The Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Lingle:

We reference your letter dated August 3, to Raymond Sukys of our Region IX office concerning the designation of a State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) for the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP). The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) knows from experience that it will take the State time to establish and effectively implement the functions of the SSOA. Designation of the SSOA is required during the early portion of the project's preliminary engineering phase (49 USC Section 5330(a)(2)) and not "based on the progress of the completion of the operational segments of the system" as stated in your letter.

Please refer to the enclosed letter from FTA to _____ dated February 10, 2009, regarding FTA's State Safety Oversight Rule for implementation. Specifically, the information below must be submitted to FTA before the City and County of Honolulu applies for funding under FTA's formula program for urbanized areas:

Comment [E1]: Enclosed letter from whom to whom? This should be stated in this sentence.

Comment [E2]: The city already receives formula funding for its bus system. Did you mean to say applies for formula funding for the project to be constructed? Are you talking 5307 formula or FGM formula? You probably want the sentences to be as explicit as possible. What about applications for 5309 New Starts funding? Are they at all held up prior to a designation?

(1) The name of the designated oversight agency.
(2) Documentation of the oversight agency's authority to provides state oversight.
(3) Contact information for the representative identified by the designated oversight agency with the responsibilities for oversight activities.
(4) A description of the organizational and financial relationship between the designated oversight agency and the rail transit agency (to ensure that the designated agency does not have a conflict of interest).
(5) A schedule for the designated agency's development of its State Safety Oversight Program, including the projected date of its initial submission as required in Section 659.39 (a).

As was mentioned in our February letter, FTA's Project Management Oversight team will partner with your State in overseeing the development of the HHCTCP during the design, engineering and construction of the HHCTCP. I urge you to designate your SSOA as soon as possible, so that this partnership can begin in earnest.

If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me or Mr. Leslie Rogers, Regional Administrator for Region IX at (415) 744-3133.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Rogoff

cc: Mr. Leslie Rogers
Regional Administrator
FTA Region IX

Mr. Kenneth (Toru) Hamayasu
Deputy Director
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu