

S/RRT/lc

Decision 91 10 021 OCT 11 1991

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the San Diego  
Metropolitan Transit Development  
Board, herein sometimes referred  
to as "MTDB", for an order  
authorizing the construction of  
a second track across State  
Route 8 by means of a second  
underpass structure to be built  
adjacent to the existing Spring  
Street Underpass in the City  
of La Mesa in accordance with  
the MTDB objective to double  
track its facilities.

Application 91-06-055  
(Filed June 25, 1991)

O P I N I O N

San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) requests authority to widen the Spring Street Underpass of Interstate Route 8 (I-8) under its East line in the City of La Mesa, San Diego County.

I-8 has average daily traffic of 148,000 vehicles a day. MTDB's East line, owned by MTDB subsidiary San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railroad, is the route of 210 San Diego Trolley, Inc. light rail trains a day (LRTs) between San Diego and El Cajon, and nighttime San Diego and Imperial Valley Railroad freight service of three evening trains a week.

The addition of a cast-in-place, prestressed concrete box girder structure adjacent to the existing bridge will improve passenger service on the San Diego Trolley East line by decreasing travel time and increasing reliability of schedules. The East line is entirely double-tracked except where it crosses over I-8 and two other freeways (widening of the I-805 bridge for double-track is the subject of A.91-06-041, now before the Commission). The Spring Street Underpass widening will allow removal of the single-track

train control system and the need for LRTs to coordinate movements over the bridge.

MTDB is the lead agency for this project under California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Sections 21000, et seq. MTDB has determined that this project, the reconstruction of an existing grade separation, is categorically exempt from the reporting requirements of CEQA under Code Section 21080.13.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA, and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's exemption determination. The existing grade separation has been inspected and the proposed widening plans reviewed by the Commission's Safety Division - Traffic Engineering staff. Staff is of the opinion that there will be no significant effect on the environment, and recommends that MTDB's request be granted.

The application was found to be in compliance under the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 39 of Rules of Practice and Procedure which relates to the widening of existing crossings and separations over railroad track. A location sketch and detail from the plans for the project are shown in Appendix A.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's daily calendar on July 1, 1991. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

2. MTDB requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to widen the Spring Street Underpass of its East line over I-8 in La Mesa, San Diego County.

3. Widening of the underpass by constructing a prestressed concrete box girder adjacent to the existing structure will improve rail service by decreasing travel time and improving reliability of schedules.

4. Public convenience and necessity require widening of the overhead.

5. MTDB is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

6. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project, and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's determination that the project is categorically exempt from the environmental reporting requirements of CEQA.

7. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusions of Law

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

2. Under Code Section 21080.13 the activity is exempted from the requirements set forth in CEQA; therefore the guidelines (14 Cal. Admin. Code - Division 6) concerning the evaluation of projects and the preparation and review of environmental documents do not apply.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB), is authorized to widen the Spring Street Underpass of Interstate Route I-8 under its San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railroad's East line, at the locations and substantially as shown in Appendix A and plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing

36D-12.7-B, in La Mesa, San Diego County.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 143-A and GO 26-D.

3. Walkways shall conform to GO 143-A and GO 118. Walkways adjacent to any trackage subject to rail operations shall be maintained free of obstructions 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 entered into between the parties. Evidence of agreement was included in the application. Should the parties later disagree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

5. Within 30 days after completion of the work authorized in this order, MTDB shall notify the Commission's Safety Division 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 OCT 11, 1991 at San Francisco, California.

