From:	Swain, Tia (FTA)
To:	Rogoff, Peter (FTA); McMillan, Therese (FTA)
CC:	Welbes, Matt (FTA); Borinsky, Susan (FTA); Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Sent:	10/29/2009 5:47:04 AM
Subject:	Honolulu Blog from The Other Side Of The Tracks | October 29, 2009

Dave asked that I share this blog with you on the subject of Mayor Mufi Hannemann from Honolulu. The source of the blog is from the online site *The Other Side of the Tracks.*

Starting rail work critical for mayor

By Jerry Burris
Advertiser Columnist

Well the train, as they say, has apparently left the station.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann is well aware that a successful launch of his proposed rail transit project is key to his dream of being elected governor. If the project falters and blame cannot be clearly placed somewhere else, Hannemann will have a difficult time explaining why he should quit being mayor and instead take over the governor's office.

To be sure, Hannemann already has a talking point on why it makes sense for him to move on. It takes, he likes to say, a mayor to start a project this big. It takes a governor to finish it.

What this means is that once the project is under way, it is critical to have a governor on board to watch over financing, lobby Washington for continued support and so forth.

All this helps explain why the city is pushing ahead to break ground on the project, even as various constituency groups (environmentalists, the city auditor, some local architects, the Kamehameha Schools, even the federal courts) are raising questions. And fair enough: If the city waited until everyone was happy, the project would never be built.

So even as the complaints and doubts persist, the Hannemann administration pushes forward. Remarkably, it was able to announce the granting of the first construction contract: $482.9 million to Kiewit Pacific Co. for the first 6.5 miles of the line, ahead of schedule and $90 million under the proposed budget.

This looks good, although the start will be almost entirely symbolic. The first section would run between Kapolei and a station near Leeward Community College. You can bet there aren't that many people making that commute today who would love to switch to rail.

Truth is, if there is one place on Oahu one can drive to and expect to find parking, it is Leeward Community College, which boasts a vast open parking space.

The real point of rushing this first segment forward is to set things in motion so there can be no turning back. Even people opposed to the project are likely to agree that once nearly half a billion has been committed, there is no other course but to go ahead and finish the thing.

The day will come when it is obvious that Honolulu — crammed into a narrow urbanized corridor between sea and mountains —

will need a system of mass transit. The best argument for building now is that the effort will never be cheaper.

The worst argument for building now is that we are doing it out of political necessity. The system will be long built before we know which argument makes the most sense.

Tia N. Swain
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From: Longo, David (FTA)
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2009 8:11 AM
To: Swain, Tia (FTA)
Cc: Griffo, Paul (FTA)
Subject: Fw: The Other Side Of The Tracks | October 29, 2009

Tia,

Please send the Honolulu blog in the text of an email to Peter, Therese, Matt, S. Borinsky and Beth Day.

Thx

From: Reconnecting America <admin@reconnectingamerica.ccsend.com>
To: Longo, David (FTA)
Sent: Thu Oct 29 08:00:37 2009
Subject: The Other Side Of The Tracks | October 29, 2009

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ALL THE TRANSIT AND TOD NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT OR BLOG

TracksLogo-jeffwood

Hey All - Heading out to Boston tomorrow for Rail~Volution. Come check out the CTOD crew in action and if you can't make it to the conference, follow us on twitter @reconnecting. We'll be live tweeting sessions. -JW

Quote of the Day +
New York Times

"He did not direct it in such a way that it benefited a more diverse set of populations in the city of New York, and more diverse income groups. It was basically developer-driven."

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Bloomberg

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Jeff Wood, Reconnecting America's GIS specialist and a passionate transit advocate. Jeff's entire post plus commentary is sent by email to members of Reconnecting America (to join visit our Get Connected page); the first five articles of his daily post (which sometimes contains as many as two dozen links) are available here to nonmembers without his commentary.
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Streetsblog

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Next American City

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Honolulu Advertiser

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Greenbang

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Star Tribune

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