

ORIGINAL

Decision 88 08 046 AUG 24 1988

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
CITY OF LOS ANGELES)
for an order authorizing the)
construction of Century Boulevard)
at grade across two LACTC light rail)
vehicle tracks and right of way and)
across two SPTC tracks and right of)
way in the City of Los Angeles,)
California, and the closure of one)
SPT Grade Crossing at 97th Street,)
BBH 490.26.)

Application 88-04-019
(Filed April 7, 1988)

OPINION

As part of the project to construct the Long Beach to Los Angeles light rail transit (LRT) system, the City of Los Angeles (City), in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) requests authority to construct Century Boulevard at grade across two light rail transit system tracks and two relocated tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Wilmington Branch Line in the Watts area of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County. Authority is also requested to close the 97th Street crossing of SPT's tracks.

The proposed railroad-highway grade crossing project is an essential element in the city's traffic circulation system. Century Boulevard is a major arterial roadway connecting the Harbor Freeway Interstate Route 110 (I-110) with the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) in the southwest portion of Los Angeles County. Both approaches of the crossing on the east and the west have been constructed. Construction of the crossing will eliminate the need for traffic to travel a circuitous route to 97th Street grade crossing.

LACTC, which will bear the cost of construction of the crossing and automatic signal installation, was created by the Legislature in order to meet the demand for an efficient public transportation system in Southern California. In response to this legislative mandate, LACTC has designed and proposes to build a LRT system between downtown Long Beach and downtown Los Angeles in order to satisfy the large and growing travel needs of the area.

The LRT system when completed will provide improved transit in the southern portion of Los Angeles County by decreasing traffic congestion and transit system crowding in State Route 7 (SR-7) and I-110 corridors. Air quality will also be improved. Major impacts of the project include a cost expenditure of \$771 million and increased traffic congestion, delays to autos, buses and pedestrians during construction. Mitigation measures include traffic control plans formulated in conjunction with local jurisdictions and whenever practical, activities and street closures will be scheduled to minimize impact on traffic during peak hours.

LACTC is the lead agency for this project under the California Final Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources Code Sections 21000, et seq. After preparation and review of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), LACTC approved the project. On March 29, 1985, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk which found that "The project will have a significant effect on the environment".

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's FEIR.

The site of the project has been inspected by the Commission staff. The staff discussed this matter with the City, SPT and LACTC engineering staffs and has also reviewed the plans for the proposed crossing construction. Pertinent portions of these

plans are incorporated in the appendix attached to this order. The staff recommends the Commission authorize the City's request to construct Century Boulevard crossing at grade across LACTC's LRT and SPT's tracks.

City has met the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure including Rule 38, which relates to the construction of a public highway across railroad tracks. Detailed drawings of the street geometrics are in the appendix attached to this order.

City wishes to construct this project in conjunction with the LACTC Los Angeles-Long Beach project which is currently under construction. It is therefore requested that the usual 30-day effective date on an order be waived. We will make our order effective immediately.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 12, 1988. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. City requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct Century Boulevard at grade across two of LACTC's LRT system tracks and two of SPT's Wilmington Branch Line tracks in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.
2. City also requests authority to close the existing 97th Street grade crossing of SPT's tracks.
3. Construction of Century Boulevard crossing at grade across LACTC and SPT tracks, as well as the closure of the 97th Street at grade crossing, are essential elements in construction of the LRT system.
4. Public convenience and necessity require the construction of the Century Boulevard grade crossing and the closure of the 97th Street grade crossing.
5. Public safety requires that protection at the Century Boulevard crossing be two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type

signals and two Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signals with cantilever arms (General Order (GO) 75-C).

6. Upon completion of the Century Boulevard crossing and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing grade crossing at 97th Street should be closed and physically removed.

7. LACTC is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

8. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's FEIR.

9. The Los Angeles-Long Beach Rail Transit Project will have significant impact on the environment; however, mitigation measures will reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

10. The FEIR identified no significant environmental impact which would be caused by the construction of the Century Boulevard grade crossing.

11. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the project.

