

S/RRT/gk\*

Decision 92-07-082 July 22, 1992

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the City of Irvine )  
for an order authorizing )  
construction of widening the )  
existing grade separation of Yale )  
Avenue over the Atchison, Topeka, )  
and Santa Fe Railway Company tracks, )  
Crossing No. 2-181.3-A )

**ORIGINAL**  
Application 92-03-056  
(Filed March 30, 1992)

O P I N I O N

The City of Irvine (City) requests authority to widen the existing grade separation of Yale Avenue over The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company's (AT&SF) main line tracks in Irvine, Orange County.

The proposed project will widen the existing 26-foot wide bicycle/pedestrian/emergency vehicle overcrossing at the AT&SF tracks to a width of approximately 60-feet to accommodate two 12-foot vehicular lanes, two 8-foot bicycle lanes, two 8-foot sidewalks, and two barrier rails.

On June 5, 1990, City voters approved an initiative to build the project allowing for a two-lane undivided vehicular overcrossing at the AT&SF tracks, while maintaining pedestrian and bicycle access in accordance with the City's adopted General Plan and Zoning Ordinances.

Implementation of the proposed project will have an overall beneficial impact on traffic conditions. The proposed improved overcrossing will allow a more efficient flow of traffic and reduce the overall number of vehicle miles travelled by approximately 3,600 miles per day.

Decision (D.) 86109 dated July 13, 1976 in Application (A.) 56485, authorized construction of a wood frame-concrete floor pedestrian-bikeway overhead crossing at separated grades at Yale

Avenue. D.83-03-054 dated March 16, 1983, authorized the City to replace the wood frame crossing with a concrete grade separation structure that also accommodated emergency vehicles. :

City 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. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR), approved by the City Council of the City of Irvine on November 26, 1991, identified potential impacts of the proposed project; however, the mitigation measures that have been adopted by the City will either eliminate or reduce the severity of potential impacts to acceptable levels.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA, and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR. The existing grade separation has been inspected and the proposed widening plans reviewed by the Commission's Safety Division - Traffic Engineering staff. Staff recommends that City'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 April 6, 1992. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.
2. City requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to widen the existing Yale Avenue Overhead grade separation structure over AT&SF main line tracks in Irvine, Orange County.
3. Widening of the Yale Avenue Overhead will have an overall beneficial impact on traffic conditions. The improved overcrossing will allow a more efficient flow of traffic and reduce the overall

number of vehicle miles travelled in the Woodbridge Area of the City of Irvine.

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

5. City 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 EIR.

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. City of Irvine (City) is authorized to widen the existing grade separation of Yale Avenue over The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company's (AT&SF) main line tracks, at the location and substantially as shown in Appendix A and plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing 2-181.3-A in Irvine, Orange County.

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 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 under this order, City 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.

