

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Resolution No. RTS-10
Transportation Division**R E S O L U T I O N**

RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 12.2 OF GENERAL ORDER NO. 75-C AUTHORIZING THE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO DEMONSTRATE EXPERIMENTAL GRADE CROSSING CONTROL APPARATUS WHICH WILL DELAY THE ACTIVATION OF AUTOMATIC GRADE CROSSING WARNING DEVICES WHILE SOUTHBOUND TRAINS STOP IN THE ADJACENT PASSENGER STATION AT THE H STREET GRADE CROSSING, CROSSING NO. 36-7.9, IN THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA, SAN DIEGO COUNTY.

Because of complaints in Chula Vista over the length of time the crossing gates block H Street while southbound San Diego Trolley trains are loading and unloading passengers in the adjacent station, the Metropolitan Transit Development Board on March 14, 1988, requested authority, and on May 11, 1988 supplemented its request, to demonstrate a means to forestall the lowering of the automatic gates until trains are ready to leave the station.

This would be accomplished by control equipment which would cause withholding of gate activation until a predetermined time has lapsed after an approaching southbound train has entered the track circuit for the crossing. With this system, automatic control devices which prevent trains from entering the crossing before the gates are lowered will be bypassed. A wayside signal or indicator will be installed at the crossing to warn and remind light-rail vehicle operators not to proceed over the grade crossing until a minimum warning time has been provided to motorists and the gates are lowered.

Because the safety of fully automatic operation will be lost when the bypass system is actuated, the demonstration will determine if the substitution of manual operating procedures provides an adequate level of public safety. To determine the safety of these procedures, actual train movements over the crossing and crossing signal warning times will be recorded and analyzed.

Resolution RTS-10
Transportation Division

The demonstration will also include a study of the effect on motor vehicle delays and queuing at the crossing. The effects of the delayed gate activation will be a consideration in evaluating whether the installation at H Street should remain in place and whether similar installations should be considered at other locations.

On May 16, 1988, the Rail/Transit Policy and Planning Branch issued a comprehensive report which analyzed the need for the demonstration as well as the technical adequacy of the proposal. Although it was determined that the design of the control system was adequate, improved wayside indicators for the train operator are being required. The branch staff will closely monitor the demonstration and prepare a report setting forth its conclusions on the safety of the system and the benefits achieved in improving vehicular traffic flow, which report will provide the Commission with a basis for determining whether permanent installations should be authorized.

IT IS ORDERED that the Metropolitan Transit Development Board is authorized to conduct the demonstration described above at the H Street crossing of San Diego Trolley's tracks, Crossing 36-7.9, in Chula Vista, subject to the following conditions:

1. A position-light-type indicator shall be installed in advance of the crossing to display to train operators a "stop" or "proceed" indication. The indicator shall be controlled in such a manner that it shall normally display a "stop" indication and shall not change to show a "proceed" indication until a minimum of 20 seconds of crossing signal warning time has been provided.
2. Operational data shall be automatically recorded and, at a minimum, shall include the time each demonstration train enters the station, the time the indicator shows a "proceed" indication, and the time the train passes the indicator.
3. The branch staff shall review and approve in writing that all conditions precedent, as set forth in the Rail/Transit Policy & Planning Branch staff report dated May 16, 1988, have been complied with prior to implementation of the demonstration project.

Resolution RTS-10
Transportation Division

4. A report shall be made to the Commission of each occurrence of a train passing the indicator while it shows a "stop" indication as soon as such fact is discovered.

5. A traffic study report listing the benefits of the demonstration shall be filed with the Commission before a request is made to authorize any permanent installations.

The authority granted herein shall expire on February 1, 1989.

This resolution is effective today.

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on JUL 22 1988, 1988.
The following Commissioners approved it:

STANLEY W. HULETT
President
DONALD VIAL
FREDERICK R. DUDA
G. MITCHELL WILK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners



Executive Director