Conclusions of Law

1. The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

2. The usual 30-day effective date on an order should be waived as City wishes to commence construction of the project at the earliest possible date, in order not to delay LACTC's LRT project which is currently under construction.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The City of Los Angeles (City) in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) is authorized to construct Century Boulevard at grade across the tracks of LACTC's

LRT line and the relocated tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Wilmington Branch Line tracks in the Watts area of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown on the plans attached to the application and appendix to this order, to be identified as joint crossing 84L-8.20 (LACTC) and BBH-490.43 (SPT).

2. Construction of the crossing shall be equal or superior to Standard No. 1 of GO 72-B.

3. Clearances shall be in accordance with GO 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

4. Protection at Century Boulevard crossing shall be two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals and two Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signals with cantilevers (GO 75-C).

5. Construction expense of the crossing shall be borne by LACTC.

6. Installation cost of the automatic protection shall be borne in accordance with an agreement which has been entered into between the parties.

7. Upon completion of the Century Boulevard crossing and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing 97th Street grade Crossing BBH-490.26 shall be closed and physically removed.

8. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, City and LACTC shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

9. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

10. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order is effective today.

Dated AUG 24 1988, at San Francisco, California.

STANLEY W. HULETT
President

DONALD VIAL

FREDERICK R. DUDA

C. MITCHELL WILK

JOHN B. OHANIAN

Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE
COMMISSIONERS TODAY.

