

Decision No. 91472 MAR 18 1980**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the CITY OF ONTARIO
 for an order authorizing construction
 of a crossing at separated grades
 between Euclid Avenue and the tracks
 of the Southern Pacific Transportation
 Company, sometimes referred to as
 the "Euclid Avenue Underpass."

Application No. 58562
 (Filed December 29, 1978)

O P I N I O N

The City of Ontario requests authority to construct the "Euclid Avenue Underpass" (Euclid Avenue-State Route 83) at separated grades under the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Main Line in the City of Ontario, San Bernardino County. Authority is also requested to convert the existing Plum Avenue grade crossing, Crossing B-520.2, from a vehicular crossing to a pedestrian crossing concurrently with completion of the "Euclid Avenue Underpass."

The priority list of grade separation projects for the fiscal year 1979-80, as set forth in Decision No. 90399, dated June 5, 1979, shows this project as Priority No. 2.

The California Department of Transportation is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.

After preparation and review of an Environmental Impact Report, the California Department of Transportation approved the project. On December 20, 1979, 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 Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Environmental Impact Report. The site of the proposed project has also been inspected by the Commission staff.

Euclid Avenue (State Route 83) is a major north-south corridor in the City of Ontario which provides a connection to all major east-west arterial streets and to the existing freeways, Interstate 10 to the north and State Route 60 to the south. Euclid Avenue is presently crossed at grade by the parallel tracks of two transcontinental railroads, Southern Pacific and Union Pacific, about 450 feet apart.

The proposed project would eliminate accidents and vehicular delay related to the present grade crossings and improve the southerly entrance to the City's business district. More importantly, the delay to emergency vehicles based north of the tracks in serving the southerly areas would be eliminated.

The major impact of the project will be the elimination of vehicular access from Euclid Avenue to properties located within the project area. Temporary effects of the project will include disruption and noise during construction as well as increased local street traffic on detour routes. Mitigation measures will include development of a Relocation Plan, landscaping and construction controls.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on January 3, 1979. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

F I N D I N G S

After consideration, the Commission finds:

1. Applicant should be authorized to construct the "Euclid Avenue Underpass" under the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Main Line in the City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, at the location and substantially as shown on plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing B-520.1-B.
2. Upon completion of the "Euclid Avenue Underpass," and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Euclid Avenue grade crossing, Crossing B-520.1, should be closed and physically removed.
3. Upon completion of the "Euclid Avenue Underpass," and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Plum Avenue grade crossing, Crossing B-520.2, should also be closed to vehicular traffic and converted to a pedestrian grade crossing to be identified as Crossing B-520.2-D.
4. Protection at the pedestrian crossing should be two Standard No. 10 flashing-light type pedestrian signals (General Order 75-C).
5. Clearances should be in accordance with General Order 26-D.
6. Walkways should conform to General Order 118. Walkways adjacent to any trackage subject to rail operations should be maintained free of obstructions and should promptly be restored to their original condition in the event of damage during construction.

7. Construction and maintenance costs should be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into among the parties relative thereto, and a copy of said agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company, should 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.

8. The California Department of Transportation is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended.

9. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Final Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Determination.

10. This project will have a significant effect on the environment; however, the adopted mitigation measures will either eliminate or reduce the severity of the adverse impacts.

C O N C L U S I O N

On the basis of the foregoing findings, we conclude that the application should be granted as set forth in the following order:

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The City of Ontario is authorized to construct the "Euclid Avenue Underpass" under the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Main Line in the City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, as set forth in the findings of this decision.

2. Within thirty days after completion, pursuant to this order, applicant shall so advise the Commission in writing.

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

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The effective date of this order shall be thirty days after
the date hereof.

Dated MAR 18 1980, at San Francisco, California.

John E. Bryan
President

Thomas L. Thompson

Charles D. Givelle

Edward W. Jensen
COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Claire T. Dedrick, being
necessarily absent, did not participate
in the disposition of this proceeding.