
From: Rogoff, Peter (FTA)
To: Borinsky, Susan (FTA); Rogers, Leslie (FTA); Ryan, James (FTA); Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Sent: 10/12/2009 4:47:25 PM
Subject: Re: Sen. Inouye's Press Release on PE

I have a call into the Senator's CoS to discuss this:

October 12, 2009

Feds give Honolulu preliminary approval for rail

Sean Hao
Advertiser Staff Writer

Honolulu's proposed \$5.5 billion train project reached a key milestone today. However, the project still must overcome several hurdles before construction can begin as scheduled in December.

The 20-mile East Kapolei to Ala Moana project receiving federal permission to begin the preliminary engineering phase of the project, according to U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye. During preliminary engineering, the city will finalize management plans, refine the route's alignment and project costs, and further identify benefits and impacts.

"This is a critical federal milestone and an important accomplishment in the development of Honolulu's rail transit project," Inouye said in a news release. "The competition for Preliminary Engineering among our nation's cities is fierce."

The city's entry into preliminary engineering was delayed by at least six months in part because of a February decision to alter the train's route to pass through the airport district rather than the Salt Lake area.

The next major milestone for the project is a release of a final environmental impact statement, which the city has said should occur this month. If all goes well, the city expects to receive a so called Record of Decision approximately five weeks later.

The city also will need a "letter of no prejudice" from the Federal Transit Administration. That gives the city permission to spend city money on the project without jeopardizing the possible future influx of federal funds. The city needs \$1.55 billion in federal funds to pay for the project. However, the city doesn't expect to find out whether it will get that money until early 2011.

The city also will need to award the biggest transit-related contract so far — a \$550 million to \$600 million deal to design and build an elevated six-mile guideway from East Kapolei to Leeward Community College. That estimated amount excludes an unspecified amount to cover contingency costs.

City administration officials also will eventually need City Council authorization to issue up to \$1 billion in bonds needed to complete the project. The city has about \$154 million in transit tax collections in the bank, according to an August version of the city's financial plan.

Reach Sean Hao at shao@honoluluadvertiser.com or 525-8093.

From: Borinsky, Susan (FTA)
To: Rogers, Leslie (FTA); Rogoff, Peter (FTA); Ryan, James (FTA); Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Sent: Mon Oct 12 22:39:51 2009
Subject: RE: Sen. Inouye's Press Release on PE

Leslie, I thought that the Mayor's press announcement was supposed to occur tomorrow after coordination with FTA, as Mr. Hamayasu mentions. Jim Ryan's note earlier today mentioned upcoming press announcements, but; I thought that he meant tomorrow, not today. I just looked but didn't find anything about the transit project PE approval in the Honolulu Star Bulletin or Senator Inouye's press releases. Susan

From: Rogers, Leslie (FTA)
Sent: Mon 10/12/2009 8:10 PM
To: 'thamayasu@honolulu.gov'; Rogoff, Peter (FTA); Borinsky, Susan (FTA)
Subject: Re: Sen. Inouye's Press Release on PE

Toru: FTA is not issuing the approval letter until tomorrow, Tuesday, Oct 13. If at all possible, these announcements need to be

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delayed until then.

Leslie

From: Hamayasu, Toru <thamayasu@honolulu.gov>
To: Rogers, Leslie (FTA)
Sent: Mon Oct 12 17:46:40 2009
Subject: Sen. Inouye's Press Release on PE

Leslie,

We spoke about coordinating the PE announcement but the Senator's office is ready to release this today at 1pm Hawaii time. So the Mayor is preparing our announcement at 2pm.

Toru