From: Rogers, Leslie <FTA>
To: Borinsky, Susan <FTA>
CC: Welbes, Matt <FTA>; Ryan, James <FTA>; Little, Sherry <FTA>; Libberton, Sean <FTA>; Fisher, Ronald <FTA>; Steinmann, Richard <FTA>; Sukys, Raymond <FTA>; Carranza, Edward <FTA>
Sent: 3/4/2007 10:06:42 AM
Subject: Re: Honolulu Schedule: Conference Call on Monday?

Susan,

Yes, Region IX staff can be available. A later note from Sherry suggested that she might want to be included in the briefing also. Kindly let us know the time for the discussion on Monday. Thanks!

Leslie

----- Original Message -----
From: Borinsky, Susan <FTA>
To: Rogers, Leslie <FTA>
Cc: Welbes, Matt <FTA>; Ryan, James <FTA>; Little, Sherry <FTA>; Libberton, Sean <FTA>; Fisher, Ronald <FTA>; Steinmann, Richard <FTA>; Sukys, Raymond <FTA>; Carranza, Edward <FTA>
Sent: Sat Mar 03 16:21:31 2007
Subject: Honolulu Schedule: Conference Call on Monday?

Leslie,

Would you be available for a conference call between the Region and TPE staff on Monday (March 5) at either noon or 1 PM (EST) to talk about the timeline for the Honolulu rapid transit project, which is getting so much press attention?

On Wednesday, March 7 (11:30 AM-1 PM EST), FTA HQ and Regional staff (by phone) will meet with Honolulu City Council Members here in DC. Among other things, the Honolulu folks will be seeking our reaction to their proposed timeline for the project. I had hoped we could defer providing information on the project schedule to our leadership until after that staff-level meeting on Wednesday. But we should provide Sherry with our initial thoughts on Monday -- since she is meeting with the Mayor that evening

Late last Friday, Jim Ryan informed me that the Honolulu project manager for the project confirmed that they are proposing the following schedule:

PE approval: July 2007

DEIS spring 2008

FEIS late 2008

ROD mid 2009

FFGA late 2009

They plan to have a design/build contract in place by late 2009 to get going on the project. The back-up plan is to use entirely local money to get started on a first segment of the project soon after the ROD, rather than waiting for the FFGA.

FTA has not reacted yet to the specific timeline that Honolulu is proposing, other than to say that it is ambitious and we need more information. As usual, FTA is being asked to use

national averages for New Starts projects to predict this specific project's developmental timeline and cost, As you well know, however, blanket application of national averages is misleading. Each project's timeline and cost is profoundly influenced by varying factors. To name a few factors -- the adequacy of the sponsor's travel and cost data; the supportiveness of local governmental financial actions; environmental issues; public comments during project development; the nature of the procurement process; whether the project is constructed mainly at ground level or requires an elevated structure or a tunnel; the extent to which right-of-way has to be purchased; and the number of vehicles involved.

Hopefully on Monday, we can talk about the feasibility of the proposed schedule and then report to our leadership since they are under pressure to say something quickly. But we'll know more about the project after the Wednesday meeting.

PS—We'll send you our TPE call in number for the March 7 meeting, if we haven't done so already.