

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
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October 11, 2010

File Number: G.10-09-010

C.H. Harvey, Deputy CEO
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
1250 San Carlos Ave
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. Harvey:

This refers to your letter dated September 13, 2010 and received by us on September 17, 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. 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.

Modification of this crossing is part of a county wide project in which the JPB is proposing systematic improvements to eight of the grade crossings along the corridor in Santa Clara County to improve safety. The JPB states in its GO 88-B request letter that "The crossing modifications proposed in this request will enhance pedestrian and motorist safety at this crossing. Additional signal installations will provide greater warning of train movements to motorists and pedestrians."

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

- Square cutting both raised concrete medians on the track side.
- Installation of a median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device on the existing east median (north approach).
- Installation of a Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning device in the southwest quadrant.
- Installation of a pedestrian gate arm on separate mast in the northwest quadrant, adjacent to the existing Commission Standard 9 warning device (no flashers or bell).

- Relocation of the Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning device in the northeast quadrant behind the sidewalk.
- Replacement of the auxiliary pedestrian gate in the southeast quadrant with a pedestrian gate arm on a separate mast adjacent to the existing Commission Standard 9 warning device (no flashers or bell).
- Installation of emergency exit swing gates; one in each quadrant.
- Installation of ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips just prior to the pedestrian gate arms in each quadrant, along the full width of the walkway.
- Installation of guardrails in all quadrants to channelize pedestrians to the pedestrian gates and prevent pedestrians from easily circumventing the gates.
- Installation of additional concrete panels to widen the crossing surface and accommodate the pedestrian pathways over the crossing.
- Installation of new asphaltic concrete (AC) ramps around the crossing surface to provide a proper transition for pedestrians from the sidewalks to the crossing surface.
- Installation of continuous fencing in the northeast and northwest quadrants tying to the guardrails and to the existing fencing to channelize pedestrians to the safe and lawful crossing.
- Reconstruction of the sidewalks in the northeast, northwest, and southwest quadrants.
- Installation of pavement markings to delineate the pedestrian and vehicle travel ways through the crossing.
- Painting the curbs red in all quadrants to restrict parking near the crossing.
- Installation of passive signage associated with railroad crossings as indicated in Chapter 8 of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD).
- Replacement of all incandescent light units with new 12 inch LED units with 24 inch backgrounds on the existing Commission standard 9 warning devices.
- Installing a new crossing signal house at the northwest quadrant.
- Relocating existing “No Trespassing/Suicide Prevention” signs on both sides of the crossing to accommodate the new sidewalk and improve visibility.

Staff has investigated the JPB’s request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the JPB and City 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.

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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, 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 fxo@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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