
From: Longo, David (FTA)
To: Rogoff, Peter (FTA); McMillan, Therese (FTA); Carter, Dorval (FTA); Welbes, Matt (FTA)
CC: List-FTA-TCA; Biehl, Scott (FTA); Rogers, Leslie (FTA); Carranza, Edward (FTA); Borinsky, Susan (FTA); Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Sent: 2/3/2010 4:46:36 AM
Subject: Honolulu Star Bulletin - Federal agency pledges first \$55 million for Honolulu rail system

Federal agency pledges first \$55 million for Honolulu rail system

[By Gary Kubota](#)

POSTED: 12:01 p.m. HST, Feb 02, 2010

The Federal Transit Administration says President Barack Obama's fiscal 2011 budget includes \$55 million toward the planned Honolulu rail system.

FTA head Peter Rogoff broke the news during a news media teleconference from Washington, D.C., today as he also announced annual new project starts. The proposed \$55 million would be the first installment of the \$1.55 billion in federal money applied toward the cost of the project.

He signaled the FTA's support for the \$5.35 billion rail transit between East Kapolei and Ala Moana. His comments come after Gov. Linda Lingle recently raised questions about the financial viability of the rail system.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann said later today that the \$55 million was the first time the FTA has included the Honolulu rail system in its budget and reflects its confidence in the project.

"I really believe now more than ever, we need to move forward on this," he said.

Hannemann said he hoped Rogoff's announcement would help to persuade Lingle to support the proposed rail project and sign off on the environmental impact statement when it is completed and reaches her desk.

The Hannemann administration has said the project will generate 10,000 direct and indirect jobs and would help a slumping Hawaii economy during a recession.

"We need to help to put people back to work," Hannemann said. "They've been suffering."

Dave Longo
Deputy Associate Administrator,
Office of Communications and Congressional Affairs
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, E57-304
Washington, DC 20590

Tel: 202-366-0608
Fax: 202-366-3472
Mobile: 202-680-9237