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ORIGINAL

To: Arizona Corporation Commission
Office of Railroad Safety
Attn: Mr. Chris Watson
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RECEIVED

Date: August 11, 2009
Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

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Subject: Arizona Corporation Commission Application for BNSF and Dysart and Thunderbird Roads

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Project: Dysart Road and Thunderbird Intersection Improvements

Project: City of El Mirage Contract PW07TS02
Number: Wood/Patel Project No. 083163

From: Carnell Thurman, P.E. (CT)

RR-02635B-09-0389

Dear Mr. Watson:

This memo is being submitted to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) as an application to request an upgrade to an existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) crossing, on behalf of the City of El Mirage.

i. Location of Crossing

The Dysart & Thunderbird Intersection project includes improvements of Dysart Road (DOT #025-703Y) and Thunderbird Road (DOT #025-704F) to a 9-lane section with raised medians. The BNSF crosses the intersection west and north of existing intersection.

ii. Why the crossing is needed

The at-grade railroad crossing at Dysart Road and Thunderbird Road is existing. This is a roadway improvement project to widen the existing roadway at the railroad intersection.

iii. Why the Existing Crossing Cannot be Grade Separated

With the proposed improvements to Dysart Road and Thunderbird intersection, the location of the at-grade crossing remains unchanged. A grade separation would have the following undesired consequences: 1) there are several utilities in this intersection that cannot support 30 feet of additional embankment needed for a grade-separated crossing. 2) Existing businesses would lose driveway access from fill. 3) There is insufficient right-of-way to accommodate 30 feet high embankment slopes along both Dysart road and Thunderbird Road.

iv. Type of Warning Devices to be Installed

The warning devices for all approaches included in the design are as follows: gates with flashing lights will be installed in medians and outside the roadway near sidewalk or curb; cantilever flashing railroad signals will be installed outside the roadway near the sidewalk; railroad crossing warning signs will be placed per MUTCD, Part 8 standards; and wayside horns.

v. Who will Maintain the Crossing Warning Devices

BNSF will own and maintain crossing warning devices and crossing surface. The City of El Mirage will own and maintain the approaching surface, signing and movement markings of Thunderbird Road and Dysart Road.

vi. Who is Funding the Project

City of El Mirage and City of Surprise are funding this project.



NORTH
N.T.S.

CITY OF SURPRISE

CITY OF EL MIRAGE

THUNDERBIRD RD

BNSF

DYSART RD

CITY OF SURPRISE

CITY OF EL MIRAGE

STOP
HERE ON
RED
←

DO NOT
STOP
ON
TRACKS

STOP
HERE ON
RED
←

STOP
HERE ON
RED
←

STOP
HERE ON
RED
→

STOP
HERE ON
RED
↓

1 2

1 2

1 2

LEGEND

1

RAILROAD ARM

2

OVERHEAD WARNING DEVICE

CITY OF EL MIRAGE
THUNDERBIRD ROAD & DYSART ROAD
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

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ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS
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