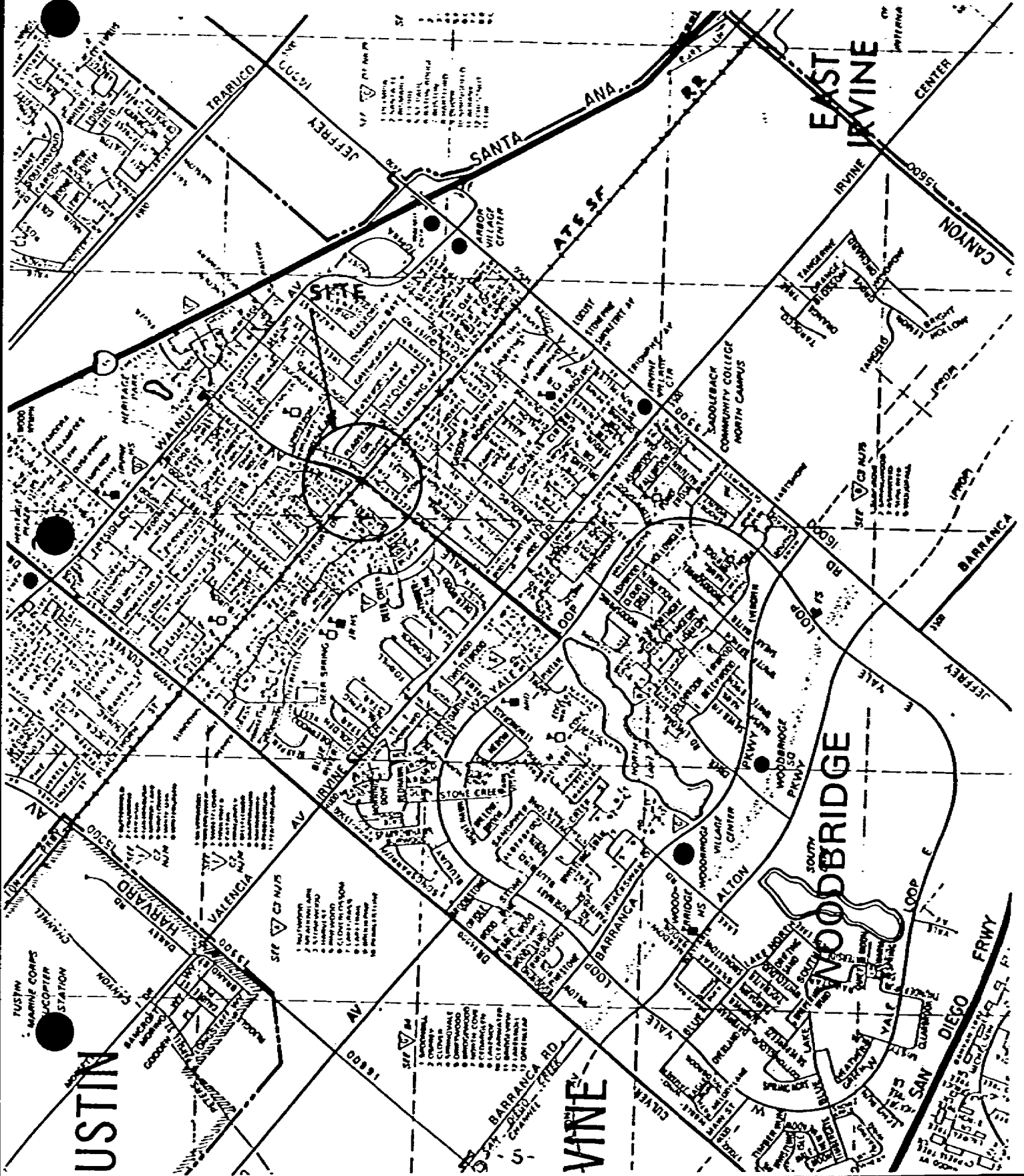
Dated JUL 22 1992 at San Francisco, California.

