

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

September 4, 2007

Mr. Ron Fisher, Director
Office of Planning and Environment
Federal Transit Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Recently in Hawaii, there is on-going controversy surrounding the operation of a ferry system between the neighbor islands. Although the ferry began operations, protestors of this new Superferry contend that the state needs to complete an environmental assessment. The Hawaii Supreme Court agreed and the ferry cancelled most of their routes and operations indefinitely.

In Honolulu, we are facing a situation with the proposed mass transit project and its pending Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Last year, the Honolulu City Council adopted Ordinance 07-001, which approved a fixed guideway system as the locally preferred alternative. The ordinance also states that the City Council would select the mode and technology for the system; however, the residents are divided on the mode, whether it should be a rail fixed guideway or a bus or rubber tire fixed guideway.

Due to the residents' differing opinions and to avoid the situation surrounding the Superferry, we respectfully ask the Federal Transit Authority on guidance on this matter, specifically: Shouldn't the City and County of Honolulu include an analysis of both rail and bus fixed guideway in their EIS for the Honolulu High-Capacity Corridor Project?

According to a representative from the City's Department of Transportation Services, a rubber tire fixed guideway would not be included because of the use of an on-ramp to the guideway—which would result in less transfers and increased ridership. An off-ramp to the University of Hawaii would be ideal in providing service to the students which would also increase ridership.

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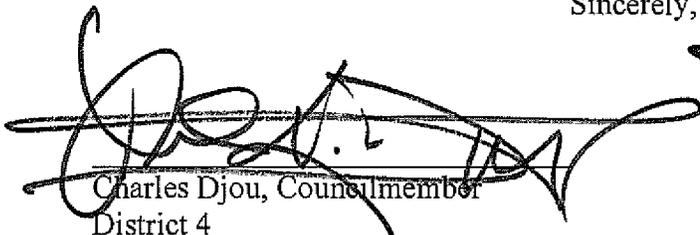
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Suggestions for the bus system on the fixed guideway were made at the initial alternatives analysis and at the EIS scoping meeting; however, this system was not developed or analyzed by the contractor.

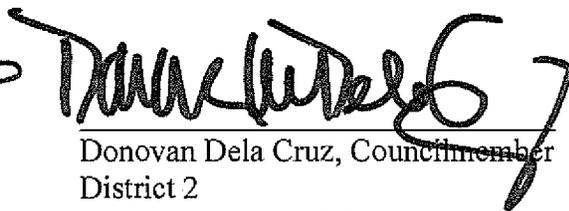
We would appreciate any advice on the above matter and look forward to your response.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either one of us at the phone numbers provided.

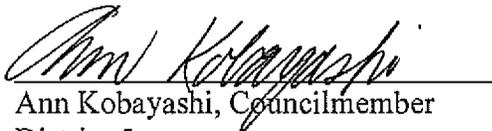
Sincerely,



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