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Decision 90 10 068 OCT 24 1990

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of  
California, Department of Transpor-  
tation, for an order authorizing the  
Department to widen the existing  
North First Street Undercrossing,  
Bridge No. 37-116, on State Route 101  
over the tracks of the Santa Clara  
County Transportation Agency's Light  
Rail Transit System, P.U.C. Crossing  
No. 82B-1.31-A, in the City of San  
Jose, Santa Clara County.

Application 90-08-035  
(Filed August 15, 1990)

O P I N I O N

As part of a six-mile long project to widen U.S. Route 101 from the Route 280/680/101 interchange to the De La Cruz Boulevard/Trimble Road interchange, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the North First Street Undercrossing structure at separated grades over the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency's (SCCTA) light rail vehicle (LRV) tracks in San Jose, Santa Clara County.

The proposed widening at the structure will add one lane in each direction for through traffic on Route 101. The project will alleviate current and projected peak hour traffic congestion. Widening will take place on the north side of the existing five span structure. The work will consist of extending the multiple column bents to support the widened structure with the columns being supported on pile foundations.

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. Caltrans prepared an Initial Study and issued a Negative Declaration. SCCTA reviewed and approved Caltrans' Negative Declaration. On May 3, 1989, a Notice of Determination was filed with the County Clerk which found

that "The project will not 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 Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Safety Division's Traffic Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and safety of the proposed construction and recommends that authority to widen the crossing be granted as requested.

Caltrans has met the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, including Rule 39, which relates to the widening of an existing crossing. A sketch of the project vicinity and General Plan is set forth as Appendix A. Caltrans desires to start work at the earliest possible date. 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 August 23, 1990. No protests have been received. Public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. Caltrans requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to widen the North First Street Undercrossing on Route 101 at separated grades over the tracks of SCCTA's LRV tracks in San Jose, Santa Clara County.

2. Widening of Route 101 at the North First Street Undercrossing is required to improve roadway capacity and reduce congestion.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require widening of the North First Street Undercrossing.

4. Caltrans is a 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 Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

6. The project will have no significant impact on the environment.

Conclusions of Law

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

2. The usual 30-day effective date on the order should be waived as Caltrans wishes to commence construction of the project at the earliest possible date.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to widen the North First Street Undercrossing on Route 101 at separated grades over Santa Clara County Transportation Agency's LRV tracks in San José, Santa Clara County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing 82B-1.31-A.

2. LRV operating clearances at the crossing shall be in accordance with General Order 143.

3. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement which has been entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement has been filed with the Safety Division of the Commission.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order is effective today.

Dated OCT 24 1990, at San Francisco, California.

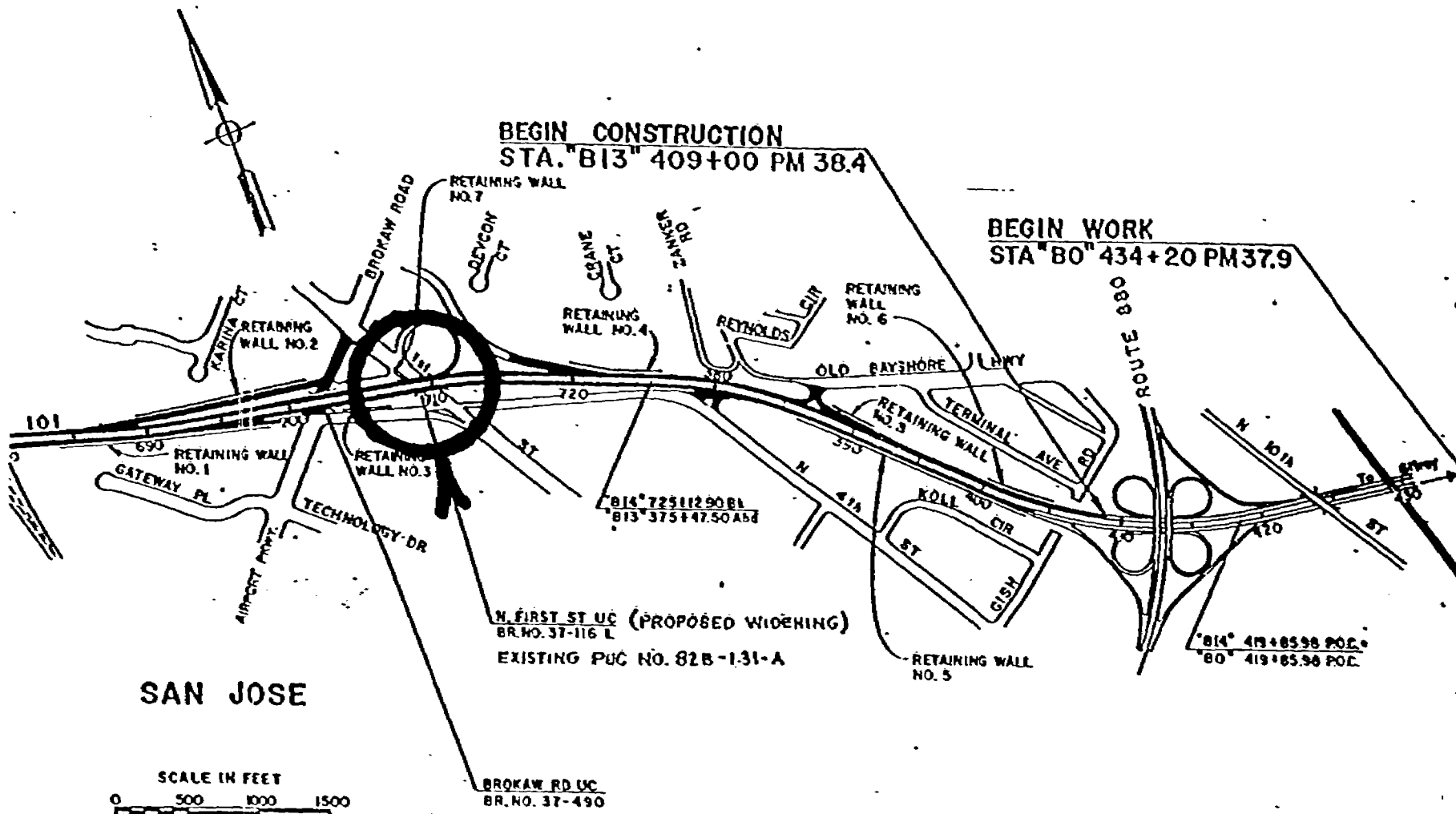
G. MITCHELL WILK  
President  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
STANLEY W. HULETT  
PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
Commissioners

Commissioner John B. Ohanian,  
being necessarily absent, did  
not participate.

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

  
NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director

DB



GENERAL PLAN

