
From: Ryan, James <FTA>
To: Day, Elizabeth <FTA>
CC: Borinsky, Susan <FTA>
Sent: 4/9/2009 5:37:06 AM
Subject: RE: Matt needs talking points for Honolulu

On Monday, I got a call from the City's project manager (Toru Hamayasu) about various things – one of which was the updated financial plan (that they are still working on but can now see its outlines). His version of the situation is entirely different from the region's view. He maintains that they are within \$100 million of having a feasible plan (in contrast to the region's conviction that they are a \$billion short) with various cost savings and the use of a big chunk of 5307 funds. In our front-office discussion last week, we got into the idea of a call from Matt based on that conviction (which I came to share and think that others did as well) and I had (and have) the sense that the commitment-authority problem was – at least initially – an idea dreamed up as a rationale for suggesting operable segments rather than the whole project. But if the mayor now thinks that they still have a feasible financial plan, then he won't be looking for FTA to ride to the rescue (and the staff aren't looking for FTA to deliver bad news that they are afraid to tell him as is the region's hypothesis).

So, a call from Matt to the mayor right now will have to be based entirely on the FTA problem with commitment authority. I was convinced that we have a real constraint there, but feel the need to ask: can Matt say that FTA has a problem and that's the entire reason that he's calling?

From: Day, Elizabeth <FTA>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 11:15 AM
To: Ryan, James <FTA>
Cc: Borinsky, Susan <FTA>
Subject: Matt needs talking points for Honolulu

At yesterday's bi-weekly New Starts mtg Matt requested talking points that he could use when he calls the Mayor sometime next week. He would like the talking points by Monday. He wants them short and sweet.

We understand the significance of the project to the local community
Believe it to be a project that will provide significant travel time improvements
Want to work with them to move the project forward
We believe the best way to do this would be to consider operating segments
This is consistent with FTA's past practice on such large scale projects
FTA would agree to provide more NS funding in total
etc

Thanks,
Beth