

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



January 26, 2011

File Number: G.10-12-017
11 Crossings on Exposition Boulevard
City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Eric R. Olson, PE
Chief Project Officer
Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority
707 Wilshire Boulevard, 34th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Eleven At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossings, located along Exposition Boulevard, across the tracks of the Metro Exposition Line, in City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Olson:

This refers to your letter, dated December 2, 2010, received December 6, 2010, requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter eleven at-grade highway-rail crossings (crossings) along Exposition Boulevard, between the Trousdale pedestrian walkway and Crenshaw Boulevard, of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Exposition Line Light Rail tracks in City of Los Angeles (City), identified in the table below.

| | Crossing Name | CPUC Crossing Number |
|----|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Trousdale Pedestrian Walkway | 084S-101.60-D |
| 2 | Watt Way | 084S-101.70 |
| 3 | Menlo Avenue | 084S-101.80 |
| 4 | Vermont Avenue | 084S-101.90 |
| 5 | Raymond Avenue | 084S-102.20 |
| 6 | Normandie Avenue | 084S-102.40 |
| 7 | Halldale Avenue | 084S-102.50 |
| 8 | Denker Avenue | 084S-102.60 |
| 9 | Western Avenue | 084S-102.85 |
| 10 | Gramercy Place/Rodeo Road | 084S-103.10 |
| 11 | Crenshaw Boulevard | 084S-104.39 |

The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority (Expo Authority), as part of its Expo Light Rail project (Expo Project), was authorized by Commission Decision 07-12-029 to construct 36 of 38 crossings, including all the at-grade crossings along Exposition Boulevard between Crenshaw Boulevard and Figueroa Street. The eleven at-grade crossings listed above, which are within the street-running section, have two Light Rail Transit (LRT) signals for each direction of travel. One signal is high-mounted on the far-right side of the intersection, while the other signal is high-mounted on the near-left side of the intersection close to the median, but on the back of the mast arm pole. Both of these signals are oriented in the horizontal position.

Due to the large width of the Exposition Boulevard right-of-way, there is concern that the Metro LRT operators may not always have clear line of sight of the LRT signals as they approach the crossings. Expo Authority proposes to improve visibility of the LRT signals for the Metro LRT operators as they approach each crossing by installing a third supplemental LRT signal in between the two tracks on Metro right-of-way for each LRT approach to the crossings. The supplemental LRT signals will be mounted on Type 1 traffic signal standards and placed immediately in advance of the crossing at a standard 10-foot height. The LRT signal will be mounted in a vertical arrangement so as to not interfere with the required LRT dynamic envelope clearances. Expo Authority believes the supplemental LRT signals will provide improved visibility and clear line of sight of at least two LRT signals for a distance up to 325 feet in advance of the crossings for the Metro LRT operators.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by Expo Authority and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Expo Authority, Metro and the City 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 December 2, 2010, and summarized above are authorized. Improvements shall comply with all applicable Commission General Orders and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the California Department of Transportation.

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 three 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 Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, Metro shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at*

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Highway Grade Crossings and Separation. 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 Jose Pereyra at (213-576-7083) or jfp@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

C: John E. Fisher, Los Angeles Department of Transportation
Paul Taylor, Metro
Vijay Khawani, Metro
John C. Miller, Metro
James Okazaki, Expo Authority