

Mailed: 1/9/98

Decision 98-01-019 January 7, 1998

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Riverside County)
 Transportation Commission for authority)
 to construct a pedestrian overpass at)
 railroad milepost 10.09, of the BNSF)
 Railroad Company's San Bernardino)
 subdivision main line, as part of their)
 Downtown Metrolink Station Southside)
 Platform project; and for a)
 determination as provided for in)
 GO-26-D, Section 3.16, that handicapped)
 passenger facilities at the station be)
 located to meet the requirements for)
 tangent track; in the Riverside)
 Station, County of Riverside)
)

Application 97-08-017
(Filed August 12, 1997)

ORIGINAL

O P I N I O N

Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) requests authority to construct a pedestrian overcrossing above tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) at the Riverside Downtown Metrolink Station, a regional intermodal transportation center providing access to intercity rail, commuter rail, and intercity and local bus services, in the City of Riverside, Riverside County.

RCTC proposes to construct a pedestrian overpass over BNSF's tracks to connect the new south platform to the north side parking facilities and the existing north platform. The new platform will provide additional access to National Railroad Passenger Corporation's (AMTRAK) intercity rail passenger service and Southern California Regional Rail Authority's Metrolink commuter rail service.

The south platform will include raised platforms with ramps for handicapped passengers. Each end of the pedestrian overcrossing will have stairs and an elevator. Without a

pedestrian overcrossing, the new platform would only be accessible by crossing the tracks at grade level.

The pedestrian overcrossing will serve the public need by allowing safe access between the platforms. Pedestrians will not have to contend with train traffic as they cross between platforms.

In connection with construction of the new pedestrian overcrossing, RCTC is also constructing a new station siding track, south of the existing BNSF tracks and the new south platform.

RCTC 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. RCTC issued a Notice of Exemption regarding this project under PR Code Section 21080 (b) (11) which states that a project for the institution or increase of passenger or commuter service on rail or highway rights-of-way already in use, including the modernization of existing stations and parking facilities, shall be exempted from the filing requirements of CEQA.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's exemption determination. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division staff - Traffic Engineering Section. Staff examined the need for and the safety of the pedestrian overcrossing, and recommends that the construction be approved.

The application was found to be in compliance under the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 38 of Rules of Practice and Procedure which relates to the construction of public highways across railroad tracks. 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 August 15, 1997. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

2. RCTC requests authority, under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205, to construct a pedestrian overcrossing above four BNSF tracks and one new RCTC track at the Downtown Station in Riverside, Riverside County.

3. Construction of the pedestrian overcrossing is an essential element for the completion of the Downtown Station development project.

4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the pedestrian overcrossing.

5. RCTC 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 exemption determination.

Conclusions of Law

1. Under Public Utilities Code Section 21080.13, the activity is exempted from the requirements set forth in CEQA; therefore the guidelines (14 Cal. Admin. Code - Division 6) concerning the evaluation of projects and the preparation and review of environmental documents do not apply.

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

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is authorized to construct a pedestrian overcrossing across four Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) tracks and a new RCTC siding track, identified as Crossing No. 2B-10.09-AD, at the Downtown Station in Riverside, Riverside County.
2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D. 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.
3. Construction and maintenance cost shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between parties. A copy of the agreement shall be filed with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the cost of construction and maintenance by further order.
4. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, RCTC shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.
5. 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.
6. The application is granted as set forth above.

7. Application 97-08-017 is closed.
This order is effective 30 days from today.
Dated January 7, 1998, at San Francisco, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON

