

Decision 89-08-011 August 3, 1989

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the People of the)
State of California, Department of)
Transportation, for an order to)
widen the existing Prevost Street)
Underpass, PUC Bridge No. E-48.1-B,)
for the Coastline main track of the)
Southern Pacific Transportation)
Company in the City of San Jose,)
County of Santa Clara.)

Application 89-04-048
(Filed April 20, 1989)

O P I N I O N

As part of the development of a multimodal transportation terminal at the Cahill Street train station and the Alma Avenue light rail transit (LRT) station, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the existing Prevost Street Underpass at separated grades under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line in San Jose, Santa Clara County.

The proposed project will provide a facility to directly connect Caltrain, Amtrak, LRT, and county buses, and will also accommodate autos, taxis, bicycles, pedestrians, and commercial bus service.

The proposed widening of the underpass is to provide for a second track to allow Caltrain Service to be extended to Alma Station. During widening of the underpass, rail traffic will continue to use the existing track and Prevost Street will be passable by vehicles except for a brief time when the contractor is erecting precast concrete girders over the street.

Major impacts of the project include reduction in visual quality, and increased parking demand. Mitigation measures

include landscaping and site development, and parking programs which restrict non-resident parking and use metered spaces in parking lots.

Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources Code Sections 21000, et seq.

After preparation and review of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Caltrans approved the project. On March 19, 1986, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources and with the Santa Clara 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 EIR.

The site of the project has been inspected by the Commission's Safety Division Traffic Engineering staff. The staff has examined the need to widen the existing inadequate structure and recommends that authority to widen the underpass be granted.

The application meets the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 38, which relates to construction of a public highway across a railroad. A sketch of the project vicinity is set forth as Appendix A.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 26, 1989. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. Caltrans requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to widen the Prevost Street Underpass at separated grades under the tracks of SPT's main line in San Jose, Santa Clara County.

2. Widening of Prevost Street Underpass is required to provide for a second track to allow Caltrain Service to be extended to Alma Station.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require the widening of the Prevost Street Underpass.

4. Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

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

6. The multimodal transportation terminal project will have a significant effect on the environment; however, mitigation measures will reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

Conclusion of Law

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

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation, (Caltrans), is authorized to widen the Prevost Street Underpass at separated grades under the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line in San Jose, Santa Clara County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing E-48.1-B.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D.

3. Walkways shall conform to GO 118. Walkways adjacent to any trackage subject to rail operations shall be maintained free of obstruction and shall be promptly restored to their original condition in the event of damage during construction.

4. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by SPT, shall be filed with the Commission prior

to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

5. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, Caltrans shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

6. 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.

7. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated AUG 3 1989, at San Francisco, California.

G. MITCHELL WILK

President

FREDERICK R. DUDA

JOHN B. OHANIAN

PATRICIA M. ECKERT

Commissioners

Commissioner Stanley W. Hulett,
being necessarily absent, did not
participate.

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



Victor Weiss, Executive Director

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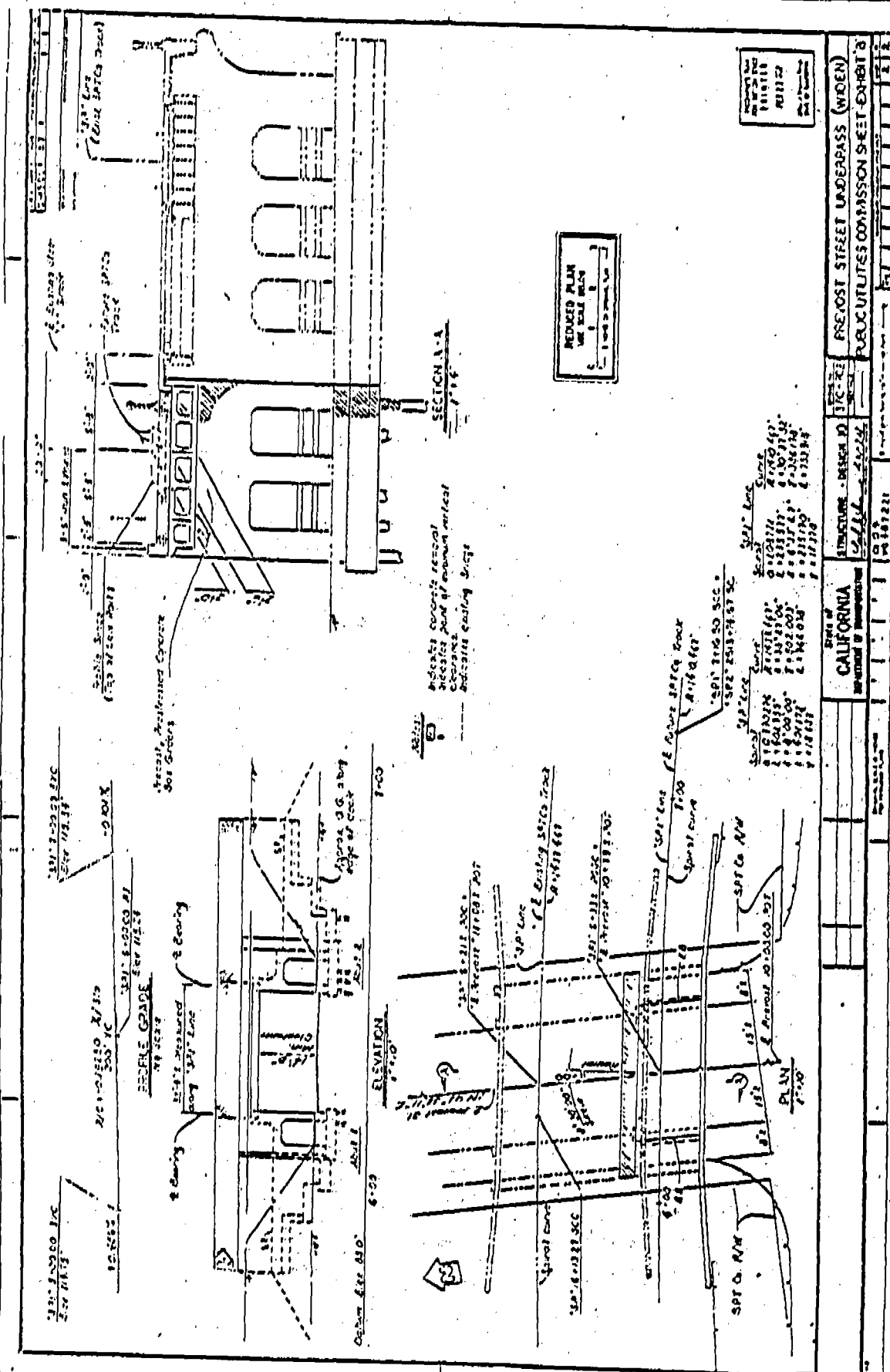
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