From: Borinsky, Susan (FTA)
To: Zelasko, Elizabeth (FTA); Bausch, Carl (FTA)
Sent: 4/28/2010 8:14:45 AM
Subject: Plans for Drilling along Honolulu Alignment

Does this sound right? Please revise as necessary.

DRAFT
Peter and Dorval-
The FTA team working on the NEPA review for the Honolulu project seek your guidance. The City and County of Honolulu (project sponsor) authorized its contractor (Kiewit) to undertake six (?) borings (7 foot diameter, 70 - 120 feet deep) along the project alignment. The City views this as geotechnical work normally associated with preliminary engineering. The City may be motivated to keep up cash flow to the contractor. The NEPA and New Starts processes are taking considerably longer than the City had anticipated when it signed the contract with Kiewit, and the City may be feeling the need to provide work to Kiewit in the interim before the project may advance to final design.

FTA staff is conscious that such drillings will receive considerable local attention. In particular, performing these drillings before the historic preservation (Section 106) programmatic agreement is signed may be objectionable to the sensitive consulting parties. Admittedly, if any historical/archaeological materials were to be discovered during the borings, there are national procedures to deal with such discoveries. FTA, however, has found it challenging to arrive at the current national and local consensus on the historic aspects of the Honolulu project. FTA staff believes that borings executed before the programmatic agreement is signed may upset the consulting parties and perhaps even delay the signing of the programmatic agreement, which FTA hopes will be finalized in the next several weeks along with the FEIS.

Consequently, FTA staff (TPE, IX, and TCC) recommend that these borings be deferred until after the programmatic agreement is in place. The City is almost certain to object to a delay. Please advise. Susan