

Decision 90 03 052 MAR 28 1990

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the Santa Clara County
Transit District for an order)
authorizing construction of grade)
separated crossings of State Route 87)
Northbound, State Route 87 Connector)
and Interstate Highway 280 by the)
light rail transit line of the)
Guadalupe Corridor project in the)
City of San Jose, California.)

ORIGINAL

Application 87-10-030
(Filed October 20, 1987)

O P I N I O N

As part of the Guadalupe Corridor Project to construct a light transit (LRT) system, a four-lane freeway, and bicycle facilities, the Santa Clara County Transit District (SCCTD) requests authority to construct its light rail vehicle (LRV) tracks at separated grades through the Interstate (I) 280/State Route (SR) 87 Interchange in San Jose, Santa Clara County, with crossings as set forth in Appendix A.

The multi-modal transportation improvements will provide relief to congested major highways and local streets in the area. The LRT system is approximately 20 miles in length between Great America Amusement Park in north Santa Clara and the IBM business park in south San Jose. The grade separation structures are part of a project to extend the Guadalupe Corridor Freeway southerly on new alignment. Major impacts include displacement of 69 residential and 17 non-residential structures, increased traffic congestion of isolated locations, and removal of mature trees along North First Street. Mitigation measures will include relocation assistance, possible future grade separations, and a landscape replacement program.

The Guadalupe Corridor Joint Powers Board (GCJPB) consisting of SCCTD; the State of California, Department of Transportation; the County of Santa Clara; the City of San Jose; and the City of Santa Clara, 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. The project is covered by a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which was approved by the Federal Highway Administration on August 12, 1983.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's FEIS. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Safety Division Traffic Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and safety of the proposed rail crossings. Review and processing of this application were delayed while SCCTD finalized its design profiles and provided milepost identification of the crossing. Applicant provided the needed information to staff in April 1989 and February 1990. The staff recommends that the new grade separated crossings be authorized as described in Appendix A.

Application 87-10-030 meets the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 40, which relates to the construction of a railroad track across a public highway. A sketch of the project vicinity is set forth as Appendix B.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on October 27, 1987. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. SCCTD requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct its LRV tracks at separated grades

through the I-280/SR-87 Interchange in San Jose, Santa Clara County, with crossings as set forth in Appendix A.

2. Construction of the grade separated crossings is an essential element in construction of the Guadalupe Corridor Project.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the crossings, as set forth in the appendices.

4. GCJPB 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 FEIS.

6. The Guadalupe Corridor Project will have 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.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Santa Clara County Transit District (SCCTD) is authorized to construct its LRV tracks at separated grades through the I-280/SR 87 Interchange in San Jose, Santa Clara County, with crossings at the locations and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as set forth in Appendix A.

2. LRV operating clearances at the crossings shall be in accordance with GO 143.

3. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the

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

4. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, SCCTD shall notify the Commission's Safety Division in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

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

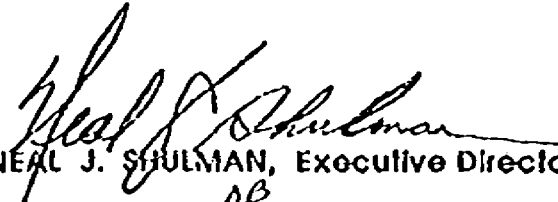
6. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated MAR 28 1990, at San Francisco, California.

G. MITCHELL WALK
President
FREDERICK R. DUDA
STANLEY W. HULETT
JOHN B. OGANIAN
PATRICIA M. ECKERT
Commissioners

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


NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director
JB

A P P E N D I X A

As part of the Guadalupe Corridor Project to construct a light rail transit system, the Santa Clara County Transit District proposes to construct its tracks at separated grades under northbound State Route (SR) 87 and in the median of SR-87 over SR-87 northbound connector and under Interstate (I) 280 in San Jose, Santa Clara County, as set forth below and as shown on plans attached to the application.

