

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMANADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834-2939



May 10, 2010

File Number: G.10-04-004

Patrick M. Coggins
Senior Right of Way Agent
Department of Transportation
PO Box 23440 – MS 11A
Oakland, CA 94623-0440

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Bayshore Boulevard / Highway 101 Grade Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001DAB-28.90-B, DOT No. 750016R in the City of Menlo Park, San Mateo County.

Dear Mr. Coggins:

This refers to your letter dated April 13, 2010 and received by us on April 14, 2010 requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to alter a grade separated highway-rail crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) track in the city of Menlo Park (City), San Mateo County. The crossing is located at Bayshore Boulevard / Highway 101 and is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001DAB-28.90-B, DOT No. 750016R.

Highway 101 is the primary highway on the peninsula, traveling from San Francisco south to San Jose. The crossing is currently a single track grade separated crossing with the roadway below the tracks. Highway 101 is an eight lane roadway with a short pedestrian sidewalk on the east side of the highway at the crossing.

The Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) project's goal is to reduce congestion in the area with the addition of new travel lanes and ramp metering at nearby freeway onramps. Caltrans will remove the existing pedestrian sidewalk as part of the project. The pedestrian walkway currently serves no purpose. The rail crossing structure will not be altered. Caltrans states in its GO 88-B request letter that "The public will benefit from the improvements, as traffic safety will increase with the construction of an auxiliary lane. The proposed project would also increase average travel speeds on the freeway resulting in decreased travel time. The project is also expected to reduce merging conflicts and accident frequency."

The proposed alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Restriping the existing travel lanes to allow for two additional auxiliary travel lanes, for a total of ten travel lanes.

- Removing the existing sidewalk, curb and gutter.
- Installation of metal beam guardrails in the northwest and southeast quadrants.
- Installation of a retaining wall in the southwest quadrant.
- Installation of a concrete barrier with a chain link fence in the northeast quadrant.

Staff has investigated the request by Caltrans, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans, UP, and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.


This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within two years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, the Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, Caltrans shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

If you have any questions, please contact Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or fxk@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Daren Gilbert, Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

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