Congressional 10-Day Notification

Consistent with Congressional direction, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is notifying you of its intent to approve the High-Capacity Corridor Transit Project, proposed by the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii into the preliminary engineering (PE) phase of the FTA New Starts program.

In accordance with the directive of the Conference Report accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006, which requires that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provide the Appropriations Committees with a 10-day notice before approving a New Starts project into Preliminary Engineering (PE) or Final Design (FD), I am notifying you that FTA intends to approve entry into PE for the High-Capacity Corridor Transit Project from the south shore of Oahu though Downtown Honolulu to the Ala Moana Center, upon expiration of the 10-day notice period.

FTA has received sufficient information from Department of Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu addressing the New Starts project justification and local financial commitment criteria and has found that the project meets the criteria and all other requirements to advance into PE. FTA will not formally approve entry into PE for the project until at least 10 days from the date of this notice.

The High Capacity Corridor project is an approximately 20 mile double-track rail line serving the south shore of Oahu from a western terminus in Kapolei, past Pearl Harbor and Honolulu International Airport, through downtown Honolulu to an eastern terminus at Ala Moana Center.

The purpose of the High Capacity Corridor project is to increase capacity and improve mobility for people who are currently limited to using the H-I freeway, the single east-west freeway in the corridor, and existing bus routes, which carry 185,000 linked trips per average weekday in the corridor, despite slow travel speeds, Because of geographic constraints and very limited right-of-way for highway or bus-transit improvements, the proposed High Capacity Corridor project is the most viable way to improve mobility and improve travel times for existing commuters and accommodate future travel demand in the corridor. By providing another transit alternative, rail line is projected to carry 116,000 daily trips and increase total transit ridership to 283,000 daily linked trips. The project is anticipated to generate save over 3.2 million hours of hours of travel time savings annually by 2030.

The project is estimated to cost $5.34 billion. The City and County of Honolulu are proposing a Section 5309 New Starts share of $1.55 billion.

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