing – including affordable housing – and public transportation.

The Executive Summary states that one of the strategies that can be used to create and preserve mixed-income housing near transit is to provide incentives that help catalyze the market for mixed-income transit oriented development (or TOD). The Executive Summary then goes on to state that obstacles to building mixed-income TOD housing include:

- Land prices around stations are high or increase because of speculation once a new transit line is announced.
- Affordable housing developers don't have the capital to acquire land before the prices go up and then hold it until it's ready to develop.
- Funding for building affordable housing is limited.
- Mixed-income and mixed-use projects require complex financing structures.
- Sites for TOD projects often require land assembly and rezoning, which can lead to lengthy acquisition and permitting processes, which increase development costs.
- Parking requirements for TOD are unnecessarily high, which also drives up costs.
- Community opposition to density and affordable housing is hard to overcome.

The GET exemption contained in Section 3 of S.B. 3165, S.D.2, directly addresses the third and fourth obstacles listed above by providing a form of funding for affordable housing which has previously been used in mixed-income for sale and rental housing projects in Hawaii.





Section 3 of S.B. 3165, S.D.2, also helps address the first, second and fifth obstacles listed above by essentially adopting the following two recommendations from the Executive Summary:

Utilize FTA's joint development policy to emphasize construction of housing in transit zones; Real estate that's been acquired for rights of way, stations, parking lots and staging areas, and even air rights, can provide significant development opportunity. FTA's new joint development policy provides unprecedented flexibility for leasing and even selling this property for transit-supportive purposes.

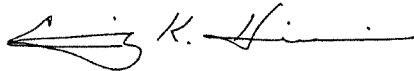
Encourage public-private partnerships: Engaging the community as a full partner makes it possible to build trust and achieve community goals. Partnering with developers, realtors and businesses may also leverage private dollars.

HAR would also note that S.B. 3165, S.D.2, is very similar to H.B. 3251, H.D.1, as reported out by your committees in SCR No. 656-08 on February 14, 2008.

HAR looks forward to working with our state lawmakers in building better communities by supporting quality growth, seeking sustainable economies and housing opportunities, embracing the cultural and environmental qualities we cherish, and protecting the rights of property owners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig K. Hirai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "H".

Craig K. Hirai, Member  
Subcommittee on Taxation and Finance  
HAR Government Affairs Committee

Attachment



# *Realizing the Potential:* Expanding Housing Opportunities Near Transit



## **Executive Summary**

Reconnecting America's Center for  
Transit-Oriented Development

April 2007



## ***About this Report***

### **REALIZING THE POTENTIAL: Expanding Housing Opportunities Near Transit**

was written by Reconnecting America's Center for Transit-Oriented Development. The Center for TOD is the only national nonprofit effort dedicated to providing best practices, research and tools to support market-based transit-oriented development. We partner with both the public and private sectors to strategize about ways to encourage the development of high-performing TOD projects around transit stations and to build transit systems that maximize the development potential. The Center for TOD is a partnership of the national nonprofit Reconnecting America, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, and Strategic Economics, an urban economics firm in Berkeley.

To read the full report -- including detailed case studies of efforts to promote mixed-income TOD in Boston, Charlotte, Denver, Minneapolis and Portland -- visit [www.reconnectingamerica.org](http://www.reconnectingamerica.org).

### **Acknowledgements**

The Center for Transit-Oriented Development would like to thank the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation, for their financial and technical support.

### **Notice**

This report was funded through a cooperative agreement between Reconnecting America and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation, and jointly funded through an interagency agreement between FTA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The views and policies expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Federal Transit Administration. The United States government assumes no liability for the contents or use of this report.





U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**



April 11, 2007

Dear Colleague:

It is with great pleasure that we introduce this report on the potential for accommodating housing – including affordable housing – near public transportation.

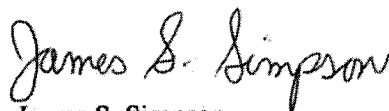
The average American family spends more than half of their income on housing and transportation. There is increasing awareness that while a growing number of families are moving further out to suburban or even exurban locations to find affordable housing, the rising cost of transportation reduces much of their cost savings. As a result, demand for housing near transit, so that transportation costs are contained, is expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years.

The non-profit research organization, Reconnecting America's Center for Transit-Oriented Development, has examined five transit corridors in Boston, Charlotte, Denver, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Portland (Oregon). Their findings show that we face a significant challenge in the coming years. How do we make room for the households of tomorrow at a scale and affordability necessary to meet the demand? The five corridors in this report showed that while programs and incentives exist to encourage construction of affordable housing near transit, more needs to be done to truly meet the demand.

The report suggests that to better respond to this challenge we need to:

- Coordinate housing plans with local transportation plans, so that affordable housing is served by high quality public transportation;
- Housing investments must take place in the context of other development, such as retail and commercial, so that more daily trips can be made on foot and by transit; and
- The private development market must become a partner in achieving the goal of better connections between housing – including affordable housing – and public transportation.

We hope you will read this report with an eye to discovering opportunities in your own communities to create attractive, vibrant neighborhoods that both lower transportation costs and increase affordable housing options for all of their residents.



James S. Simpson  
Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

Sincerely,



Darlene F. Williams  
Assistant Secretary for Policy  
Development and Research  
U.S. Department of Housing and  
Urban Development





# Overview

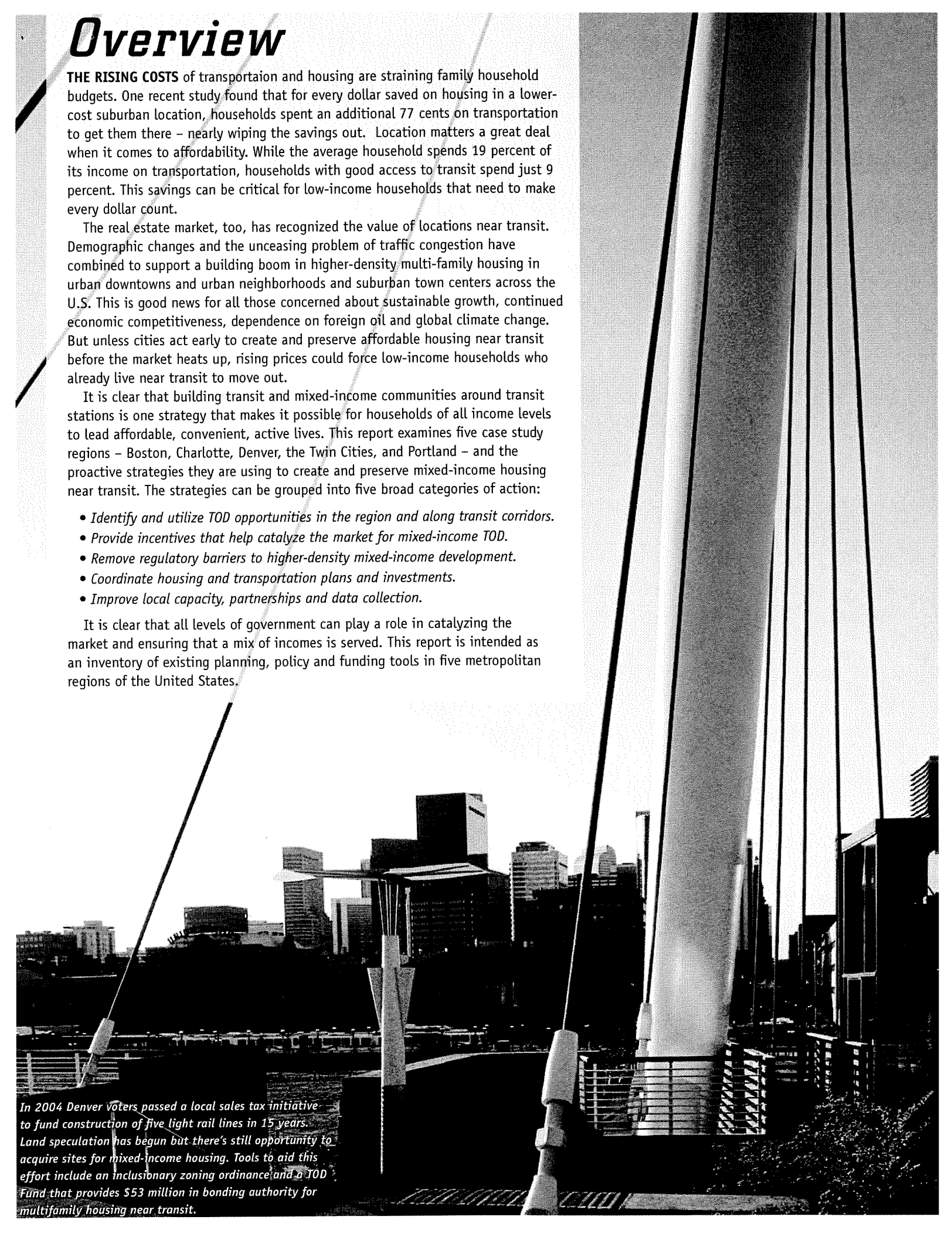
**THE RISING COSTS** of transportation and housing are straining family household budgets. One recent study found that for every dollar saved on housing in a lower-cost suburban location, households spent an additional 77 cents on transportation to get them there – nearly wiping the savings out. Location matters a great deal when it comes to affordability. While the average household spends 19 percent of its income on transportation, households with good access to transit spend just 9 percent. This savings can be critical for low-income households that need to make every dollar count.

The real estate market, too, has recognized the value of locations near transit. Demographic changes and the unceasing problem of traffic congestion have combined to support a building boom in higher-density multi-family housing in urban downtowns and urban neighborhoods and suburban town centers across the U.S. This is good news for all those concerned about sustainable growth, continued economic competitiveness, dependence on foreign oil and global climate change. But unless cities act early to create and preserve affordable housing near transit before the market heats up, rising prices could force low-income households who already live near transit to move out.

It is clear that building transit and mixed-income communities around transit stations is one strategy that makes it possible for households of all income levels to lead affordable, convenient, active lives. This report examines five case study regions – Boston, Charlotte, Denver, the Twin Cities, and Portland – and the proactive strategies they are using to create and preserve mixed-income housing near transit. The strategies can be grouped into five broad categories of action:

- *Identify and utilize TOD opportunities in the region and along transit corridors.*
- *Provide incentives that help catalyze the market for mixed-income TOD.*
- *Remove regulatory barriers to higher-density mixed-income development.*
- *Coordinate housing and transportation plans and investments.*
- *Improve local capacity, partnerships and data collection.*

It is clear that all levels of government can play a role in catalyzing the market and ensuring that a mix of incomes is served. This report is intended as an inventory of existing planning, policy and funding tools in five metropolitan regions of the United States.



