

ORIGINAL

Decision 82 09 100 SEP 22 1982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of )  
 California, Department of )  
 Transportation for an order )  
 authorizing the construction )  
 of Ramona Expressway Overhead )  
 (BR. No. 56C-196) over the )  
 Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe )  
 Railway Company tracks and to )  
 remove PUC Grade Crossings )  
 No. 2X-13.55 on Perry Street )  
 and 2X-14.3 on Cajalco Road )  
 as part of a proposed project )  
 to convert a 7.1 mile segment )  
 of four-lane divided express- )  
 way on Route 194 (15E, 395) )  
 in Riverside County into an )  
 ultimate six-lane divided )  
 full freeway. )

Application 82-06-71  
(Filed June 30, 1982)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project for the freeway conversion of State Route 194 (15E) between 0.5 mile south of Nuevo Road and 0.3 mile north of Van Buren Boulevard, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to construct the Ramona Expressway Overhead over the tracks of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company's (AT&SF) San Jacinto Branch Line in Riverside County. Upon completion of the overhead and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Perry Street and Cajalco Road grade crossings will be closed and physically removed.

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 a Negative Declaration and Environmental Study, Caltrans approved the project. On October 26, 1979, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources 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 independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Negative Declaration and Environmental Study. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission staff.

The project will convert 7.1 miles of the present four-lane divided expressway Route 194 (15E) to full freeway standards between 0.5 mile south of Nuevo Road and 0.3 mile north of Van Buren Boulevard in Riverside County. The project will be constructed in stages, beginning with construction of the isolated interchanges and grade separations and the closing of existing access openings.

After all structures are completed, two additional lanes will be constructed in the existing median to complete the conversion of the expressway to full freeway. The proposed Ramona Expressway Overhead will be the second of several overhead structures to be constructed over AT&SF's tracks within the

limits of the planned freeway development for Route 194. The Ramona Expressway Overhead will be built in conjunction with construction of the State Route 194/Ramona Expressway Overcrossing (BR. No. 56-730) at Route 194-30.9.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on July 1, 1982. 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 construct the Ramona Expressway Overhead over the tracks of AT&SF's San Jacinto Branch Line in Riverside County.

2. Construction of the overhead is required as part of the project to convert State Route 194 (15E) from a four-lane expressway to a six-lane freeway.

3. Upon completion of the overhead and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Perry Street and Cajalco Road grade crossings should be closed and physically removed.

4. Public convenience and necessity require construction of the Ramona Expressway Overhead.

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

6. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Negative Declaration and Environmental Study.

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

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 State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to construct the Ramona Expressway Overhead over the tracks of The Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company's (AT&SF) San Jacinto Branch Line in Riverside County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing 2X-13.9-A.
2. Upon completion of the overhead and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Perry Street grade crossing (Crossing 2X-13.55) and Cajalco Road grade crossing (Crossing 2X-14.3) shall be closed and physically removed.
3. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order 26-D; except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 20' - 6" above top of rail shall be authorized and

AT&SF shall be authorized to operate with such reduced overhead clearance provided that instructions are issued by the railroad and filed with the Commission forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.

4. Caltrans shall notify the Commission and AT&SF at least 15, but not more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired overhead clearance will be created.

5. Walkways shall conform to General Order 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.

6. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement which has been entered into between the parties.

7. Within 30 days after completion, under this order, Caltrans shall advise the Commission in writing.

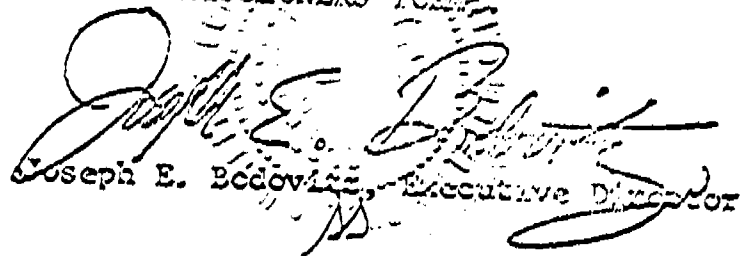
This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated SEP 22 1982, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. BRYSON  
President  
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE  
LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.  
VICTOR CALVO  
PRISCILLA C. GREW  
Commissioners

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

  
Joseph E. Bedovane, Executive Director