President

JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

HENRY M. DUQUE

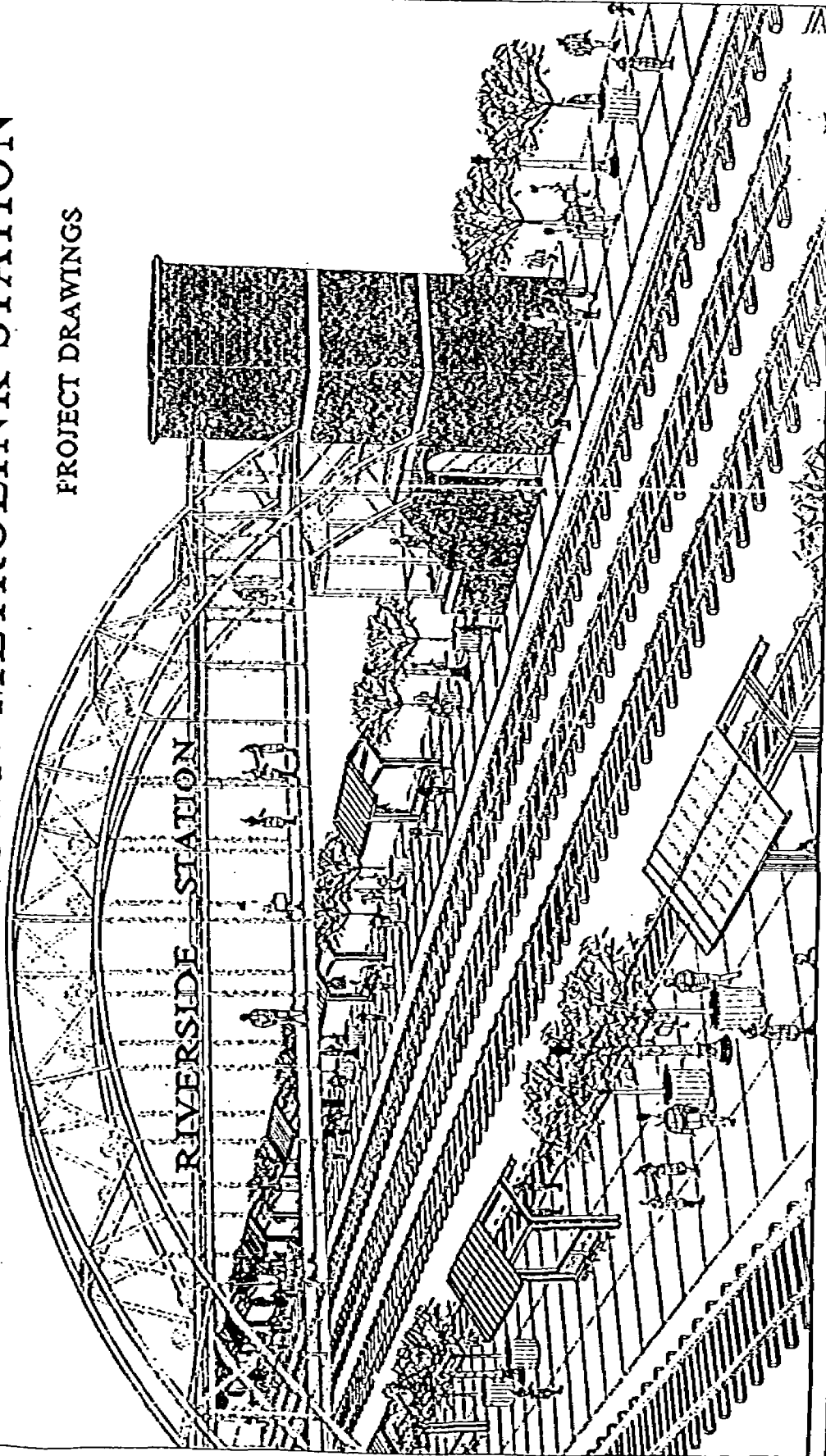
JOSIAH L. NEEPER

RICHARD A. BILAS

Commissioners

RIVERSIDE DOWNTOWN METROLINK STATION

PROJECT DRAWINGS