*In 2004 Denver voters passed a local sales tax initiative to fund construction of five light rail lines in 15 years. Land speculation has begun but there's still opportunity to acquire sites for mixed-income housing. Tools to aid this effort include an inclusionary zoning ordinance and a TOD Fund that provides \$53 million in bonding authority for multifamily housing near transit.*



# Building Housing Near Transit as an Affordability Strategy:

## The Opportunity and the Challenge

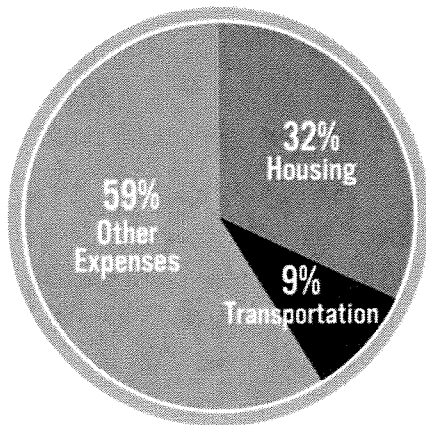
THE HOUSING MARKET in the U.S. has been changing as American households get older, smaller and more diverse, and traffic makes long commutes to the suburbs less and less appealing. Meanwhile, both housing and transportation costs are on the increase. One in three American households now spends more than 30 percent of income on housing, and one in seven spends more than 50 percent. While finding a lower-cost house in the suburbs used to be a strategy that resulted in savings, recent studies show the increased cost of transportation nearly wipes that savings out. A Center for Housing Policy study in 2005 quantified the trade-off, concluding that for every dollar a working family saved on housing it spent 77 cents more on transportation.

for making it possible for families to reduce household expenditures by choosing to live in neighborhoods with lower transportation costs because they are located near transit.

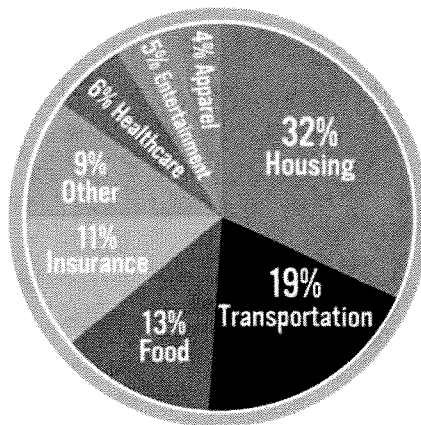
Location matters a great deal. While the average family spends roughly 19 percent of the household budget on transportation, households with good access to transit spend just 9 percent. This savings can be critical for lower-income households that need to make every dollar count because transportation costs as a percentage of the total household budget varies greatly according to income: Transportation costs consume an average of 9 percent of the household budget for high-income families, but for very-low-income families transportation costs can consume 55 percent of the budget or more.

Developing housing near transit can be an affordability

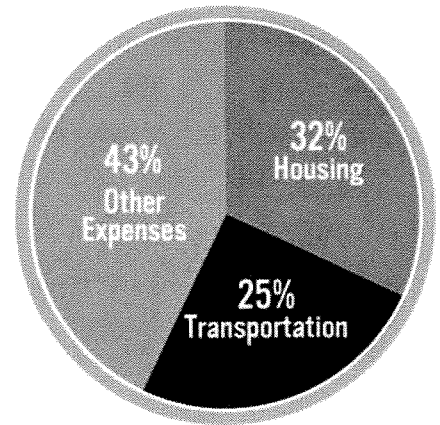
**TRANSIT RICH NEIGHBORHOOD**



**AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY**



**AUTO DEPENDENT EXURBS**



While the average family spends 19 percent of the household budget on transportation, and households in auto-dependent neighborhoods spend 25 percent, households with good access to transit spend just 9 percent. This savings can be critical for low-income households.

Source: Center for TOD + Transportation Affordability Index, 2004 Bureau of Labor Statistics

These trends are happening concurrent with a resurgence of interest in public transportation: The American Public Transportation Association says transit ridership is up 25 percent since 1995. There has been a concurrent transit building boom across the country, with more than 700 new stations under development for a total of more than 4,000 stations. Add to this the fact that urban neighborhoods, especially downtowns, have been recognized as an important new market for infill housing and mixed-use development. The result is an opportunity unprecedented in recent history

strategy that helps families offset the increasing costs of both housing and transportation, which now consumes an average of 57 percent of household income. For all the reasons cited above – traffic, housing and transportation costs, and demographic changes – there has been increasing interest in transit-oriented development (TOD). Developers are interested because they know urban markets are hot, and sites near transit usually permit the higher densities and lower parking ratios that make these infill projects pencil out. Transit agencies are interested because they know TOD makes transit convenient and boosts



ridership. Cities are interested because they see that TOD can spark economic development that provides value and benefits to both new and existing residents, thus raising the tax base. Renters and buyers are interested because they are looking for convenience, affordability, and the amenities they can find in downtowns, urban neighborhoods and suburban town centers.

The Center for Transit-Oriented Development has estimated the demand for housing near transit to increase to almost 16 million U.S. households by the year 2030, roughly a quarter of all renters and buyers. While married couples with children made up the vast majority of households after WWII, boosting interest in the detached single-family home in the suburbs and the automobile, single adults will soon comprise the new majority, and they are interested in a different lifestyle. All the demographic groups that are increasing in size in this country – older, smaller households and singles, and non-white households – are the same groups that have historically preferred urban living and that do use transit.

Transit-oriented development is typically understood to be a higher-density mixed-use single project adjacent to a transit station, but it needs to be understood as something more: the creation of a neighborhood or district comprised of several projects and a rich mix of uses in an environment that promotes walking and transportation choices. These transit-oriented districts can be around heavy rail, light rail, streetcars or even bus, and they can be in either urban or suburban locations. The goal is to make it possible for residents to live convenient, affordable, active lives by providing multiple housing and transportation choices including access to regional transit.

But as the market for transit-oriented development heats up and these neighborhoods prove popular with renters and buyers, there is an increasing need and challenge to ensure that development includes housing for all income levels. This is due in part to the fact that cities and transit agencies may not understand the importance of development near stations. Few tools exist to direct affordable housing to neighborhoods with transit service. Existing planning and zoning often limit the development potential of station areas, such as with single-use zoning, parking minimums, and so on. Moreover, there isn't much available land or many ready-to-go development sites. The result is that this kind of infill development is time-consuming and expensive to build, which causes developers to build to the high end of the housing market.

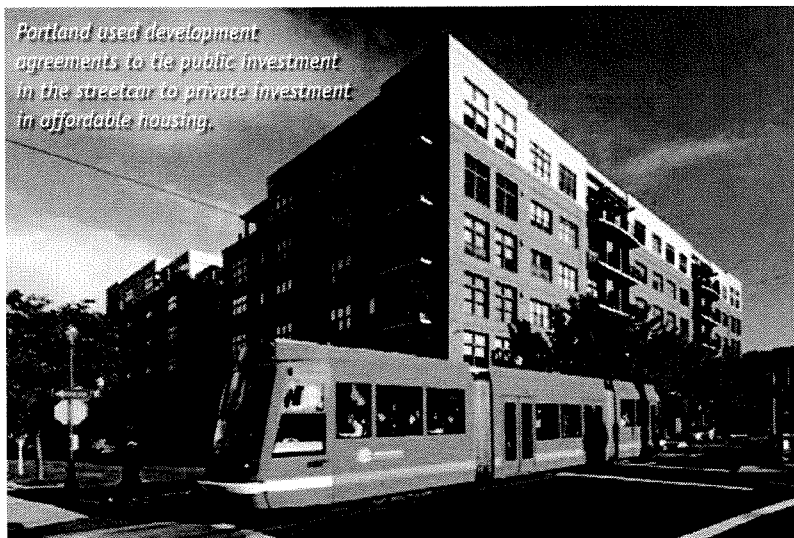
#### **Obstacles to building mixed-income TOD housing include:**

- *Land prices around stations are high or increase because of speculation once a new transit line is announced.*
- *Affordable housing developers don't have the capital to acquire land before the prices go up and then hold it until it's ready to develop.*
- *Funding for building affordable housing is limited.*
- *Mixed-income and mixed-use projects require complex financing structures.*

- *Sites for TOD projects often require land assembly and rezoning, which can lead to lengthy acquisition and permitting processes, which increase development costs.*

- *Parking requirements for TOD are unnecessarily high, which also drives up costs.*

- *Community opposition to density and affordable housing is hard to overcome.*



The national TOD market demand estimate cited above shows that 51 percent of the demand for housing near transit is likely to come from households with incomes below the area median income, roughly \$50,000. These are the households that are also most likely to need assistance in finding housing that is affordable. Considerable demand will also come from moderate-income singles and couples without children making \$60,000 to \$125,000. These are also the household types that are most likely to use transit -- which helps to fully realize the benefit of building housing near transit.

A recent report funded by the Ford Foundation finds that neighborhoods in the half-mile radius around transit already support more racial and economic diversity than the average census tract, and that they are home to a greater share of a region's lower-income households.<sup>1</sup> The data also shows that in three-quarters of these "transit zones" – defined here as the half-mile radius around stations -- households have one car or no cars. This low-rate of auto ownership indicates that residents do realize the cost-savings that comes from lower auto ownership. But as the demand increases and the market heats up for land and housing in these neighborhoods, the threats of gentrification and displacement of lower-income households are very real.

One way to ease these pressures and keep rents and home prices down is to increase the overall supply of transit-oriented development. If more mixed-income housing is built near transit, gentrification pressures in desirable neighborhoods could lessen. Otherwise this will be an enormous missed opportunity to use the market to help address the nation's



growing affordability crisis by tackling the escalating cost of both housing and transportation at the same time. This strategy may provide the additional benefits of addressing the problem of traffic congestion, and expanding access to jobs, educational opportunities and prosperity.

In order to better understand how these opportunities and challenges are playing out in different regions, and the effectiveness of strategies to ensure there is mixed-income housing near transit, this report examines five case study regions. Advancing the state of the practice of linking mixed-income housing to transit investments requires greater creativity and commitment by all levels of government. The funding strategies and tools that have been developed in the case study regions, and the leadership that has emerged, is encouraging. But there is so much potential demand for housing near transit, and so few developable sites, that cities and regions need to be proactive in order to accommodate income diversity in TOD. This will help ensure that as this country moves through the ups and downs of real estate market cycles people of diverse incomes will be able to take advantage of the public investment in transit.

## Lessons Learned in the Case Study Corridors and Regions

**THE FIVE METROPOLITAN REGIONS** chosen as case studies – Boston, Charlotte, Denver, the Twin Cities, Portland – vary in size, the extent and maturity of their transit systems, and the strength of their housing markets. These factors affect the degree to which TOD can serve as an organizing framework for growth, and whether a significant number of households can benefit from reduced transportation expenditures. Table A provides comparisons among the regions in terms of the number of households in transit zones, incomes, housing costs

and potential future demand for housing near transit.

While significant variation exists, there are also similarities. Each region can be characterized as a “warm” or “hot” housing market where rising prices are outpacing increases in income. All the regions are investing in transit and promoting TOD. Different challenges and opportunities exist for a region like Boston, with its well-established densely populated urban neighborhoods and mature 288-station system, than for Denver, which has a small, relatively new system that is being rapidly expanded, and which has fast-growing auto-dependent suburban communities.

For some regions, such as Portland, where there is strong coordination of transportation investments and land use decisions by all levels of government, billions of private sector dollars have been invested in mixed-income development along its streetcar system. In Boston, in contrast, the State has taken an incentive-based approach to increasing housing production, particularly in areas served by transit. Charlotte is a fast-growing metro region where the local government has taken leadership in crafting a strategy for reinvigorating the city and curbing sprawl by channeling growth and investment along a transit system that has yet to be built. Denver and the Twin Cities, while different, are both rediscovering the power of their new systems to shape development and to link regional destinations.

