U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

REGION IX
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Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Councilmember, District 2
City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Honolulu High Capacity Transit Project

Dear Councilmember Dela Cruz:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has reviewed your letter, dated October 15, 2008, which asked several questions about the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Project. Please note below my responses to your questions.

Question - We would like to know when we can expect to have the EIS back?

Response – The DEIS was made available on the website on November 2, 2008, and a Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on November 21, 2008.

Question - It was also indicated at that time that the city administration was doing its advertisements on transit because of the misinformation or inaccuracies of the opposition's media campaign and also because the ads are a requirement of FTA. Are you in receipt of the alleged inaccuracies to verify that indeed statements were inaccurate?

Response - We have not seen these until they were provided in your letter. FTA does not require a media campaign but encourages strong public involvement as derived from its planning and environmental regulations.

Question - Further, I would like to know if the FTA approved or supported the use of other alternatives such as hot lanes, magnetic levitation or any other type of technology other than steel-on-steel?

Response - The selection of a transportation alternative is a local decision. The costs, benefits and impacts of a technology decision will be evaluated when FTA considers an application for entry into preliminary engineering (PE). If the project has acceptable ratings and meets other readiness considerations, FTA admits the project into PE.

I hope that this answers your questions. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator