FTA Letterhead

Date

Mr. Abraham Wong, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, Hawaii Division
U.S. Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 50206
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Mr. Wong:

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
Honolulu, Hawaii
Cooperating Agency Request

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in cooperation with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS), is initiating a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project in Honolulu, Hawaii. This is an official request for your agency to be a Cooperating Agency for this EIS.

The purpose of the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project is to provide improved person-mobility in the highly congested east-west corridor along Oahu's south shore between Kapolei and the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH Manoa). The project would provide faster, more reliable public transportation services than those services currently operating in mixed-flow traffic. The project would support the goals of the regional transportation plan by serving areas designated for urban growth. The project also would provide an alternative to private automobile travel and improve linkages between Kapolei, Honolulu's urban center, UH Manoa, Waikiki and the urban area in between.

Work on an Alternatives Analysis (AA) that is evaluating the following four project alternatives is currently ongoing:

- No-Build
- Transportation System Management
- Managed Lanes
- Fixed Guideway

The results of the AA are to be transmitted to the City Council by November 1, 2006. On the basis of the AA and the public and agency comments received,

the City Council will select the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for further analysis in the draft EIS.

Your participation is this project as a Cooperating Agency is welcomed, as your agency has been identified as having responsibility for resources that may be affected by potential project alternatives. As a Cooperating Agency, your agency's involvement should be limited to those areas under your jurisdiction or special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. Your agency will not be required to provide analysis or written text for the document.

Clarification of your position on the following two issues would require your direct involvement:

1. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Funding of Managed Lanes facility

   The Managed Lane Alternative would include the construction of a two-lane grade separated viaduct or roadway between Waipahu and Downtown Honolulu. One of the operational scenarios includes the facility being used by buses, high-occupancy vehicles and toll-paying single-occupant vehicles. We have determined that this scenario would not be eligible for federal transit funding. Therefore, we would like to explore the possible FHWA funding for the design and construction of this facility.

2. Design Exceptions

   Proposed modifications to the H-1 and H-2 corridors include elements that may not meet current design criteria and standards found in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway and Streets, 1994. Some of the modifications proposed that may require design exceptions include new auxiliary lanes and realignment of existing freeway lanes to accommodate construction of managed lane columns and access ramps. Where deviations become necessary, we would need acceptance of design exceptions and confirmation that the proposed design exceptions would not preclude the project from being eligible for federal funding.

To maximize interagency cooperation you will be provided an opportunity to review preliminary versions of the AA, DEIS, and, should the project continue, the Final EIS and Record of Decision. You have the right to expect the NEPA environmental document will enable you to meet your jurisdictional responsibilities. Likewise, you are responsible for informing us if the process we are implementing at any point does not meet your expectations. The EIS will become the decision-making document to justify the foreclosure of other alternatives.

We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency for this project. Please provide us with the name of and phone

number/e-mail address for the person designated as your point of contact for this project.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the environmental document, please contact _____.

Sincerely,

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator

cc: Kenneth Hamayasu
City and County of Honolulu, DTS

FTA Letterhead

Date

Mr. Rodney Haraga, Director
Department of Transportation
State of Hawaii
869 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Haraga:

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor
Project
Honolulu, Hawaii
Cooperating Agency Request

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in cooperation with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS), is initiating a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project in Honolulu, Hawaii. This is an official request for your agency to be a Cooperating Agency for this EIS.

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the City Council will select the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for further analysis in the draft EIS.

Your participation is this project as a Cooperating Agency is welcomed, as your agency has been identified as having responsibility for resources that may be affected by potential project alternatives. As a Cooperating Agency, your agency's involvement should be limited to those areas under your jurisdiction or special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. Your agency will not be required to provide analysis or written text for the document.

Clarification of your position on proposed modifications to existing State facilities would require your direct involvement. Modifications to H-1, H-2 and other existing State facilities are being proposed as part of the Managed Lanes and Fixed Guideway Alternatives. These proposed modifications include elements that may not meet current design criteria and standards found in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway and Streets, 1994. Some of the modifications proposed that may require design exceptions include new auxiliary lanes and realignment of existing freeway lanes to accommodate construction of managed lane columns and access ramps. Where deviations become necessary, we would need acceptance of design exceptions.

To maximize interagency cooperation you will be provided an opportunity to review preliminary versions of the AA, DEIS, and, should the project continue, the Final EIS and Record of Decision. You have the right to expect the NEPA environmental document will enable you to meet your jurisdictional responsibilities. Likewise, you are responsible for informing us if the process we are implementing at any point does not meet your expectations. The EIS will become the decision-making document to justify the foreclosure of other alternatives.

We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency for this project. Please provide us with the name of and phone number/e-mail address for the person designated as your point of contact for this project.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the environmental document, please contact _____.

Sincerely,

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator

cc: Kenneth Hamayasu
City and County of Honolulu, DTS