Victor Weisser

Victor Weisser, Executive Director

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THE NEXT

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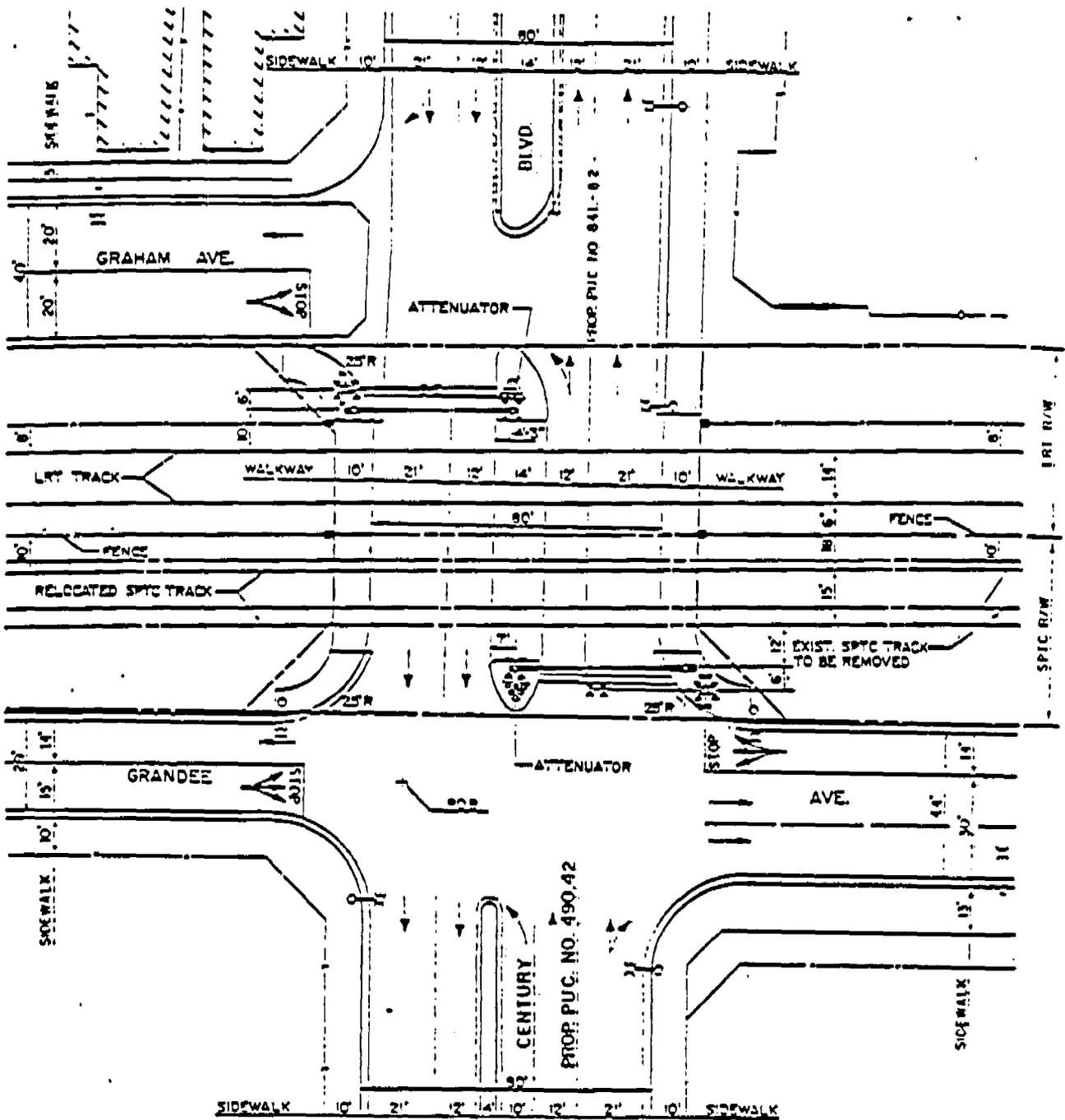
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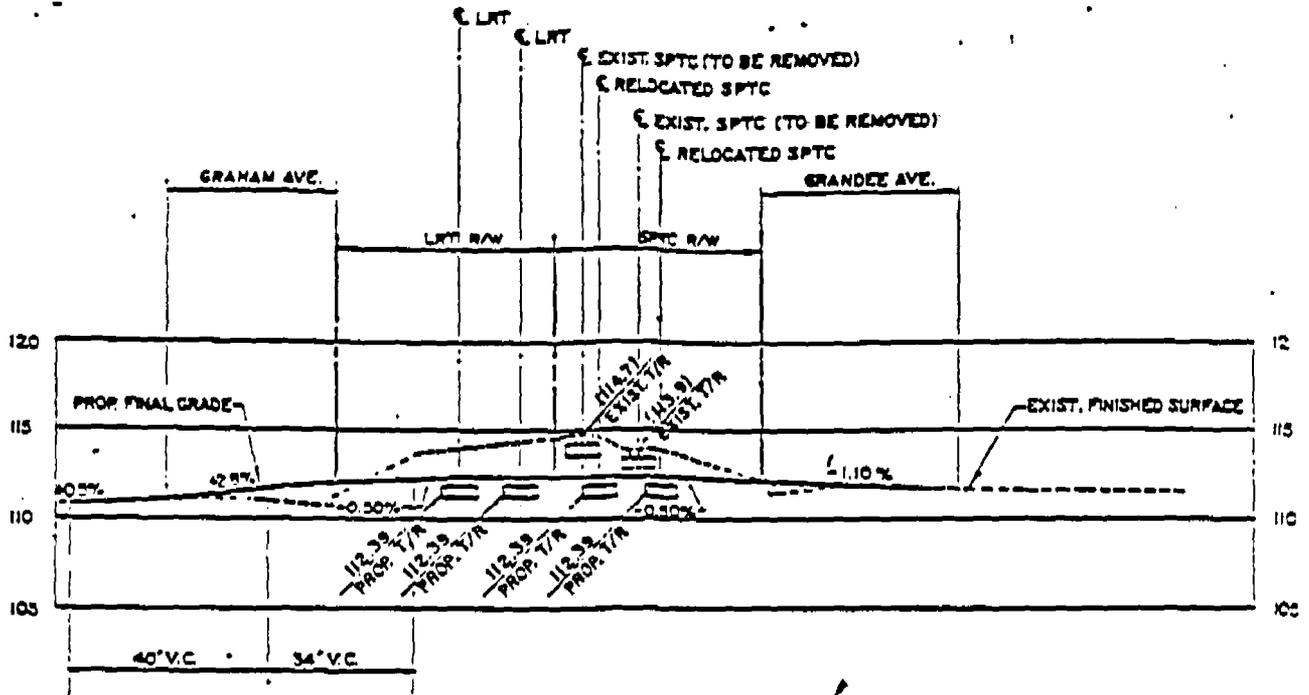


