



BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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Application of the Orange County
Transportation Authority for an order
authorizing construction of thirty-five (35)
at grade crossings in the City of Santa Ana
in Orange County, California.

Application 18-04-009

**RESPONSE OF THE RAIL SAFETY DIVISION
TO THE PETITION FOR MODIFICATION OF DECISION 18-10-037
OF THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Rule 16.4(f) of the California Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission's") Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules"), the Commission's Rail Safety Division ("RSD") files its response to the Orange County Transportation Authority's ("OCTA's") Petition for Modification ("PFM") of Decision ("D.") 18-10-037.

In this PFM of D.18-10-037, OCTA seeks to modify the following sixteen (16) of the original thirty-five (35) at-grade highway-light rail crossings (crossings) contained in A.18-04-009 as listed below:¹

¹ Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Petition for Modification of D.18-04-009 (PFM) at 1-2 (August 30, 2026).

Name of at-grade crossing	Proposed CPUC Crossing No.	Coordinates	Exhibit # (Location)
North Pacific Ave at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-2.11	33°44'52.6"N 117°53'18.4"W	D
Bristol Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-2.30	33°44'52.7"N 117°53'06.7"W	E
Shelton Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-2.54	33°44'52.7"N 117°52'51.7"W	F
Flower Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-2.80	33°44'53.0"N 117°52'35.0"W	G
Patron Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-2.91	33°44'52.7"N 117°52'28.0"W	H
Mortimer Street at 5th Street	118SA-3.60	33°44'56.0"N 117°51'49.0"W	M
Mortimer Street at 4 th Street	118SA-3.55	33°44'53.0"N 117°51'49.0"W	L
North Lacey Street at Santa Ana	118SA-3.82	33°45'03.3"N 117°51'41.0"W	O
North Ross Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-3.05	33°44'56.3"N 117°52'20.9"W	R
PED Crossing at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-3.14-D	33°44'59.1"N 117°52'15.9"W	S
North Broadway at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-3.22	33°44'59.0"N 117°52'11.1"W	T37
North Sycamore Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-3.28	33°44'59.0"N 117°52'07.1"W	T38
North Main Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-3.34	33°44'59.0"N 117°52'03.4"W	U39
North Bush Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-3.40	33°44'59.0"N 117°52'00.0"W	U40
North Spurgeon Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-3.46	33°44'58.9"N 117°51'56.1"W	V41
North French Street at Santa Ana Blvd	118SA-3.54	33°44'59.0"N 117°51'52.4"W	V42

OCTA requests to modify the operation of the interconnected traffic signals from using permissive left turn flashing arrows, as previously approved, to using fully protected left turn movements (red, yellow, green arrows). The protected left turn signal will reduce potential confusion and enable motorists to complete their turns without waiting for a gap in the opposing traffic.²

² OCTA PFM at 2-3.

The proposed changes to the traffic signals are depicted in the markups of the original D.18-10-037 (A.18-04-009) Exhibits A, B, D, E, F G, H, L, and O. The corresponding revisions to the Final Design Traffic Signal plans are depicted on Exhibits A-1, B-1, D-1, E-1, F-1, G-1, H-1, L-1 and O-1 with the areas of changes highlighted in yellow.³

The PFM also requests to modify additional elements of the design, including new bioretention areas and pavement markings to match the existing conditions with the new bike lanes, modified right turn lanes and corresponding bike & right turn signals. The proposed civil changes to the bike lanes, bioretention areas, and bike / right turn signal modifications are depicted in the markups of the original D.18-10-037 (A.18-04-009) Exhibits G, H, K, S, T37, T38, U39, U40, V41, and V42. (The letter is the original Exhibit name with the number as the Crossing Location #). The corresponding revisions to the Final Traffic Signal and Channelization plans are depicted on Exhibits G-1&2, H-1&2, K-1&2, R-1&2, S-1&2, T37-1&2, T38-1&2, U39-1&2, U40-1&2, V41-1&2, and V42-1&2 with the areas of changes highlighted in blue shapes.⁴

II. RSD’S SAFETY REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED CROSSINGS

D.18-10-037 (A.18-04-009) granted OCTA’s application, however on September 16, 2019, the City of Santa Ana requested that OCTA change the traffic signal left turns from permissive (red, yellow, flashing yellow, and green arrows) to protected (red, yellow, green arrows). On October 16, 2019, the OCTA issued a notice to proceed to the designers to submit a revision to the plans. Revision #3 was issued to the Contractor on February 27, 2020, for material ordering and installation.⁵

Additionally, in October of 2022, after the original design was completed and during the OCTA (Walsh Construction Company) construction, the City of Santa Ana proceeded with the installation of bike lanes in a Bike Lane Improvement Project along

³ OCTA PFM at 3.

⁴ OCTA PFM at 3.

⁵ OCTA PFM at 2.

the South side of Santa Ana Blvd along the OCTA route without coordinating schedules. This project included civil changes to the construction (i.e. existing conditions) with the addition of bioretention swales and modifications to lane designations, crosswalks, and traffic signals. These changes resulted in adjustments to the proposed island locations near the stations (i.e. pavement markings in lieu of raised curbs) and slight geometric adjustments at the intersections due to bioretention swale curbs.⁶

RSD conducted a site visit to the referenced crossings on November 3, 2025, and thoroughly reviewed the changes proposed in the PFM for compliance with the Commission's Rules and applicable General Orders. The proposed modifications set forth in the PFM comply with all of the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as well as all applicable requirements of the Commission General Orders 72-B and 75-D.

