DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

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May 21, 2010 RT10/09-336954

Ms. Daisy Murai
3039 Kaunaoa Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Dear Ms. Murai:

Subject: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
Comments Received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. This letter is in response to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS during the comment period, which concluded on February 6, 2009. The Final EIS identifies the Airport Alternative as the Project and is the focus of this document. The selection of the Airport Alternative as the Preferred Alternative was made by the City to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations that state that the Final EIS shall identify the Preferred Alternative (23 CFR § 771.125 (a)(1)). This selection was based on consideration of the benefits of each alternative studied in the Draft EIS, public and agency comments on the Draft EIS, and City Council action under Resolution 08-261 identifying the Airport Alternative as the Project to be the focus of the Final EIS. The selection is described in Chapter 2 of the Final EIS. The Final EIS also includes additional information and analyses, as well as minor revisions to the Project that were made to address comments received from agencies and the public on the Draft EIS. The following paragraphs address comments regarding the above-referenced submittal:

As stated in Section 2.5 of the Final EIS, the transit system will comply with regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Elevators and escalators will be provided at all stations. In addition, level boarding will be provided to trains; therefore, stairs or lifts, as used on buses, will not be required.

The station platforms will be of similar height to the third or fourth floor of buildings. Individuals who are uncomfortable above ground level may choose to take local bus transit that avoids elevated freeway sections.

Projections of future transit ridership consider projected demographics for Oahu in 2030. Ridership projections are presented in Section 3.4.2 of the Final EIS. As shown in this chapter, transit ridership will increase 44 percent with the Project compared to the No Build Alternative.

The FTA and DTS appreciate your interest in the Project. The Final EIS, a copy of which is included in the enclosed DVD, has been issued in conjunction with the distribution of this letter. Issuance of the Record of Decision under NEPA and acceptance of the Final EIS by the Governor of the State of Hawaii are the next anticipated actions and will conclude the environmental review process for this Project.

Very truly yours,

WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
Director

Enclosure