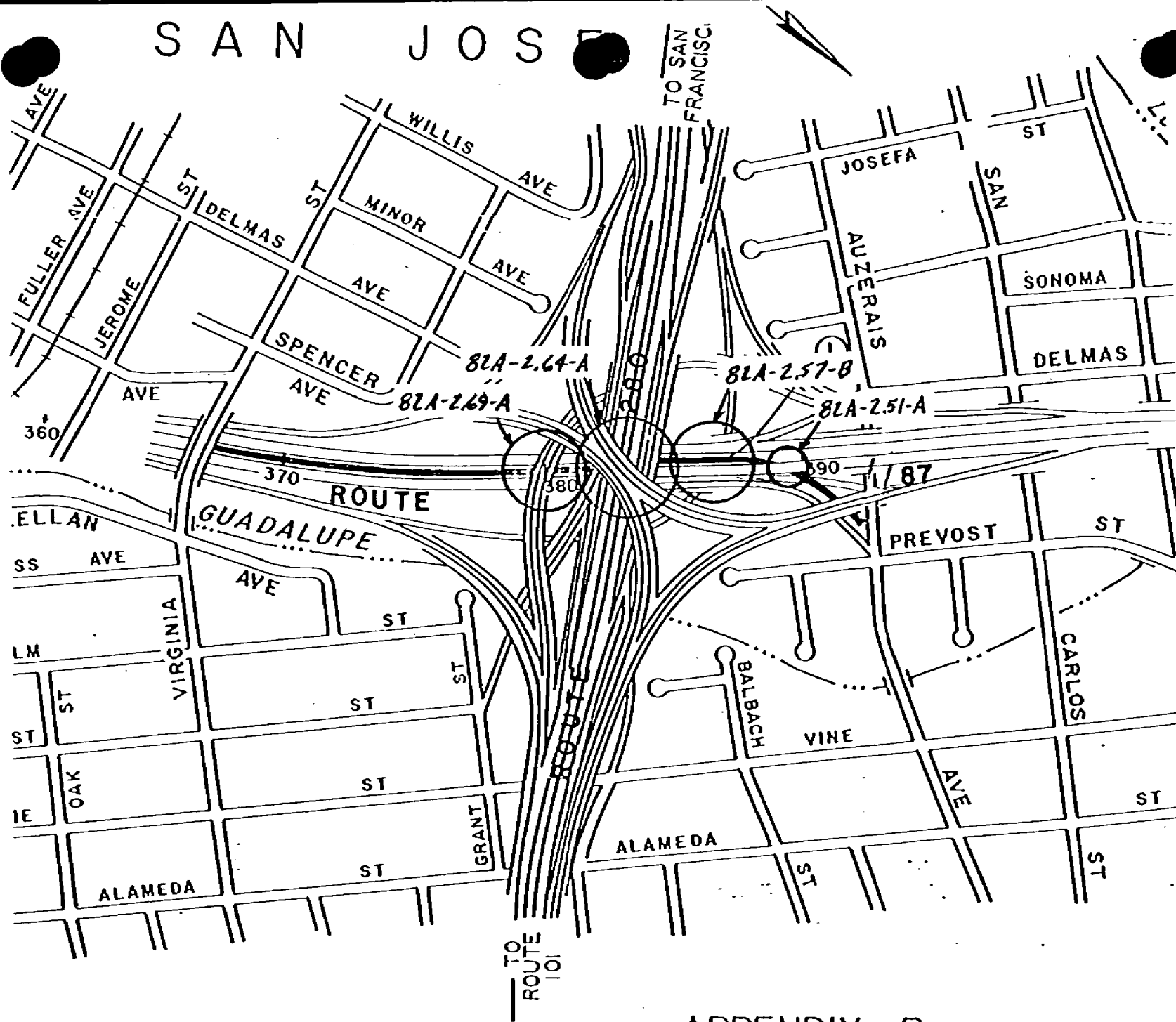
<u>STREET</u>	<u>CROSSING NUMBER</u>
Northbound SR-87	82A-2.51-A
SR-87 Northbound Connector	82A-2.57-B
I-280	82A-2.64-A
SR-87 Southbound Connector	82A-2.69-A

(END OF APPENDIX A)

SAN JOSE

(END OF APPENDIX B)

A-87-10-030 S/ATA



APPENDIX B