

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



January 8, 2021

File Number: XREQ 2021010001
Gilman Street
Berkeley, Alameda County

Hamid Mostowfi
Supervising Traffic Engineer
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Gilman Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001A-7.06 and DOT No. 751199P, in the City of Berkeley, Alameda County.

Dear Mr. Mostowfi:

This refers to your letter received by us on January 5, 2021, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Gilman Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks in the City of Berkeley (City), County of Alameda. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001A-7.06 and DOT No. 751199P.

The three-track crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices for the vehicular approaches and two curb mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) in the off quadrants. 44 passenger trains and 10 freight trains operate daily over the crossing at a maximum speed of 79 miles per hour. The average daily traffic at the crossing is 21,443 vehicles.

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

- Relocating the Commission Standard 9 warning devices in the northeast and southwest quadrants.
- Removing the Commission Standard 8 warning devices in the northwest and southeast quadrants.
- Installing pedestrian emergency exit swing gates in all quadrants.
- Installing Commission Standard 9 pedestrian automatic gates in all quadrants.
- Installing a bike/pedestrian shared use path through the south side of the crossing.
- Constructing raised curb medians with delineators on both approaches.
- Constructing a shaped buffer island in the southwest quadrant to maintain vehicular access for the nearby residence while limiting vehicle movements into the property as a right turn entrance only.
- Installing queue cutter signals for eastbound and westbound traffic interconnected with the railroad tracks with 52 seconds of total approach time, with near and far signals on both approaches.

- Signalizing the 4th Street intersection and interconnection to the tracks with advance railroad preemption.
- Installing fence along the tracks on the southwest quadrant to discourage trespassing.
- Installing additional lighting in the northeast and southwest quadrants to illuminate the crossing.
- Installing American with Disabilities Act compliant detectable warning strips in all quadrants.
- Installing handrail in the northeast and northwest quadrants.
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, R10-6 “STOP HERE ON RED” signs, and “RXR” and railroad stop-bar pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the City's request and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and UPRR 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.

UPRR must ensure that Emergency Notification System signs are installed to comply with 49 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 Caltrans.

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.

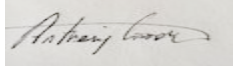
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Crossings>. This report may be submitted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

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR should electronically 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.

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If you have any questions, please contact Sia Mozaffari at (415) 703-1815 or sm4@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc:

Peggy Ygbuhay, UPRR
Kevin Yoder, Alfred Benesch & Company
Trinity Nguyen, Alameda CTC