

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



July 2, 2024

File Number: XREQ 2023100007  
North McDowell Boulevard  
City of Petaluma, Sonoma County

Bill Gamlen  
Chief Engineer  
Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit  
5401 Old Redwood Highway  
Suite 200  
Petaluma, CA 94954

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the North McDowell Boulevard Rail Crossing**

Dear Bill Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on September 29, 2023, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the North McDowell Boulevard rail crossing (crossing) of the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART), in the City of Petaluma (City), County of Sonoma. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 005-40.70 and DOT Number 498682N.

SMART submitted an updated preemption calculation worksheet and traffic signal plan on June 3, 2024.

The crossing is a northwest-southeast four-lane roadway that consists of one track. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm) warning devices, two median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices, and two curb-mounted Commission Standard 8 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly) warning devices.

The CPUC's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by SMART. As the City and SMART agree on the alterations and apportionment of costs under the provisions of GO 88-B, the following alterations as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments are authorized:

- Install push button-controlled traffic signals in both traffic directions with a 10-wire supervised interconnect with advance pre-emption.
- Install a striped continental crosswalk with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant pedestrian ramps and detectable warning strips at the intersection of North McDowell Boulevard and Trailer Park Driveway.
- Extend SMART's multi-use pathway north and south of the crossing on the east and west sides of the tracks.
- Install a 4-foot-high and 150-foot-long fence between the new pathway and track in the northeast and southeast quadrants.
- Replace the existing median mounted Standard 9 warning devices with Standard 8 warning devices.

- Construct a pedestrian pathway with a concrete panel crossing surface over the tracks in the northeast and southwest quadrants of the crossing.
- Install Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices, emergency egress swing gates, detectable warning surfaces, and fencing in both directions at both new pedestrian pathways.
- Install new signal house in the northeast quadrant.
- Install a concrete panel crossing surface.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including R10-6 “STOP HERE ON RED”, W11-15 and W16-7P crosswalk warning signs, “KEEP CLEAR” pavement markings, and twenty-four-inch-wide STOP bars as shown on plans.
- Install CA MUTCD compliant R1-1 “STOP” signs, W3-1 “STOP AHEAD” signs, R15-8 “LOOK” signs, 12” stop lines, street name signs, advanced warning pavement markings, and W10-9 “NO TRAIN HORN” signs at the pathway approaches to the crossing where the path intersects with N. McDowell Boulevard.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This authorization shall expire if the full scope of alterations is not complete within three years of the date of this letter. SMART may request a time extension at least 30 days prior to the expiration date. The time extension request shall include evidence of agreement by involved parties. This authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety requires.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code §21084].

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- The crossing shall have the configuration and operational characteristics as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments.
- SMART shall notify RCEB at least 45 days prior to the date that the new or modified interconnection is placed in service by sending notification to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).
- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete SMART shall notify RCEB of the alterations by submitting a Form G to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov). Form G requirements and forms are available on the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>.
- SMART shall electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA per 49 C.F.R. § 234.411(c).

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (415) 806-0490 or [David.Stewart@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:David.Stewart@cpuc.ca.gov).

Bill Gamlen  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Bond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Bond, P.E.  
Program and Project Supervisor  
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch  
Rail Safety Division

cc: Jeff Stutsman, City of Petaluma