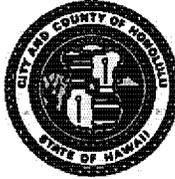


DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
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MAYOR



WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
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October 21, 2008

RT10/08-284100

Mr. Leslie T. Rogers, Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX
U.S. Department of Transportation
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, California 94105-1839

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Subject: Councilmember Ann Kobayashi's Transit Proposal

We would like to request your assessment as to whether the transit system recently proposed by Councilmember Ann Kobayashi of Honolulu (information is enclosed) can be implemented using the current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and New Starts processes for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project or that of the 2003 Primary Corridor Transportation Project.

Councilmember Kobayashi claims that the major components of her proposal have cleared the NEPA as the BRT portion of the Primary Corridor Transportation Project. Thus, this proposed concept "can start sooner" than Honolulu's High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project.

We do not believe Councilmember Kobayashi's proposal can be implemented without a new and separate Alternatives Analysis and NEPA documentation. Our assessment is that significant components of the proposal, such as a partially elevated busway connecting Ewa and Kapolei to Waipahu, bus ramps connecting H1/H2 to H1 Zipper Lanes, reversible 15-mile 3-lane elevated "zipper" lanes, Ala Moana Boulevard Downtown underpass (mini-tunnel), and BRT priority lanes on King and Beretania Streets, will have substantially different impacts and performance results than the above-mentioned BRT project.

We would appreciate your prompt response, as there is a strong public interest in determining whether this newly proposed plan can be implemented as expeditiously as the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Toru Hamayasu at (808) 768-8344.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Y. Yoshioka", is written over the typed name.

WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Ron Fisher, FTA Headquarters

AR00142839