



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

Hawaii Federal-Aid Division

February 8, 2018

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In Reply Refer To:
HDA-HI

Mr. Jade Butay
Interim Director
State of Hawaii Department of Transportation
869 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Follow Up on Preconstruction Utility Coordination Process Program Review

Dear Mr. Butay:

This letter is in response to our recent meetings on Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) with your Department. A recommendation in the FHWA Resource Center Program Review performed in 2015 was to begin implementing SUE techniques. SUE is an engineering practice that involves managing certain risks associated with underground utilities. The successful application of SUE can minimize utility conflicts that results in delays and additional cost during construction.

FHWA and HDOT have agreed on the following mileposts to implement SUE on current and future projects.

- Effective immediately HDOT will begin incorporating SUE techniques on existing design projects, and all projects in construction will be evaluated to determine if SUE can be implemented as a contract change order for the Contractor to perform the work immediately. The FHWA will continue to evaluate participation in additional costs due to underground utility conflicts on a case by case basis.
- Beginning October 1, 2018 HDOT will fully implement SUE techniques on all design projects – evaluation, implementation, etc. The FHWA will not participate in any additional costs on construction projects due to delays or conflicts with underground utilities that could have been prevented by implementation of SUE.
- HDOT will develop an action plan to implement SUE on all HDOT design and construction projects. We will be happy to assist in the development of this action plan. After October 1, 2018, the FHWA will only participate in underground utility relocation costs if HDOT has approved written procedures for SUE implementation.

We look forward to working with you and your team in the implementation of SUE. Should you have questions or if there is any way we can assist please contact Mr. Kahaa Rezantes at 808-541-2314.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RJR', is written over a horizontal line.

Ralph J. Rizzo
Division Administrator

cc: Ed Sniffen, Deputy Director
Marshall Ando, Acting Administrator
Chris Yamamoto, HWY-R