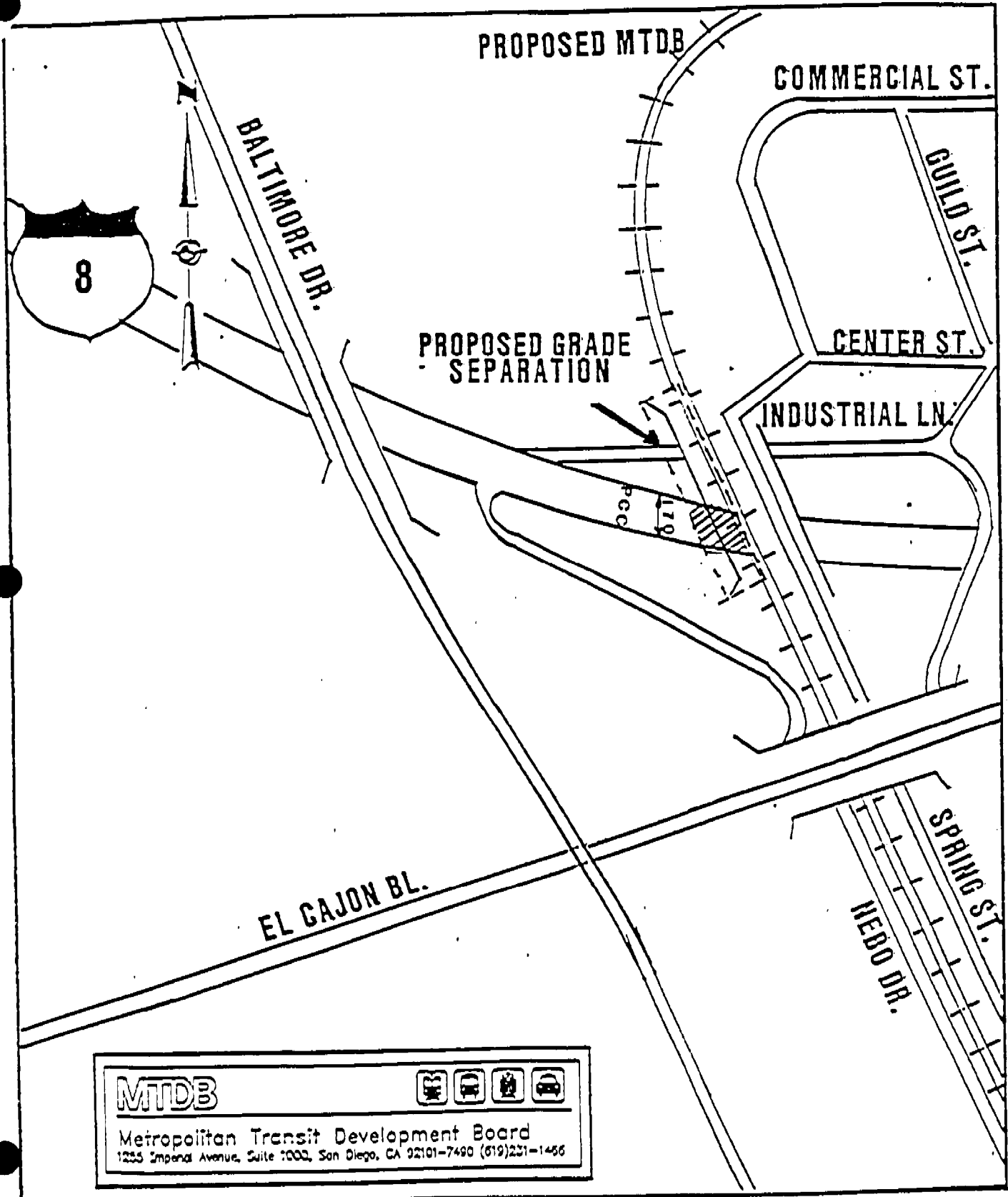
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY  
Commissioners

Commissioner Patricia M. Eckert,  
being necessarily absent, did not  
participate.

