



ORIGINAL

City of Casa Grande

Gleason *Ken*



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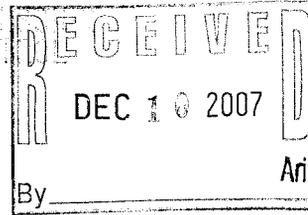
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December 6, 2007

Chairman Mike Gleason
Arizona Corporation Commission
Commissioners Wing
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

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Arizona Corporation Commission

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RR-03639A-07-0520

DEC 21 2007

RE: Sacaton Street, Casa Grande



Dear Chairman Gleason:

I am writing to you today to express my concerns related to the recent request by Union Pacific Railroad to close the Sacaton Street crossing in Casa Grande and the failure of the Arizona Corporate Commission to solicit input from the City of Casa Grande regarding the closure during its site assessment process.

Three weeks ago I was informed by a representative of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) that the ACC was considering recommending closure of the Sacaton Street crossing. City staff contacted Mr. Brian Lehman's office to confirm this recommendation. Staff was informed by Mr. Chris Watson, that the ACC staff had conducted a site assessment of the Sacaton Street crossing at the request of the UPRR and based on this assessment they were considering recommending closure of the crossing.

One of our major concerns related to this issue was that the city was not involved in the decision process or given the opportunity to provide input into the assessment. Had we been given an opportunity to provide input, we would have been able to inform the assessors that the city had just spent over \$3.3 million dollars for improvements to Sacaton Street and Main Street as part of the city's Downtown Streets Reconstruction Project. There are two other phases of downtown infrastructure improvement planned which will cost the city \$4 million dollars.

Closing the Sacaton Street crossing will result in several million dollars of tax payer money being wasted. Additional considerations that would have been included in our input are the impact a closure would be to public safety. It will impede the ability of public safety personnel to respond to calls from residents living south of the tracks. There are only three crossings connecting the downtown area and the residents south of the railroad tracks. The two most easterly crossings experience not only regular closings due to trains travelling through the city, but they are also closed when the railroad is serving the companies that have spur service. During this service time the only crossing available is the Sacaton Street Crossing. If this crossing is closed, emergency vehicles will have to utilize other routes much farther down the track to access that area of the city which will add several minutes to response times. We firmly believe this will be putting our citizens in jeopardy.

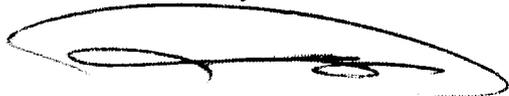
ACC Board re: Sacaton Street

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To his credit, when Mr. Lehman was informed of our concerns he agreed to meet with us on December 12 to discuss this issue. Once this meeting is held I will provide you with a follow up letter to share the results of our discussions.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. It is our hope that the end result of this situation and related discussion will lead to a closer working relationship with the Arizona Corporate Commission as we have had in the past during the power line discussions.

Sincerely,



Jim Thompson
City Manager

JVT:cr

Cc: Mayor and Council
Brett Wallace
Rick Miller
Kevin Louis