From: Ryan, James (FTA)
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2009 3:39 PM
To: Ben Porter
Subject: Honolulu

Ben:

FTA (finally) came to conclusions today on acceptable parameters for the financial plan. Happily, the conclusions on the New Starts amount and maximum annual appropriation are that the City's assumptions in the May 2009 plan are OK on New Starts funding ($1.55B total and a maximum of $250M/year). Unhappily, the conclusion on the capital cost estimate is that the plan needs to reflect the PMOC's recommendation that it be $116M higher than the City's estimate.

So, the City and PB are now hard at work updating the May plan. We have agreed that they do not have to (but may want to) move the plan's timeframe to August rather than May. They have said that they don't want to shift the timeframe because that would require a large set of trivial adjustments to the numbers. So, we expect that the update will be restricted to the $116M additional cost and whatever funding sources they propose to cover that increase.

Because they are desperate to get into PE, and because the financial review is the last thing on the list of things FTA needs to make a PE decision, and because FTA took so long to decide on the acceptability of the May (!) assumptions, all eyes now turn to you, Ben, to get us to a decision "quickly." I am appropriately embarrased for FTA. But I've also promised all parties that I'd ask you to get going on the review and complete it as quickly as is consistent with a careful review.

And I am further embarrased to ask if you have an estimate of when you might get underway and get done.

I just got a message from Mark Scheibe indicating that they are hoping to have the updated cash-flow tables by the end of today and asking that I pass them on to you in advance of the revised text with updated tables and figures (that they hope to complete by Tuesday or Wednesday). Is there any point in that?

Well, I have now joined the roster of clients who pass their problems on to their contractors. I used to hate that when I was a consultant and am sure you do too. I apologize.

Thanks for your help. Happy Friday afternoon (!?!).

Jim Ryan