

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 17, 2012

File Number: G.12-01-007  
Columbia Avenue  
City of Riverside, Riverside County

Edda Rosso, P.E.  
Capital Projects Manager  
Riverside County Transportation Commission  
4080 Lemon Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Columbia Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002X-1.20 and DOT No. 027303M, in the City of Riverside, Riverside County.**

Dear Ms. Rosso:

This refers to your letter, dated January 10, 2012 (received on January 17, 2012), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing Columbia Avenue at-grade crossing on the San Jacinto Subdivision railroad tracks owned by Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and operated by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) in the City of Riverside (City), Riverside County. The crossing is currently identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002X-1.20 and DOT No. 027303M.

The single track crossing is currently a divided roadway, four lanes, two lanes in each direction. The Columbia Avenue at-grade crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) and two median mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. This line currently experiences approximately two BNSF freight trains per day at 15 mph. The crossing improvement project is part of the proposed Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Perris Valley Line (PVL) Metrolink commuter extension project from the current terminus in the City of Riverside to the City of Perris.

RCTC proposes the following modifications to the crossing, as part of the PVL Metrolink project to meet SCRRA standards, as SCRRA will be the service operator:

- Construct pedestrian pathways on the north and south side of the crossing;
- Install four Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices in combination with swing gates at all pedestrian sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Install pedestrian channelization in the form of hand railing along the pedestrian crossing approaches and fencing along the right of way to prevent trespassing, as shown in plans;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips at all pedestrian sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Install illumination on northeast and southwest quadrant, as shown in plans; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, W48(CA) '1 TRACK', R15-8 'LOOK', R8-8 'DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS' signage, and 'WAIT HERE' pavement markings as shown in plans.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by the RCTC and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As RCTC, BNSF, City, and SCRRRA 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 January 10, 2012 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 categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental 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, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, RCTC 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.

At the conclusion of the project, RCTC (or BNSF, as appropriate) 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: Tom Boyd, City of Riverside, 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522  
Melvin Thomas, BNSF Railway Company, 740 East Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408  
Naresh Patel, P.E., SCRRRA, 279 E. Arrow Highway, Suite A, San Dimas, CA 91773