

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



April 9, 2018

File Number: XREQ2017120004
Firestone Boulevard
City of South Gate,
Los Angeles County

Kenneth Tang
Senior Civil Engineer
City of South Gate
8650 California Avenue
South Gate, CA 90280

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Firestone Boulevard At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 003A-7.80, DOT No. 810958K in the City of South Gate, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Tang:

This refers to your letter dated October 3, 2014, resubmitted and received electronically on November 27, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the at-grade crossing (crossing) on Firestone Boulevard of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) in the City of South Gate (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 003A-7.80/US DOT No. 810958K.

Firestone Boulevard is an east-west oriented six lane roadway traversing the crossing. Firestone Boulevard intersects with Firestone Place approximately 50 feet east of the crossing to form a T-intersection. Firestone Boulevard intersects with Mason Street approximately 150 feet west of the crossing and forms a T-intersection.

As part of the newly developed Azalea Shopping Center located at the northwest corner of the Atlantic Avenue/Firestone Boulevard intersection, City constructed a new signalized intersection of Atlantic Avenue by Azalea West. Due to the alignment and configuration of the UPRR railroad lines and the two crossings of Atlantic Avenue and single crossing of Firestone Boulevard, the City has developed a Queue Management Plan to continuously clear vehicle queues from both Atlantic Avenue crossings and the Firestone Boulevard crossing. The Queue Management Plan includes interconnection and coordination of the new Atlantic Avenue/Azalea West intersection with the existing signalized intersections of Atlantic Avenue/Patata Street/Salt Lake, Atlantic Avenue/Firestone Boulevard, and the newly signalized intersection of Firestone Boulevard/Mason Street/Firestone Place.

In addition, City requests authority to modify the Firestone Boulevard crossing, as follows:

- Install 8 inch raised medians extending west of the Crossing for approximately 375 feet with a break to allow for eastbound left turn movements from Mason Street;
- Install 8 inch raised medians extending east of the Crossing for approximately 220 feet with a break to allow for eastbound left turn movements from Firestone Place;
- Install one curb mounted Commission Standard 9A (Standard 9 with additional flashing light signals on cantilever) warning device for the westbound vehicular approach, with 12” light emitting diode (LED) flashing lights, at the northwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one curb mounted Commission Standard 9A warning device for the eastbound vehicular approach, with 12” LED flashing lights, at the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one median mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device for the westbound vehicular approach, with 12” LED flashing lights;
- Install one median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for the eastbound vehicular approach, with 12” LED flashing lights;
- Install one curb mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device on the westbound departure side of the crossing, with 12” LED flashing lights;
- Install one curb mounted Commission Standard 8 warning device on the eastbound departure side of the crossing, with 12” LED flashing lights;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalks on all approaches to the crossing;
- Install ADA compliant standard detectable warning tactile strips on the sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, W48 (CA) 2 tracks signs, R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS” signage and “RXR” pavement markings.

City developed a Queue Management Plan to address the extensive vehicle queuing that occurs along Firestone Boulevard affecting the crossing. As part of its Queue Management Plan, City proposes the following:

- Install a new traffic signal and controller at the intersection of Firestone Boulevard/Mason Street/Firestone Place;
- Install queue detection loops for westbound Firestone Boulevard, downstream from the crossing;
- Install a “NO RIGHT TURN” (R3-1) blank-out sign for southwest bound Firestone Place, to activate when westbound queues are detected on Firestone Boulevard and during railroad preemption;
- Interconnect new traffic signal controller to the crossing;
- Implement advance railroad preemption time of 38 seconds; and
- Implement queue detection on Firestone Boulevard to manage potential queues in accordance with the Queue Management Plan.

The City completed the improvements described in the request without authorization. However, the Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) conducted a field inspection and determined that the modifications are in substantial conformance to those described in the City’s request, and that the modifications adequately address compliance and safety. The improvements as

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described in your request dated October 3, 2014, resubmitted and received electronically on November 27, 2017, and summarized above, are authorized and verified.

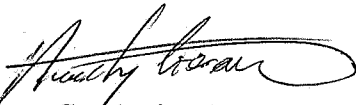
Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

UPRR 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 Jose Pereyra at (213) 576-7083 or jfp@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: (SENT VIA EMAIL)
Daniel Moreno, UPRR

