

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 27, 2018

File Number: XREQ 2018080010
Whisman Station North Pedestrian
Mountain View, Santa Clara County

Michael Fuller
Public Works Director
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Whisman Station North Pedestrian At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 082B-12.76-D and DOT No. 926830N in the City of Mountain View, County of Santa Clara.

Dear Mr. Fuller:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on August 20, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Whisman station north pedestrian at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) tracks in the City of Mountain View (City), County of Santa Clara. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 082B-12.76-D and DOT No. 926830N.

The crossing provides access to the Whisman VTA station from the park-and-ride lot located to the north and from the new housing development to the south. There are two tracks running northeast and southwest at the crossing. The crossing is protected by four Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices and pedestrian swing gates. Only VTA operates 114 transit trains per day at a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour over the crossing.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the City request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall consist of:

- Relocating existing detectable warning surfaces to outside the pedestrian swing gates;
- Removing detectable warning surfaces from within the track envelope;
- Realigning existing detectable warning surface pairs to have a perpendicular path across tracks;
- Installing new fencing to channelize pedestrians;
- Installing one additional flashing light signal pair on the Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device in the northeast quadrant facing the south entrance;
- Installing thermoplastic striping to designate the pedestrian pathway;
- Installing rubber stops on the pedestrian swing gates; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the request by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and VTA (Parties) are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the City may proceed with the improvements as described in its request letter and attachments, and summarized above. The City must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

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 other Commission General Orders and the latest version of the 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].

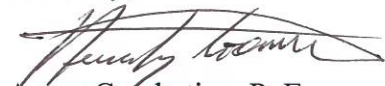
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested 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. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, VTA should submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, 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. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Willard Lam at (415) 703-1327 or email at wlm@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

Cc: Inez Evans, VTA