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**From:** Day, Elizabeth <FTA>  
**To:** Griffo, Paul <FTA>  
**CC:** Fisher, Ronald <FTA>  
**Sent:** 11/4/2008 8:12:11 AM  
**Subject:** RE: FTA approved Honolulu LRT for PE [Advertiser article]

The info I provided below is 5 bullet points. There is no way to keep it to less than 5 or 6 bullets points (because Dave wanted us to list all the things necessary to get into PE). It cannot be narrowed down to just 2 sentences total. Is 1-2 sentences per bullet point OK?

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**From:** Griffo, Paul <FTA>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2008 1:10 PM  
**To:** Day, Elizabeth <FTA>; Fisher, Ronald <FTA>; Longo, David <FTA>  
**Cc:** Rogers, Leslie <FTA>; Carranza, Edward <FTA>; Sukys, Raymond <FTA>; Luu, Catherine <FTA>; Nguyen, Kim <FTA>; Borinsky, Susan <FTA>; Matley, Ted <FTA>; Barr, James <FTA>; Tahir, Nadeem <FTA>  
**Subject:** RE: FTA approved Honolulu LRT for PE [Advertiser article]

Short. One or two sentences, please.

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**From:** Day, Elizabeth <FTA>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2008 1:05 PM  
**To:** Fisher, Ronald <FTA>; Griffo, Paul <FTA>; Longo, David <FTA>  
**Cc:** Rogers, Leslie <FTA>; Carranza, Edward <FTA>; Sukys, Raymond <FTA>; Luu, Catherine <FTA>; Nguyen, Kim <FTA>; Borinsky, Susan <FTA>; Matley, Ted <FTA>; Barr, James <FTA>; Tahir, Nadeem <FTA>  
**Subject:** RE: FTA approved Honolulu LRT for PE [Advertiser article]

I talked with Dave briefly on the phone. He would like to prepare a few, quick talking points for the media in case we get inquiries. Can the New Starts Team (with Ron as the lead) please fill in the appropriate info regarding what PE approval requirements Honolulu has and has not yet met based on my outline below? Feel free to alter wording if you are not comfortable with what I wrote. The point is to keep it very short and simple.

Thanks,  
Beth

FTA has not received an official request to enter PE from Honolulu.

FTA is currently performing its normal due diligence (as we do for all potential New Starts projects) by reviewing the reasonableness of the capital cost estimate, project schedule, and project scope. This is not expected to be complete until December 2008.

FTA has already completed its "Project Readiness" and "Project Sponsor Technical Capacity" reviews, which indicate the project sponsor is capable of performing preliminary engineering.

Upon completion of the capital cost, scope and schedule reviews, FTA and the project sponsor will come to agreement on the project budget. Then FTA must perform its evaluation and rating of the project against the New Starts criteria set forth in law. The project must obtain at least a "Medium" rating to be approved into PE.

The project must be adopted into the fiscally constrained long range plan for the metropolitan area before it can be approved into PE.

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**From:** Fisher, Ronald <FTA>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2008 12:25 PM  
**To:** Griffo, Paul <FTA>; Longo, David <FTA>  
**Cc:** Rogers, Leslie <FTA>; Carranza, Edward <FTA>; Sukys, Raymond <FTA>; Luu, Catherine <FTA>; Nguyen, Kim <FTA>; Day, Elizabeth <FTA>; Borinsky, Susan <FTA>; Matley, Ted <FTA>; Barr, James <FTA>; Tahir, Nadeem <FTA>  
**Subject:** FW: FTA approved Honolulu LRT for PE [Advertiser article]

Paul/Dave,

This is a heads up that there are news reports in Honolulu stating that FTA has admitted the Honolulu project into PE. My guess is that that confusion has occurred because our PMO contractor just completed a quarterly report on the readiness issues associated with their PE application and found no problems. That is both something we expected and irrelevant to our reviews

addressing all the information we use for our ratings. As I mentioned to you earlier, we do not expect to have those reviews completed until the end of this year, meaning we could not approve them into PE into early 2009. Ron

*Late on Monday afternoon, Mayor Mufi Hannemann announced the Federal Transit Administration said it could move forward with the preliminary engineering phase of rail transit.*

