

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



January 23, 2012

File Number: G.11-12-002
City of Visalia, County of Tulare

Eric Bons
Traffic Safety Division
City of Visalia
315 E. Acequia Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the North Mooney Boulevard Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 103AC-251.70, DOT No. 752980M in the City of Visalia, Tulare County.

Dear Mr. Bons:

This refers to your letter, dated December 22, 2011 (received December 28, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Goshen Subdivision tracks and North Mooney Boulevard in the City of Visalia, Tulare County. The crossing is identified by CPUC Crossing No. 103AC-251.70, DOT No. 752980M.

North Mooney Boulevard is a two lane roadway over one SJVR mainline track. The crossing is currently equipped with two Commission Standard No. 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices, pavement markings and advanced warning signage. Goshen Avenue runs parallel to the tracks and is the stop controlled intersection adjacent to, and south of the crossing. The City of Visalia is proposing to install a traffic signal at the intersection of North Mooney Boulevard and Goshen Avenue and make improvements to the Class I bike/pedestrian pathway on the west side of the crossing. This intersection is approximately 75 feet south of the crossing and the traffic signal will be interconnected with the rail crossing warning devices.

The City proposes to make the following modifications to the crossing:

- Install a traffic signal on the southwest quadrant of the crossing to address westbound traffic on Goshen Avenue;
- Install traffic signal and lane designation to address eastbound traffic on Goshen Avenue making left turn movements onto North Mooney Boulevard, as shown on plans;

- Install new traffic signal operation at the North Mooney Boulevard and Goshen Avenue intersection to provide interconnection with traffic signal system to monitor crossing operation and safety and provide advanced preemption at the crossing;
- Remove the existing Commission Standard 9-A on the northwest quadrant of the crossing and install a new curb mounted Commission Standard No 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning device with 12-inch LED flashing lights and 24-inch background;
- Install an additional set of flashers on aforementioned Commission Standard No. 9 to address trail users;
- Install pedestrian “zig zag” channelization to address the existing adjacent Class I bike/pedestrian pathway on the west side of the crossing;
- Install fencing along the right of way to the zig zag channelization on the west side of crossing and along the east of bike/pedestrian pathway to prevent trespassers on right of way;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches to the crossing. Placement: a minimum of 36 inches in the direction of travel over the full width of the sidewalk, 2 feet in front of the warning device (where present), but no closer than 15 feet from the centerline of the tracks;
- Install ADA compliant sidewalk approaches on west side of crossings and at crosswalk;
- Install push button-actuate pedestrian walk signals at new pedestrian crosswalk, at the North Mooney Boulevard and Goshen Avenue intersection south of the crossing; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, and RxR pavement markings per plans.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the City of Visalia and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City of Visalia and San Joaquin Valley Railroad are both 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 December 22, 2011 and summarized above are authorized.

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 (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the CA MUTCD.

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 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, the City of Visalia 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.

SJVR should also submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. CPUC requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Sergio Licon at (213) 576-7085 or sal@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "G".

Daren Gilbert, Manager
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Marc Bader, SJVR, 221 North F Street, PO Box 937., Exeter, California 93221