



CITY OF SACRAMENTO

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September 18, 1980

City Council
Sacramento, California

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

Honorable Members in Session:

SEP 23 1980

SUBJECT: Sacramento Northern Railroad Bikeway

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

SUMMARY:

On Wednesday, September 24, 1980, a Public Utilities Commission hearing will be held in San Francisco to attempt to secure an at-grade crossing of the Western Pacific Railroad main line.

BACKGROUND:

The Sacramento Northern Railroad Bikeway route was carefully planned and approved using the most currently available standards by the City, the County and the State. Since the earliest study, it was recognized that the best crossing at the Western Pacific Railroad would be an at-grade crossing rather than a separated crossing.

Midway into the project, Western Pacific Railroad brought out the idea that possibly in the future they would be bringing longer trains into Sacramento, and that these longer trains would block the at-grade crossing, and they were concerned about the liability of the crossing. City, County, and State staff met with Western Pacific Railroad and Public Utilities Commission personnel to discuss possible alternate routes and crossing.

Staff then researched a number of possible alternate alignments and rejected most of them for various safety reasons. The final two solutions that came out of the studies were the originally proposed grade crossing and a tunnel under the Western Pacific tracks near the proposed grade crossing.

Each alternate has certain drawbacks from a safety standpoint. The Police Department has serious concerns with the tunnel due to its location and their inability to readily patrol the area. The easterly end of the tunnel would have to be patrolled by foot (see attached memos from Police Department). The grade crossing is opposed by the Western Pacific Railroad because of the possibility of them bringing longer trains into the Port of Sacramento and blocking the proposed grade crossing for up to one hour while they change crews and get clearance to go through the Southern Pacific yards to the Port. They are anticipating four to eight long trains per week.

City staff has reviewed the Western Pacific Railroad concern with the State Bikeway staff, and they concur that the grade crossing does not appear to present a hazard.

The State would prefer to see the Bikeway constructed as it was originally proposed and approved by them. City staff would prefer to see the Bikeway constructed as originally proposed. Therefore, we have filed a report with the California Public Utilities Commission to acquire the grade crossing permit necessary to complete this project in the safest manner.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council approve the staff recommendation that the bikeway crossing be at-grade, and that the Mayor, or a member of the Council, be designated to address the Public Utilities Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



R. H. PARKER
City Engineer

Recommendation Approved:


Walter J. Slipe, City Manager

September 23, 1980
District No. 1 and 2