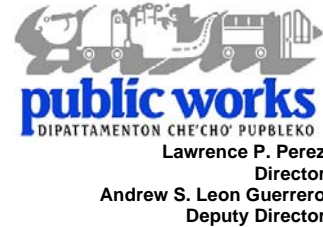




The Honorable
Felix P. Camacho
Governor

The Honorable
Michael W. Cruz, M.D.
Lieutenant Governor



Lawrence P. Perez
Director
Andrew S. Leon Guerrero
Deputy Director

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Assistant Secretary Babauta meets with Department of Public Works

(Tamuning, Guam) Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Anthony Babauta and members of his team met with DPW Director Larry Perez and the Guam Transportation Group yesterday to discuss Guam's roadways. His team included Mr. Michael Block, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; Mr. Nikolao Pula, Director, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA); Mr. Stephen Sander, Director, Legislative Affairs – OIA; and Ms. Angela Williams, Guam Desk Officer – OIA.

In the meeting Director Perez gave an overview of the DPW/FHWA efforts to improve Guam's surface transportation systems to include the impacts of the pending military buildup.

"It was very exciting to be able to meet with the Assistant Secretary and his team which included a representative of the White House, the Director of the Office of Insular Affairs and other high level officials from Interior." said Director Perez. *"Secretary Babauta made it very clear that the impacts of the military buildup on our civilian community are being discussed at the highest levels within the White House and President Obama's administration. This is refreshing and encouraging for all of us who will be affected by the buildup."*

The meeting centered on the 2030 Guam Transportation Plan that has four main components:

- Safety and roadway improvements for all routed roads;
- Development of a Haul Road Network related to the pending military buildup;
- Overall improvements to Guam's Mass Transit System; and,
- Overall improvements to Guam's village streets.

Director Perez also updated the Secretary on their recent trip to Washington D.C. where the Guam delegation met with senior staff members and senior policy directors of the House and Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committees as well as the Undersecretary of Transportation, the USDA, FTA and the Joint Guam Program Office. A fair amount of time was spent on the impacts of the military expansion on Guam's roadways that could cost up to \$1.5 billion alone. Other discussion items included the DPW's efforts to build capacity in transportation related careers and the development of a GIS web based Asset Management Planning Tool.

"It was quite an honor to spend quality time with the Secretary. He has great insight and a wealth of experience on our local issues." said Perez. *"The group as a whole was very keen and well informed on the challenges that the military buildup will bring to our island. It's good to know that we have committed advocates for our people and all the insular areas."*

The meeting was held at the DPW's Division of Highways conference room.

For more information contact:

*The Division of Highways
Department of Public Works
649 3121*

email: highways@dpw.guam.gov