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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
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June 18, 2010

File Number: G.10-06-002
Columbia Avenue
City of Riverside, Riverside County

Philip Hannawi
Principle Engineer
City of Riverside
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92522

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Columbia Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002X-1.20 and DOT No. 027303M, in the City of Riverside, Riverside County.

Dear Mr. Hannawi:

This refers to your letter, dated May 26, 2010 (received June 7, 2010), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) San Jacinto Branch railroad tracks and Columbia Avenue in the City of Riverside (City), Riverside County, identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002X-1.20 and DOT Number 027303M.

The single track crossing is currently a divided roadway, two lanes, one lane in each direction. The Columbia Avenue crossing is equipped with one Commission Standard 1-R (Crossbuck Sign on a Post). This line currently experiences approximately two BNSF trains per day at 15 mph, but is part of the proposed Perris Valley Line Metrolink project.

The City previously requested authorization, pursuant to GO 88-B, to alter this crossing (file number G.06-07-002). We granted the requested authorization on August 7, 2006 but authorization had expired on August 7, 2008.

The City proposes the following alterations:

- Install two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signals with an automatic gate) warning devices, one on the northeast quadrant and one on the southeast quadrant;
- Install two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal with an automatic gate) warning devices on the newly constructed raised center medians island;
- Widen Columbia Avenue to four lanes, two lanes in each direction, with curb & gutter;
- Construct a 18 foot wide of approximately 345 foot in length raised median island west of the crossing;
- Construct a 18 foot wide of approximately 550 foot in length raised median island east of the crossing;

- Upgrade crossing surface to Concrete Panels;
- Construct a 6 foot wide sidewalk on each side of the roadway; and
- Install detectable warning surface (tactile strips) for all quadrants.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As City and BNSF are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your letter dated May 26, 2010 and summarized above are authorized.

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 the CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Pubic 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, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, City 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 Bill Lay at (213-576-1399) or bill@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: Melvin Thomas, Public Project Manager, BNSF
Edda Rosso, Perris Valley Line Manager, Riverside County Transportation Commission