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To: Rogoff, Peter (FTA)
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Sent: 8/21/2009 12:01:04 PM
Subject: Honolulu PE Entry

Peter--You asked when the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project would be ready to enter into Preliminary Engineering (PE).

The Honolulu New Starts Team met today and concluded that mid-October 2009 is a reasonable estimate for approval of the project into PE, assuming that all goes well, including the FMOC financial review, project rating, etc.

We may be able to move the project more quickly if there are absolutely no hiccups. But the Team agreed that the mid-October date would allow FTA time to complete its review and documentation of the project, include 10 days notice to Capitol Hill, and build in a little breathing space in case problems arise--like delays in receipt of information Honolulu still must send us, or the need for clarifications between the sponsor, FMOC and FTA about parts of the financial report before it is finalized.

Some NEPA issues exist, although they don't affect entry into PE: historic preservation issues and the need for clarification from FAA on the alignment at the airport. Post PE entry and NEPA, there's still the matter of Honolulu's interest in an LONP for the western part of the project. Susan