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Steve Boschen, Division Director

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

RR-03639A-17-0065

RE: APPLICATION TO INSTALL A NEW GRADE SEPARATED CROSSING AND REMOVE AN EXISTING PUBLIC AT-GRADE CROSSINGProject: SR 202 L SOUTH MOUNTAIN FREEWAYS
Location: Interstate SOUTH 59TH AVENUE, MP 899.70
Federal Project # NH-202-D (200) S
ADOT Tracs # 202L MA 054 H8827 01 C
Remove crossing AAR/DOT # **741811U**
New DOT #**441073C**
Install new overpass crossing

Arizona Corporation Commission

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Mr. Watson,

This application is being submitted to allow the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to construct and maintain a new grade separated structure and to allow the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to remove an existing at-grade public crossing in the City of Phoenix, AZ.

1. Project Location and Description

The new 59th Avenue traffic overpass will be located in approximately the same location as the existing 59th Avenue at-grade crossing, **AAR/DOT #741811U**. This overpass is part of the State Route 202 South Mountain project for the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The entire project is located in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Loop 202 (South Mountain Freeway) will add 22 miles of freeway to the existing Phoenix metropolitan transportation system. The freeway will connect the east and west valley while providing much needed relief to existing freeway corridors and local streets.

The South Section of the State Route (SR) 202 Freeway, also known as the South Mountain Freeway, is a critical part of the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Freeway Program that will run east and west along Pecos Road turning north between 55th and 63rd Avenues, and connecting with Interstate 10 on each end. Upon completion of this 59th Ave section, SR 202 and SR 101 will provide a high-quality regional mobility transportation system designed to alleviate traffic congestion along the I-10 corridor.

SR 202 Freeway will be elevated over UPRR right of way. This configuration will allow for the removal of the existing at-grade crossing South 59th Ave while maintaining SR 202 traffic.

Additional improvements that will be completed as part of this project within Union Pacific Railroad include pier construction for the overpass bridges, drainage at 59th Ave (storm drain) improvements, and utility relocations.

The existing at-grade crossing was under the jurisdiction of the City of Phoenix, but recently was being transferred to ADOT.

The Grade separation segment of the project is anticipated to begin construction in the fall/winter of 2017; but we are doing some pre bridge activity in the area before building the bridge. Construction is anticipated to take 24 months.

The project website is: [**http://azdot.gov/projects/phoenix-metro-area/loop-202-\(south-mountain-freeway\)**](http://azdot.gov/projects/phoenix-metro-area/loop-202-(south-mountain-freeway))

Why the crossing is needed

The Design Concept Report entitled "Prelim 59th Ave Bridge Selection Report" was completed for the Arizona Department of Transportation by HDR in January 2011. The report identified 2 new grade-separated crossings for SR 202 mainline and associated frontage roads for the need to "eliminate 59th Ave vehicle conflicts with the Union Pacific Railroad's east-west main line tracks."

The Design Concept Report is attached to the end of this application

2. Construction Phasing

Construction is expected to start by the winter of 2017. South 59th Ave will remain open to the general traffic for the majority of the construction while the new western half of the SR 202 overpass is built. Once the new western portion of the SR 202 mainline overpass is completed the South 59th Ave traffic will be routed onto the new structure allowing the eastern portion of SR 202 to be built. During the project construction traffic may continue to use the at-grade crossing until traffic is routed onto the western portion of the new structure and then the at-grade crossing can be removed. Our contractor will coordinate with the Union Pacific Railroad and receive approval from the Union Pacific Railroad to use the crossing during construction.

3. Maintenance of the grade separated overpass

ADOT will be responsible for constructing and maintaining the South 59th Ave overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. Union Pacific Railroad will be responsible for removing the at-grade crossing and maintaining their infrastructure.

4. Project Funding

The project is funded by a combination of regional area road revenues, highway user revenue fund revenues, and Federal funds dedicated to the Maricopa County region and ADOT.

The Union Pacific Railroad contribution to the project has been estimated at **\$1,318,783.60** the costs for the relocation of railroad signal lines and the removal of the 59th Ave at-grade railroad crossing will be the responsibility of Union Pacific Railroad.

5. Other information (based on typical Staff Data Requests):

CW1-1 2014 ADT S. 59th Ave at the crossing is 2430vpd in the southbound direction and 2412vpd in the northbound. This data can be found at the website listed below.

https://www.phoenix.gov/streetssite/Documents/Traffic_Volumes.pdf

- CW1-2 Speed Limit: South 59th Ave has a posted speed limit of 45 mph.
- CW1-3 Other bus use: Unknown.
- CW1-4 Abandoned Railroad Spurs: Unknown if railroad spurs have been removed within a 10 mile radius.
- CW1-5 Summary of FHWA grade separation guidelines: Does not apply. This crossing will be grade separated.
- CW1-6 Expected traffic delay due to train traffic: Does not apply. This crossing will be grade separated.
- CW1-7 There are not any Intersection LOS reports available
- CW1-8 There are no Past Traffic Studies available
- CW1-9 Population: 2016 population of Phoenix was reported to be 1,563,025 persons in the city proper
- CW1-10 Existing Railroad Safety Devices: at 59th Ave at-grade crossing is currently protected by cantilevered flashing lights and gates for both directions of travel on 59th Ave Road.
- CW1-11 Adjacent Public Crossings: The nearest public crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad are as follows: (1) South 51st Ave (DOT #741022V); 1.05 miles to the east of South 59th Ave and it's at-grade; (2) South 67th Ave (DOT #741809T), 0.98 miles to the west of South 59th Ave and it's at-grade separated.
- CW1-12 Grade Separation Study: Design Concept Report entitled Prelim59th Avery bridge selection report for the SR 202L NB Frontage Road and Prelim59th Avery bridge selection report for the SR 202L UPRR OP (dated January 2011) identified grade-separation of SR 202 and Union Pacific Railroad.
- CW1-13 Grade Separation Cost: Cost of Entire project provided above.
- CW1-14 Surrounding Zoning: Surrounding area is zoned for Industrial (source: Maricopa County)
- CW1-15 Existing Train Movements: Per FRA website based on 1994 information, 2 freight per day. UPRR expects 84 trains per day by 2016. All train movements are thru movements.
- CW1-16 Nearest Schools: (1) Sun ridge Elementary School: 1.5 miles north of crossing; (2) Western Valley Middle School: 2.6 miles southwest of crossing; (3) Western Valley Elementary: 2.6 miles southwest of crossing; (4) Carl Hayden High School: 4.1 miles northeast of crossing.
- CW1-17 Nearest Hospitals: (1) Abrazo Maryville Campus Hospital: 5.0 miles from this crossing (2) Dignity Health Hospital: 5.6 miles from this crossing; (3) Banner Estrella Medical Center: 7.5 miles from this crossing.
- CW1-18 Railroad Costs: To be determined

CW1-19 Hazardous Materials traffic: It is not known how much hazardous materials traffic uses the existing crossing each day.

Sincerely,

Sayed M. Hani

Sayed M. Hani
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