From: Borinsky, Susan (FTA)
To: Borinsky, Susan (FTA); Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Sent: 2/18/2010 4:59:04 AM
Subject: RE: Honolulu FTA Contact Us Response

Beth—Dave liked your write-up better than his. Here's my suggested edits to your version. I tried to strike a balance—that we are confident that the project will get to an FFGA (as indicated by the budget recommendation), but that we are exercising due diligence under both NS and NEPA. Once you revise this as you think fit, please forward it to Dave. Susan

Thank you for your recent submission regarding the Honolulu High Capacity Corridor Rail Project. FTA is working closely with the project sponsor, the City and County of Honolulu, on this important project that is expected to improve travel time in the corridor for a large number of users. The project is currently in the Preliminary Engineering phase of project development. FTA continues to assess the project as the sponsor seeks approval into the next phase of development, Final Design. As announced in the President's FY 2011 budget proposal, FTA expects the project to be ready for a construction grant agreement sometime before the end of FY 2011 (September 30, 2011). We are currently working with the City and County of Honolulu to address the comments submitted during the formal public comment period that is part of the ongoing environmental review process. FTA's responses to these comments will be available when the Final Environmental Impact Statement is published. Please note that the decision of how best to provide transportation services within a specific geographic region, including the choice of mode, alignment, or whether a project is elevated versus at-grade, is not made by the Federal government. Instead, it is the responsibility of local decision makers and the project sponsor.

From: Borinsky, Susan (FTA)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 1:25 PM
To: Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Subject: RE: Honolulu FTA Contact Us Response

A few minor tweaks. Please take a look, change as you wish, and forward it to Ketrina.

Thank you for your recent submission regarding the Honolulu High Capacity Corridor Rail Project. FTA is working closely with the project sponsor, the City and County of Honolulu, on this important project that is expected to improve travel time in the corridor for a large number of users. The project is currently in the Preliminary Engineering phase of project development. FTA will need to evaluate the project and approve it into the final design phase before beginning work with the project sponsor on a construction funding grant agreement. As announced in the President's FY 2011 budget proposal, FTA expects the project to be ready for a construction grant agreement sometime before the end of FY 2011 (September 30, 2011). We are currently working with the City and County of Honolulu to address the comments submitted during the formal public comment period that was part of the environmental review process. FTA's responses to these comments will be available when the Final Environmental Impact Statement is published. Please note that the decision of how best to provide transportation services within a specific geographic region, including the choice of mode, alignment, or whether a project is elevated versus at-grade, is not made by the Federal government. Instead, it is the responsibility of local decision makers and the project sponsor.

From: Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 12:24 PM
To: Nelson, Ketrina (FTA); Longo, David (FTA)
Cc: Borinsky, Susan (FTA); Ryan, James (FTA); Eckmann, Alex (FTA)
Subject: RE: Honolulu FTA Contact Us Response

Below is a revised response. I would like to get Susan B.'s thoughts on this as well, so I have included her on the chain.

Thank you for your recent submission regarding the Honolulu High Capacity Corridor Rail Project. FTA is working closely with the project sponsor on this important project that is expected to help improve travel time in the corridor for

a large number of users. It is currently in the Preliminary Engineering phase of project development and will need to be approved into the final design phase before FTA will begin working with the City and County on a construction funding grant agreement. As announced in the President's FY 2011 budget proposal, FTA expects the project to be ready for a construction grant agreement sometime before the end of FY 2011 (September 2011). We are currently working with the City and County to address the public comments submitted during the formal public comment period that was part of the environmental review process. These responses will be available when the Final Environmental Impact Statement is published. Please note that the decision of how best to provide transportation services within a specific geographic region, including the choice of mode, alignment, or whether a project is elevated versus at-grade, is not made by the Federal government. Instead, it is the responsibility of local decision makers and the project sponsor.

From: Nelson, Ketrina (FTA)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 2:22 PM
To: Longo, David (FTA); Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Subject: Honolulu FTA Contact Us Response
Importance: High

How does the response below to the Honolulu Contact Us inquiries sound:

Thank you for your recent submission regarding the Honolulu High Capacity Corridor Rail Project. FTA is working closely with the project sponsor to move this project forward and it is currently in the Preliminary Engineering phase of the New Starts Program. After FTA expressed its serious reservations about the project, the project sponsor submitted substantial additional and revised information that addressed—or demonstrated the capacity to address—our concerns. That said, this project still faces hurdles and a number of outstanding issues must still be fully resolved before FTA can consider the project for a commitment of federal funds under a Full Funding Grant Agreement for construction. **Please note** that selection of the transit mode in any geographic area is made by local decision makers. FTA advocates for all modes of transit equally.

I took this information from the Dulles responses we received last year….I'm not sure if this response is applicable or not…Beth can you make that determination. Let me know if there is anything else you need. Would you like me to send a sampling of the responses we received? If so, just let me know. Thanks