Among the case study regions transportation and housing costs vary significantly by income and by region. But in all regions the average cost of housing is less than 30 percent – the standard for affordability -- for all households. While there is no recognized standard of transportation affordability, on average American households spend 19 percent, the second highest household expense after housing. Using a transportation model developed for a previous study, combined

Table A compares the case study regions in terms of the number of households in transit zones, transit system size and maturity, median income, housing costs, and potential future demand for housing near transit.

TABLE A: COMPARISON OF SELECTED CASE STUDY REGIONS									
Transit Region	Number of Households in 2000 Region (Transit Zones)	Year Regional Service Began	System Size In 2005 (Stations)	2000 Median Income Region (Transit Zones)	Increase in Median Home Values + 2000-2005 [1] Adjusted	Households paying 35% or more for Housing [2]	Percentage of Region's Housing built 2000 or later	2030 Demand TOD from Households earning < \$50K	Projected Household TOD Demand in 2080 [3]
Boston	1,785,552 (413,528.00)	1855	Extensive (288)	\$51,727 (48,308.00)	81%	38%	3.90%	47% 509,219	1,072,309
Charlotte	575,293 (3,777.00)	2007	Small Exp. (10)	\$46,120 (40,715.00)	8%	35%	17.20%	62% 54,101	87,097
Denver	939,971 (17,373.00)	1994	Small (24)	\$51,760 (31,839.00)	18%	38%	12.60%	54% 83,594	155,076
Twin Cities	1,136,615 (17,870.00)	2004	Small Exp. (17)	\$54,317 (\$30,613*)	48%	38%	10.10%	49% 54,187	110,906
Portland	741,778 (73,911.00)	1986	Large (108)	\$47,061 (34,899.00)	22%	40%	10.50%	51% 156,802	308,644
U.S.**	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$41,994	24%	21%	8.40%	51% 8,165,322	16,007,245

\* for owned housing units with a mortgage | \*\* Total TOD Demand refers to 41 transit regions only | 1. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey, Selected Household Characteristics, 2005. | 2. Center for Transit Oriented Development, Preserving and Promoting Diversity Near Transit, December 2006. | 3. Center for Transit-Oriented-Development, Hidden in Plain Sight: Capturing the Demand for Housing Near Transit. Reconnecting America: April 2005 (2030 update, forthcoming Spring 2007) Source: Center for Transit-Oriented-Development, 2000 Census Data and National TOD Database





# BOSTON

## Underutilized Land Fairmount/Indigo Line

### Legend

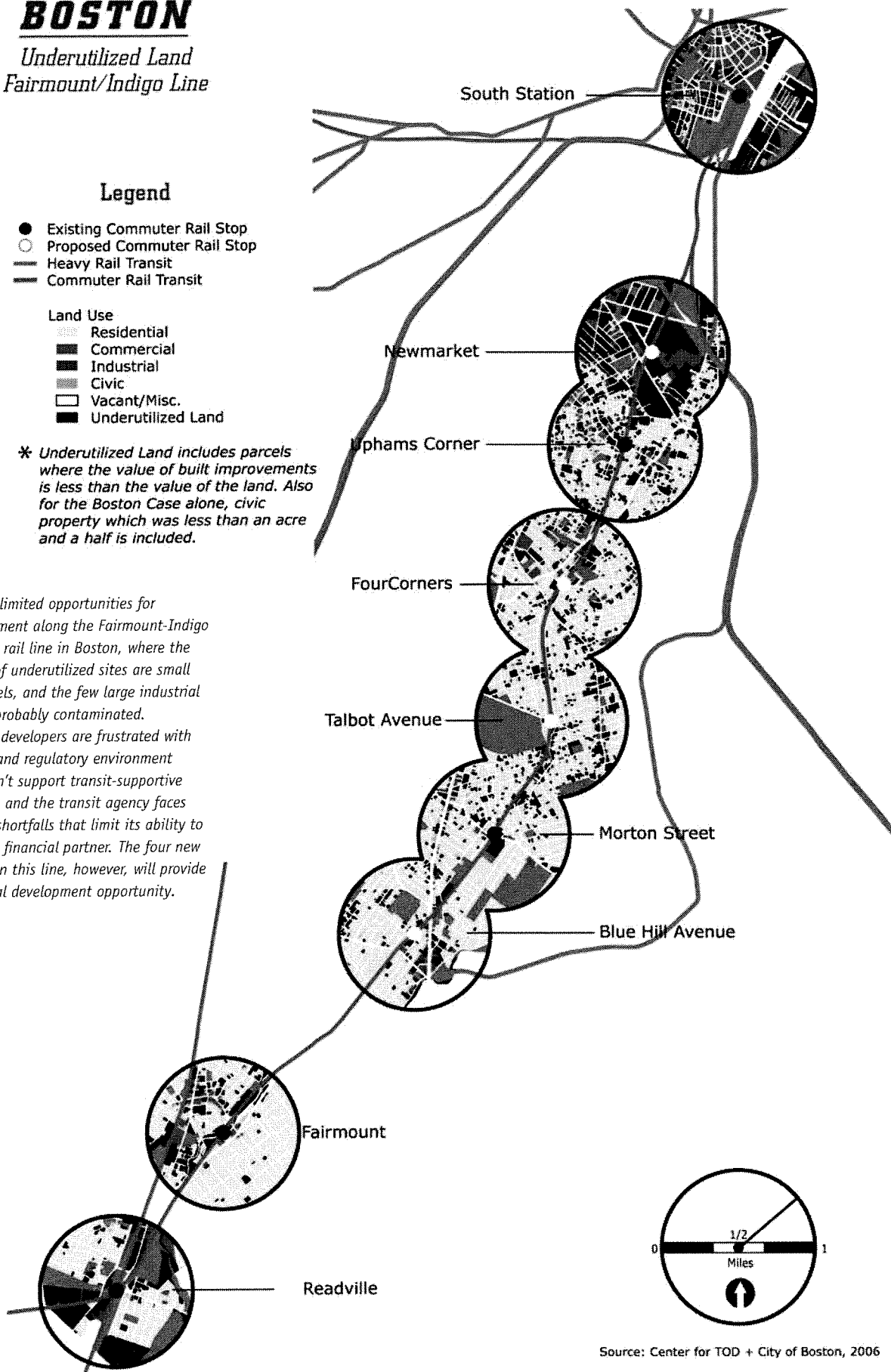
- Existing Commuter Rail Stop
- Proposed Commuter Rail Stop
- Heavy Rail Transit
- Commuter Rail Transit

#### Land Use

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Civic
- Vacant/Misc.
- Underutilized Land

\* Underutilized Land includes parcels where the value of built improvements is less than the value of the land. Also for the Boston Case alone, civic property which was less than an acre and a half is included.

There are limited opportunities for redevelopment along the Fairmount-Indigo commuter rail line in Boston, where the majority of underutilized sites are small infill parcels, and the few large industrial sites are probably contaminated. Moreover, developers are frustrated with a zoning and regulatory environment that doesn't support transit-supportive land uses, and the transit agency faces financial shortfalls that limit its ability to serve as a financial partner. The four new stations on this line, however, will provide substantial development opportunity.



Source: Center for TOD + City of Boston, 2006



transportation and housing costs account for an estimated average of 47 percent of household budgets for households in four of the case study regions.<sup>2</sup> The Twin Cities region has the lowest housing and transportation costs, whereas Boston and Portland are on the higher end.

In each of the case study regions the study focused on a single transportation corridor in order to take a closer look at how different transit technologies – light rail versus heavy rail versus streetcars, for example – affect the housing market, transit ridership (which affects total household costs), and gentrification and displacement. The case studies show there is no single-most-effective approach to promoting mixed-income housing but there are important models that could be applicable in many communities.

## ***BOSTON***

### **TRANSIT CORRIDOR:**

*Fairmount-Indigo Line, a 9-mile commuter rail corridor with 5 stops and 4 new stations proposed; service began in 1896*

### **RIDERSHIP:**

*2,400/day*

### **RESIDENTS IN TRANSIT ZONES (TZ):**

*88,881 residents, 30,169 households*

### **DENSITY:**

*8 dwelling units per acre*

### **MEDIAN INCOME, 1999:**

*\$35,252 in TZ, \$52,792 in region*

### ***The Housing Market***

The Boston region is a hot housing market, and almost half the housing stock is single-family -- a high percentage in one of the nation's highest-priced markets. Home values increased 81 percent to \$394,800 from 2000 to 2005, and rising prices are blamed for continued population decline in the region.

### ***The Case Study Corridor***

The Fairmount/Indigo Line runs through low- and mixed-income communities. The number of stations was decreased from 11 to 5 in the 1970s as the white population moved out and ridership declined. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) now plans to build four new stations and make other infrastructure improvements. MBTA operates 20 rail lines with 288 stations. Less than 10 percent of residents commute by transit, which is more than double the national average of 4.6 percent but below the average of 35 percent for metro regions with populations of more than 5 million.

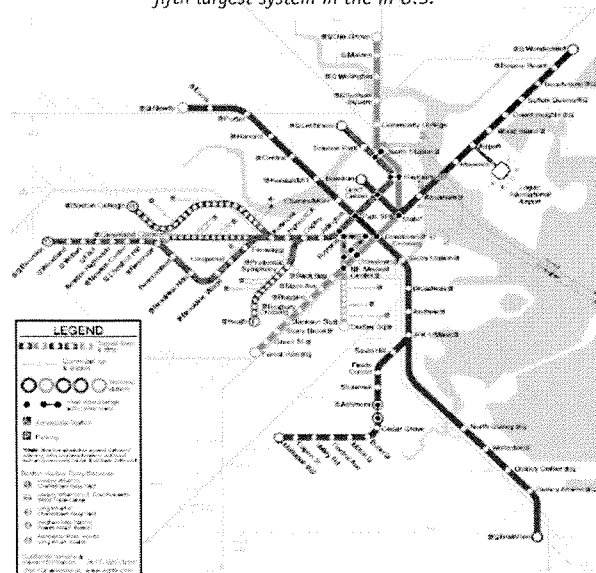
### ***Local Policy and Funding***

Massachusetts is a national leader in promoting mixed-income TOD. There is better coordination at all levels of government than in any other case study region, even though home rule restrictions limit local decision-making power. The city and

commonwealth both share the goal of increasing housing production, maintaining neighborhood stability, and promoting development near transit. The commonwealth has created a \$30 million TOD Infrastructure and Housing Support program, and new smart growth housing laws provide financial incentives for more compact housing. MBTA has an extensive inventory of land and air rights at stations, and partners with MassHousing, a State agency that works to increase affordable housing, to provide technical assistance and resources. MassHousing provides \$100 million for mixed-income housing projects, with specific funds set aside for affordable projects near transit.

There are limited redevelopment opportunities in the Fairmount/Indigo corridor, as the majority of underutilized sites are small, infill parcels, and the few large industrial sites

*Boston's mass transit system is recognized as one of the region's most undervalued assets. With more than 300 stations, it's the fifth largest system in the U.S.*



are probably contaminated. While new stations could stimulate development of up to 5,000 new housing units this would fall far short of the projected demand. Moreover, developers are frustrated with the zoning and regulatory environment and it is clear that zoning is needed that mandates transit-supportive land uses. Developers lack certainty about what kind and how much development will be permitted, which adds time and cost to projects. MBTA, meanwhile, faces financial shortfalls limiting the agency's ability to help out as a financial partner.

But the size of the transit system is recognized as one of the region's most undervalued assets, and new stations will provide substantial development opportunity. Several well-established community development corporations CDCs are leading the campaign to improve the line and create mixed-income projects, and they are able to secure funding, leverage assets, and engage the community. Moreover, the corridor hasn't seen much market-rate development, and now that the housing market has softened, affordable housing developers have been working with the MBTA, the State and the city to secure properties.



### **Lessons Learned**

- *The State can be a powerful TOD partner: Creating a Statewide TOD framework encourages greater regional coordination and levels the playing field between cities and suburbs. Strong Brownfield legislation also provides funding and liability protection for non-responsible parties, and allows for-profit and nonprofit entities to access assumable tax credits for redevelopment projects.*
- *CDCs can play a critical role, especially with small sites: CDCs have a community base and access to outside funding, and their organizing experience can help allay concerns about density, traffic and gentrification. CDCs should be included in planning initiatives and given access to public resources and technical assistance.*
- *Create flexible affordable housing funds: CDCs are used to assembling a patchwork quilt of funding sources – each with different requirements and timeframes – for a single project. Government should make these funds more flexible and accessible with limited application and reporting requirements.*

## **CHARLOTTE**

### **TRANSIT CORRIDOR:**

*9-miles of light rail with 15 stations; service to begin in 2007*

### **RIDERSHIP:**

*estimated to be 9,100/day*

### **RESIDENTS IN TRANSIT ZONES (TZ):**

*21,063 residents, 9,406 households*

### **DENSITY:**

*6.7 dwelling units per acre*

### **MEDIAN INCOME, 1999:**

*\$39,388 in TZ, \$46,119 in region*

### **The Housing Market**

Charlotte's sprawling, moderately priced housing market is growing rapidly: 66 percent of homes are single family, with more than 17 percent built after 2000. This rapid increase in housing production appears to be constraining prices. From 2000 to 2005 prices increased just 8 percent to \$150,900, compared to a national average of 24 percent. The region is one of the nation's fastest growing, and is expected to grow 57 percent to 848,539 households, 10 percent of which can be expected to want to live near transit.

### **The Case Study Corridor**

The case study focuses on the South Corridor light rail line, scheduled to begin operation in 2007, which will connect Charlotte's Uptown neighborhood to suburban Pineville. Existing housing stock along the line is low-density.

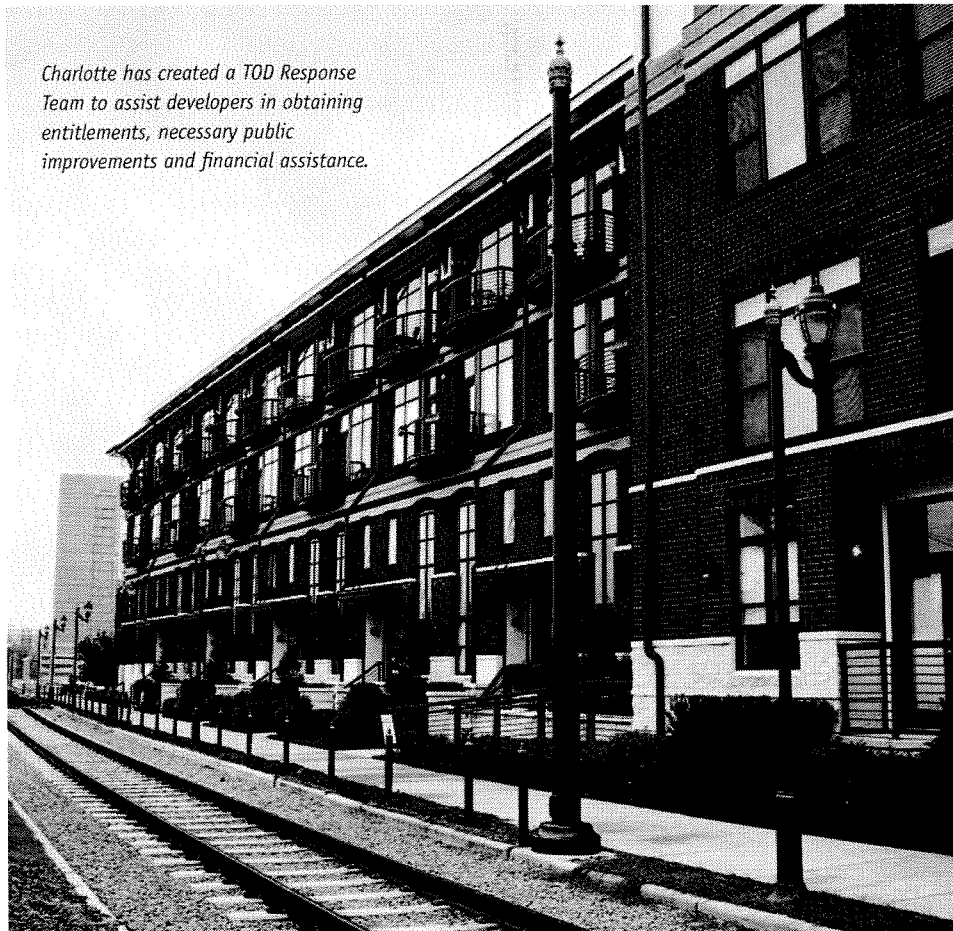
### **Local Policy and Funding**

The city and Mecklenburg County share jurisdiction, and the city manages the Charlotte Area Transportation System (CATS), which has enhanced the coordination of transportation and land use planning and initiatives. The city approved a comprehensive land use plan in 1998 to manage the region's rapid growth by coordinating development with transit, and five new light rail lines and a modern streetcar line are planned. At present there is only a bus system, which carries a relatively low percentage (1 percent) of commuters.

The comprehensive plan laid out a process for planning and implementing land use regulations and infrastructure improvements. Walking areas have been defined for the half-mile radius around stations, and station area plans, transit-supportive zoning, and "pedscapes" have been adopted in some neighborhoods. The city developed transit-supportive overlays to begin transitioning other station areas to appropriate land uses, and is improving sidewalks, bike paths, medians, park and ride lots, and drainage around stations.

The city has created a TOD Response Team to assist developers in obtaining entitlements, necessary public improvements and financial assistance. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission has also been proactive with site-specific re-zonings for TOD in areas where station area plans have not been adopted. A South Corridor Land Acquisition Fund was created to enable public assembly of key opportunity sites, a critical tool for creating development opportunities at a scale that can be profitable and transformative.

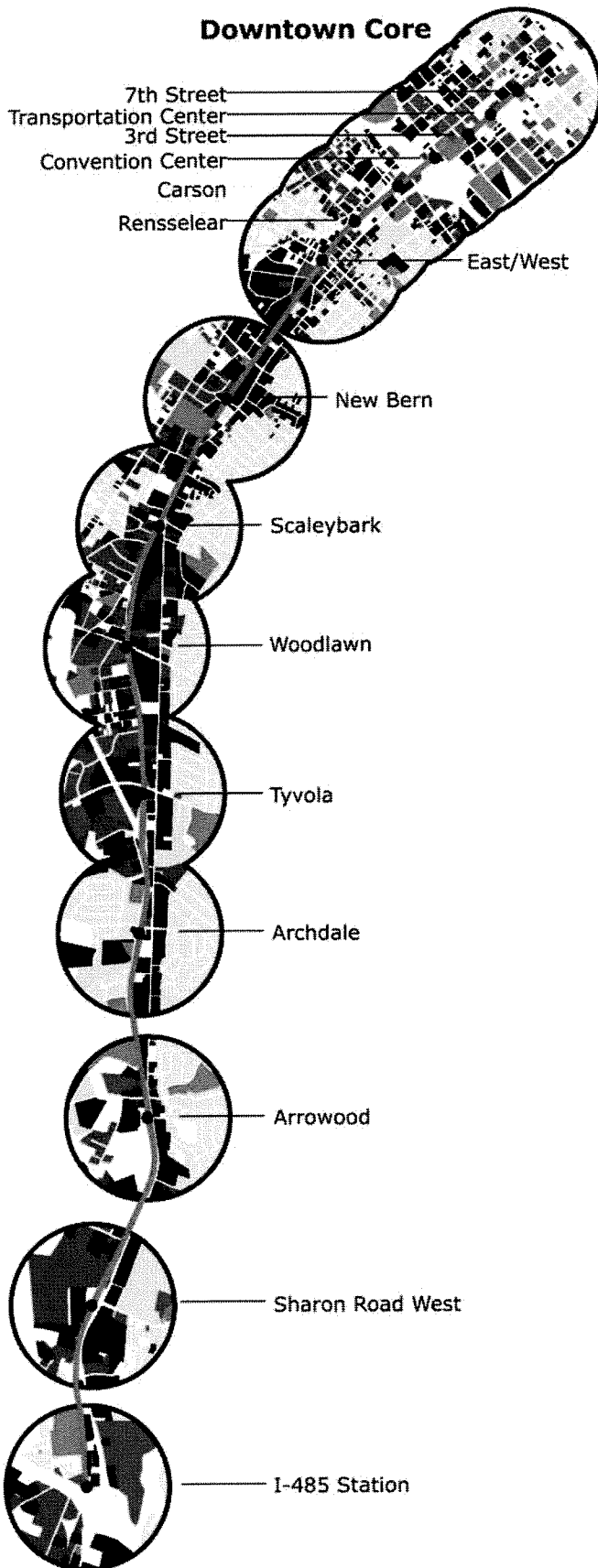
*Charlotte has created a TOD Response Team to assist developers in obtaining entitlements, necessary public improvements and financial assistance.*





# CHARLOTTE

*Underutilized Land  
South Corridor/Blue Line*



## Legend

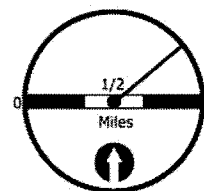
- Proposed Light Rail Stop
- Light Rail Transit (Under Construction)

### Land Use

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Civic
- Vacant/Misc.
- Open Space
- Underutilized Land

\* Underutilized Land includes parcels where the value of built improvements is less than the value of the land

Unlike the Fairmount-Indigo line in Boston, Charlotte's South Corridor light rail line has many large, underutilized commercial and industrial properties around stations. Siting a line where there is this much potential for development and creating plans and tools to create and preserve income diversity will be a potent combination. However, transforming these neighborhoods into walkable, multimodal, mixed-use places will take time and require significant investments to improve connectivity, safety and neighborhood character.

