

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 11, 2022

File Number: XREQ 2022020001
Stewart Street Bike Lanes Project
City of Santa Monica, Los Angeles County

Thomas Check
Transportation Engineer
City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Stewart Street At-Grade Highway-Light Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 084S-112.10, in City of Santa Monica, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Check:

This refers to your request dated January 20, 2022, received by us electronically on January 25, 2022, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Stewart Street at-grade highway-light rail crossing (crossing) of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) "E" Line (formerly Expo Line) tracks, in City of Santa Monica (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 084S-112.10.

The crossing consists of three light rail tracks crossing Stewart Street at approximately 90 degrees. Stewart Street across the tracks, consists of two northbound and two southbound lanes separated by medians. The intersection of Stewart Street and Olympic Boulevard is located approximately 130 feet north of the crossing. Approximately 260 transit trains operate daily through the crossing, with a maximum speed of 55 miles per hour.

The proposed alterations are part of a larger project by City that involves the installation of protected bike lanes along Stewart Street from Colorado Avenue to Kansas Avenue that forms a key component of its Bikeway system. City proposes the following modifications:

- Install protected bike lanes along Stewart Street.
- Modify the traffic signal system at the intersection of Stewart Street and Olympic Boulevard by installing new bicycle-specific signals for northbound and southbound approaches.
- Modify the traffic signal phasing from eight phases to a 16-phase operation.
- Update the traffic signal controller and related software.

In addition, City confirmed that the existing traffic signal preemption timing does not need to be increased. The proposed modifications to the traffic signal system can be accommodated by the existing preemption time.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and LACMTA agree as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as

described in your request dated January 20, 2022, and summarized above, are authorized. 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 the current version of California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders, Americans with Disabilities Act, and 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 RCEB, 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, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. 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.

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)**
Abdul Zohbi, LACMTA
Anastasia Sanchez, KOA