

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 29, 2012

File Number: G.12-04-013
Pierce Street
City of Riverside, Riverside County

Debbie Anderson
Senior Engineer
City of Riverside
3900 Main Street, 4th Floor
Riverside, CA 92522

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Highway-Rail Crossing of BNSF Railway Company's Mainline 2B Subdivision Tracks and Pierce Street, CPUC Crossing Number 002B-19.60 and DOT Number 026515M, in City of Riverside, Riverside County

Dear Ms. Anderson:

This refers to your letter, dated April 12, 2012 (received on April 26, 2012), requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) Mainline 2B Subdivision tracks and Pierce Street in the City of Riverside (City), Riverside County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002B-19.60 and DOT No. 026515M.

Pierce Street is a two lane roadway, one lane in each direction, that crosses over two BNSF mainline tracks and is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) and two median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices with advance warning signage and pavement markings. Pierce Street ends at the T-intersection south of the crossing at Taylor Street. In addition to BNSF operating freight trains, the National Passenger Railroad Company (Amtrak) and Southern California Regional Railroad Authority (SCRRA) operate passenger trains over this line. Approximately 62 freight trains per day and approximately 20 passenger trains per day operate over the mainline.

City proposes the following alterations to the Pierce Street crossing as part of the City's project to create a 24-hour quiet zone at fifteen crossings between milepost 10.70 and milepost 20.05:

- Remove the existing two curb mounted and two median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices;
- Install one new curb mounted and one new median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices for northbound Pierce Street, on the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one new curb mounted and one new median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices for southbound Pierce Street, on the northwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device for Pierce Street pedestrian traffic on the northeast quadrant;

- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 8 warning device for Pierce Street pedestrian traffic on the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Restripe the existing Pierce Street northbound lane from one vehicular lane to two vehicular lanes from the T-intersection with Taylor Street through the crossing and north of the crossing;
- Reconstruct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalks on both sides of the crossing;
- Install ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Install concrete panels crossing surface for pedestrian pathways on both sides of the crossing;
- Install concrete crossing panels for the two mainline tracks;
- Construct a new raised median 8-inch in height, 10-feet in width, and approximately 100-feet in length on the southbound approach to the crossing;
- Construct a new raised median 8-inch in height, 10-feet in width, and approximately 100-feet in length on the northbound approach to the crossing;
- Install pedestrian channelization in the form of hand railing and 2-rail black steel fencing 48-inch in height at all four quadrants to prevent trespassing, as shown on plans; and
- Install California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage, and pavement markings per plans, including W10-1 advance warning signs, W48 (CA) 2 tracks signs and RxR pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As City and BNSF 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 letter dated April 12, 2012 and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the 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 RCES, 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, City and/or BNSF 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.

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At the conclusion of the project, BNSF 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 Bill Lay at 213-576-1399 or bl@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, Manager
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Melvin Thomas, BNSF, 740 E. Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408
Harry Steelman, Amtrak, 810 N. Alameda Street, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Naresh Patel, SCRRA, 279 E. Arrow Highway, Suite A, San Dimas, CA 91773