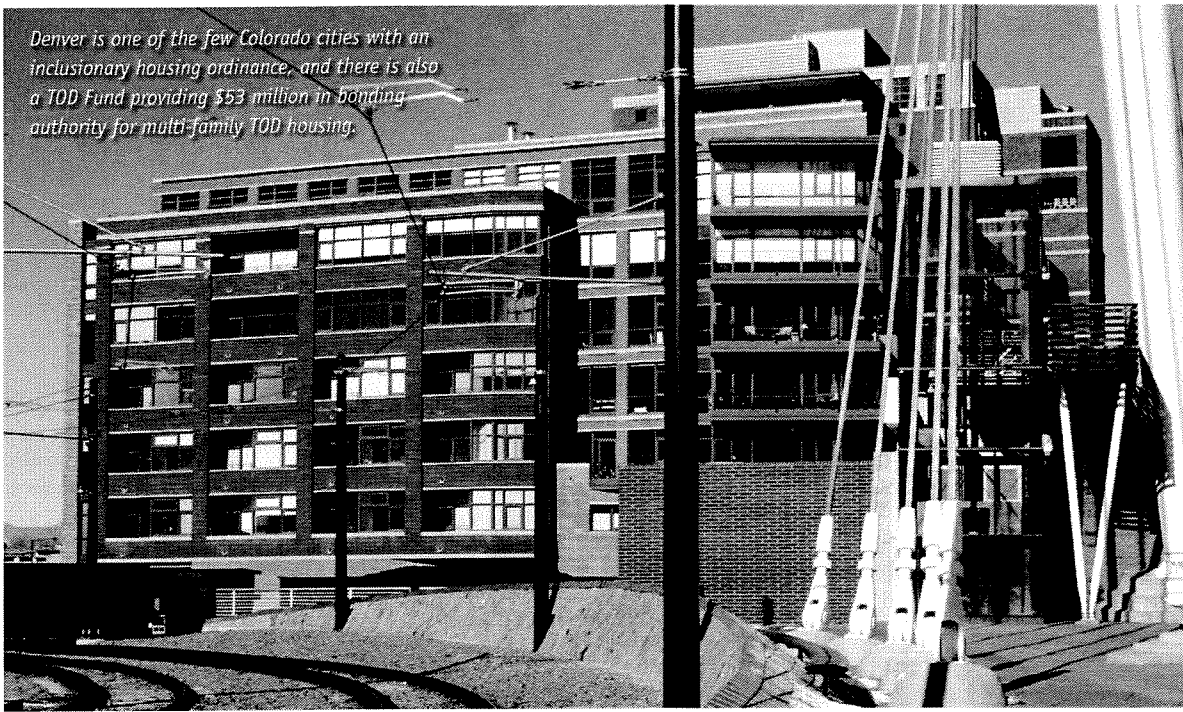


Source: Center for TOD+ Mecklenburg County, 2006





*Denver is one of the few Colorado cities with an inclusionary housing ordinance, and there is also a TOD Fund providing \$53 million in bonding authority for multi-family TOD housing.*



The city, county and CATS are all working to link affordable housing to TOD, but it's too early to assess their efforts. A fair-share housing policy limits the number of subsidized units to 10 percent in any "neighborhood statistical area," but an exception has been made allowing for 20 percent within a quarter mile of stations. The city and county are providing gap financing to help proposed projects score better in the competition for State affordable housing funds. But South Corridor neighborhoods are higher-income than those along the Fairmount/Indigo line in Boston, with its long history of CDC involvement and support for affordable housing, and they don't view affordable housing as an asset.

Transforming neighborhoods along the South Corridor into walkable, multi-modal, mixed-use places will take time and require significant investments to improve connectivity, safety and neighborhood character. These improvements could pull some of the momentum of the downtown housing market south along the corridor, but could also tap out funding otherwise available for affordable housing. The Uptown and South End neighborhoods – where stations will be built -- are complex urban environments with many uses, street networks and physical character. There are many large and underutilized industrial and commercial sites that will provide significant redevelopment opportunities. The city needs to preserve some commercial uses, however, to maintain a diverse and healthy economy.

The Charlotte light rail corridor is different from the other case study corridors in that there are so many large underutilized commercial and industrial properties around stations. The transit investment has the potential to catalyze new development -- residential development in particular -- on a scale that could transform the character and livability of these neighborhoods. Siting a transit line where there is a high potential for transit-supportive development, and then creating plans and tools intended to create and preserve income diversity will be a potent combination that can be adopted and adapted by other communities.

### ***Lessons Learned***

- *Plan for success with TOD-supportive zoning and public improvements: All the public partners have worked hard to create an integrated policy framework to support TOD and mixed-income housing using station area plans, zoning updates, the identification of critical infrastructure improvements, and a revision of the city's affordable housing policy.*
- *Planned growth corridors like the South Corridor require comprehensive implementation tools: The city and its partners have created important tools, including the voter-approved \$50 million infrastructure bond to fund improvements in the corridor and the land acquisition fund; the TOD Response Team with dedicated staff; and a joint development program.*

## **DENVER**

### **TRANSIT CORRIDOR:**

*West Corridor 12.1-mile light rail line with 11 stations; service to begin 2013*

### **RIDERSHIP:**

*estimated to be 31,100/day in 2025*

### **RESIDENTS IN TRANSIT ZONES (TZ):**

*37,868 residents, 14,389 households*

### **DENSITY:**

*9.6 dwelling units per acre*

### **MEDIAN INCOME, 1999:**

*\$35,764 in TZ, \$51,088 in region*

### ***The Housing Market***

The Denver region is a moderately growing housing market; 60 percent of homes are single-family, similar to the national average, with 12.6 percent built in 2000 or later. The increase in housing production is consistent with population growth.



Housing prices rose 18 percent, more slowly than the average national increase, to \$239,500 from 2000 to 2005. The region's population is expected to grow 57 percent from 1 million households in 2000 to 1.5 million in 2030, with 10 percent expected to want housing near transit.

### ***The Case Study Corridor***

In 2004 Denver voters passed the FasTracks initiative dedicating a half-cent sales tax to construction of five new rail lines in 15 years, a \$4.7 billion investment. In 2000, 5 percent of work trips were by transit. The West Corridor light rail line was chosen as the case study. It will connect downtown with many regional destinations and existing bus and rail service. Land uses are primarily commercial and civic, including the Jefferson County Government Center, Federal Center, and four colleges, and it is built-out with residential and commercial uses.

Redevelopment opportunities will depend on the availability of underutilized properties and "greyfields." Significant opportunity exists for reinvestment in established housing stock, however, and two station areas include distressed public housing projects. There are concerns about displacement of lower-income households as a result of the redevelopment.

### ***Local Policy and Funding***

Planning and rezoning efforts are underway, and pedestrian linkages are being examined. The transit agency sponsored a planning charette to better understand how the location and design of stations could catalyze or inhibit development. The region is also developing tools and incentives for housing along transit corridors, and together with the transit agency is providing technical assistance and other support to local governments for station area planning.

Denver is one of the few cities in Colorado with an inclusionary zoning ordinance, but it only pertains to new homeownership units and households with 80-95 percent of area median income, limiting the depth of affordability. Units must remain affordable for just 15 years, also limiting long-term affordability. However, the Metro Mayors Caucus and Colorado Housing and Finance Authority have created a TOD Fund that provides \$53 million in bonding authority to finance the construction, acquisition and rehab of multifamily TOD housing near transit.

The West Corridor includes a high percentage of low-income households, so assuring long-term affordability and access to transit is important. At the same time, realizing the full potential for transit-oriented development in the corridor will require addressing the challenges of concentrated poverty. There are presently three distressed public housing sites located within walking distance of proposed transit stops and the crime and disinvestment of these properties is likely to act as a disincentive to private developers. Without targeted strategies to preserve their housing options, these low-income households will probably be displaced as the corridor develops, given that the line connects to downtown and so many regional destinations.

Because the line won't open for six years, the market has yet to respond. Land speculation has begun, but there's still an opportunity for the community to acquire sites for mixed-income housing. Given high land prices, however, residential density will be necessary to make projects pencil out and this will translate into significant infrastructure costs: Upgrading sewer lines can be expensive, for example, especially in older communities. Affordable housing developers can rarely take on these financial burdens.

### ***Lessons Learned***

- *Voters support transit and TOD: FasTracks sent the powerful message that it's possible to generate broad regional support for local transit, and the scale of this initiative has attracted national developers.*
- *Don't underestimate the potential for land speculation: It is a formidable obstacle to affordability. Acquiring and holding land requires considerable capital and is beyond the means of most developers. Furthermore, many traditional funding sources for affordable housing cannot be used to purchase land. Regions with ambitious transit expansion plans may want to help public and private actors acquire and hold land in tandem with the siting of lines and stations.*
- *Develop housing transition strategies for distressed areas: The station just west of downtown includes two of the public housing projects and 125 acres of underutilized land with strong redevelopment potential. The city could help rebuild these projects as mixed-income housing, and set goals for relocating the balance of affordable units (a mixed-income development is unlikely to replace all of the existing low-income residences). The city and county should lead a planning effort that brings stakeholders together around a compelling vision.*

## ***THE TWIN CITIES***

### **TRANSIT CORRIDOR:**

*Hiawatha Corridor 12-mile light rail line with 17 stops; service began in 2004*

### **RIDERSHIP:**

*estimated to be 31,000/day in 2006*

### **RESIDENTS IN TRANSIT ZONES (TZ):**

*42,377 residents, 17,870 households*

### **DENSITY:**

*18 dwelling units per acre*

### **MEDIAN INCOME, 1999:**

*\$30,571 in TZ, \$54,304 in region*

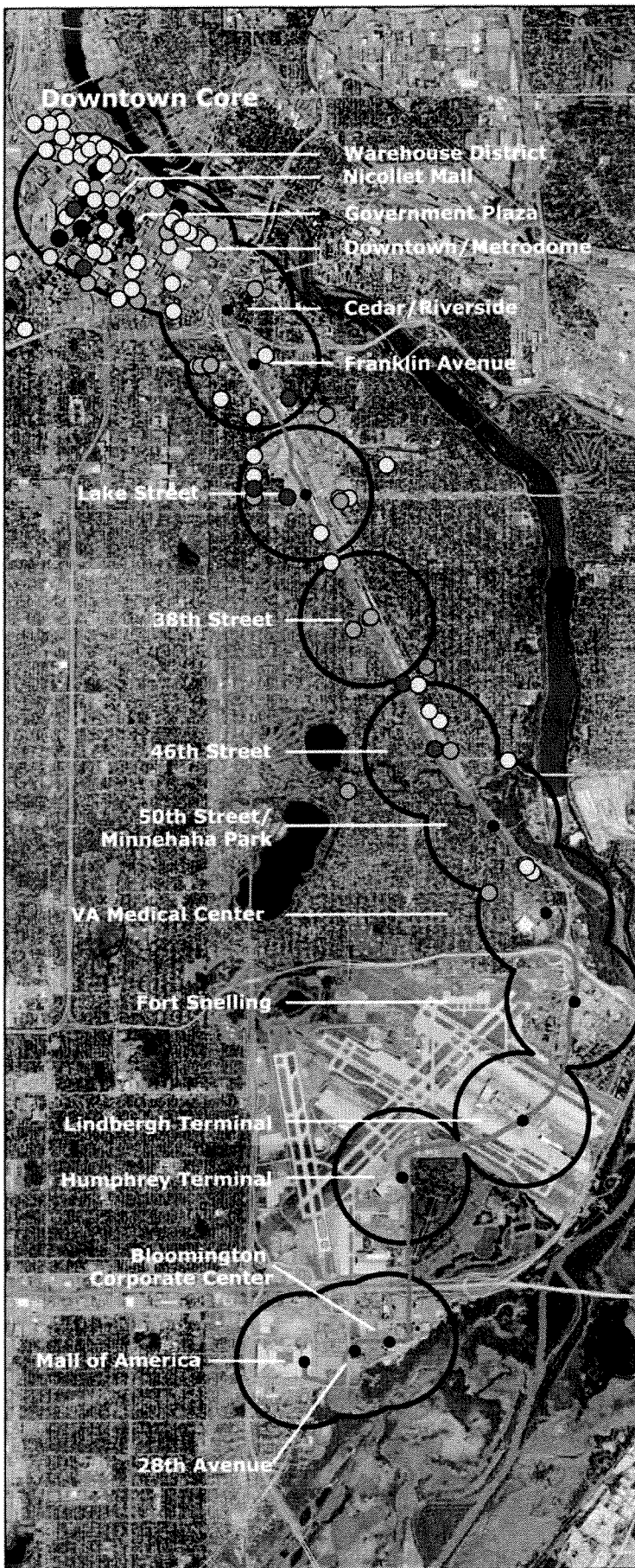
### ***The Housing Market***

The housing market in the Twin Cities is hot, fast-growing and sprawling; 62 percent of homes were single family in 2005, slightly above the national average, with 10.1 percent built in 2000 or later. Housing production isn't keeping pace with population growth, and prices have risen almost 50 percent from 2000 to 2005 to \$235,900, double the national average.



