Meeting: FHWA-RTD discussion of Rail Project Alignment near Airport

Date: January 22, 2010

Purpose: For RTD/PB to provide update to FHWA staff on City's Rail Project revised alignment that would cross over H-1 near Honolulu International Airport

Attendees:

FHWA:	Paul Harker, John Nickelson, Gil Mendelson, Jodi Chew, Liz Fisher
RTD:	Ryan Tam, Faith Miyamoto
PB:	Mark Garrity, Clyde Shimizu, Steve Hogan, Honglong Li, Gary Takahashi (RM Towill)

Meeting Notes:

1. RTD/PB provided an update to FHWA on the recent changes to the rail project alignment near the entrance to Honolulu International Airport. The new alignment includes a guideway within H-1 Airspace (eastbound lanes only) as it turns to enter the Airport (to avoid the Airport's new Mauka Terminal). It would include placement of support columns in the median of Nimitz Highway. It was mentioned that the guideway structure would meet all highway clearance requirements.

2. FHWA related that use of interstate airspace will require review by Hawaii Department of Transportation with concurrence by FHWA.

3. FHWA mentioned that the Rail Project will need to conform to USDOT environmental policy regarding analysis of visual impacts. Note: a later discussion within RTD/PB confirmed that the EIS process has included a visual assessment analysis of the Rail Project based on USDOT guidance.

4. FHWA inquired about discussions held with HDOT regarding the new alignment near the Airport. It was mentioned by RTD/PB that the alignment change has been discussed with HDOT (and was in fact precipitated by HDOT), but that some divisions of HDOT (such as ROW) may not have been briefed by RTD/PB. RTD/PB will follow up with HDOT to ensure all relevant divisions are aware of the latest design.

5. FHWA mentioned that the Project should address potential effects of storms and flooding. Note: a later discussion within RTD/PB confirms that 1) the EIS has evaluated the project relative to seawater inundation zone (storm surge), and 2) per EPA request, the project has been confirmed to be above the effect area for anticipated potential sea level rise.

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6. FHWA agreed to provide a letter to FTA at the request of RTD, confirming that regular coordination with FHWA has been taking place.

Mark Garrity
January 27, 2010

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