

**Meeting: FHWA-RTD discussion of Rail Project Alignment near Airport**

**Date:** January 22, 2010

**Purpose:** For RTD/PB to provide update to FHWA staff on City's Rail Project revised alignment that would cross over H-1 near Honolulu International Airport

**Attendees:**

**FHWA:** Paul Harker, John Nickelson, Gil Mendelson, Jodi Chew, Liz Fisher  
**RTD:** Ryan Tam, Faith Miyamoto  
**PB:** Mark Garrity, Clyde Shimizu, Steve Hogan, Honglong Li, Gary Takahashi (RM Towill)

**Meeting Notes:**

1. RTD/PB provided an update to FHWA on the recent changes to the rail project alignment near the entrance to Honolulu International Airport. The new alignment includes a ramp that crosses above guideway within H-1 Airspace (eastbound lanes only) as it turns to enter the Airport (to avoid the Airport's new Mauka Terminal). It would include placement of support columns in the median of Nimitz Highway. It was mentioned that the guideway structure ramp would meet all highway clearance requirements.
2. FHWA related mentioned that use of interstate airspace will require review by Hawaii Department of Transportation with concurrence approval by FHWA. In addition, it was mentioned that the Rail Project will need to conform to USDOT environmental policy under NEPA regarding analysis of visual impacts. Note: A later discussion within RTD/PB confirmed that the EIS process has included a visual assessment analysis of the Rail Project based on USDOT guidance.
3. FHWA inquired about discussions held with HDOT regarding the new alignment. It was mentioned by RTD/PB that the alignment change has been discussed with HDOT (and was in fact precipitated by HDOT), but that some divisions of HDOT (such as ROW) may not have been briefed by RTD/PB. RTD/PB will follow up with HDOT to ensure all relevant divisions are aware of the latest design.
4. FHWA agreed to provide a letter to FTA at the request of RTD, confirming that regular coordination with FHWA has been taking place.

Mark Garrity  
January 22, 2010