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Subject: News Article on Honolulu - Mayor Hahnemann will push back the start date for construction of the planned \$5.5 billion commuter rail line

See the news article below.

<http://www.masstransitmag.com/publication/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=9934>

Honolulu Mayor Willing to Delay Start of Rail Project

sanjayV03

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HAWAII - Mayor [Mufi Hannemann's](#) announcement yesterday that he will push back the start date for construction of the planned \$5.5 billion commuter rail line coincided with word that one federal agency and one state agency are not ready to sign off on the project.

The federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the state Historic Preservation Division said yesterday the city's plan for lessening the impact of the rail line on historical sites, including burials, needs changes. Hannemann told an auditorium filled with legislative and [business leaders](#), union officials and city employees, "I'm announcing today that I'm willing to push back our groundbreaking schedule for at least another month to allow the appropriate federal, state and community organizations to cross the t's and dot the i's." Hannemann had hoped to start construction of the 20-mile elevated rail line between East Kapolei and Ala Moana in December. Any substantive change to the historical impact plan will require approval by the City Council, which could cause delays. That historical impact plan needs to be completed and signed before the Federal Transit Administration will give a green light to the rail project. FTA approval is crucial to the project since the city is counting on the federal government to pay for \$1.55 billion of the rail construction costs. The federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation also warned that the city should not sign any contracts to implement the train project until the historical impact plan is finalized. Any such step could compromise the agency's ability to endorse the city's agreement, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation said. Hannemann said on Oct. 21 that the city had awarded a contract for the first phase of construction to Kiewit Pacific Co. The contract is worth \$482.9 million and covers construction of the first 6.5 miles of elevated guideway. That contract award and a half-hour, paid television program aired last night were part of an effort to show that the train project is about to succeed where several past attempts have failed. Yesterday's state of the rail speech by Hannemann, which was recorded earlier in the day at the Mission Memorial Auditorium, kicked off with a video of Hannemann riding a virtual representation of a train. Ltd.