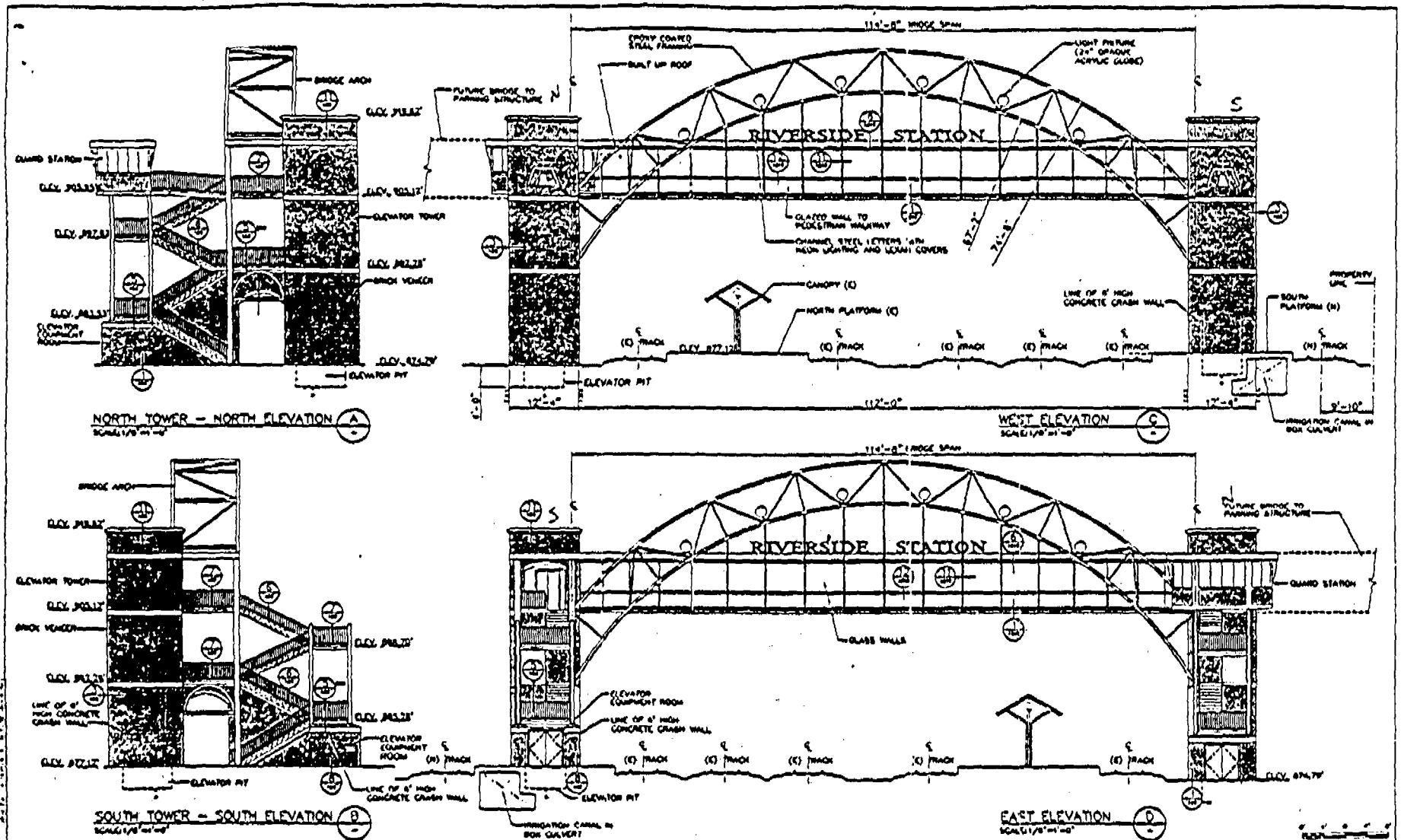


RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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PROJECT NO. 03-071
 DRAWING NO. 03-071-01
 DATE: 03/07/03
 SCALE: AS SHOWN
 SHEET NO. 1 OF 3

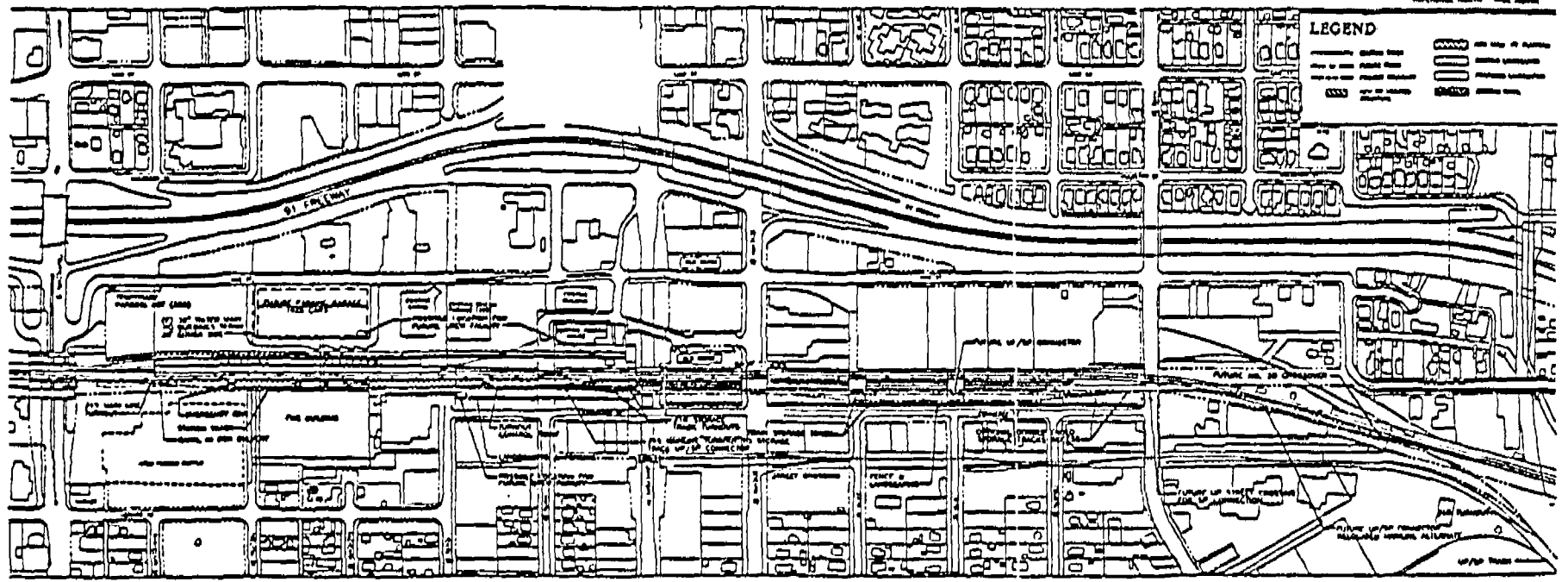
PROJECT: RIVERSIDE DOWNTOWN METROLINK STATION
 SOURCE: NATIONAL STATION TRACK AND PLATFORM IMPROVING

COVER SHEET



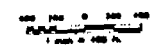
DESIGN OR PREPARED BY: FRANK R. MORRIS, INC. 1000 W. 10TH ST., RIVERSIDE, CA 92507 TEL: (951) 514-1100		PROJECT: RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RIVERSIDE DOWNTOWN METROLINK STATION SOUTHSIDE PLATFORM, STATION TRACK AND PEDESTRIAN OVERCROSSING		DRAWING NO.: RR-0333 SHEET NO.: 483 SCALE: AS SHOWN	
CHECKED BY: _____ DATE: _____		DATE: _____ SCALE: _____		AS SHOWN	

Riverside-Downtown Station Southside Platform
 Riverside County Transportation Commission



LEGEND

[Symbol]	EXISTING BUILDING	[Symbol]	PROPOSED BUILDING
[Symbol]	EXISTING TRACK	[Symbol]	PROPOSED TRACK
[Symbol]	EXISTING STREET	[Symbol]	PROPOSED STREET
[Symbol]	EXISTING DRIVE	[Symbol]	PROPOSED DRIVE
[Symbol]	EXISTING ALLEY	[Symbol]	PROPOSED ALLEY
[Symbol]	EXISTING SIDEWALK	[Symbol]	PROPOSED SIDEWALK
[Symbol]	EXISTING BIKEWAY	[Symbol]	PROPOSED BIKEWAY
[Symbol]	EXISTING PARKING	[Symbol]	PROPOSED PARKING
[Symbol]	EXISTING LANDSCAPE	[Symbol]	PROPOSED LANDSCAPE



07/20/04 IN PROGRESS OF UNLOADING OF THE DRIVE CYCLE DATE: _____ DESCRIPTION: _____ BY: _____	APPROVED BY: _____ PROJECT NO.: _____ SHEET NO.: _____ TOTAL SHEETS: _____ SCALE: _____ DATE: _____	RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION Frederick R. Morris, Inc. 100 West State Street, Suite 100 Riverside, CA 92501 Telephone: (951) 514-1100 Fax: (951) 514-1101 Website: www.frmorris.com	RIVERSIDE DOWNTOWN METROLINK STATION SOUTHSIDE PLATFORM, STATION TRACK AND PEDESTRIAN OVERCROSSING SITE PLAN	CONTRACT NO. RD-127 DRAWING NO. _____ SHEET NO. _____ OF _____ AS SHOWN
				APPROVED BY: _____ PROJECT NO.: _____ SHEET NO.: _____ TOTAL SHEETS: _____ SCALE: _____ DATE: _____