**CENTURY BOULEVARD
PLAN**

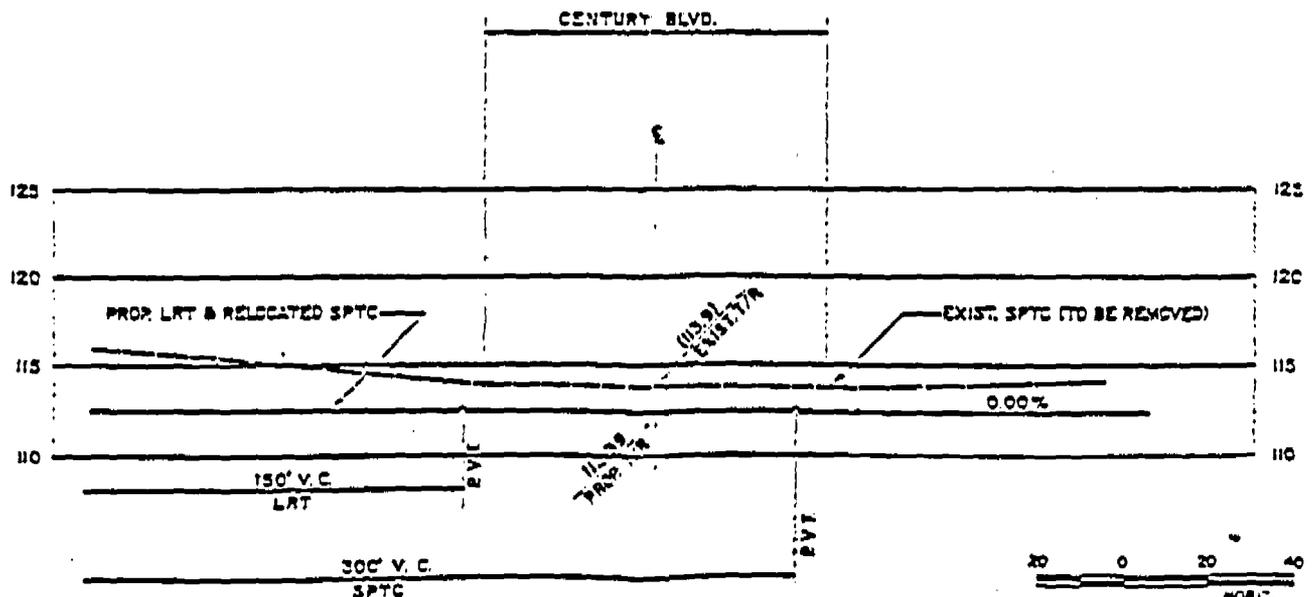
LEGEND

- CPUC STANDARD NO. 9-A
- CPUC STANDARD NO. 9
- FINAL GUTTER
- FINAL CURB
- EXISTING BUILDING
- STREET LIGHT
- POWER POLE
- EXISTING GUT

<p>1. 10-15-87 APPROVED DATE REVISED LOC. FROM 10-15-87 TO 11-10-87 (MICHAN LIPPER) (CPI) (S&P)</p> <p>REV (DATE) (DESCRIPTION)</p>	<p>DESIGNED BY</p> <p>DRAWN BY</p> <p>CHECKED BY</p> <p>APPROVED BY</p> <p>DATE</p>	<p>LOS AN</p> <p>EXISTING BLDG</p> <p>SOUTHERN CO</p> <p>REMITTED:</p>
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HIGHWAY PROFILE



RAILROAD PROFILE SEP 04 1987

EXHIBIT B

LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
The Long Beach-Los Angeles Rail Transit Project

Southern California Rail Consultants
A Joint Venture of
California Development Group & Bechtel, Inc.
General Contractors, California Corporation
2800 West Century Boulevard
Approved: _____

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CENTURY
BOULEVARD ACROSS TRACK AND RIGHTS-OF-
WAY OF LACTC AND OF SPTC
PROPOSED, CPUC CROSSING NO. 84L-8.2 AND BSH 490.42
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CONTRACT NO. _____
DRAWING NO. _____
REV. 1 SHEET NO. _____
SCALE _____