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RECEIVED ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Staff Memorandum

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL
To: THE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. RR-02634A-08-0012

From: Safety Division

Date: February 22, 2008

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING CROSSING OF THE ARIZONA EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY AT MESQUITE STREET IN THE CITY OF GLOBE, GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AT AAR/DOT NO. 742-353-L.

On January 8, 2008, the Arizona Department of Transportation ("ADOT") filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application for approval for the Arizona Eastern Railway Company ("Railroad") to upgrade the existing crossing at the Railroad's tracks at Mesquite Street, in Globe, Arizona, at AAR/DOT No. 742-353-L.

This project is a Federally Funded 130 project, and appeared on the 1998 Arizona Corporation Commission Annual Array, which was approved by the Commission on March 23, 1998 in Decision No. 60723. The purpose of this program is to comply with Federal and State legislation seeking to eliminate hazards to pedestrians and highway vehicles at public railway-highway crossings. Only crossings which are located on public roads, and which are not primarily for the benefit of the railroad, are eligible for this program. The Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") issues authorizations for design and construction of each project, reimburses ADOT for the cost and conducts a final inspection of each project. The Railroad will invoice ADOT for 100% of the cost of the project.

Arizona Revised Statute § 40-337.03 states that "the commission shall submit to the railroad involved and the city, county and department of transportation in which jurisdiction a public railroad grade crossing is located, an array of such crossings where the installation of automatic warning signals or devices should be considered during the year, or within a reasonable time thereafter depending upon the availability of monies, materials, labor and other factors involved in such installation".

Arizona Corporation Commission

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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Executive Director

DAVID RABER
Director, Safety Division

Currently there are passive devices (crossbucks) along with stop signs installed at Mesquite Street. The proposed project entails installing 12' LED flashing lights, bells and automatic gates, as well as a new concrete surface. These new devices will conform to ACC and MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) standards. The estimated cost of the project is \$242,936.00. The Railroad will maintain the warning devices after the upgrade is completed.

Mesquite Street is a one way, north-south street, and the posted speed limit is 25 mph. This crossing is located in historic downtown Globe, and surrounded by historic antique shops. Traffic count data received from ADOT, from 1980 show the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) for this location to be 92 vehicles per day (vpd). Due to the low amount of traffic volume, no Level of Service (LOS) could be calculated at this location. There are crossings on either side of Mesquite street, at Cedar and Hackney Streets; both are approximately a half mile away.

Train data provided by the Railroad states that there are 2 train movements through this crossing per day. The train speed at this location is 10 mph. No passenger trains run on this line.

According to Railroad Safety Section accident/ incident records and the Federal Railroad Administration, there have been no accidents at the Mesquite Street crossing. Staff is in full support of the proposed warning device upgrades to this crossing.

Having reviewed all applicable data, Staff supports the current proposed upgrades to the crossing at Mesquite Street as presented by ADOT's application. Staff believes that the upgrades are in the public interest and are reasonable. Therefore, Staff recommends approval of ADOT's application.


Dave Raber
Director
Safety Division


Brian H. Lehman
Railroad Supervisor
Safety Division

DR: BHL: cbw

Originator: Chris B. Watson