# THE TWIN CITIES

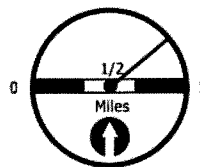
*Recent, Planned + Proposed  
Development (After 2003)  
Hiawatha Line*



## Legend

- Light Rail Stop
- Light Rail Transit
- Recent Development
- Residential
- Mixed Use Residential
- Retail
- Office
- Hotel
- Civic
- Parking
- \* Some projects may not show up due to overlapping dots
- \* Projects Unavailable for Bloomington Stations

*The amount of developer interest in Minneapolis' Hiawatha light rail line has surprised planners and residents, and projects are going up all along the line. While most of the development is concentrated downtown, smaller-scale projects are now being built in older, established neighborhoods as well. These neighborhoods are where some of the region's most affordable housing is located, and anxiety is growing over gentrification and neighborhood change.*



Source: The Center for TOD + Strategic Economics + City of Minneapolis, 2006



*Residential towers have sprung up around four downtown stations in Minneapolis, and industrial areas have been redeveloped as high-density mixed-use projects.*

The region is expected to grow 50 percent by 2030, from 1.1 million households to 1.7 million, with 6.5 percent expected to want housing near transit.

### ***The Case Study Corridor***

The Hiawatha light rail corridor, subject of the case study, was the first in a series of transit improvements planned for the next 30 years. In 2006 ridership on the line exceeded the 2025 projections by 30 percent. Four percent of commute trips are by transit in the region. The Hiawatha line connects downtown to suburban Bloomington, home of the Mall of America and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, as well as jobs, sports and theater events, hospitals, retail and open space. Development is occurring all along the line, concentrated mostly in downtown, though smaller-scale projects are appearing in older, established neighborhoods, which offer some of the region's most affordable housing. The amount of developer interest has surprised planners and residents.

### ***Local Policy and Funding***

Metro Transit is overseen by the Metropolitan Council, the regional planning organization, which funded planning efforts during construction of the line; the city, meanwhile, developed station area plans with neighborhood input. There is growing anxiety over gentrification and neighborhood change, indicating the importance of communicating clearly about the type and amount of planned development and the commitment to affordability.

The city, county and region all have affordable housing programs, and gap financing is provided by the city and county with incentives for proximity to transit. The county also provides financial support for TOD, but has funded mostly market-rate projects. Some sites would qualify for Brownfield funding provided by the Metropolitan Council, and the city owns several vacant parcels that could be developed as mixed-income housing and catalyze the market. A variety of other TOD tools exist, but they may not necessarily strengthen the link between affordability and transit.

More than half the uses in the corridor are civic, which is both obstacle and opportunity: Public property owners have more resources and a mandate to be more transit-oriented when redeveloping their properties. But civic uses tend to be fixed and indifferent to the market, and redevelopment is complicated and difficult to integrate with other uses. Moreover, strategic planning needs to involve multiple public partners, including the Federal government, a major property owner in the corridor, the metropolitan airport authority, Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis (with 11 stations), and the City of Bloomington (three stations).

However, investment in the line bolstered the market around four downtown stations, where high-rise and mid-rise condominium towers have sprung up and industrial areas have



been redeveloped as high-density mixed-use projects. This development is oriented toward transit and provides a lively, walkable environment in which to live and work.

### ***Lessons Learned***

- *Outreach and coordination are necessary during the planning and design of new lines: The State Department of Transportation played a critical role in the engineering, design and construction of the Hiawatha line. But more outreach and coordination with city staff, corridor residents and the private sector would have led to better decisions about siting the line and stations to provide better pedestrian access and more development opportunities.*
- *Best to proactively address community change: Most development has happened downtown but public intervention to create and preserve affordable housing may be necessary if the market moves south into low-income neighborhoods. Pockets of concentrated poverty along the line could benefit from mixed-income strategies. This would require engaging the private sector and providing gap financing, rental subsidies or other incentives.*
- *The market can leverage community benefits: 66 projects have been planned or built downtown since 2003, most are residential, and seven include income-restricted and rent-subsidized units. Impact fees are illegal in Minnesota, but development agreements could be used to leverage community benefits from large projects, linking increases in density or other entitlements to investments in affordable housing. These agreements need to be negotiated before rezoning and coordinated with public infrastructure improvements.*
- *Large- and small-scale TOD projects are required: Both are required to create the density and pedestrian activity that supports retail. A high percentage of the development along the Hiawatha corridor will be on smaller parcels, where density bonuses could leverage community benefits including affordable units, green building, open space and sidewalk and streetscape improvements.*
- *Regional leadership is necessary: New transit projects create tremendous potential for mixed-income housing near transit. But this requires tools beyond what any one jurisdiction can provide. Strong regional coordination of investments and policies is important to the overall efficacy of any one of them.*







*Public investment in the Portland streetcar helped leverage private investment in parks and high-quality public space that make for sublime city living, even for families.*

## ***PORTLAND***

### **TRANSIT CORRIDOR:**

*3-mile streetcar line with 38 stops; service began in 2001 to the Pearl District and 2006 in the South Waterfront*

### **RIDERSHIP:**

*7,783/day in 2005*

### **RESIDENTS IN TRANSIT ZONES (TZ):**

*30,731 residents, 19,555 households*

### **DENSITY:**

*39 dwelling units per acre*

### **MEDIAN INCOME, 1999:**

*\$27,921 in TZ, \$46,090 in region*

### ***The Housing Market***

Portland is a hot, moderately growing housing market; 63 percent of housing units are single family, with 10.5 percent built in 2000 or later. The growth in housing units combined with the increasing attractiveness and high median incomes in the region have put pressure on prices, which rose 22 percent between 2000 and 2005 to \$228,400, higher than the national average. The region is expected to grow 54 percent, from 741,776 to 1.15 million households in 2030, with 27 percent expected to want to live near transit.

### ***The Case Study Corridor***

The case study corridor is along the streetcar, which opened in 2001; two extensions, to Portland State University and to the South Waterfront redevelopment district, have opened since, and more extensions are planned. The streetcar connects to the regional light rail transit system. Regional transit usage by commuters is 6 percent above the national average, and an additional 4 percent of work trips are made by bicycle or on foot, well above the national average of 2.4 percent.

### ***Local Policy and Funding***

The city and Metro, which is the regional government, together with TriMet, the regional transit agency, are often

cited for their innovative and comprehensive approach to promoting TOD and transportation alternatives, including a modern streetcar and aerial tram. The State also supports TOD by authorizing tax abatements to provide additional incentives. TriMet plays an active role in acquiring land and establishing development criteria through its joint development authority. All visioning and planning is done with significant community input, and the private sector has been instrumental in implementing the vision of an environmentally and socially sustainable region.

Approximately \$2.3 billion in development has occurred along the streetcar line in the Pearl District -- a substantial return on the \$52 million transit project -- and another new neighborhood called South Waterfront is being developed on underutilized industrial land that is also connected to downtown by the streetcar. Once an abandoned rail yard on the river near downtown, the Pearl is now home to a vibrant mix of uses including 7,000 residential units, 25 percent of which are affordable.

The 1998 Central City Plan introduced the idea of redeveloping these two large parcels into high-density mixed-use neighborhoods served by the streetcar. Both were established as urban renewal areas, and a local improvement district assessed non-owner-occupied residences to help pay for the streetcar and other improvements. The Central City Plan was reinforced by both regional and State land-use policies, as well as continued investment in pedestrian, bicycle and transit infrastructure. And it was supported by political leaders, powerful neighborhood associations and civic-minded developers.

Given the industrial nature of the rail yards and the large parcels of land, the Pearl lacked even the most basic infrastructure necessary to accommodate residential development. Moreover, the property was contaminated, creating delays and additional costs, which were eventually recovered from the former land owners. The Portland Development Commission (PDC) -- the city's urban renewal, housing and economic development agency -- was the conduit for millions of dollars of public investment in the Pearl and South Waterfront, and used development agreements to leverage public objectives like affordability, parks and density.

The PDC, which had no financial resources to bring to the table, negotiated a deal with Hoyt Street Properties, the single largest landowner, that centered on the city making two improvements: The city would remove an overhead ramp that ran through the middle of Hoyt Street's 40 acres, rendering adjacent land un-developable, if the developer would commit to building a minimum of 87 dwelling units per acre (dua). The



city also agreed to choose a streetcar alignment adjacent to Hoyt Street's property if density were further increased to 109 du/a. Density was boosted to 131 du/a when the city completed a park on land donated by the developer. The developer also contributed nearly \$1 million to the city and local improvement district, donated other rights of way, and agreed to meet the city's affordability requirements. These densities would not have been possible without the streetcar because developers would have had to provide significantly more parking – most projects are parked at much lower ratios than elsewhere in the region – which would have dramatically increased the cost of development and reduced the number of housing units.

The large single-owner parcels provided major development opportunities – whole new neighborhoods were being built, allowing for the creation of a very different urban environment. Prior to the streetcar there was very little housing downtown, and high-quality high-density development and the lifestyle it supports were unknown in Portland. The pent-up demand for higher-density housing near transit coincided with demographic changes across the country resulting in smaller, older, more diverse households, boosting the market for urban housing. Moreover, because there were no existing residents, there was no community opposition.

