
From: James.Ryan@dot.gov
To: Scheibe, Mark
Sent: 10/11/2006 11:29:02 AM
Subject: Follow-up

Mark:

I talked with Sean briefly after our meeting and he confirmed that we're not doing anything substantive regarding the quality or completeness of alternatives analyses. That's because we have no mandate to oversee local planning efforts (and don't have the staff, either). Our mandate starts when we received a New Starts PE application. The reality, of course, is that the PE application is based largely on AA work; so we tell potential project sponsors that wise sponsors will coordinate with us during AA so that the material in their eventual PE application will be neither a surprise nor a source of contention.

So, our agreed-upon strategy holds: we'll get copies of the AA final report that DTS transmits to the City Council and will review it with an eye towards a PE application. When DTS is able to pursue work to respond to our comments, we'll work with you folks to get the technical material in shape to support an application that we can review efficiently and get to a decision on the PE request without the long delays that so often happen when we get PE applications "cold" from project sponsors.

Tomorrow, I'll be pursuing the other questions left over from the meeting and will call Toru at 9am HST on Friday morning.

Have a safe trip back. I'm glad that you were able to come to Jackson. Gordon deserved some representation from his professional life. And we learned a new context for the word "dismissed."

Jim