
From: Nelson, Ketrina (FTA)
To: Day, Elizabeth (FTA); Borinsky, Susan (FTA)
Sent: 2/5/2010 5:13:35 AM
Subject: RE: Honolulu Contact Us Inquiries

From: Nelson, Ketrina (FTA)
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 10:02 AM
To: Day, Elizabeth (FTA); Borinsky, Susan (FTA)
Subject: FW: Honolulu Contact Us Inquiries
Importance: High

Good morning:

Per Dave's message I wanted to follow up with you regarding a 'positive message' for these Contact Us submissions on the Honolulu issue. Below is a random sampling of what we received thus far. Do we have any talking points we can use to create a message for these inquiries....there coming in fast and furious because of the NS conference. Please advise. Thanks

Mr. Rogoff, I just want you to know that I live in Hawaii and feel we are being forced to accept this rail by Mufi Hannemann. He will not listen to anyone because he is ramming this down our throats for his own personal gains and is using you as the professional who supports him totally. Like all the other states, our taxes are being raised constantly, both State and City and know this rail will only cause more taxes to be raised as we cannot afford it. I can promise you there will be such a small percentage riding this rail that it will be a waste. He won't work with our Governor, rather, he puts her down and belittles her because that is his style. I just wanted you to know that by using your name and quoting you, it sounds like this rail is totally acceptable and plausible and a no-brainer as far as you're concerned. We didn't get to vote on it as he pretends, the question on the ballot assumed you wanted the rail and the only choice we had was whether it be steel-on-steel, or other, not whether we wanted the rail or not. That's Mufi Hannemann's sneaky, underhanded way of getting what he wants.

Aloha Mr. Peter Rogoff,

I am a concerned citizen of Oahu writing to express my concerns regarding the rail transit system. I am PRO-RAIL but I am deeply concerned about the plans that are currently taking place. We here in Hawaii are just now dealing with the economic recession. As you know; Hawaii lags behind the U.S. on many things. Our teachers are being furloughed, our students have the shortest school period in the nation, our taxes are rising everyday, and yet we still have not experienced our "bottom" yet. Our economy depends mostly on tourism and it is forecast to drop even more. My question for you is this; How can the state of Hawaii go forward with the plan of the most costly rail project to date? How are we the people in Hawaii supposed to absorb the costs? Why is the rail system not even going to serve most of the population. Do you know that the rail will not even serve Waikiki or the UH college? I feel that this project will be the final nail in the coffin for the Aloha State. Please; reconsider what you are about to approve. Can we really do this? Also, the EIS is not in our hands yet. We KNOW that it does not stand up to environmental standards and we are prepared to fight this as long as we must. With that said; thank you for your time and please help us. We ALL know what is right.

God Bless,

Does Honolulu Actually WANT A \$6 Billion Elevated Heavy Railway?

AR00116644

"Megaprojects and Risk: A Conversation With Bent Flyvbjerg."
Critical Planning, vol. 11, 2004

Ehrenfeucht:
Why do you think (megaproject disasters) are occurring?

Flyvbjerg:
There are two main reasons. One is psychological, related to over-optimism, or optimism bias, which has been documented as characteristic of human decision making. Humans generally have a more rosy view of the future than is warranted by experience.

Working as a researcher and adviser, I come across instances again and again of what is called strategic misrepresentation. "Strategic misrepresentation" is the Orwellian euphemism planners and planning researchers like to use for deception and lying.

Hawaii is third-most indebted U.S. state. Sen. Inouye says the \$1 Billion EPA required sewer upgrade will bankrupt the city. Hawaii bankruptcies rose 49.3 percent to 3,201 in 2009. Honolulu population in decline says 2009 Census and DBEDT...

Yes, CLEARLY time to go into massive debt for a \$6 Billion elevated luxury railway!

From: Longo, David (FTA)
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 7:46 AM
To: Nelson, Ketrina (FTA)
Cc: Day, Elizabeth (FTA); Borinsky, Susan (FTA)
Subject: Honolulu Contact Us Inquiries

Ketrina,

Please work with Beth Day and Susan Borinsky to develop a standard response for the Honolulu questions. I'd prefer it contain positive support for the project to symbolize Peter's statements during the New Starts press conference, the fact that we are working with the City and County to move the project forward and that all decisions concerning the alignment are made by local officials.

I'd like to review it before we send to anyone.

Thanks.