

NEW APPLICATION  
ORIGINAL



**City of Phoenix**  
STREET TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT DIVISION



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July 22, 2009

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7/2 CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

JUL 27 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Brian Lehman  
Railroad Safety Supervisor  
Railroad Safety Section  
2200 N. Central Ave., Suite # 300  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

DOCKETED BY  
nr

**Re: Approval for Permanent Closure of East-Side 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Railroad Pedestrian Crossing.**

Dear Mr. Lehman,

RR-03639A-09-0373

The City of Phoenix conducted a diagnostic review of the railroad crossings in our downtown area on June 10, 2009. During the review, the pedestrian crossings at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue were identified as redundant, as there are two crossings, one on each side of the 1st Avenue underpass, less than 100 feet apart. Additionally, they are a liability and maintenance issue for all parties concerned.

Due to pedestrian crossing redundancy, liability and maintenance issues, the City is seeking Commission approval to permanently close and remove the east pedestrian crossing at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and the Union Pacific tracks. The east pedestrian crossing was identified for removal as there are no existing businesses on either side of the railroad tracks. Therefore, the City feels the closure of the east pedestrian crossing would not affect any adjacent business access or operations.

Concurrent to the east pedestrian crossing removal, the City will be installing new safety improvements to the west pedestrian crossing to the north and south of the tracks. The new safety improvements include fencing along the railroad right of way to channel pedestrians to the west sidewalk crossing, zigzag gates to force pedestrians to look both ways to before crossing the tracks and installation of "LOOK" signs with arrows pointing in both directions as you approach the crossing.

The Union Pacific Railroad which owns and operates the rail line in our downtown and the Federal Railroad Administration both support the permanent closure of the east pedestrian crossing and the safety improvements to the west pedestrian crossing. The City would like the same support and approval from the Arizona Corporation Commission to permanently close the east pedestrian crossing and make permanent safety improvements to the west pedestrian crossing at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

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Please let me know if you need additional information regarding the proposed closure and safety improvements to the pedestrian crossings at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in order to obtain Commission approval to proceed.

Sincerely,



Syd Anderson, P.E.  
Engineering Supervisor  
City of Phoenix  
Street Transportation Department

c: Aziz Aman, Union Pacific Railroad  
Rob Cox, City of Phoenix Community and Economic Development Department  
Dan Klocke, Downtown Phoenix Partnership  
Charlie Hagood, Federal Railroad Administration  
Mark Glock, City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department  
Belinda Cummings, City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department