

Decision 01-02-022 February 08, 2001

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the City of Glendale for authority to construct an at-grade crossing of Flower Street across the tracks of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) right of way and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority's (SCRRA) main rail line tracks in the City of Glendale, Los Angeles County.

Application 00-10-009
(Filed October 3, 2000)

OPINION

Summary

City of Glendale (City) requests authority to close two existing public at-grade crossings and construct a new public at-grade crossing all across the main line tracks and right of way of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) in Glendale, Los Angeles County. The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) operates Metrolink commuter trains and the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) operates freight trains on these tracks.

Discussion

In 1993, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) commissioned a Traffic Impact Study to examine the impacts of closing five at-grade crossings within the City of Glendale (City), Los Angeles County. Bekins Way, one of the five crossings, had been the location of a number of collisions between trucks and Metrolink trains. The Bekins Way crossing is in close proximity to the Bekins Way - San Fernando Road traffic intersection. There is

insufficient vehicle storage space at the railroad crossing and no traffic signal at the traffic intersection.

Allen Avenue, another crossing identified by SCRRA as a target for closure, has a narrow width and poor approach grades to the tracks that causes a concern for the possibility of low bed trucks getting stuck on the tracks and for vehicle damage when traveling too fast.

The proposed Flower Street crossing will provide improved public access to the Grand Central Business Center (GCBC) area to the west of the railroad tracks and mitigate traffic and circulation impacts as a result of the closure of the Bekins Way crossing. Additionally, the railroad warning devices at the Flower Street crossing will be interconnected with the Flower Street - San Fernando Road intersection traffic signals.

City is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Sections 21000, et seq. After preparation and review of the Initial Study, City on July 25, 2000 filed a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles County Clerk Office, which found “The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.” City prepared a Negative Declaration for this project pursuant to the provision of CEQA.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Initial Study and Notice of Determination. The sites of the project has been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carrier Division — Rail Crossings Engineering Section staff. Staff examined the need for and the safety of the proposed grade crossing and related railroad construction and recommends that the application be approved.

The application was found to be in compliance under the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 38 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure,

which relates to the construction of a public road, highway, or street across a railroad. A site map of the grade crossing is as shown on plans attached to the application and Appendix A.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3049, dated October 24, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. Since no hearings were held, this preliminary determination remains accurate. The Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division recommends that this application be granted. Given these developments, public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to disturb the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3049.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission Daily Calendar on October 20, 2000. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.
2. City requests authority, under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to close and vacate the existing Bekins Way and Allen Avenue crossings, and to construct the Flower Street crossing across the tracks and right-of-way of Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), all located in Glendale, Los Angeles County.
3. The Flower Street crossing will serve public need by providing a safe access route across railroad tracks to the Grand Central Business Center.
4. Public convenience and necessity require the construction of Flower Street Grade Crossings.
5. Public safety requires the closure of the Bekins Way and Allen Avenue grade crossings.

6. Public safety also requires that the Flower Street crossing be protected by two Standard No. 9-A automatic flashing light signals with gates, one east of the track (northeast corner) and one on the west side (southwest corner), and two Standard No. 9 automatic flashing light signals with gates (General Order (G. O.) 75-C) on raised island medians.

7. City is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

8. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Initial Study and Notice of Determination.

Conclusion of Law

The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. City of Glendale (City) is authorized to construct Flower Street crossing, identified as Crossing No. 101VY-8.50, and remove and vacate the existing Bekins Way Crossing, identified as Crossing No. 101VY-8.34, and Allen Avenue Crossing, identified as Crossing No. 101VY-9.75, all located in the City of Glendale, Los Angeles County.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (G.O.) 26-D. Walkways shall conform to G.O. 118.

3. Protection at the Flower Street crossing shall be two Standard No. 9-A automatic flashing light signals with gates, one east of the tracks (northeast corner) and one on the west side (southwest corner), and two Standard No. 9 automatic flashing light signals with gates (G. O. 75-C) on raised island medians.

4. Prior to opening of the Flower Street crossing, the existing Bekins Way Crossing No. 101VY-8.34 and Allen Avenue Crossing No. 101VY-9.75 shall be permanently closed, vacated, and physically removed.

5. Construction and maintenance of the crossings shall be in accordance with the provisions of G.O. 72-B.

6. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne by applicant in accordance with Section 1202.2 of the Public Utilities Code.

7. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, City shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work was completed.

8. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within two years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not met. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

