

DEC -4 1996

Decision 96-11-034 November 26, 1996

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
 OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR )  
 THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE )  
 EXISTING GRADE SEPARATION OF )  
 ATLANTIC BOULEVARD UNDER THE )  
 UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY'S )  
 MAIN LINE CROSSING NO. 3-5.7B IN )  
 THE CITY OF COMMERCE, COUNTY OF )  
 LOS ANGELES. )

Application 96-08-030  
 (Filed August 14, 1996)

ORIGINAL

O P I N I O N

The County of Los Angeles (County), in cooperation with the City of Commerce, requests authority to reconstruct the Atlantic Boulevard Underpass at separated grades between Atlantic Boulevard and the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) Main Line, in the City of Commerce, Los Angeles County.

Just to the south of the Atlantic Avenue Underpass, two highways, Atlantic Boulevard and Eastern Avenue, join together forming a major north-south highway corridor. The resulting highway, now called Atlantic Boulevard, then intersects Telegraph Road, a major east-west arterial highway. Both highways then form a common roadway before going under the railroad tracks. About 200 feet north of the underpass, the routes diverge at a six-legged intersection, called the "Mixmaster".

The reconstruction of the Underpass is an essential element of the Atlantic Boulevard Improvement Program, "Mixmaster Project," which involves multiple traffic control and roadway modifications to the Mixmaster intersection, as well as improvements to other roadways and intersections in the area. The existing physical width constraints of Atlantic Boulevard Underpass require that this structure be widened to improve local circulation and access and to reduce the congestion at the Mixmaster intersection caused by existing and future traffic demands.

Under the UP bridge, Atlantic Boulevard will be widened from its current minimum of 60 feet curb to curb to a proposed 144- to 156-foot curb to curb, width. Under the UP bridge, northbound Atlantic Boulevard will carry three through lanes, two left-turn lanes and one right-turn lane on the approach to the Mixmaster intersection. Southbound Atlantic Boulevard will include three through lanes and two left-turn lanes. A median and sidewalk will also be constructed.

The construction will be done in phases and will keep Atlantic Boulevard open to one traffic lane in each direction. The railroad will operate on a three-track shoofly until the three-track bridge is completed. Abutments for a future fourth track are also proposed as part of this project.

County is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Sections 21000, et seq. County has determined that this project, the reconstruction of an existing grade separation, is categorically exempt from the reporting requirements of CEQA under PR 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 and adjacent areas have been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety/Carriers Division - Traffic Engineering Staff. After review of the proposed grade separation widening plans, Staff recommends that County'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 or relocation of existing crossings and separations under railroad tracks. Detailed drawings of the proposed underpass are included in Appendix A attached to this order.

The Atlantic Boulevard project received a funding commitment from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) of

\$6 million, with the understanding that the project would be put out to construction immediately. Therefore, County wishes to expedite this project, and requests that the usual 30-day effective date on an order be waived so that construction can begin immediately. We will make our order effective immediately.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the Application was published in the Commission Daily Calendar on August 15, 1996. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

2. County requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to widen and reconstruct the existing Atlantic Boulevard Underpass at separated grades under UP's Main Line in the City of Commerce, Los Angeles County.

3. Railroad operations require temporary construction of a grade separated shoofly track northerly of UP's existing operating right-of-way during construction of the railroad bridge structure.

4. Reconstruction and widening of the existing underpass is required to improve local circulation and access, thereby reducing congestion at the Mixmaster intersection caused by existing and future traffic demands.

5. Public convenience, necessity and safety require widening of the existing Atlantic Boulevard Underpass.

6. County 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 exemption determination.

Conclusions of Law

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

2. The usual 30-day effective date on an order should be waived as the County desires to commence construction of the

project at the earliest possible date to satisfy funding commitments with the California Transportation Commission.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Los Angeles County (County), in cooperation with the City of Commerce, is authorized to reconstruct the Atlantic Boulevard Underpass at separated grades between Atlantic Boulevard and the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) Main Line, identified as Crossing No. 3 - 5.7-B, in the City of Commerce, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the Application and Appendix A of this order.

2. County is authorized to construct a temporary grade separated shoofly track north of the existing operating tracks during construction of the railroad bridge structure.

3. Upon completion of the railroad bridge structure and restoration of the train traffic to its former alignment, the temporary shoofly grade separation shall be closed and physically removed.

4. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

5. 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 approved by UP, shall be filed with the Commission's Rail Safety/Carriers Division Staff prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

6. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, County shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

7. 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.

8. The application is granted as set forth above.

9. Application 96-08-030 is closed.

This order becomes effective today.

Dated NOV 26, 1996, at San Francisco, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON

President

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER

JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

JOSIAH L. NEPPER

Commissioners

Commissioner Henry M. Duque,  
being necessarily absent, did not  
participate.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

