

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834-2939



October 15, 2010

File Number: G.10-09-002

Kevin Boles, Construction Manager
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
1250 San Carlos Ave, 4th Floor
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

Re: GO 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Castro Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 105E-35.90, DOT No. 755015B in the City of Mountain View, Santa Clara County.

Dear Mr. Boles:

This refers to your letter dated September 1, 2010 and received by us on September 8, 2010 requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) track in the City of Mountain View (City), Santa Clara County. The crossing is identified as the Castro Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 105E-35.90, DOT No. 755015B.

The Castro Street crossing is currently a double-track crossing on the Caltrain mainline, and is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 warning devices (flashing light signal assemblies with automatic gates) and one median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device. There are traffic signals on the west approach for eastbound traffic which function in a non-standard operation. The JPB operates 90 passenger trains per day over this crossing and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) operates approximately four freight trains per day over this crossing.

The proposed modifications of this crossing have been approved for Section 130 funding. The JPB states in its GO 88-B request letter that "The proposed reconfiguration of traffic signals will eliminate/minimize the queuing of vehicles onto the mainline tracks. An overall circulation will reduce the potential for frustrated motorist to take risks while travelling over the crossing. Upgrading the existing 2-wire interconnect will eliminate the possibility of shorted wires causing preemption to be non-operational."

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

- Reconfiguration of the existing raised concrete median on the east approach to allow for additional travel lanes.
- Widening the roadway to allow for an additional eastbound travel lane.
- Restriping the eastbound travel lanes for two left turn lanes, one through lane, and one combined through/right turn lane.
- Alteration of the use of the existing traffic signals on the west approach to a proper pre-signal system with programmed visibility on the far side signals and preemption at the

intersection of the Central Expressway/Castro Street intersection to remedy the non-standard operation.

- Replacement of the existing 2-wire interconnect with a 10-wire interconnect.

Staff has investigated the JPB's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the JPB, the City, and the County 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 CA MUTCD, published by Caltrans.

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

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. 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, the JPB 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 fko@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Sayed Fakhry, City of Mountain View
Ananth Prasad, County of Santa Clara Roads & Airports Dept.