

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

August 16, 2010

Mr. Ted Matley
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, California 94105

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, Oahu, Hawaii (CEQ #20100230)

Dear Mr. Matley:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA provided comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project in a February 12, 2009 letter. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information (EC-2), based on concerns related to the alternatives analysis, wetlands, water quality, environmental justice, noise impacts, and various consultation processes. Our review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) finds that most of our concerns have been addressed. We have the following recommendations for the remainder of the environmental review process and ongoing project planning and development.

Section 106 Consultation

In our comments on the DEIS, EPA recommended that the Section 106 consultation process be completed prior to publication of the FEIS to determine whether the project would result in significant impacts to historic resources and if so, what mitigation is proposed by the Department of Transportation Services (DTS). Since this consultation has not been completed, EPA encourages DTS to complete the process and document mitigation commitments for impacts to historic resources in the Record of Decision (ROD).

Environmental Justice

In discussions with DTS subsequent to our comments on the DEIS, EPA was informed that residents of the Banana Patch community would be offered assistance from DTS to allow them to relocate to appropriate housing. EPA encourages DTS to continue close coordination with residents and business owners who will be relocated to ensure that concerns and needs of those to be relocated are addressed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. When the ROD is signed, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Mulvihill (415-947-3554 or mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

/s/

Connell Dunning, Transportation Team Supervisor
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

cc: Wayne Y. Yoshioka, Department of Transportation Services, City and County of Honolulu
Susan Meyer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers