

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Rail Safety and Carriers Division
Rail Engineering Safety Branch
Traffic Engineering Section

RESOLUTION SX-15
Date: May 7, 1998

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION SX-15 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12.2 OF GENERAL ORDER 75-C AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF VALLEJO AND CALIFORNIA NORTHERN RAILROAD TO CONSTRUCT ONE STANDARD NO. 8-A HIGHWAY CROSSING SIGNAL MODIFIED WITH TWO TRAFFIC SIGNAL HEAD ASSEMBLIES AND ONE ILLUMINATED STREET NAME SIGN, TO BE INSTALLED ON THE EASTBOUND APPROACH OF THE REDWOOD STREET CROSSING, IDENTIFIED AS 108AAB-66.10, IN SAID CITY, SOLANO COUNTY.

SUMMARY:

The City of Vallejo (City), by letter dated April 8, 1998, has requested authority pursuant to Section 12.2 of Commission General Order (GO) 75-C, to deviate from Section 7.1 and conduct a trial installation of an experimental cantilevered warning light system. The system is to be installed directly west of the Broadway/Redwood Street intersection at Crossing 108AAB-66.10, where Redwood Street crosses the AAB-line of the California Northern Railroad (CNR) at grade, in said City, Solano County.

Due to the street geometrics at this location, standard installation of railroad warning devices and traffic signals on separate structures, results in conflicting lines of sight. Combining the two systems onto a single structure will lessen the potential for driver confusion by providing a clear line of sight to all signals, thereby increasing public safety.

The installation consists of a Commission Standard No. 8-A highway crossing signal, as described in GO 75-C, augmented by two traffic signal head assemblies and one illuminated street name sign. The installation is to be located on the eastbound approach of the crossing. One Standard No. 8-A will be installed on the westbound approach.

DISCUSSION:

The AAB-line parallels Broadway on a north-south alignment through central Vallejo. Redwood Street is on an east-west alignment that crosses both Broadway and the AAB-line. The distance between the vehicular intersection and railroad crossing is minimal (approximately 20 feet, measured along Redwood Street between the centerline of track and curb line of Broadway). This proximity causes a conflict between railroad warning devices and traffic signals. In particular, eastbound motorists travelling on Redwood Street do not have a clear line of sight to the railroad flashers as they are blocked by the traffic signal cantilever and heads. To mitigate this problem, City proposes combining the two signal systems onto a single structure.

Vehicular traffic at the Broadway/Redwood Street intersection are preempted by train movements over the railroad crossing. During the preemption phase, vehicles are restricted from movement over the crossing by a solid red signal, "NO LEFT TURN" or "NO RIGHT TURN" illuminated sign, and railroad warning flashers.

After a review of the factual material submitted by City, as well as conducting several on-site, diagnostic meetings with representatives from the City and CNR, the Rail Safety and Carriers Division Traffic Engineering Section (TES) staff is in agreement with City's proposal.

TES concludes that City's proposal is a safe and reasonable alternative to the requirements described in GO 75-C.

PROTESTS:

There are no protests at this time. TES, City, and CNR support this proposal.

FINDINGS:

1. The City of Vallejo requests authority to deviate from the provisions of GO 75-C, Section 7.1 by constructing and installing a Commission Standard No. 8-A modified with two traffic signal head assemblies and one illuminated street name sign at the Redwood Street crossing in said City, Solano County.

2. When mounted on separate structures, the traffic signal cantilever and heads impede eastbound motorists' line of sight to railroad flashers.

3. City and CNR have entered into an agreement on the construction, inspection, maintenance, and repair of this installation.

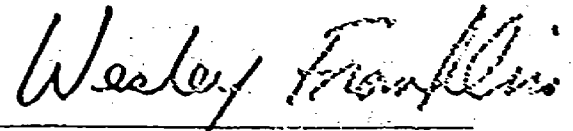
4. TES has reviewed City's proposal and finds that request has merit and should be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

The City of Vallejo be granted authority to deviate from the provisions of General Order 75-C, Section 7.1 by constructing a Commission Standard No. 8-A modified with two traffic signal head assemblies and one illuminated street name sign as shown on the plans attached to the proposal. This installation shall be located on the eastbound approach to the Redwood Street crossing in said City, Solano County, identified as Crossing 108AAB-66.10.

This resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular conference on May 7, 1998. The following Commissioners approved it:



WESLEY M. FRANKLIN
Executive Director

RICHARD A. BILAS
President

P. GREGORY CONLON
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
Commissioners

Commissioner Jessie J. Knight, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate.