

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



January 23, 2012

File Number: G.12-01-004  
Civic Center Drive  
National City, San Diego County

Brian Finkbeiner  
District 11 Railroad Coordinator  
California Department of Transportation  
4050 Taylor Street, MS – 310  
San Diego, CA 92110

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Civic Center Drive Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 036-4.90 and DOT No. 661808P, in National City, San Diego County.**

Dear Mr. Finkbeiner:

This refers to your letter, dated January 6, 2012 (received January 12, 2012), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the existing at-grade crossing of Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) San Diego to San Ysidro Subdivision railroad tracks and Civic Center Drive in National City (City), San Diego County, identified as CPUC Crossing Number 036-4.90 and DOT Number 661808P.

The roadway is currently two lanes over two MTS tracks, one in each direction, and the crossing is equipped with two median mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) and two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. In addition to MTS rail transit passenger trains, the San Diego and Imperial Valley Railroad (SDIY) operates freight trains over this line.

Caltrans proposes the following alterations to the Civic Center Drive crossing:

- Install a traffic signal at the intersection of Civic Center Drive and Wilson Avenue and interconnect with the railroad warning devices to provide simultaneous preemption;
- Re-stripe eastbound Civic Center Drive to include one left turn lane and one thru lane at the intersection of Civic Center Drive and Wilson Avenue; and
- Paint curb red on the north and south side of Civic Center Drive to prohibit parking at the crossing.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by Caltrans, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans, MTS, SDIY and 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 January 6, 2012, and summarized above are authorized.

Brian Finkbeiner  
California Department of Transportation  
January 23, 2012  
Page 2 of 2

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 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, 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, 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](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

MTS 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](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov) .

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Lay at (213) 576-1399 or [bill@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:bill@cpuc.ca.gov) .

Sincerely,



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

C: Paul C. Jablonski  
Metropolitan Transit System  
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000  
San Diego, CA 92101

Matt Domen  
San Diego and Imperial Valley Railroad  
1501 National Avenue, Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92113

Stephen Manganiello  
City of National City  
1243 National City Boulevard  
National City, CA 91950