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

- 4 -

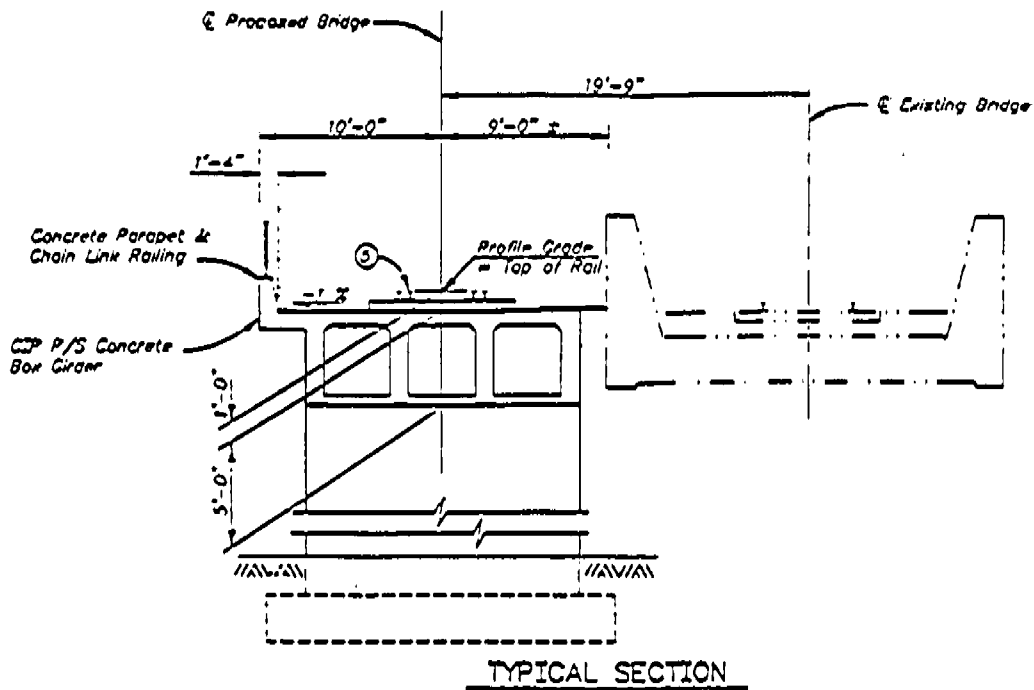
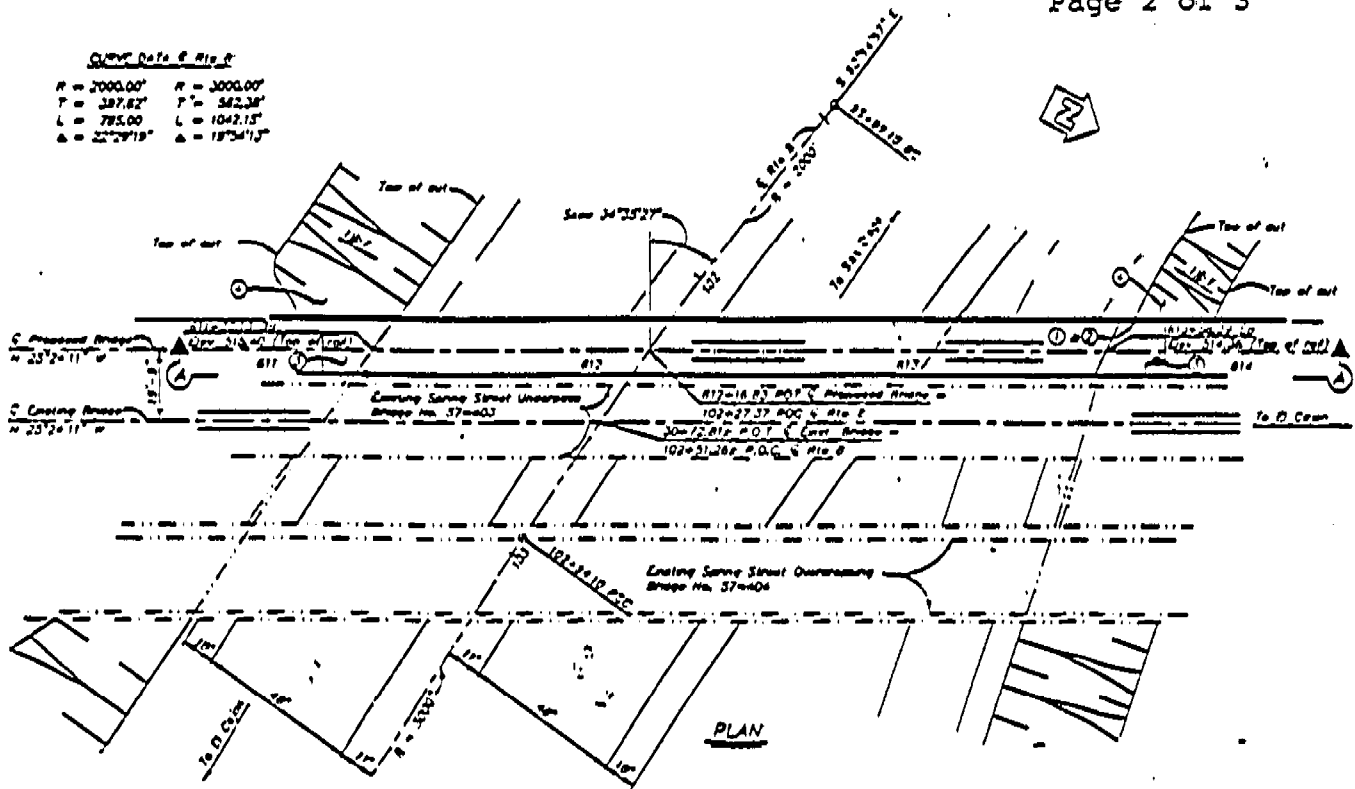
  
NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director  
pe



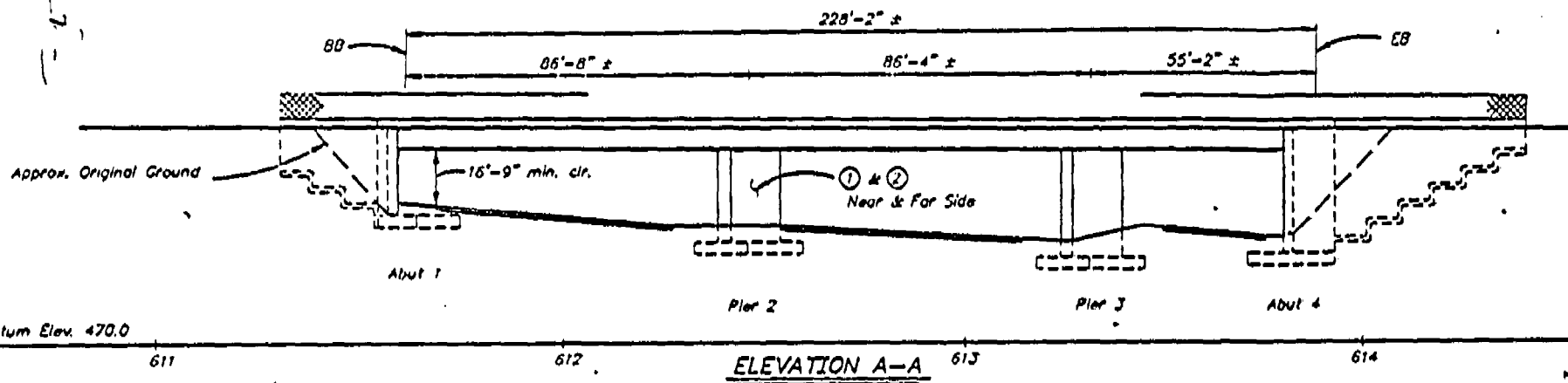
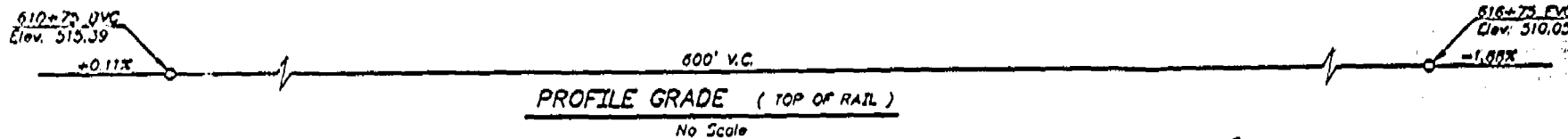
-56-

Curve Data @ Rio R

R = 2000.00' R = 2000.00'  
 T = 287.82' T = 287.82'  
 L = 785.00' L = 1042.15'  
 Δ = 22°29'18" Δ = 18°54'13"



<p><b>MTDB</b> METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT BOARD</p>	<p>EAST URBAN LRT LINE</p>
	<p>SPRING STREET UNDERPASS GENERAL PLAN</p>



MTDB

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

EAST URBAN LRT LINE

SPRING STREET UNDERPASS  
GENERAL PLAN