
From: Sinquefield, Robyn (FTA)
To: Rogoff, Peter (FTA)
CC: Bausch, Carl (FTA); Biehl, Scott (FTA); Borinsky, Susan (FTA); Carter, Dorval (FTA); Day, Elizabeth (FTA); Farber, Brian (FTA); Longo, David (FTA); Riklin, Sherry (FTA); VanWyk, Christopher (FTA); Zelasko, Elizabeth (FTA)
Sent: 8/19/2010 4:00:50 AM
Subject: Honolulu Letter
Attachments: Letter from Linda Lingle to S-1 on Financial Plan 8-9-2010.PDF; S-1 Response to Gov Lingle Re Sharing of Financial Data Honolulu 8-18-10.docx

Good morning, Peter.

Attached (and below) is the draft response to Gov. Lingle's letter to the Secretary. This has been coordinated with TPE, TCC and TCA. Please let us know if you have any edits to this response. It's due to OST on Monday.

Thank you,
Robyn

Dear Governor Lingle:

Thank you for your letter dated August 9, providing an update on developments regarding the proposed Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project, and requesting that we share financial data with the State's independent financial consultant who is conducting a review of the project's financial plan. Your letter also asks for a response to two letters that Ms. Katherine Kealoha, Director of the State Office of Environmental Quality Control, sent to the Department of Transportation's Region 9 office on January 15, and February 18, 2010, requesting information to assist in the review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project.

With respect to the request to share financial data, please be assured that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is committed to conducting a thorough review of the proposed Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project's benefits, costs and financial plan before considering the project for entry into final design. This review will be conducted in accordance with the methodology that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) applies to all projects seeking New Starts funding.

At this time, the most recent financial plan FTA received from the City is from August 2009, when the project was seeking approval into preliminary engineering. This information will be shared with the State's independent financial consultant. FTA will obtain an updated financial plan from the City when it requests entry of the project into final design, which is not expected until February or March 2011.

With respect to your inquiry regarding the status of the two letters sent to the USDOT Region 9 office, I sincerely regret that the Regional Office has no record of having received letters from the State Office of Environmental Quality Control. When we find the cause of this issue we will let you know and provide an immediate response. To expedite this process, it would be very helpful if the State Office of Environmental Quality Control could fax copies of the letters to the attention of FTA Regional Administrator Leslie Rogers, at fax number (415) 744-2726. In the meantime, here is a link to a document that provides guidance on how to review a Final Environmental Impact Statement:
http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/nepa/nepa_policies_procedures.pdf.

If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

Ray LaHood