

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 Van Ness Ave
San Francisco, CA 94102



December 14, 2012

File Number: G.12-11-002

Ade Oluwasogo
Supervising Transportation Engineer
City of Oakland
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Ste 4344
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Broadway Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001D-6.70 and DOT No. 749585A in the City of Oakland, Alameda County.

Dear Mr. Oluwasogo:

This refers to your letter dated October 30, 2012, received by us on November 3, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Broadway at-grade highway rail-crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) track in the City of Oakland (City), Alameda County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001D-6.70 and DOT No. 749585A.

The full scope of work for altering the crossing, including both railroad and local agency work, must be authorized through the GO 88-B process prior to construction. There appears to be discrepancies between the previously documented Section 130 funding scope (attached) and the alterations described in this request. We believe this inaccurately represents the full scope of work planned as part of the project.

There has been some confusion about the role of organizations involved with this project. Please note that:

- A. California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the regulatory agency that authorizes the configuration of the crossing.

- B. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is the funding agency. Caltrans will fund improvements that are within the contracted scope of the project. Caltrans has issued a contract to the City and a separate contract to UP.
- C. City of Oakland (City), as the authority with jurisdiction over the roadway, is the lead agency on this full project. City submits the GO 88-B request to CPUC for the full scope of the project. City is responsible for construction of items within the local agency scope of work, such as traffic signals, roadway and sidewalk approaches to the track, markings and signage, and the traffic signal interconnection to the point of connection with the railroad equipment.
- D. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), is the railroad responsible for construction of items within the railroad contract scope of work, such as concrete panels at the track, and railroad crossing warning devices, such as flashing light signals and gates.

While we want to expedite this authorization to the extent possible, the crossing configuration documented in the GO 88-B request must be accurate. We urge the City to review the items below, bring up concerns for discussion, then revise and resubmit as soon as possible so that the project can move forward.

1. Standard Warning Devices

- A. Within section 7 of the GO 88-B request, under the “proposed” section, the 4th item (Standard No.8 with additional pair of sidelights) should be specified as the “southwest corner”.
- B. Within section 7, under the “proposed” portion the 3rd item is incorrectly identified as the southwest corner, it should be southeast.
- C. Southbound approach is currently considered to have a Standard 9-A warning device assembly (automatic gate arm with overhead flashing light signals). It is referenced as a Standard No. 9 warning device in Section 7 (3rd item under “proposed”).

2. Relocation of Signs

- A. Relocation of STOP sign: In the second page of the final Section 130 recommendations under “City Scope of Work” it includes relocation of the STOP sign in the northeast quadrant.
- B. Relocation of Guide Post sign: In the second page of the final Section 130 recommendations under “City Scope of Work” it includes relocation of the Guide Post sign in the southwest quadrant.

3. LED Assemblies

- A. According to the Revised CPUC Railroad Scope of Work, all existing mast mounted lights will be retro-fitted to be 12-inch LED assemblies with 24-inch hoods.

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Conclusion

The Broadway GO-88 B request cannot be authorized without changes or corrections. On December 3, 2012, Kevin Schumacher, and Sia Mozaffari of CPUC staff held a phone discussion with Ade Oluwasogo of the City. In that discussion it was determined that the City is unable to proceed with changes because the City engineer familiar with this project is unavailable until January. We must reject this GO 88-B request without prejudice.

If you have any questions, please contact Sia Mozaffari at siavash.mozaffari@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (415) 703-1815.

Sincerely,



Siavash Mozaffari
Utilities Engineer
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch

CC: Jim Smith, UPRR