*"They felt confident to make that recommendation and that's why we have received a memo this morning from the FTA saying for us a key milestone for prelim engineering has been reached," Hannemann said.*

*The mayor said the decision proves the draft environmental impact statement is valid.*

Also they released a report from Booz-Allen (in email to follow)

-----Original Message-----

From: Luden, Hymie <FTA>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2008 8:50 AM  
Subject: FTA article: FTA approved PE for Honolulu LRT

Oahu Residents Vote On Rail Transit

Mayor Says Federal Government Approves Advancing Project

KITV

November 3, 2008

Oahu residents on Tuesday will vote to decide on a rail transit system.

Rail opponents met with business and homeowners who will lose their properties along the rail line.

The group Stop Rail Now rallied at City Hall, making one final push to get people to vote against the \$5 billion system, which could cost as much as \$6.5 billion, when you factor in inflation.

Among those against rail is the manager of Island Pool and Spa on Kona Street in Kakaako. He received a letter from the city Friday saying his property could be condemned.

"We got 25 employees. This is our main warehouse in Honolulu. We supply two other branches on the neighbor islands. We supply probably 1,500 of our customers who are also going to be affected. It's not just our business," Island Pool and Spa owner Howard Suite said.

"Those properties that result in being acquired or are proposed to be acquired, are the result of a lot of work to try to avoid taking anything at all. This is the last recourse now," city Transportation Director Wayne Yoshioka said.

The city said that out of 1,200 parcels along the rail line, only about 35 are being fully condemned. The city would pay their owners for their properties and help them relocate. Another 160 homes and businesses would lose part of their properties to make way for rail.

Late on Monday afternoon, Mayor Mufi Hannemann announced the Federal Transit Administration said it could move forward with the preliminary engineering phase of rail transit.

"They felt confident to make that recommendation and that's why we have received a memo this morning from the FTA saying for us a key milestone for prelim engineering has been reached," Hannemann said.

The mayor said the decision proves the draft environmental impact statement is valid.

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**From:** Nejako, Henry <FTA>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2008 12:06 PM

**To:** Herre, Susan <FTA>; Anderson, Mary <FTA>; Boenau, Ronald <FTA>; Chen, Roy Wei-Shun <FTA>; Chipman, Peter <FTA>; Eckmann, Alex <FTA>; Fisher, Ronald <FTA>; Munoz-Raskin, Ramon <FTA>; Ory, David <FTA>; Pindiprolu, Venkat <FTA>; Riklin, Sherry <FTA>; Steinitz, Timothy <FTA>; Stoltzfus, Jarrett <FTA>; Williams, Terrell <FTA>

**Subject:** FW: FTA approved Honolulu LRT for PE [Advertiser article]

AR00142620

City OK'd for next phase of rail system  
Approval a big step forward in obtaining federal funding  
By Sean Hao  
Advertiser  
11/4/08

 **PDF: Booz Allen Hamilton consultant report**

The Federal Transit Administration has given its approval for Honolulu to start the preliminary engineering phase of its planned \$4.3 billion commuter rail project, the city said yesterday. Beginning the preliminary engineering phase of the transit project is a major step toward securing federal funding.

According to the Oct. 30 report by project management consultant Booz Allen Hamilton, the city has demonstrated that it is ready to enter into preliminary engineering. The report also says that Honolulu's schedule to begin service in November 2013 is "optimistic," and recommends the city ramp up its staff to handle added responsibilities.

The report also said that the project's cost estimates were "adequate and appropriate for a project in the pre-PE phase."

During preliminary engineering, the city will finalize management plans, refine the route's alignment and project costs, and identify benefits and impacts. After preliminary engineering is completed, which usually takes between 15 and 30 months, transit projects enter the final design phase, according to the Federal Transit Administration. If the project passes muster at that time, the FTA provides what's called a full-funding grant agreement.

The city expects to be awarded full federal funds in the spring of 2011.

The city plans to begin construction of a 20-mile rail line from East Kapolei to Ala Moana late next year, with full service starting by 2019.

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**From:** Luden, Hymie <FTA>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2008 11:50 AM  
**Subject:** FTA article: FTA approved Honolulu LRT for PE