

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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March 10, 2011

File Number: G.11-02-014
Ivy Street
City of Riverside, Riverside County

Denny Fong
Senior Transportation Engineer
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
1120 N. Street MS-37
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Ivy Street Grade Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002B-11.30-A and DOT No. 026494W, in the City of Riverside, Riverside County.

Dear Mr. Fong:

This refers to your letter, dated February 24, 2011 (received on February 25, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing grade separated crossing of BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) San Bernardino to Fullerton Subdivision tracks at Ivy Street in the City of Riverside (City), Riverside County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002B-11.30-A and DOT No. 026494W.

Ivy Street is two lane roadway in the area, that is a grade-separated overhead structure that crosses over the State Route (SR) 91 freeway and a second structure over two sets of adjacent BNSF tracks. The freeway and rail corridor overhead structures are separated at Ivy street by an intersection of driveways on both sides of Ivy Street leading to narrow properties located to the north and south of Ivy Street, between the freeway and tracks. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in partnership with Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and in cooperation with the City of Riverside plan to widen the SR 91 freeway to add one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction, adjacent to the median of the existing freeway. The widening of SR 91 will require the replacement of both of the existing Ivy Street grade separated structures over the freeway and adjacent BNSF Right-of-way. In addition to BNSF freight trains, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operate passenger trains over this line.

Caltrans proposes the following alterations:

- Remove and replace the existing grade separated structure to accommodate the widening of SR 91;
- Widen the new bridge structure from 36 feet to 42 feet in width with a minimum vertical clearance of 23 feet 10 inches; and
- Close Ivy Street grade separation to vehicular traffic during the demolition of the existing grade separation overhead structures and construction of the new grade separation structures.

The project proposes a minimum permanent vertical clearance of 23 feet 10 inches which complies with the minimum clearance requirements specified in the Commission General Order (GO) 26-D of 22 feet 6 inches, therefore this authorization does not require temporary or permanent clearance deviations.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by Caltrans, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans, BNSF, the City and RCTC 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 request dated February 24, 2011 letter and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with 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 CA MUTCD.

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21080.13]

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, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, Caltrans shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at 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 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, BNSF Railway Company, 740 East Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408
Naresh Patel, Metrolink, 700 South Flower Street 26th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
Karl Sauer, Riverside County Transportation Commission, 4080 Lemon St., 3rd Floor, Riverside CA 92501
Harry Steelman, Amtrak, 810 N. Alameda Street, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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