

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
Sacramento, CA 95834



September 13, 2010

Scott Mozier
Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3615

File No. G.10-08-004

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Ashlan Avenue Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing 002-1002.60, DOT No. 028584C in the City of Fresno, Fresno County.

Dear Mr. Mozier:

This refers to your letter dated August 10, 2010, and received by us on August 12, 2010, requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) track in the City of Fresno (City), Fresno County. The crossing is identified as Ashlan Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No.002-1002.60, DOT No. 028584C.

Ashlan Avenue is a three-lane urban minor arterial roadway at the crossing. The crossing is located in a residential area in a northern section of the City. The crossing has a single mainline track frequented by BNSF freight and Amtrak trains. There is a median more than 100 feet long on the west side of the crossing, and a shorter median, approximately 50 feet long, on the east side of the crossing. There is also a sidewalk across the track on both sides of Ashlan Avenue. The crossing is equipped with four Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices.

The City states in its GO 88-B request letter, “Construction of a raised median on the east side of the tracks will prevent vehicles from trespassing onto the crossing when the existing gate arms are down. The public will benefit from the improved vehicular safety associated with this work.” The City is proposing this project with the intent of including this crossing in their second phase quiet zone.

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

- Re-constructing the raised median island on the east side of the crossing, beginning 10 feet east of the centerline of the track and extending easterly a distance of 140 feet. The curb height of the median will be at least 6 inches from the beginning of the median to the end;
- re-constructing, where appropriate, portions of the existing median on the west side of the crossing to ensure that the curb height of the median will be at least 6 inches from the beginning of the median to the end;

- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standard detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches to the crossing.

Staff has investigated the request by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and BNSF 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 (CAMUTCD), published by Caltrans.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders, and the CAMUTCD.

This project is categorically 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. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, staff from 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, the 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 Marvin Kennix at (916) 928-3809 or email at mlk@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Cc: David Cisneros, Public Works Manager, City of Fresno
John Stilley, Manager of Industry and Public Projects, BNSF Railway