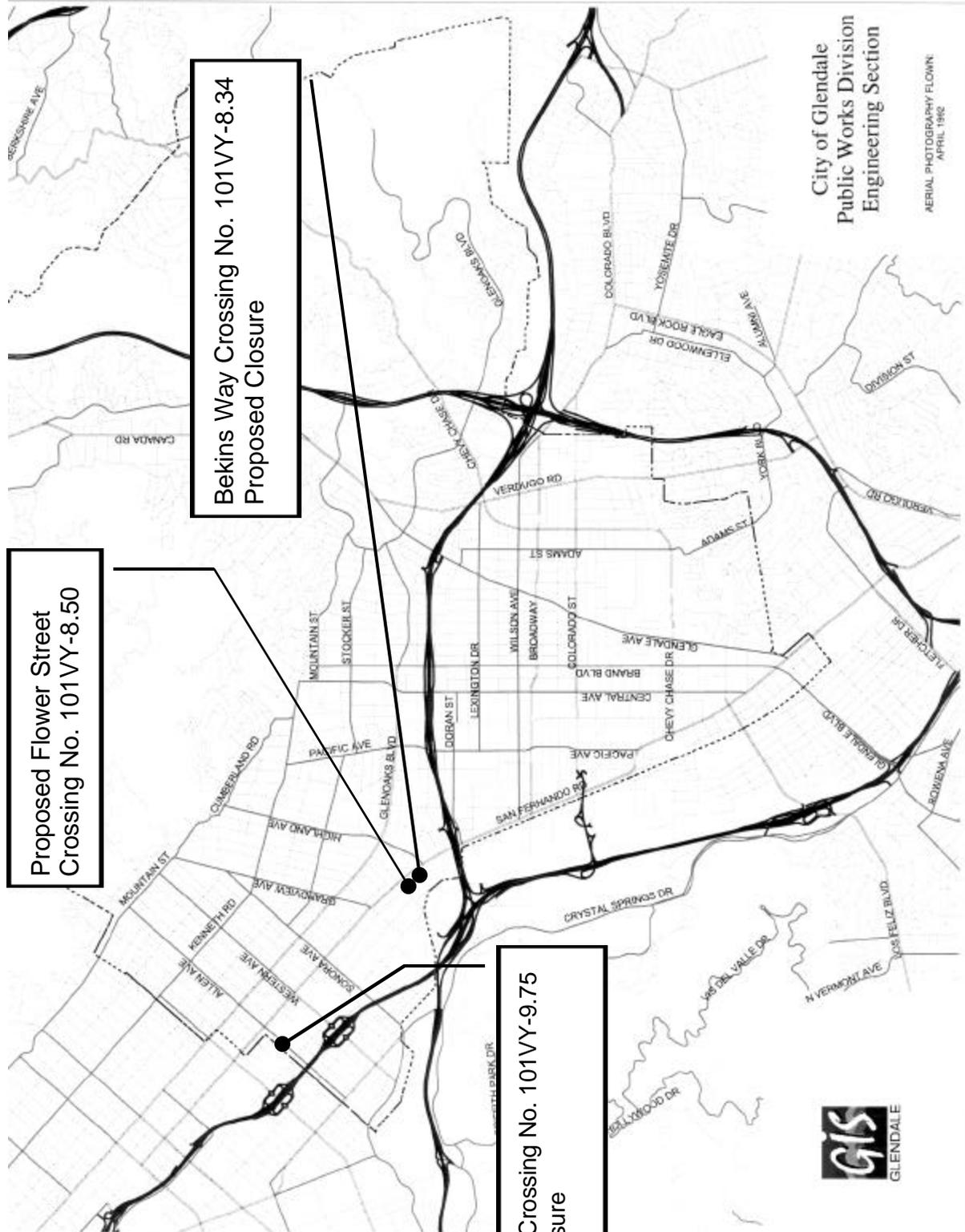
The application is granted as set forth above.

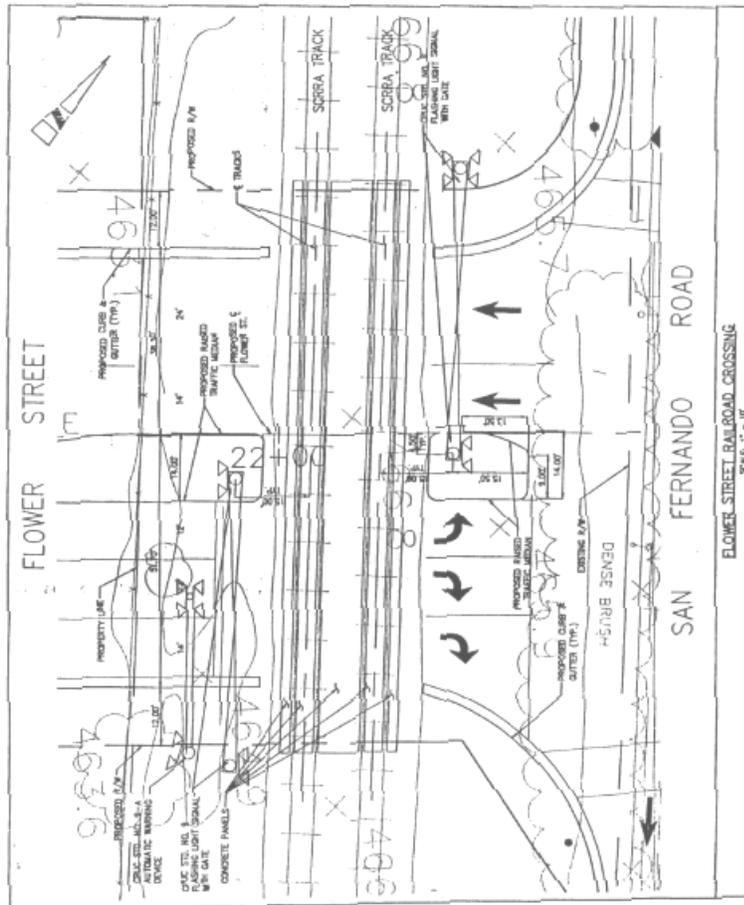
Application 00-10-009 is closed.

This order is effective 30 days from today.

Dated February 08, 2001, at San Francisco, California.

LORETTA M. LYNCH
President
HENRY M. DUQUE
RICHARD A. BILAS
CARL W. WOOD
GEOFFREY F. BROWN
Commissioners





NO.	DATE	REVISIONS	REFERENCES	SCALE	DATE	BY	CHECKED	APPROVED
1				SCALE 1" = 10'	08/15/12	RR	RR	RR
<p>PROPOSED RAIL CROSSING EQUIPMENT FOR FLOWER STREET CROSSING SCORRA TRACKS CITY OF GLENDALE PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT</p>								