

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 WEST 4TH STREET, SUITE 500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



August 18, 2025

ENVR 20250800001

Maria Martin
Environmental Affairs Officer
City of Los Angeles
1149 S. Broadway M/S 939
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Re: Valley Boulevard Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Project [SCH 2025070933](#) — *Notice of Exemption*

Dear Maria Martin:

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) has jurisdiction over rail crossings (crossings) in California. CPUC ensures that crossings are safely designed, constructed, and maintained. The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) is in receipt of the *Notice of Exemption (NOE)* for the proposed Valley Boulevard Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Project. The City of Los Angeles (City) is the lead agency.

The City, through this project, intends to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure along a 4.5 mile corridor through the Lincoln Heights, Boyle Heights, and El Sereno communities of the City along Valley Boulevard, Mission Road, and Cesar Chavez Avenue. Valley Boulevard runs parallel with a Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) corridor within most of the project boundaries. The following at-grade highway rail crossings lie directly adjacent to Valley Boulevard along the project corridor.

Street Name	CPUC #	DOT #
Boca Avenue	001B-485.00	746852R
Vineburn Avenue	001B-484.75	746847U
San Pablo Street	001B-484.00	746843S

As part of the project scope, the city plans to install a 12-foot-wide Class IV bikeway along the north side of Valley Boulevard from Lincoln Park until Rowan Avenue, where it will transition to the south side until the I-710 off-ramp. Additionally, the outside lanes of Valley Boulevard will be restricted to bus use during peak hours (westbound will be bus only in the AM peak hours and eastbound will be bus only in the PM peak hours), and bus shelters will be installed along the route to be both replace existing ones and add new ones. The NOE also states a Quiet Zone will be established along this UPRR corridor through “the installation of automatic warning devices, such as flashing lights and crossing gates and gate arms at two at-grade crossings along the corridor” to restrict horn usage from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM.

Given that the pedestrian and bike improvements as well as the intended increase of bus traffic and usage should all be expected to increase pedestrian, and potentially vehicular, activity in the vicinity of the crossings, RCEB recommends that the City evaluates the impacts on each of the crossings and implement improvements to each of these crossings. These include, but are not limited to, traffic signal timing modifications, pedestrian warning devices and gates as well as channelization, as well as bringing up the crossings to current standards and in compliance with ADA requirements. Implementation of a quiet zone along this corridor will also require a site diagnostic to be held with both RCEB and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to discuss any improvements needed for the quiet zone.

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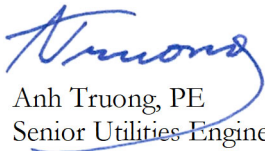
RCEB also previously met with representatives from the City on October 9, 2024 to discuss potential replacement of all 3 aforementioned crossings with grade-separated crossings. RCEB recommends that as part of this project, the City continue investigating these grade-separated projects to increase public safety by eliminating the risk of any incidents involving vehicles or pedestrians on the crossings.

Any proposed crossing improvement project, including signal timing modifications, will require authorization from the CPUC under CPUC [General Order 88-B](#) (GO 88-B) and must also conform to the goals of the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan. This includes improving safety and access to transportation, improving local air quality and public health, and expanding outreach and public participation opportunities in disadvantaged communities. For more information, please visit <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/esjactionplan>.

RCEB is available to discuss any potential safety impacts or concerns at this location and address any questions from the State or the Applicant.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Le at (213) 999-9053, or richard.le@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Anh Truong, PE
Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor)
Rail Crossings Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

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