Mailed: 5/28/97 RS&C/RRT/ppl Decision 97-05-058 May 21, 1997 BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA Application of the Foothill/Bastern Transportation Corridor Agency for an order authorizing the widening of Jamboree Road Overhead at separated grades over the Orange County Transit )
Authority (OCTA) and Southern California)

Regional Rail Authority's (SCRRA's) Orange subdivision main line at Railroad) Crossing No. 101 (OR) -179.7-A centerline ) of existing overhead, sometimes referred) to as the "Jamboree Road Overhead Widening" in the Cities of Irvine and Tustin in the County of Orange.

Application 97-02-029 (Filed February 25, 1997)

## OPINION

As part of the project to construct the State Route 231 (SR-231) Eastern Transportation Corridor Freeway, a 26 mile toll road connecting State Route 91 (SR-91) Freeway near the Orange/Riverside County boundary and Jamboree Road/State Route 261 (SR-261) suburban interchange, the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (FETCA) requests authority to widen Jamboree Road Overhead grade separation bridge structures over the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Orange Subdivision Main Line, formerly owned by The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company (AT&SF), in the Cities of Irvine and Tustin, Orange County.

The Jamboree Road Overhead, which spans OCTA's main line tracks, was first opened to traffic in 1986. The existing grade separation bridge structure will be widened to approximately 226 The widened structure will carry four northbound feet in width. and four southbound through lanes with shoulders, and will carry two-lane northbound and southbound frontage road connectors to SR-261.

In addition to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority's (SCRRA) Metrolink commuter and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation's Amtrak intercity passenger train services, there are several freight trains operated by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Corporation (BNSF) each day on the main lines.

The proposed Eastern Transportation Corridor involves the construction of an eight lane limited access toll highway in Orange County. The project consists of two components: (1) SR-231 between SR-91 and Interstate Route 5 (I-5); and (2) SR-261 connecting SR-231 and Jamboree Road. The proposed project will include High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. Portions of the project are located in the Cities of Tustin, Irvine, Orange, Anaheim, and unincorporated areas of Orange County.

FETCA is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Section 21000, et seq. On March 14, 1992, FETCA prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), and an Addendum to FEIR on October 13, 1994 on this project. A Notice of Determination was filed on May 14, 1992, and an Addendum on October 13, 1994, with State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research which determined the project to have a significant effect on the environment. Mitigation measures were made a condition of approval of the project.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed the lead agency's FEIR 2, Addendum, and Notice of Determination. Mitigation measures will reduce impacts to acceptable levels. After reviewing the need for and the safety of the widened overhead grade separation bridge structure, the staff recommends that the application be approved.

The application was found to be in compliance with the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 39 of the Rules of

Practice and Procedure, which relates to the alteration of public highways across railroads. A location map and details from the project plans are shown in Appendix A.

# Findings of Fact '

- 1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission Daily Calendar on February 28, 1997. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.
- 2. FETCA requests authority under Public Utilities Code, Sections 1201-1205, to widen the Jamboree Road Overhead grade separation bridge structures over OCTA's Orange Subdivision Main Line in the Cities of Irvine and Tustin, Orange County.
- 3. Widening of the Jamboree Road Overhead will allow construction of the Eastern Transportation Corridor Freeway.
- 4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require widening of the Jamboree Road Overcrossing.
- 5. FETCA is the lead agency for this project under CEQA as amended.
- 6. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's FEIR 2, Addendum, and Notice of Determination.
- 7. The construction of the ETC Freeway and the widening of Jamboree Road Overhead bridge structure will have a significant impact on the environment. Mitigation measures have been taken by FETCA to reduce construction noise, traffic delays, landscape removal, and other construction related impacts.

## Conclusion of Law

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

### ORDER

#### IT IS ORDERED that:

- 1. The Foothill Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (FETCA) is authorized to widen Jamboree Road Overpass grade separation bridge structure, identified as Crossing 1010R-179.7-A, over Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Orange Subdivision Main Line tracks, formerly owned by The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, in Tustin and Irvine, Orange County as more fully indicated and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and Appendix A of this order.
- 2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D; except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21 feet 6 inches above top of rail and not less than 10 feet of horizontal clearance shall be authorized, and SCRRA, Amtrak and BNSF shall be authorized to operate with such reduced overhead and side clearances provided that instructions are issued by the railroads and filed with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.
- 3. FETCA shall notify the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division and SCRRA, Amtrak and BNSF at least 15, but not more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired overhead and side clearances will be created.
- 4. 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.

- 5. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the project approved by OCTA and SCRRA, shall be filed with the Commission by FETCA prior to 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, FETCA 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 required.
  - 8. The application is granted as set forth above.
  - 9. Application 97-02-029 is closed.

    This order is effective 30 days from today.

    Dated <u>May 21, 1997</u>, at Sacramento, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON
President
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
RICHARD A. BILAS
Commissioners