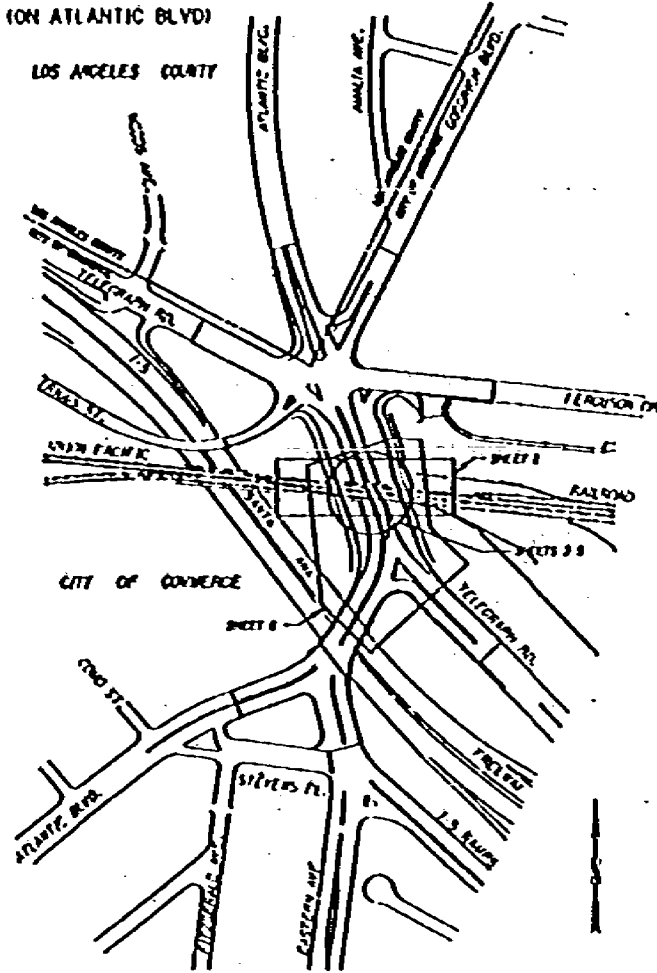
CITY OF COMMERCE  
ATLANTIC BOULEVARD  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

LENGTH OF PROJECT = 0.28 MILES (ON ATLANTIC BLVD)



LOCATION MAP

PROJECT SITE  
I.C. 6'S, G-2, H-2



KEY MAP  
NO SCALE

P.U.C. SUBMITTAL 8-1-96  
EXHIBIT C

CEI Consulting Engineering, Inc.  
1514 N. WILSON ST. SUITE 200  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

FOR RAYS BEFORE YOU DIG

CALL USA 1-800-422-4133

1-800-422-4133

PROJECT NO. & DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ATLANTIC BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

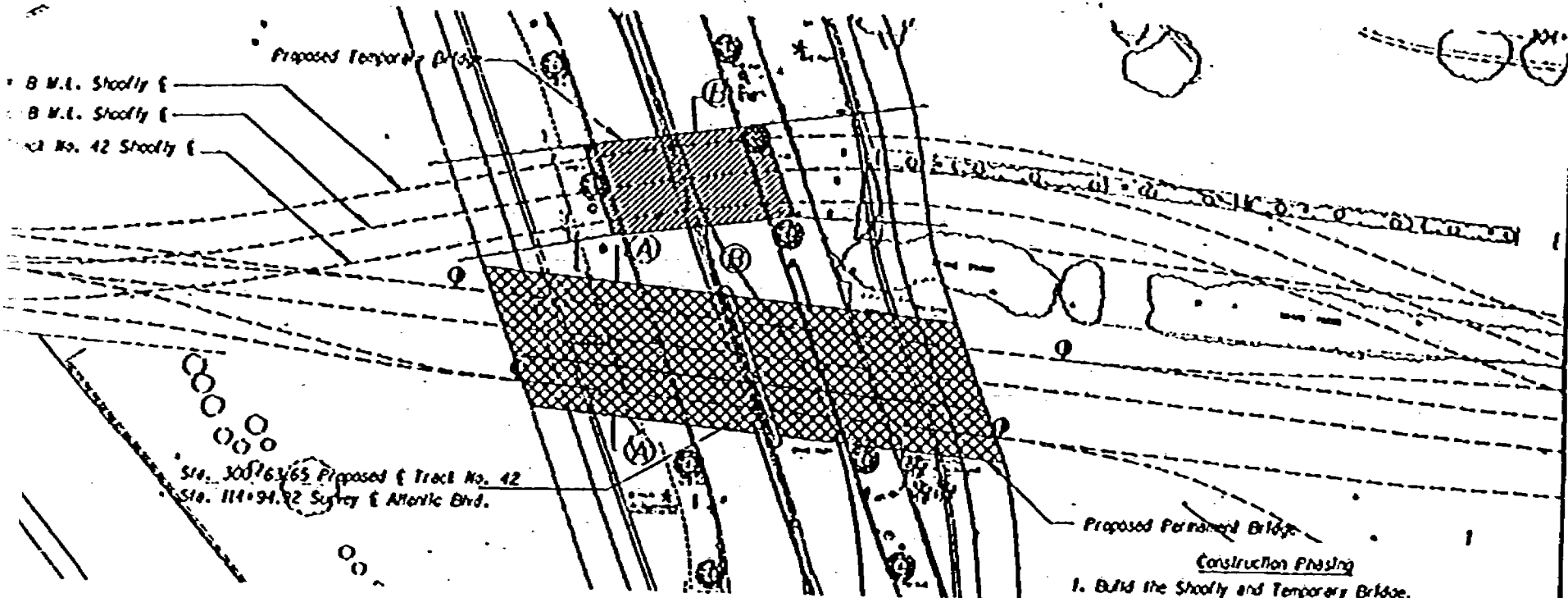
CASH CONTRACT NO 6898

JOB APPROVAL FILE

SHEET 1 OF 1

A.96-08-030 RS/C/PRT/SA

Appendix A  
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- Proposed Permanent Bridge**
- Construction Phasing
1. Build the Shoddy and Temporary Bridge.
  2. Build the West Half of the Permanent Bridge and Tracks.
  3. Build the East Half of the Permanent Bridge and Tracks.
  4. Remove the Shoddy and Temporary Bridge.

**P.U.C. SUBMITTAL 8-1-96**  
**EXHIBIT C**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**ATLANTIC BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
**CASH CONTRACT NO 6898**

DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION



DESIGNED BY  
 RICHARD HENRY RICE, 04307

**CEI** Catalina Engineering, Inc.  
 1411 N. Oracle Rd., Suite 231  
 Tucson AZ 85704



JUD R2106819 CWS

SHEET 2 OF 2