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**From:** Fisher, Ron (TPE)  
**To:** Hamayasu, Toru  
**Sent:** 11/21/2005 9:13:44 AM  
**Subject:** RE: 2006 New Starts/Small Starts Seminar and Listening Sessions

Thanks - I look forward to seeing you next year. Have a Happy thanksgiving. Ron

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Hamayasu, Toru [mailto:thamayasu@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2005 1:53 PM  
**To:** Fisher, Ron (TPE)  
**Subject:** RE: 2006 New Starts/Small Starts Seminar and Listening Sessions

Aloha Ron,

Thanks for the notice. I am planning on attending so I look forward to getting together.

I think we figured out on the processing the AA separate from DEIS (similar to Option 1.5) and proceeding with the state EIS in order to get to constructing the local section. We'll send you the detailed explanation soon.

Toru

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**From:** Fisher, Ron (TPE) [mailto:Ron.Fisher@fta.dot.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2005 8:25 AM  
**To:** Hamayasu, Toru  
**Subject:** FW: 2006 New Starts/Small Starts Seminar and Listening Sessions

Toru,

We sent this out to many on our mailing lists, but in case you did not get it, here it is. Let me know if you plan to attend and let's get together. Ron

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Holland, Tonya (TPE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 17, 2005 9:59 AM  
**To:** tkharrington@wmata.com; acg1@miamidade.gov; aheffern@mta-esa.org; cinde\_Gilliland@urscorp.com; dfogel@septa.org; dhi@sandag.org; dhoward@rpcgb.org; ehaley@rctc.org; Fisher, Ron (TPE); floresf@metro.net; Foushee, Maurice (TPE); Gehrke, Linda (TRO-10); gene.franchett@co.dakota.mn.us; ggallucci@gcrta.org; gibsonle@pbworld.com; Glenn, Brian (TRO-03); Gordon, William (TRO-01); greenesga@aol.com; Harlan@ttarail.com; Harvey.flechner@parsons.com; henleys@metro.net; Herre, Susan (TPE); hoeftb@rtcsonthernnevada.com; Holland, Tonya (TPE); hoover@pbworld.com; jgoldberg@sacrt.com; jhe@sandag.org; khaberle@cattransit.com; khorne@mbakercorp.com; lharris@miamidade.gov; lzylstra@valleymetro.org; mark.fuhrmann@metc.state.mn.us; mgoode@cerf.org; nhacker@wrfc.org; pfish@transitchicago.com; sh@thecollaborative.com; shaffner@stacywitbeck.com; ST-Gagliardi (PMO)  
**Cc:** Holland, Tonya (TPE)  
**Subject:** 2006 New Starts/Small Starts Seminar and Listening Sessions

This is to invite you to attend one of the meetings FTA's has planned in the coming months entitled "New Starts/Small Starts Seminar and Listening Session". These meetings are intended to solicit comments from attendees on the New Starts and Small Starts provisions of SAFETEA-LU that FTA is working to implement, as well as to share information about planning and project development activities for projects seeking New Starts funding. Given the importance of getting industry feedback on provisions of SAFETEA-LU, these meetings are open to all and will replace the annual New Starts Roundtables traditionally held in the Spring of each year. Details on these meetings

follow.

As you know, these meetings are intended to solicit comments from attendees on the New Starts and Small Starts provisions of SAFETEA-LU that FTA is working to implement, as well as to share information about planning and project development activities for projects seeking New Starts funding. Given the importance of getting industry feedback on provisions of SAFETEA-LU, these meetings are open to all and will replace the annual New Starts Roundtables traditionally held in the Spring of each year. Details on these meetings follow.

#### BACKGROUND

SAFETEA-LU requires that FTA issue a regulation on the new Small Starts program, policy guidance on New Starts that describes and requests comment on FTA's fixed guideway capital project review and evaluation process and criteria; a report that assesses contractor performance by comparing the costs and ridership projections made by the contractor when preliminary engineering and when final design is requested, and the costs and ridership when the project opens and two years thereafter; a report on the suitability of allowing contractors that undertake new fixed guideway projects to receive performance incentive awards if the New Starts project is completed for less than the original estimated cost; and a report summarizing grantee analysis of the consistency of predicted project characteristics with after data. Further, SAFETEA-LU requires changes to the rating factors for New Starts projects. FTA's approach to these provisions is to develop an Advanced Notice of proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for Small Starts, and policy guidance for New Starts. The policy guidance that is being developed both describes the New Starts review and evaluation process cited above, and presents possible changes to the rating and evaluation process to both address SAFETEA-LU provisions and make improvements to procedures and evaluations of New Starts projects. Comments received from the ANPRM and the policy guidance will be used to develop the New Starts ratings, evaluations and procedures to be implemented in Spring 2006, and to develop a single NPRM for the New Starts and Small starts programs.

While a detailed agenda has not been developed, planned major topics for the upcoming meetings are:

- Presentations by FTA on rulemaking activities related to the New Starts and Small Starts programs, possible changes to the rating, evaluation and procedural process used for New Starts that could be implemented in Spring 2006, assessments of and incentives for contractor performance, and the analysis of predicted characteristics of projects compared to their outcomes
- Presentations from both FTA and grantees on exemplary practices for planning and project development, including the linkage between NEPA and the New starts procedures and transportation benefits

Below are dates and locations for these meetings. FTA has reserved 35 rooms at the Washington, DC and Fort Worth hotels. Mention the title of these meetings to receive the reduced room rate. We expect to start at 9:00 AM each day and end around 5:00 PM:

**San Francisco Session:** February 15-16 - San Francisco County Transportation Authority. Registration and hotel links for this session can be found on the following web site. <http://www.regonline.com/eventinfo.asp?EventId=85835>

**Ft. Worth, Texas Session:** March 1 -March 2 - Radisson Plaza Hotel Fort Worth. Registration and hotel links can be found for this session on the following web site. <http://www.regonline.com/eventinfo.asp?EventId=85839>

Hotel reservations can be made by individuals calling the Hotel directly at 817-870-2100 reservation number or Radisson Toll Free Reservations number 800-333-3333. Reservations by attendees must be received on or before **Wednesday, February 7, 2006. Room rate: \$117 (15% tax) single and double occupancy.**

**Washington DC Session:** March 9-10 - Wardman Park Marriott. Registration for this session can be made on the following web site. <http://www.regonline.com/eventinfo.asp?EventId=85846>

Hotel reservations can be made by individual attendees directly with Marriott reservations at 1 (800) 228-9290 or (202) 328-2000. Reservations by attendees must be received on or before **Wednesday, February 15, 2006. Room Rate: \$187 (14.5 % tax) single and double occupancy**

A detailed agenda will be sent to you about two weeks before the meeting you have registered for. For information regarding the meetings please contact Tonya Holland at 202-493-0283 and for information regarding on-line registration contact Scott Hamwey at 617-338-0018 ext. 127.