

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 23, 2022

File Number: XREQ 2022020005  
49<sup>th</sup> Street  
City of Vernon, Los Angeles County

Dionisio Martinez  
Manager Public Projects  
BNSF Railway  
740 East Carnegie Drive  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the 49<sup>th</sup> Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 002H-1.30 and DOT Number 027933G in the City of Vernon, Los Angeles County**

Dear Mr. Martinez:

This refers to your letter dated February 15, 2022, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the 49<sup>th</sup> Street highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) Harbor Subdivision in the City of Vernon (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002H-1.30 and DOT No. 027933G.

The crossing consists of 8 tracks and a two-lane east-west roadway. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 1-R (Crossbuck sign installed on a post) with R1-2 "YIELD" signs on the westbound and eastbound approaches and one historic Commission Standard 3 (wigwag – side of street installation) warning device on the eastbound approach. BNSF operates two freight trains daily at the crossing with maximum speed of 12 miles per hour. The average daily traffic through the crossing is approximately 1,495 vehicles.

With concurrence from the City, BNSF proposes to remove the existing inoperable wig-wag device from the southwest quadrant. In addition, the following alterations at the crossing are proposed, as shown on the plans:

- Remove existing warning signs and install two new Commission Standard 1-R with R1-2 signs.
- Install tactile warning devices on pedestrian approaches.
- Install yield triangles pavement marking at railroad limit lines.
- Refresh existing "RXR" pavement markings.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by BNSF and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and BNSF are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your request letter received on February 15, 2022, and summarized above, are authorized.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the current version of CAMUTCD, published by California Department of Transportation. 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 the CA MUTCD. Refer to CA MUTCD Section 6G.18 and Figure 6H-46 regarding "Work in the Vicinity of a Grade Crossing."

BNSF must ensure that Emergency Notification Systems signs are installed on new warning signs to comply with CFR 234.309.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental 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, BNSF 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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

At the conclusion of the project, BNSF 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. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Cervantes at (213) 266-4716, or [mci@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:mci@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Anton Garabetian, PE  
Program Manager  
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch  
Rail Safety Division

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**  
Daniel Wall, City of Vernon