

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 24, 2022

File Number: XREQ 2022010001
I-10 FWY On-Ramp
City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Abdul Zohbi
Systems Safety Manager, Corporate Safety
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Retain the Use of a Left-Turn Gate at the I-10 FWY On-Ramp At-Grade Highway-Light Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 084L-01.10, in City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Zohbi:

This refers to your request dated January 31, 2022, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to retain the use of a Left-Turn Gate at the I-10 East Freeway on-ramp at-grade highway-light rail crossing (crossing) of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) "A" Line (formerly Blue Line) tracks, in City of Los Angeles (City), County of Los Angeles. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 084L-01.10.

The crossing is part of the A Line street-running segment consisting of two light rail transit (LRT) tracks located on the east side of Flower Street where it intersects with the I-10 East Freeway on-ramp. The intersection of the I-10 East Freeway on-ramp and Flower Street is west of and immediately adjacent to the crossing. Flower Street is a one-way street in the southbound direction with a dedicated left turn lane at the intersection with I-10 East Freeway on-ramp. The Flower Street left turn lane onto I-10 East Freeway on-ramp parallels the LRT tracks and is traffic signal controlled with protected left turn signals. Approximately 407 LRT trains operate daily through the crossing, with a maximum speed of 35 miles per hour.

LACMTA conducted an experimental installation of a Left-Turn Gate at the crossing in October 2017. The Left-Turn Gate was installed on the median island separating the left turn lane from the LRT tracks. The Left-Turn Gate, similar to a typical parking garage gate arm, is designed to prevent motorist from making illegal left turns in front of oncoming LRT trains. Due to the street running LRT configuration and limited clearances, the Left-Turn Gate does not include flashing lights or bells since it is not a railroad warning device. The Left-Turn Gate is interconnected to the traffic signal left turn phase and is considered a supplement to the traffic signals at the intersection. When the left turn signal turns red, the Left-Turn Gate will lower to horizontal position. Just prior to the left turn signal turning green, the Left-Turn Gate will raise to the up position. The barrier provided by the Left-Turn Gate is expected to decrease the frequency of motorists turning against the red light and colliding with oncoming LRT trains.

LACMTA performed an evaluation of the Left-Turn Gate at the crossing from October 4, 2017, through January 30, 2022. Metro's evaluation report includes data demonstrating the effectiveness of the Left-Turn Gate in eliminating accidents caused by motorists making illegal left turns at the crossing. During the four-year

Abdul Zohbi
XREQ 2022010001
February 24, 2022
Page 2 of 2

evaluation period, there was not a single accident caused by illegal left turns. As a result, LACMTA requests authorization to permanently retain the use of the Left-Turn Gate at the crossing.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch investigated the request by LACMTA and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As LACMTA and the City agree as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the modifications as described in your request dated January 20, 2022, and summarized above, are authorized.

Future implementation of Left-Turn Gates at crossings on LACMTA's LRT system is subject to Commission review and approval. LACMTA shall seek Commission authorization for Left-Turn Gate installations on a case-by-case basis either by formal application to the Commission or by the Commission's GO 88-B process.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Pereyra at (213) 576-7083 or jfp@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Vijay Khawani, LACMTA
Monica Born, LACMTA
Bill Shao, LADOT