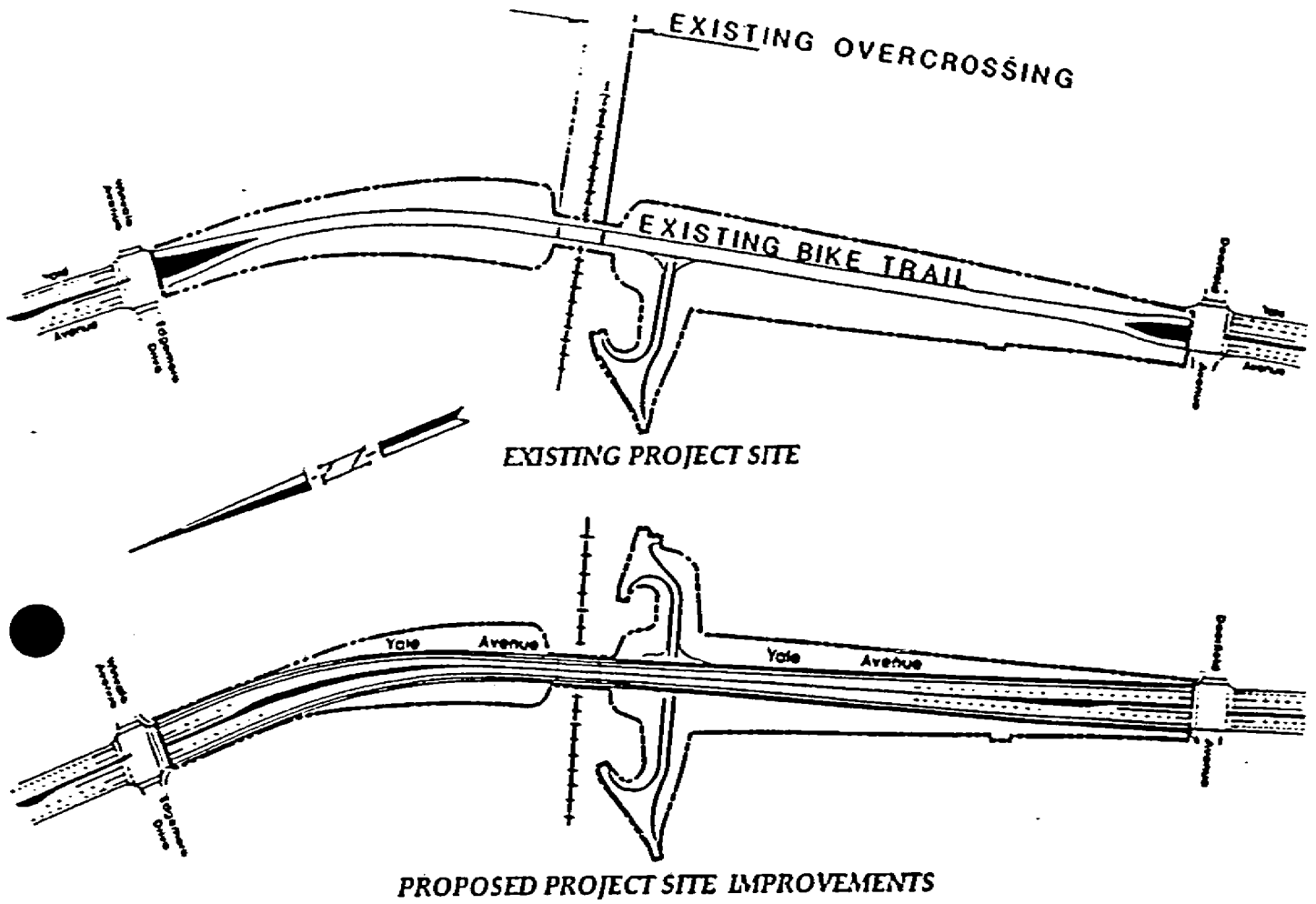
DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
President

JOHN B. OHANIAN  
PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY  
Commissioners

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

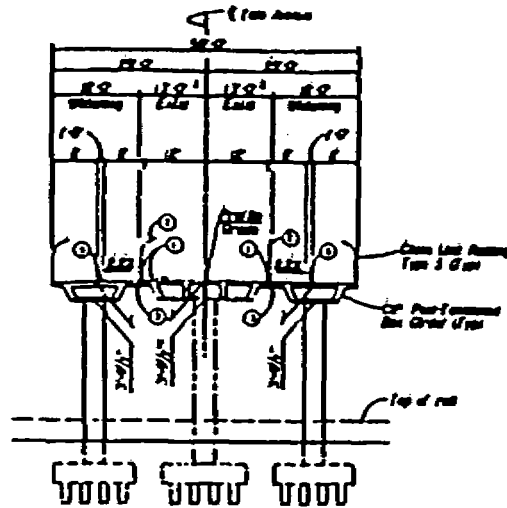
  
NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director





**YALE AVENUE/A.T. & S.F. VEHICULAR OVERCROSSING**  
City of Irvine

TYPICAL SECTION



- ① Remove existing deck overhang, concrete barrier and sidewalk
- ② Remove existing chain link railing
- ③ Closure Pour, 4'-0"
- ④ Deck drain - Type 'B'
- ⑤ Concrete Barrier

ELEVATION

