

RR/RRT/BW/WPSC

Decision 83 05 028 MAY 4 1983

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of)
 California, Department of Trans-)
 portation for an order authorizing)
 the following: (1) To construct and)
 later remove a temporary detour)
 grade crossing of the Southbound)
 Vermont Avenue (West Drive) across)
 the El Segundo Branch Line track of)
 the Southern Pacific Transportation)
 Company, to permit construction of)
 the west half of the Vermont Avenue)
 Overcrossing over the proposed)
 Route 105 Freeway (located approxi-)
 mately 277 feet north of the track);)
 (2) To construct and later remove)
 a temporary detour grade crossing of)
 the Northbound Vermont Avenue .)
 (Vermont Avenue East) across the)
 El Segundo Branch Line track of the)
 Southern Pacific Transportation)
 Company, to permit construction of)
 the east half of the Vermont Avenue)
 Overcrossing in Los Angeles County.)

Application 83-01-04
 (Filed January 5, 1983)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to construct Interstate Route 105 as a freeway on new alignment generally between Vermont Avenue and Hoover Street, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requests authority to construct a temporary detour grade crossing at Vermont Avenue, to be modified during two stages of construction, across the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) El Segundo Branch Line in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

The temporary detour crossing to be constructed in the existing 80 foot wide median of Vermont Avenue is necessary to permit the construction of Vermont Avenue Overcrossing in two stages and to allow vehicular traffic to utilize the roadway with minimum interruptions and delays.

Caltrans proposes to reroute Southbound Vermont Avenue (Vermont West Drive) over the temporary detour crossing while the western portion of the overcrossing is under construction. This will be Stage 1 of construction.

During Stage 2, the temporary detour will be modified to permit Northbound Vermont Avenue (Vermont East Drive) traffic to traverse across it in order to construct the eastern portion of the Vermont Avenue Overcrossing.

Upon completion of the overcrossing, and its opening to vehicular traffic the temporary detour crossing will be closed and physically removed. Conversely, the two existing Vermont Avenue grade crossings (West Drive and East Drive) will be restored to full operational capacity.

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 an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Caltrans

approved the project. On September 19, 1977, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources which found that "The project will have a significant effect on the environment."

The construction of Interstate Route 105 will have a variety of natural and cultural impacts on the environment both beneficial and adverse. Adverse impacts have been adequately addressed in the EIR with appropriate mitigation measures provided where deemed necessary.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed the lead agency's EIR and Notice of Determination. The Commission concurs with the findings of Caltrans that approval of temporary grade crossing detour and adjacent grade separation will not result in a significant environmental impact. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission staff.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on January 6, 1983. 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 a temporary detour grade crossing across the tracks of SPT's El Segundo Branch Line in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

2. Construction of the proposed detour grade crossing is required to permit vehicular traffic the continued use of Vermont Avenue during the construction of the Vermont Avenue Overcrossing which will be built as part of a project to construct Interstate Route 105 as a freeway on new alignment.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the proposed detour and necessary modifications thereof, during the two stages of construction for Interstate Route 105.

4. Public safety requires that protection at the temporary detour grade crossing be a minimum of one Standard No. 9 automatic flashing light signal is with a gate arm (General Order 75-C). The No.9 signal to be relocated upon completion of Stage 1 to protect motorists approaching from the opposite direction during Stage 2.

5. The temporary detour grade crossing should be closed and physically removed after completion of the project and the re-opening of both the West Roadway of Vermont Avenue (southbound traffic) Crossing and East Roadway of Vermont Avenue (northbound traffic) Crossing.

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

7. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's certified EIR.

8. The construction of Interstate Route 105, Century Freeway, of which the Vermont Avenue Overcrossing and adjacent detour are necessary parts, will have a significant effect on the environment; however, the mitigation measures that have been or will be adopted by Caltrans will either eliminate or reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

9. The construction of the temporary detour grade crossing 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 a temporary detour grade crossing (and necessary modifications thereof, during both stages of construction), across the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) El Segundo Branch Line in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application to be identified as temporary Crossing No. BBF-493.895.

2. Caltrans is further authorized to temporarily close the existing West Roadway of Vermont Avenue (southbound traffic) Crossing No. BBF-493.90 during Stage 1 of construction and to temporarily close East Roadway of Vermont Avenue (northbound traffic) Crossing No. BBF-493.89 during Stage 2 of construction as indicated by plans attached to the application.

3. Protection at the temporary detour grade crossing shall be a minimum of one Standard No. 9 flashing light signal with gate arm (General Order 75-C), during each stage of construction, with appropriate relocation thereof prior to changing the direction of traffic.

4. Upon completion of the overcrossing and its opening to vehicular traffic both the West Roadway Crossing No. BBF-493.90 and East Roadway Crossing No. BBF-493.89 should be restored to full operational and functional capacity.

5. Upon completion of the project, the temporary detour grade crossing (Crossing No. BBF-493.895) shall be closed to public use and physically removed.

6. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order 26-D.

7. 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.

8. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by SPT, shall be filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

9. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, Caltrans shall notify the Commission in writing of the completion of the work authorized.

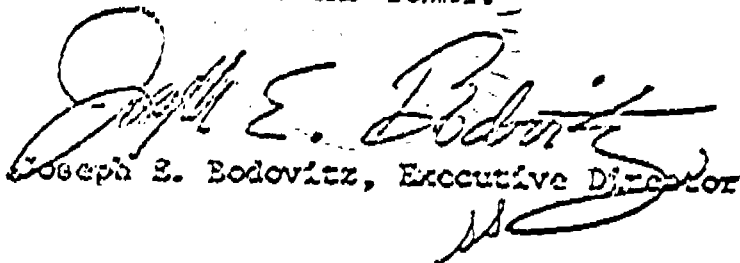
This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated MAY 4 1983, at San Francisco, California.

LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.
President
VICTOR CALVO
FRISCILLA C. GREW
DONALD VIAL
Commissioners

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


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director