



HONOLULU AUTHORITY for RAPID TRANSPORTATION

HART eBLAST NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 4, 2013

RAIL TRANSIT RECEIVES \$1.55 BILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS



HART's Dan Grabauskas delivers remarks at the signing ceremony for Honolulu Rail Transit's Full Funding Grant Agreement in Washington, D.C.

Honolulu's rail project ended 2012 on a high note, with the infusion of \$1.55 billion in federal funding.

The federal Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) between the City and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which provides the funding in installments over the next several years, is a major piece of the project's financing plan.

HART Executive Director and CEO Dan Grabauskas was joined by U.S. Secretary of

Transportation Ray LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff at a signing ceremony in Washington D.C. Hawaii's congressional delegation and city officials also attended.

The historic signing was tempered by the loss of U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, a long-time advocate for rail transit for Honolulu.

"Our Senator Dan Inouye was the project's greatest champion," said Grabauskas. "We intend to honor his legacy by delivering this state-of-the-art project on time and on budget, just as he intended."

The FFGA is the final step of the FTA's New Starts planning and project development process, and officially secures federal funding for the project.

"The Honolulu rail transit project, the first of its kind in the state, will bring new transit options to the growing region and create a modern transportation system that is built to last for future generations," said Secretary LaHood. "And though, sadly, Senator Inouye cannot be here with us today, this agreement is a testament to his tireless advocacy on behalf of his state and its people."

FEDERAL JUDGE ISSUES RAIL RULING

A federal judge has ruled that the Honolulu rail project can move forward, while HART works on completing the remaining studies in the downtown area required by the court. U. S. 9th Circuit Judge A. Wallace Tashima's order temporarily prohibits any construction activities in the final City Center phase of the project. However, Tashima did not rescind the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) approval for the City to work in the first three phases of the rail project.

The ruling puts a hold on construction work in the downtown portion of the project until the additional court required studies are finished. That includes studies on a tunnel under Beretania Street, the impact of the project on Mother Waldron Park as well as on some cultural sites along the route.

Construction in the downtown area is not scheduled to begin until 2014, providing ample time to comply with the court's request.

"This is the news we had hoped for," said Dan Grabauskas, CEO and executive director of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation. "The judge's ruling allows us to complete the remaining work requested by the court, while keeping the project on schedule. These additional studies will be completed next year, well in advance of when construction was scheduled to begin in the City Center area. Oahu residents can look forward to seeing their rail system fully operational in 2019 as planned."

As the result of a separate case, the city has halted construction on the project. A Hawaii

Supreme Court decision in August said the State Historic Preservation Division can only approve the rail project after the City has conducted archeological surveys on the entire 20-mile route. The survey should be completed this month, and construction is expected to resume later this year.

[Read Judgment](#)

UPCOMING HART BOARD MEETINGS

HART Finance Committee

Jan. 10, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

Mission Memorial Annex Conference Room | 550 S. King Street

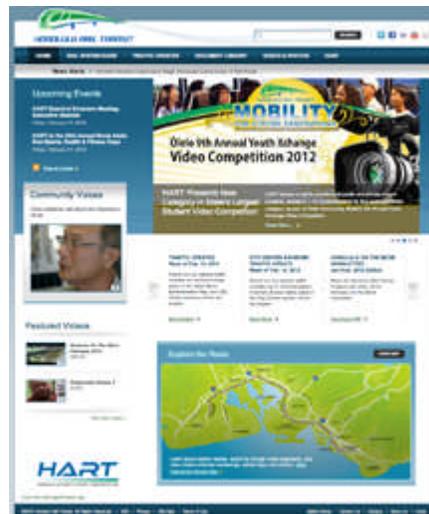
HART Project Oversight Committee

Jan. 10, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

Mission Memorial Annex Conference Room | 550 S. King Street

For more information on these meetings, please visit www.HonoluluTransit.org.

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