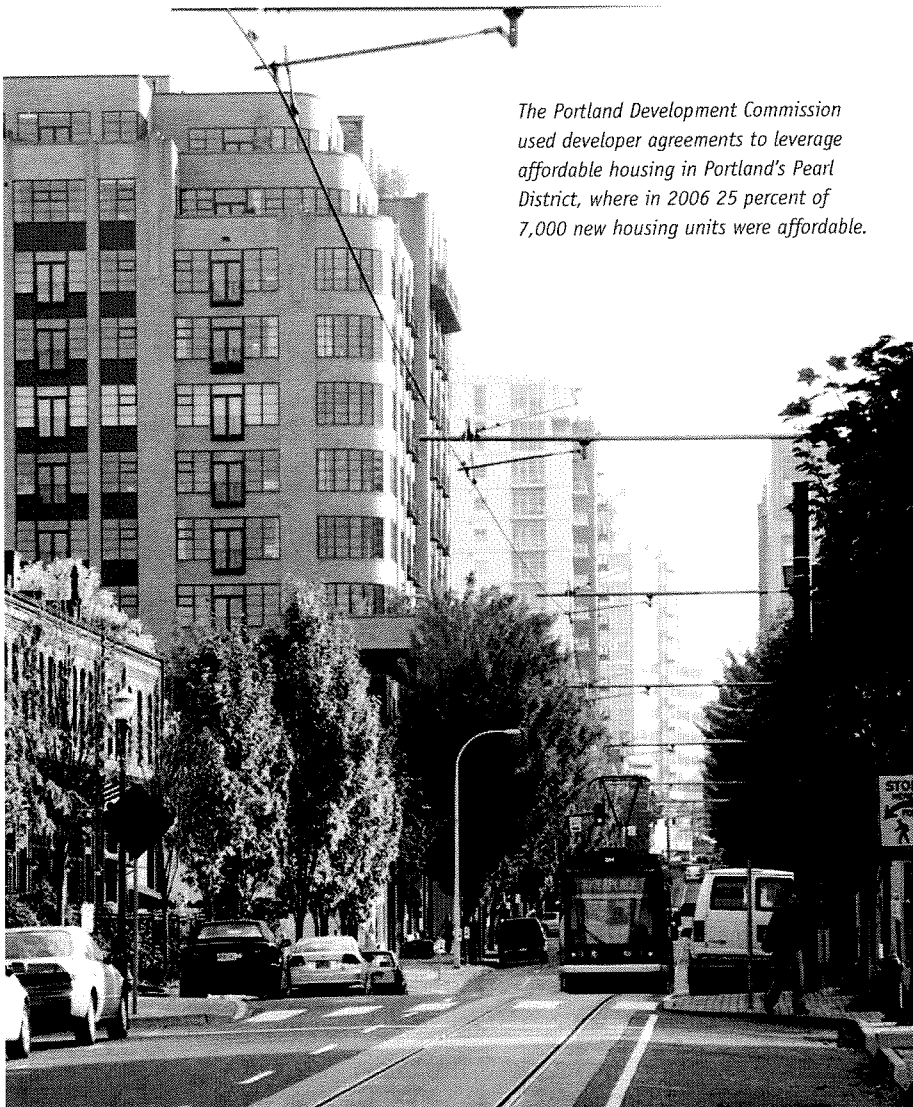
Hoyt Street Properties and the city had acquired large

portions of the rail yard prior to the escalation in value that typically accompanies up-zoning. This increased value helped pay for infrastructure and amenities through the use of tax-increment financing. Hoyt Street developer Homer Williams had mostly done single-family projects before the Pearl, and he took on significant risk for this unproven housing product. Williams is now a key owner and developer in South Waterfront.

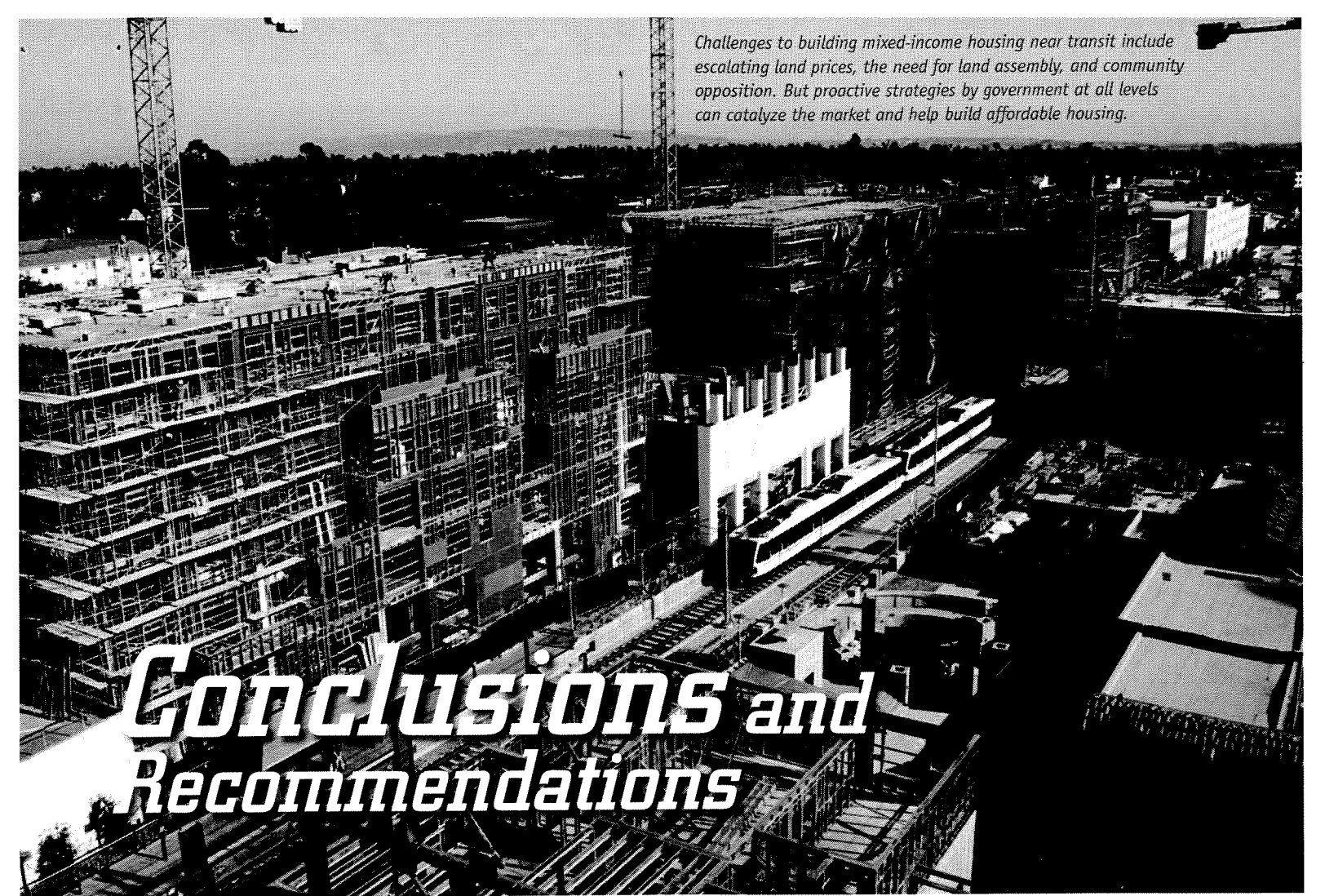
### **Lessons Learned**

- *Development agreements are an important value-capture tool: Comprehensive agreements outlining the responsibilities of all parties are an important tool for complex large-scale public/private projects. They motivate developers while ensuring that public goals are met and trust is maintained. Developers will help pay for infrastructure, affordable housing and other amenities in return for entitlements and other public support.*
- *A TOD framework is critical: Having a clear redevelopment plan – the Central City Plan – and appropriate zoning was critical for negotiations, implementation and successful place-making.*
- *Flexibility is key: Market changes and unexpected costs resulted in a different scenario than originally planned in the Pearl District. Flexibility is necessary to enable the developer to profit. A broad range of uses were allowed, though buildings had to respond to design standards.*
- *Underutilized industrial land presents significant opportunities for TOD: Large parcels can provide for whole new higher-density transit-oriented urban neighborhoods. Significant public investment may be needed, but it provides an opportunity for public-private partnerships.*
- *Different tools are required for different redevelopment opportunities: The development agreement is a good tool for large parcels but not for built-out areas with small infill parcels.*
- *Inclusionary zoning isn't the only tool for affordable housing: Portland used development agreements, and set a goal of building the same percentage of affordable units as existed citywide. The mix of affordable units is re-evaluated at each phase of the project.*
- *Value capture strategies should fund an array of benefits: A variety of community benefits besides affordability are necessary to make a neighborhood work. The goal of affordability must be balanced with the need for open space, transit, density (where it involves more market risk), and other public amenities. Community input is required to determine the best balance.*
- *Create equal opportunity for developers: Tax abatements are another powerful tool to shape development. Incentives should be available to both for-profit and nonprofit developers to stimulate the production of affordable housing.*

*The Portland Development Commission used developer agreements to leverage affordable housing in Portland's Pearl District, where in 2006 25 percent of 7,000 new housing units were affordable.*







Challenges to building mixed-income housing near transit include escalating land prices, the need for land assembly, and community opposition. But proactive strategies by government at all levels can catalyze the market and help build affordable housing.

# Conclusions and Recommendations

**THE FIVE CASE STUDIES** demonstrate that while there are challenges to providing mixed-income housing near transit, proactive strategies on the part of State, regional and local governments can serve as a catalyst for the market and help ensure that housing near transit serves a mix of incomes. These strategies can be broadly characterized into five categories of action detailed below. Table 10.1 specifies whether each of these strategies applies to State, regional and local governments and the private sector. There are descriptions of Federal actions that may be undertaken to support State and local decisions about housing and public transportation at the end of this report.

## ***Proactive Strategies for Mixed-Income TOD***

### **A. Identify and utilize TOD opportunities in the region and along transit corridors.**

- Target a significant percentage of regional growth into transit corridors: As transit systems expand and connect to more jobs and destinations, the opportunity to provide more housing for a wider range of incomes increases.
- Assess the potential for TOD to mitigate negative outcomes of displacement in the station areas where displacement of existing low-income residents could occur.
- Utilize publicly-owned properties along transit corridors for

*mixed-income housing: Land, buildings and excess facilities can be developed as mixed-income housing and help catalyze the market.*

### **B. Provide incentives that help catalyze the market for mixed-income TOD.**

- Create incentives at the local jurisdiction level to build at transit-appropriate densities: Both transit and affordable housing are significant public investments. Some regions make funding for new transit projects contingent on TOD-supportive planning and zoning (including density bonuses and lower parking requirements) by local governments in a proposed corridor.
- Facilitate the use of value capture tools for affordable housing and TOD: TOD can be very expensive because of the time and complexity involved, and adding in the costs of affordable units can make projects infeasible. But value capture tools such as tax increment financing, business improvement districts, and developer agreements can help underwrite mixed-income TOD.
- Create TOD land acquisition/land banking funds: These funds can be used to purchase land and housing near stations before the market heats up. Development fees, flexible State transportation and housing funds, and foundation funding can be used.
- Modify low-income housing tax credits to offer greater



incentives for locating near transit: Four key changes would go a long way: 1) Offer points for proximity to transit. 2) Increase the subsidy for transit-oriented projects. 3) Enable larger TOD projects to benefit from low income housing tax credits. 4) Prioritize tax credits for the preservation of existing affordable housing, and consolidate the underwriting process to apply for tax credits and other resources simultaneously.

