

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 30, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2019080005
Auzerais Avenue
San Jose, Santa Clara County

Alisar Aoun
Senior Engineer
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street, 8th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Auzerais Avenue At-Grade Highway-Light Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 082D-3.75 and 001V-0.40 and DOT Number 750154E, in the City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara.

Dear Mrs. Aoun:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on August 23, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Auzerais Avenue at-grade highway-light rail crossing (crossing) of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) tracks in the City of San Jose (City), County of Santa Clara. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Nos. 082D-3.75 and 001V-0.40 and DOT Number 750154E.

The crossing configuration consists of a one light rail track on the Vasona light rail passenger line and one freight rail track on the Vasona Industrial Lead traveling northeast-southwest and a two lane roadway traveling east-west. There are two sidewalks at the crossing. This crossing has two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices and one Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 with additional flashing lights over the roadway on a cantilevered arm). The crossing is part of VTA's Vasona shared corridor with heavy rail freight train operations and is located within a quiet zone. 116 transit trains operate per day over the crossing at a maximum speed of 55 miles per hour (mph) and 2 freight trains operate per day over the crossing at a maximum speed of 10 mph. The crossing average daily traffic is 5,594 vehicles.

A new development in the northwest quadrant has negated the need for the Commission Standard 9 in the northwest quadrant. The Commission Standard 9 was installed for a driveway which was removed as part of the development. The existing gate is being proposed for immediate removal with this modification request. The City has secured funding for additional crossing modifications for both the Auzerais Avenue and the Sunol Street crossings and is actively working with VTA and the CPUC on the future project.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the City's request letter and/or shown on the plans shall consist of removing the Commission Standard 9 in the northwest quadrant originally intended for the now closed driveway.

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. 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 California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), 2014 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

The City 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. 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 electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. Title 49 CFR 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 Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or email at felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

 Felix Ko for

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

Alisar Aoun
XREQ 2019080005
August 30, 2019
Page 3 of 3

CC:

Austin Jenkins, VTA
Rupa Shitole, CPUC
Steven Espinal, CPUC