

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013



March 3, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015010006

Carolyn Gonot
Director of Engineering & Infrastructure Development
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street, Building 2
San Jose, CA 95134- 1927

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Central Expressway At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 082B-13.08 and DOT No. 755017P in the City of Mountain View, County of Santa Clara

Dear Ms. Gonot:

This refers to your letter dated January 9, 2015, received by us on January 9, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Central Expressway at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) track in the City of Mountain View (City), County of Santa Clara (County). Central Expressway is a County maintained roadway. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 082B-13.08 and DOT No. 755017P.

The single track crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) and two median mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices. 112 light rail trains per day travel through the crossing at a maximum speed of 15 mph. Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) has operating right for freight service over this crossing during VTA rail transit non-revenue hours; however, UPRR has not scheduled any service for the last 15 years. The westbound train traffic has a "STOP" order at the crossing. The average daily traffic on Central Expressway is 37,600 vehicles.

This project is part of VTA's plan to increase efficiency and capacity of their light rail system. The modifications will also increase safety for bicyclists at the crossing.

The proposed alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Installing a second track south of the existing track for eastbound train traffic. The new track will have a concrete panel crossing surface;
- Relocating the curb mounted automatic warning devices and traffic pre-signals on the southeast quadrant of the crossing to accommodate the second track;
- Increasing the railroad preemption time to accommodate the second track;

- Relocating the pavement markings, signage (R10-6), and traffic loops to accommodate the second track on the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Widening the bicycle lane for northbound bicyclists;
- Installing “KEEP CLEAR” pavement markings on the southeast quadrant of the crossing between the “STOP” bar and the tracks;
- Installing new California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant R15-2P and W48 “2 TRACKS” signage on both vehicle approaches;
- Installing new CA MUTCD compliant W83(CA) “PASS WITH CARE” signs on both vehicle approaches to the crossing;
- Altering the operations of the existing active advanced warning sign consisting of two flashing yellow beacons on the southeast quadrant of the crossing from constantly flashing to activating with the automatic warning devices; and
- Removing the trees south of the crossing to improve visibility of the automatic warning devices and crossing.

Commission’s RCEB staff has investigated VTA’s request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County and VTA are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter, attachments, and summarized above.

VTA must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, 2014 Edition, 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 Environment 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, the RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, VTA shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg.htm>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

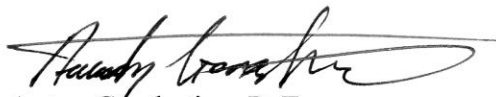
At the conclusion of the project, VTA should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR

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234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years.

If you have any questions, please contact Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov .

Sincerely,



Anton Garabetian, P. E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Sarah Syed, VTA
Dan Collen, County of Santa Clara Roads and Airports Department
Peggy Ygbuhay, UPRR