RSD has no objections to the proposed changes to D.18-10-037.

III. PROPOSED COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION TIME PERIOD

The PFM does not specify a requested time period to complete the crossing modifications. RSD typically authorizes for a three (3) year time period in which to complete crossing modifications under a General Order 88-B modification request. This is the typical authorization time period for modifications of existing rail crossings and therefore three (3) year authorization time period is recommended by RSD here.

IV. PROPOSED ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

Additionally, RSD recommends that – should the Commission modify D.18-10-037 to accommodate OCTA's proposals – the Commission should include the following Ordering Paragraphs:

1. The Orange County Transportation Authority is authorized to modify the sixteen (16) at-grade highway-light rail crossings in the City of Santa Ana, Orange County as seen in its Petition for Modification of Decision 18-10-037. |

⁶ OCTA PFM at 2.

2. The changes to the crossings shall have the configurations as described and specified in the Petition For Modification.
3. The Orange County Transportation Authority shall comply with all applicable rules, including California Public Utilities Commission General Orders, California Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
4. The Orange County Transportation Authority shall notify the California Public Utilities Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch of the Rail Safety Division at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the crossing. Notification should be made by e-mail to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.
5. Within thirty (30) days after completion of the work authorized by this decision, the Orange County Transportation Authority shall notify the California Public Utilities Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch of the Rail Safety Division by submitting a completed California Public Utilities Commission Standard Form G (Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossing and Separations), for the completion of the authorized work. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the California Public Utilities Commission web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Crossings>. The completed report must be submitted via email to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.
6. The Orange County Transportation Authority must ensure that Emergency Notification Systems signs are installed at the crossing to comply with Commission General Order 75-D.
7. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three (3) years of the issuance of this decision unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not satisfied. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity or safety so require.
8. A request for extension authorization must be submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch of the Rail Safety Division at least thirty (30) days before the expiration of that period. A copy of the extension request shall be sent to all interested parties.

RSD provides the recommended Ordering Paragraph language suggested above in order to ensure that OCTA modifies the crossing consistently with the submitted plans, and OCTA is required to notify RSD at the completion of the crossing modification, as well as to keep RSD informed as to any need for an extension of the authorized timeframe for completing the crossing modification. RSD's suggested language is not intended to be exhaustive of the Ordering Paragraphs that may be included in a decision approving the requested changes to D.18-10-037.

V. CONCLUSION

RSD has thoroughly reviewed the proposal to modify D.18-10-037 and has found no safety issues. RSD agrees that the crossing as modified would comply with all applicable regulatory and safety requirements and that the PFM material meets the requirements set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission should approve this PFM.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 2, 2026

ATTACHMENT A

**Rail Safety Division
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Crossings Petition For Modification
Check List**

Date: September 2, 2026

Application/ Petition For Modification: A.18-04-009/D.18-10-037; **Filed:** August 3, 2026;
Calendared: September 2, 2026

Applicant: Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)

Railroads / Transit Agencies: Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)
Crossings Location (Roadway, City, and County): See List below, City of Santa Ana,
County of Orange

Crossings Type (Grade Type, Roadway, Bike Path, or Pedestrian): At-grade street
running light rail crossings.

Crossing Numbers (CPUC):

Crossing Name	City	County	CPUC No.	Crossing Location
North Pacific Ave at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-2.11	33°44'52.6"N 117°53'18.4"W
Bristol Street at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-2.30	33°44'52.7"N 117°53'06.7"W
Shelton Street at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-2.54	33°44'52.7"N 117°52'51.7"W
Flower Street at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-2.80	33°44'53.0"N 117°52'35.0"W
Patron Street at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-2.91	33°44'52.7"N 117°52'28.0"W
Mortimer Street at 5th Street	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-3.60	33°44'56.0"N 117°51'49.0"W
Mortimer Street at 4 th Street	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-3.55	33°44'53.0"N 117°51'49.0"W
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North Ross Street at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-3.05	33°44'56.3"N 117°52'20.9"W
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North Broadway at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-3.22	33°44'59.0"N 117°52'11.1"W

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North Bush Street at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-3.40	33°44'59.0"N 117°52'00.0"W
North Spurgeon Street at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-3.46	33°44'58.9"N 117°51'56.1"W
North French Street at Santa Ana Blvd	Santa Ana	Orange	118SA-3.54	33°44'59.0"N 117°51'52.4"W

Number and Type of Tracks: One and two mainline light rail transit tracks.

Type and Location of Warning Devices: N/A

Diagnostic Review / Site Visit Date: On November 3, 2025, Rail Crossing and Engineering Branch (RCEB) participated in a field inspection with OCTA and HDR to inspect various at-grade crossings to review the proposed changes to the previously authorized design. The changes proposed included civil changes, such as modifications to lane designations, crosswalks, and traffic signals, as well as the addition of bioretention swales.