

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

June 13, 2022

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Lindsay Hagan
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94039

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Re: SIR - Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Middlefield Park Master Plan, Mountain View, Santa Clara County.
SCH# 2021100026.

Dear Ms. Hagan:

The California Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) Rail Crossing Engineering Branch (RCEB) is taking this opportunity to address the City of Mountain View (City) Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SIR) for the Middlefield Park Master Plan. RCEB staff offers the following comments:

Commission Requirements and Policy

The Commission has jurisdiction over the safety of highway-rail crossings (crossings) in California. The Commission has exclusive power over the design, alteration, and closure of crossings, pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1201 et al. Based on Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rule 3.9, an application to the Commission is required to construct a railroad across a public road. The Diridon Station Area Plan is subject to several other rules and regulations involving the Commission. The proposed project's design criteria must comply with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and Commission General Orders (GO's). The following GO's, among others, may be applicable:

- GO 26-D (regulations governing clearances on railroads and street railroads with reference to side and overhead structures, parallel tracks, and the crossing of public roads, highways, and streets)
- GO 72-B (rules governing the construction and maintenance of crossings at grade of railroads with public streets, roads, and highways)
- GO 75-D (regulations governing standards for warning devices for at-grade highway-rail crossings)
- GO 88-B (rules for altering public highway-rail crossings)
- GO 95 (rules for overhead electric line construction)
- GO 118 (regulations governing the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of walkways adjacent to railroad trackage and the control of vegetation adjacent thereto).

Specific Project Comments

RCEB recommends that the City add language to the Addendum so that any future development adjacent to or near the light rail right-of-way (ROW) is planned with the safety of the rail corridor in mind. New developments may increase traffic volumes on streets and intersections and at at-grade crossings. This includes considering pedestrian circulation patterns or destinations with respect to railroad ROW and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mitigation measures to consider include, but are not limited to, the planning for grade separations for major thoroughfares with no at-grade rail crossings as that configuration provides the most extensive safety considerations to the public, improvements to existing at-grade crossings due to increase in traffic volumes, and continuous vandal-resistant fencing or other appropriate barriers to limit the access of trespassers onto the railroad ROW.

Field Diagnostic meetings are required at all impacted or potentially new crossings. The Field Diagnostic Team consists of staff and representatives from the City, the CPUC, VTA, or Caltrans, and other stakeholders. This review includes a detailed analysis of the crossing. During the field diagnostic review, the Field Diagnostic Team evaluates appropriate hazard elimination recommendations and determines whether the project's development is feasible.

The Commission is the responsible agency under CEQA section 15381 regarding this project. As such, we appreciate and thank you for the opportunity to work with the City to improve public safety regarding crossings in Mountain View. We request that RCEB be informed of all developments associated with the Middlefield Park Master Plan. Meetings should be arranged with the Commission's RCEB staff to discuss relevant safety issues and conduct diagnostic reviews of any proposed and impacted crossing locations within the proposed Park Master Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Eyitejumade "Ade" Sogbesan via email at es3@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


Eyitejumade "Ade" Sogbesan
Utilities Engineer
California Public Utilities Commission
Rail Safety Division
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch