

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4TH STREET, SUITE 500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



September 11, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017080009
Chicago Avenue
City of Riverside, Riverside County

Gilbert Hernandez, P.E., T.E.
City Traffic Engineer
City of Riverside
3900 Main St
Riverside, CA 92522

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Chicago Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002B-8.10 and DOT Crossing No. 026476Y in the City of Riverside, Riverside County.

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on August 15, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Chicago Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) Mainline 2B Subdivision tracks in the City of Riverside(City) , Riverside County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002B-8.10 and DOT Number 026476Y.

The crossing is comprised of three tracks and a five lane divided roadway, with two northbound and three southbound traffic lanes. The 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 warning devices. Chicago Avenue and Marlborough Avenue form a stop sign controlled T-intersection approximately 75 feet south of the crossing. Approximately 62 BNSF freight trains and 20 passenger trains operate per day at a maximum speed of 60 mph over the mainline. The average daily vehicle traffic at the crossing is approximately 11,946.

The City, in cooperation with BNSF, proposes the following alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Construct a six-foot wide Americans with Disabilities Act compliant sidewalk on the west side of Chicago Avenue including detectable warning strips on both approaches to the crossing;
- Replace existing concrete panels and install additional panels along the tracks to accommodate sidewalk;
- Install pedestrian barricades on the east side of Chicago Avenue for both approaches to the crossing;

- Modify the median south of the crossing to prevent southbound Chicago Avenue traffic from turning left onto Marlborough Avenue;
- Modify the median north of the crossing to eliminate the southbound left turn pocket to Marlborough Avenue;
- Pull back median north of Marlborough Ave to provide a two-way left turn lane/refuge area to facilitate left turn egress movements;
- Update all flashers to 12 inch light emitting diode lights with 24 inch hoods;
- Install one Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) in the southwest quadrant with ROW fencing to channelize pedestrians through the crossing;
- Install one Commission Standard 8 in the northwest quadrant with right of way fencing to channelize pedestrians through the crossing;
- Install fencing on the easterly side on Marlborough Avenue (north of the crossing) to restrict pedestrians from walking directly through the tracks;
- Install one median mounted Commission Standard 9 in the south median with an additional set of flashers directed at Marlborough Avenue;
- Install one median mounted Commission Standard 9 in the north median;
- Install one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 in the northwest quadrant;
- Install one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 in the southeast quadrant, and;
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings; including W10-1 advance warning signs, “RXR” and railroad limit pavement markings.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request filed by the City and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As BNSF and the 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 request letter received by us on August 15, 2017, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the current version of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. The City and BNSF must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

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

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with current version of the CA MUTCD. Refer to CA MUTCD Section 6G.18 and Figure 6H-46 regarding “Work in the Vicinity of a Grade Crossing.”

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 proposed project 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

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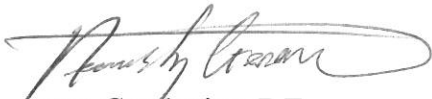
must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, BNSF should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Sergio Licon at (213) 576-7085 or sal@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**
Jason Sanchez, BNSF
Bree Arnett, CPUC

