

Decision 97-03-046 March 18, 1997**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the Santa Clara County	)	
Traffic Authority, for an order	)	Application 96-09-041
authorizing Santa Clara County Traffic	)	(Filed September 19, 1996)
Authority to widen Mountain View	)	
Overhead; PUC No. E-36.50-A in Santa	)	
Clara County on State Route 85 from	)	
Dana Street to U.S. Route 101	)	

O P I N I O N

The Santa Clara County Traffic Authority (SCCTA), on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen Mountain View Overhead (State Route 85, PUC Crossing No. 105E-36.50-A) across the main line tracks of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) in Mountain View, Santa Clara County.

The Mountain View Overhead crosses JPB tracks between Central Expressway and Evelyn Avenue in the City of Mountain View. Currently, the eastbound and westbound lanes of State Route 85 are located on two separate overhead structures. The project will add two High Occupancy Vehicle lanes, one in each direction in the median and link the two existing bridges into a single structure. The project is part of SCCTA's Route 85 Improvement Project to relieve traffic congestion.

Under a cooperative agreement with Caltrans, SCCTA is authorized to plan, design, acquire the right of way and file the application on behalf of Caltrans with the California Public Utilities Commission. In addition, SCCTA will prepare the Construction and Maintenance Agreement between SCCTA, Caltrans and JPB.

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 Initial Study, Caltrans issued a Negative Declaration that the project will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Negative Declaration.

The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division, Traffic Engineering Section (staff). The staff examined the need for and safety of the proposed project and recommends that the sought authority be granted.

Application 96-09-041 meets the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 39 which relates to widening or relocating an existing crossing. A sketch of the crossing project area is set forth as Appendix A.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on November 15, 1996. No protests have been filed.
2. SCCTA requests authority on behalf of Caltrans, under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205, to widen Mountain View Overhead, Crossing No. 105E-36.50-A across JPB tracks in Mountain View, Santa Clara County.
3. Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.
4. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration.
5. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusions of Law

1. The application is uncontested and a public hearing is not necessary.
2. The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Santa Clara County Traffic Authority (SCCTA), on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is authorized to widen Mountain View Overhead across the main line tracks of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) in Mountain View, Santa Clara County, at the location and substantially as shown on plans attached to the application and Appendix A of this order to be identified as Crossing 105E-36.50-A.

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 plans of the proposed crossing, approved by JPB, together with a copy of the agreement entered into between SCCTA, Caltrans and JPB, shall be filed by SCCTA with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division prior to commencing construction.

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 shall be filed by SCCTA with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission

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will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

6. Within thirty (30) days after completion of the work under this order, SCCTA shall advise the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

7. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three (3) 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.  
This order becomes effective thirty (30) days from today.

9. Application 96-09-041 is closed.

Dated March 18, 1997, at San Francisco, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON  
President

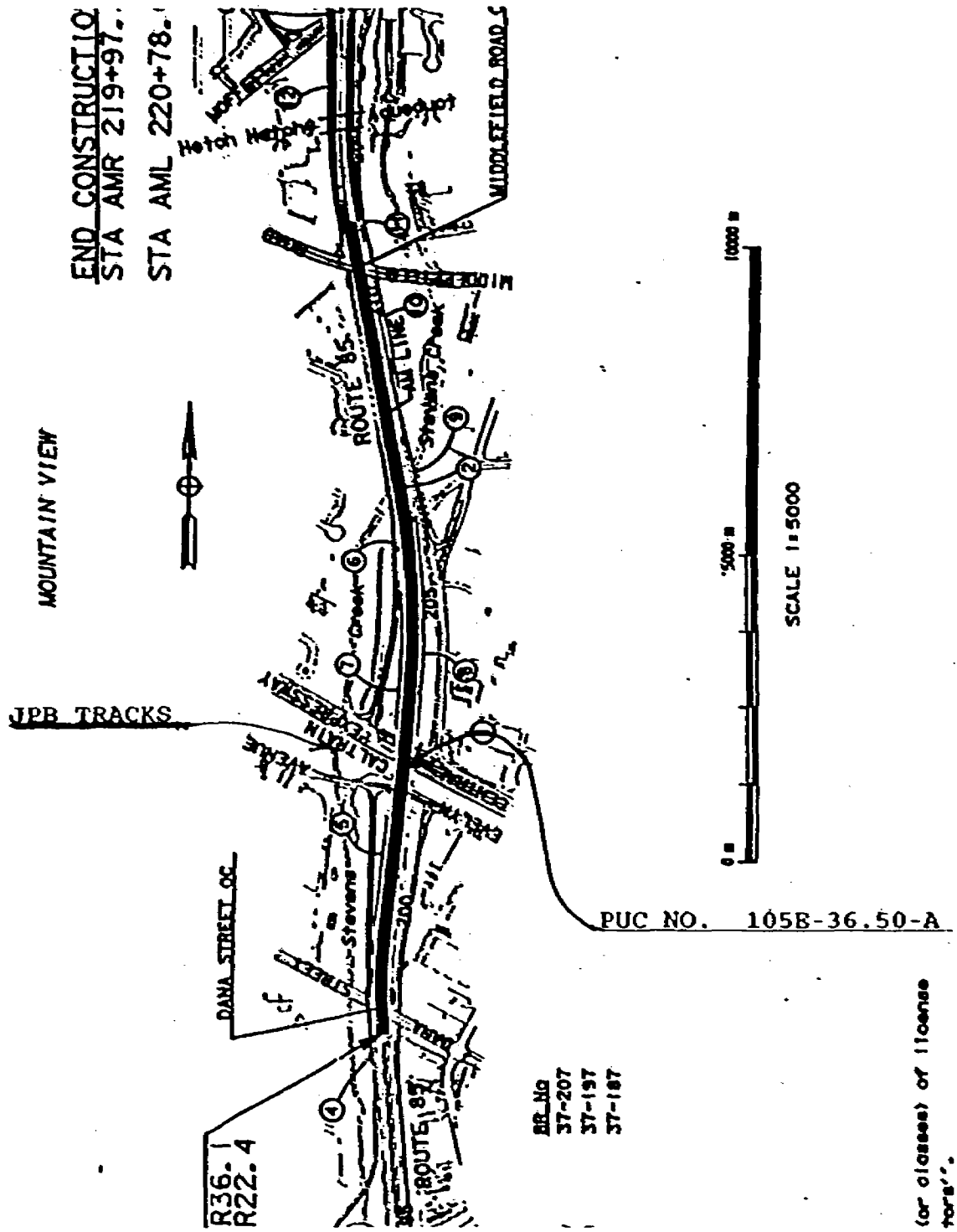
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

RICHARD A. BILAS

Commissioners



MOUNTAIN VIEW OVERHEAD WIDENING PROJECT

(or classes) of license  
"etc."