
From: Little, Sherry <FTA>
To: Rogers, Leslie <FTA>
CC: Steinmann, Richard <FTA>; Welbes, Matt <FTA>; Borinsky, Susan <FTA>; Fisher, Ronald <FTA>; Ryan, James <FTA>
Sent: 3/2/2007 12:39:31 PM
Subject: RE: Advocates won't say how long LRT will really take, in Honolulu

Yep...and that explains why the Mayor wants me to have dinner with him on Monday. Can we visit again before that meeting so you can update me on the latest ?

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

From: Rogers, Leslie <FTA>
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2007 5:30 PM
To: Little, Sherry <FTA>
Cc: Steinmann, Richard <FTA>; Welbes, Matt <FTA>; Borinsky, Susan <FTA>; Fisher, Ronald <FTA>; Ryan, James <FTA>
Subject: Advocates won't say how long LRT will really take, in Honolulu

FYI - the Governor's comments apparently refer to your and the Secretary's meeting last Sunday with the Governor. Nothing is ever easy off-shore.

Best,
Leslie

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

From: Luden, Hymie <FTA>
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2007 1:12 PM
Subject: FTA article: advocates won't say how long LRT will really take, in Honolulu

Governor disputes transit timeline

By Tina Shelton

KHON

3/1/07

Governor Linda Lingle says it is impossible for the city of Honolulu to break ground on mass transit in the next two years.

The governor says her skepticism is based on information directly from the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

The problem is, that is contrary to Mayor Mufi Hannemann's transit timeline.

The mayor on Tuesday repeated his long held goal.

"The goal continues to be to break ground in 2009," Hannemann told reporters.

But two days later, the Governor begs to differ.

"Based on this information," said Lingle, "that would be impossible."

In Washington this week, Gov. Lingle met with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

"What they told me," Lingle told KHON2 News, "was once an application has been received it would be expeditious to be done in 3 years reviewing that application."

The city's application for federal money to support a fixed guide way system won't be submitted until next month at the earliest.

"So that doesn't jibe with the information we've been getting that they hope to break ground in 2009," Lingle added.

The mayor's spokesman disputes that.

"We have not been told once in the many meetings we've had in Washington that we cannot break ground in 2009," said Hannemann Press Secretary Bill Brennan.

Both the mayor and governor are disappointed the airport is bypassed for Salt Lake in the route endorsed Tuesday by the Honolulu City Council.

Lingle suggests it could be reversed.

"It's the kind of thing the feds can review and say, you know, we don't think that Salt Lake is the best route," Lingle said.

The mayor's team says they wish the state had spoken out before the council voted.

"The state was conspicuously absent on the airport route," Brennan told KHON2 News.

Now, Hannemann is on his way to Washington with the council's preferred route in his pocket.

We'll have to see what federal officials tell Hannemann. Governor Lingle adds that another point transportation officials made is that the state and city need to have a better "integration" of their separate plans for transit and highways.