
From: Jackson, Brian (FTA)
To: Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Sent: 1/25/2010 3:58:27 AM
Subject: Honolulu Financial Assessment - Followup Work

Beth: Jim Ryan has asked if Ben Porter could do some follow up work on the financial assessment for Honolulu. Since the project is a FY11 budget recommendation, starting an FCA would be the next step. However, the project has not completed NEPA and, according to JR, it is unlikely that NEPA will be completed prior to June 2010. Thus, a realistic final design approval date is speculative. Typically, as you know, reasonable dates for these two milestones are needed before issuing starting an FCA.

According to the latest monthly report from Milligan, the FMOC has only eight hours remaining in the task order for the Honolulu assessment. The New Starts team is requesting the FMOC's help to review of a set of revised financial assumptions. I cautioned JR that FTA needs to be very careful (as was done with B. Porter on the Hartford Busway project recently) that we do not "assist" a grantee in revising a financial plan that FTA then turns around and evaluates.

Given that the project is a FY11 funding recommendation – and will, eventually, undergo an FCA – a case could be made for a task order for an FCA now with the clear understanding that the task order will be limited to laying the groundwork for the FCA via teleconferences (no travel at this time) to *only* help the grantee refine the outline for the project's financial plan. If you are ok with this, I will ask BP to provide an assessment of how many hours he thinks such an effort may take. It may be doable with remaining hours in the current task. Or, I could issue a task to start the FCA. Thoughts?

Brian