### **C. Remove regulatory barriers to higher density, mixed-use development.**

- Removing barriers helps reduce the cost of TOD: Zoning codes should support higher density mixed-use development, parking requirements should be reduced, and the entitlement and approvals process should be shortened and simplified.
- Encourage proactive station area planning and zoning: This helps provide certainty for developers and for existing residents, and minimizes community opposition.

### **D. Coordinate housing and transportation plans and investments.**

- Coordinate long-range housing, land development and transportation planning processes: Both HUD and FTA require long-range plans. Coordination can result in more sustainable growth, and greater efficiencies and cost-savings for local governments and residents.
- Target funding to support the creation and preservation of affordable housing in transit corridors: Resources should be directed to those locations that can provide additional affordability benefits because household transportation costs are lower.

### **E. Improve local capacity, partnerships and data collection.**

- Create the capacity within housing and transportation agencies to facilitate TOD: Staff is needed to monitor and support development at stations, coordinate with other agencies, and work with the real estate and development communities.
- Utilize FTA's joint development policy to emphasize construction of housing in transit zones: Real estate that's been acquired for rights of way, stations, parking lots and staging areas, and even air rights, can provide significant development opportunity. FTA's new joint development policy provides unprecedented flexibility for leasing and even selling this property for transit-supportive purposes.
- Monitor and track data on development activity, demographic trends and property values at both the corridor and station area levels: Community change is difficult, and accurate data is a powerful tool to help keep lines of communication open by minimizing rumor.
- Encourage public-private partnerships: Engaging the community as a full partner makes it possible to build trust and achieve community goals. Partnering with developers, realtors and businesses may also leverage private dollars.

### **In addition, there are five primary recommendations for further action specific to the Federal government:**

- HUD and FTA should examine existing policy and funding programs at each agency in order to improve the coordination and facilitation of affordable housing and transportation investments, subject to funding availabilities.
- HUD should explore regulatory and policy approaches that may increase the supply of affordable or mixed-income housing within transit corridors. These would focus on preservation of existing rental housing near transit, and new construction of affordable and mixed-income housing.
- FTA should continue to evaluate and rate proposed major transit investments known as New Starts and Small Starts (49 USC 5309) under Congressionally-mandated criteria. Under FTA's current evaluative procedures, projects in areas with high population densities tend to earn better ratings because more people can walk to transit leading to higher ridership and resulting benefits. FTA also gives higher ratings to projects that serve higher numbers of lower-income, transit-dependent people. Consequently, the net effect is that the higher the population of lower-income residents near a transit station, the better the project's anticipated ridership and mobility benefits. FTA is exploring other approaches for rating projects that demonstrate the potential for higher ridership by transit dependent populations.
- HUD and FTA should establish an interagency working group that is responsible for continuing collaboration between the two agencies to maximize the opportunities for coordinated HUD and FTA actions. A primary function of this group will be to develop a five-year research and action plan to support these collaborative efforts.
- HUD and FTA should continue to study the relationships between housing markets and transit investments: This study is the first in many years to examine the linkages between the market, transit investments, travel patterns and development trends. More analysis is needed to establish performance measures and determine the efficacy of strategies being implemented in communities that are creating mixed-income housing near transit.

### **(Footnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) and the Center for Transit-Oriented Development (CTOD), Preserving and Promoting Diverse Transit-Oriented Neighborhoods. CNT: November 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Center for Neighborhood Technology and Virginia Tech, "Housing and Transportation Cost Trade-Offs and Burdens of Working Households in 28 Metro Areas," a White Paper prepared for the Center for Housing Policy, 2006. The expenditure percentages are based on weighted average numbers for households for each income level in each tract for the 28 metropolitan areas analyzed. Transportation costs are calculated based on several data sources including the Census 2000, Census Transportation Planning Package 2000, and local transit data. A description of these sources and the model is provided in The Affordability Index: A New Tool for Measuring the True Affordability of a Housing Choice. Brookings Institution, Urban Markets Initiative, Market Innovation Brief: January 2006





The Center for Transit-Oriented Development  
is a partnership of Reconnecting America,  
the Center for Neighborhood Technology,  
and Strategic Economics



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1600 ALA MOANA BLVD. - APT. 3100 - HONOLULU - HAWAII 96815

March 18, 2008

Representative Maile S. L Shimabukuro, Chair  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Human Services and Housing

Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Representative John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Health

**Testimony on SB 3165, SD 2 Relating to Taxation**

Dear Representatives:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 3165, SD 2 on behalf of the Hawaii Independent Condominium and Co-op Owners (HICCO).

Our organization supports affordable housing for seniors in areas designated for transit-oriented developments. This will enable the elderly citizens in areas near the new transit system to be able to "age in place". We also support the availability of health-related services in these same areas. Therefore, we hope that your committee recognizes these needs and takes them into account.

HICCO respectfully requests that your committee approve SB 3165, SD 2.

Sincerely,

*Richard Port*

Richard Port, Chair  
Legislative Committee



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## Community Voice, Collective Action

### **Board Members**

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Jason Okuhama (*at large*)  
Hawai'i Lending Specialists

#### *Vice President*

Akoni Akana (*Maui*)  
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Susie Osborne (*Hawai'i*)  
Ho'oulu Lahui/ Kua O Ka La  
Public Charter School

Kukui & Gary Maunakea-Forth  
(*O'ahu*)  
WCRC/Mala Ai`Opio (MA`O)

Rian Dubach (*at large*)  
Community Development &  
CRA Manager  
American Savings Bank

Tommy Otake (*at large*)  
Attorney At Law

### **HACBED Staff**

Robert Agres, Jr  
*Executive Director*

Brent Dillabaugh  
*Deputy Director*

Justin Fanslau  
*Associate Director*

Larissa Meinecke  
*Public Policy Associate*

Tony Hall  
*Administrative Manager*

### TESTIMONY OF

#### **Robert Agres, Jr.**

House Committees on Human Services & Housing and Health

Tuesday – March 18, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 329

### **IN SUPPORT OF SB 3165, SD2 – RELATING TO TAXATION**

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro & Green, Vice Chairs Rhoads & Mizuno, and members of the House Committees on Human Services & Housing and Health:

I am Robert Agres Jr., Executive Director of the Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED). Over the past year, HACBED has partnered with the Department of Urban & Regional Planning of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in conducting the Transit Oriented Community Based Development (TOCBD) project. TOCBD is supported through funding from the State of Hawai'i and City & County of Honolulu.

As a result of the findings of this work, we strongly support **SB 3165, SD2** which provides mechanisms to encourage transit oriented community based development that meets and is responsive to community needs and vision.

The TOCBD project was designed to ensure that social and economic revitalization of our communities is guided by viable processes to engage the community and build their capacity to shape their future. To this end, the TOCBD project involved community stakeholders from the three participating communities in reviewing previous planning efforts in their community; exploring lessons learned from relevant case studies; gathering additional data and broad based input from residents and businesses; and developing preferred scenarios for



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SB 3165, SD2

community-based development, especially those that may result from transit.

The three communities involved are Ala Moana-Sheridan-Kaheka; Kaka`ako-Mauka; and McCully-Mōili`ili. Each of these communities participated in a series of facilitated meetings and work sessions, events, and projects to establish goals that not only meet the needs of the community but contemplate the opportunities that may and can arise from the proposed new High Occupancy Transit routes.

**SB 3165, SD2** provides opportunities for transit oriented development that meets the different needs and concerns of these communities. It will help to ensure measurable community benefits that include connections to meaningful employment opportunities, access to public and health amenities, and local affordable housing.

The theme of a “primary care village” where seniors and residents can “age in place” emerged as a preferred scenario for development of the Ala Moana-Sheridan-Kaheka area. Stakeholders envision the deliberate and thoughtful development of affordable senior housing, health care and medical services, and easy access to transportation and shopping. In this way, not only would the large existing population of seniors in the area be taken cared of but live/work opportunities especially in the fields of social and medical services would be generated.

In McCully-Mōili`ili, the theme of an “economic village” emerged as a preferred scenario from a range of ideas envisioned by the community. In this neighborhood, transit may provide opportunities for a revitalized and pedestrian friendly business district that is mixed with housing that is affordable to the area’s population of seniors, renters, and University of Hawai`i faculty and students.

**SB 3165, SD2** will provide support mechanisms to help bring to reality the hopes and aspirations of community residents and businesses. Encouraging responsive and community based transit oriented development that truly benefits and meets community concerns and desires is a viable approach to building a sustainable future for these communities.

We thank you for your favorable consideration of **SB 3165, SD2** and the opportunity to provide our testimony and support.





# TOCBD

Transit-Oriented Community Based Development Project

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Testimony of  
**Sharon Y. Miyashiro**

House Committee on Human Services & Housing  
House Committee on Health  
Tuesday, March 18, 2008  
10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

## **IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 3165, S.D. 2 - Relating to Taxation**

Chairs Shimabukuro and Green, and Members:

I am Sharon Miyashiro, Principal Investigator of the Transit-Oriented Community-Based Development project ("TOCBD").

TOCBD is funded by the Honolulu City Council and the State of Hawaii, and administered by the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For the past year, faculty from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) and the Social Sciences Public Policy Center (SSPPC) partnered with the Hawaii Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED), to explore grassroots planning models to assist three urban communities. In particular, we assisted the three communities in articulating possible and preferred scenarios for social and economic revitalization as well as in building their capacity to address future development, including opportunities and disruptions that may occur with transit development.

Based on the findings of our work, we strongly support S.B. 3165, SD2, which addresses community concerns related to development arising out of transit construction; and, more specifically, providing mechanisms and opportunities to support affected communities in meeting those challenges.

Three communities – Ala Moana-Sheridan-Kaheka (AMSK); Kakaako-Mauka (K-M); and McCully-Moilili (MM) – engaged in a year-long study and deliberation of the specific community values, preferences for future development, and challenges in achieving their vision to remain in place in their respective communities. We found that the value prized by all three communities was the ability to remain in place – whether it was a small business in Kakaako-Mauka or the senior citizen in Ala Moana-Sheridan-Kaheka. They did differ in focus and character, however,

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and there was no "one size fits all" solution. It is for this reason that SB 3165 is attractive in meeting the mixed needs and desires of communities which may be disrupted due to transit development.

Among these three communities, we found a high proportion of the AMSK residents were elderly over 65 years of age and 72% wanted to live the rest of their lives in their current homes. Over 70% identified the need for health care or medical services within the next ten years. SB 3165, SD2, responds to these communities by providing support in the form of tax incentives to developers of moderate and low income housing and for community health care facilities and service providers. These tax incentives are necessary tools that will address this urgent and growing community need, and, as importantly, develop the necessary infrastructure for a continuing economic development base to support the needs of the community: a win-win scenario for the future.

MM residents are younger, with only 16% over 65 years of age. Only 41 percent wanted to remain in their homes for the rest of their lives perhaps because over 70% of the residents are renters. However the need for low and moderate income housing is a high priority. SB 3165, SD2, by affording opportunities for developers to construct low and moderate income housing, would benefit communities such as McCully-Moilili.

S.B. 3165, SD2 creatively addresses the diverse needs of our communities in transition; and, in particular, those who are most likely to be adversely affected and disrupted by development, including transit development.

**Based on the foregoing, we strongly support S.B. 3165, SD2 and urge its passage by the Committee.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

