DATE

Policy

Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

301B



SUBMITTAL DATE: July 3, 2013

FROM: TLMA - Transportation Department

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2013-079 - Notice of intent for the closure of Gernert Road/Poarch Road at the at-grade crossing of the Perris Valley Rail Line adjacent to Watkins Drive, in the Box Springs Mountain Area.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution No. 2013-079, Notice of intent for the closure of Gernert Road/Poarch Road at the at-grade crossing of the Perris Valley Rail Line adjacent to Watkins Drive, in the Box Springs Mountain Area. Fifth Supervisorial District/ First Supervisorial District,

BACKGROUND: The Perris Valley Line Project (PVL) is a 24 mile extension of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority 91 Line, currently providing service from Riverside to downtown Los Angeles and Orange County. PVL would bring commuter rail service from downtown Riverside to the City of Perris, thus linking several communities to major employment centers and to the Sothern California commuter rail network. The County of Riverside (County) as a member of RCTC frequently works in concert and cooperatively with the omission to further the overall goals of RCTC and the County to improve and provide services and facilities to the public.

(Continued on page 2)

Juan C. Perez

Director of Transportation and Land Management

WJH Attachments: Resolution No.2013-079 Exhibit "A"

District:5/1

Agenda Number:

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Closure of Gernert Road/Poarch Road at the grade crossing of the Perris Valley Rail Line adjacent to Watkins Drive, in the Box Springs Mountain Area.

March 18, 2013
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BACKGROUND: (continued from page 1)

RCTC certified the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Perris Valley Rail Line on July 25, 2011. The National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) was approved and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued on May 24, 2012

RCTC has sought assistance from the County by requesting the closure of the Gernert Road/Poarch Road at-grade crossing (Crossing) for the PVL due to the safety deficiencies and concerns noted by RCTC while completing its environmental review. Due to the importance of ensuring the health, welfare and safety to the public, the County agrees with the need to close the Crossing. The Crossing is located adjacent to Watkins Drive, directly opposite the northbound I-215 on ramp in unincorporated Riverside County. The Crossing provides an alternate access to a small, rural residential area of about 10 homes on the hillside northeast of the Perris Valley Line. The residents may choose to use the Crossing to gain direct access to Watkins Drive and Moreno Valley Highway SR90/I-215 freeway. The secondary access route is via Gernert Road to Morton Road to Box Springs Road. Box Springs Road is a full access interchange on the Moreno Valley Highway, approximately 2 miles from the Poarch Road crossing.

Through the environmental analysis, the Crossing was found to have the following key deficiencies that would need to be addressed in order to be open to non-emergency vehicular traffic: The Crossing does not have CPUC crossing warning devices, the intersection of Watkins Drive and Poarch Road is not signalized, the Crossing is not wide enough to permit large vehicles to make the turn movements without crossing into opposing traffic lanes, Poarch Road as it crosses the railroad does not meet vertical clearance corner sight distance at Watkins looking towards the crossing is obstructed, Gernert Road/Poarch Road is not paved at the crossing, and the stopping sight distance on Watkins Road north of the crossing is deficient. Any improvements that would need to be made to the Crossing are governed by several federal and state safety standard applicable to each part of the design of the Perris Valley Rail Line.

Design alternatives to make the Crossing meet the safety standards were developed and studied. Two alternatives were found to be possible feasible solutions. The first alternative could address the noted deficiencies; however, it proposed substantial reconstruction of the Crossing's surrounding streets in order to reach a minimal grade crossing. This alternative was identified as impractical due to the costs and topographical issues related to the grading and reconstruction. The second alternative proposed the installation of crossing warning devices, closing the Crossing, and securing the Crossing with fencing and locked gates, accessible only to emergency vehicles. Alternative two was presented and concurrence was received by both Riverside County staff and Riverside County Fire Department as a feasible solution. This alternative was included in the certified Environmental Impact Report and Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the PVL as the most feasible solution.

SEE PLAT ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A" AND MADE A PART HEREOF

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing on this Resolution will be held on May 14, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. in the meeting room of the Board of Supervisors, County Administrative Center, Riverside, California, at which time and

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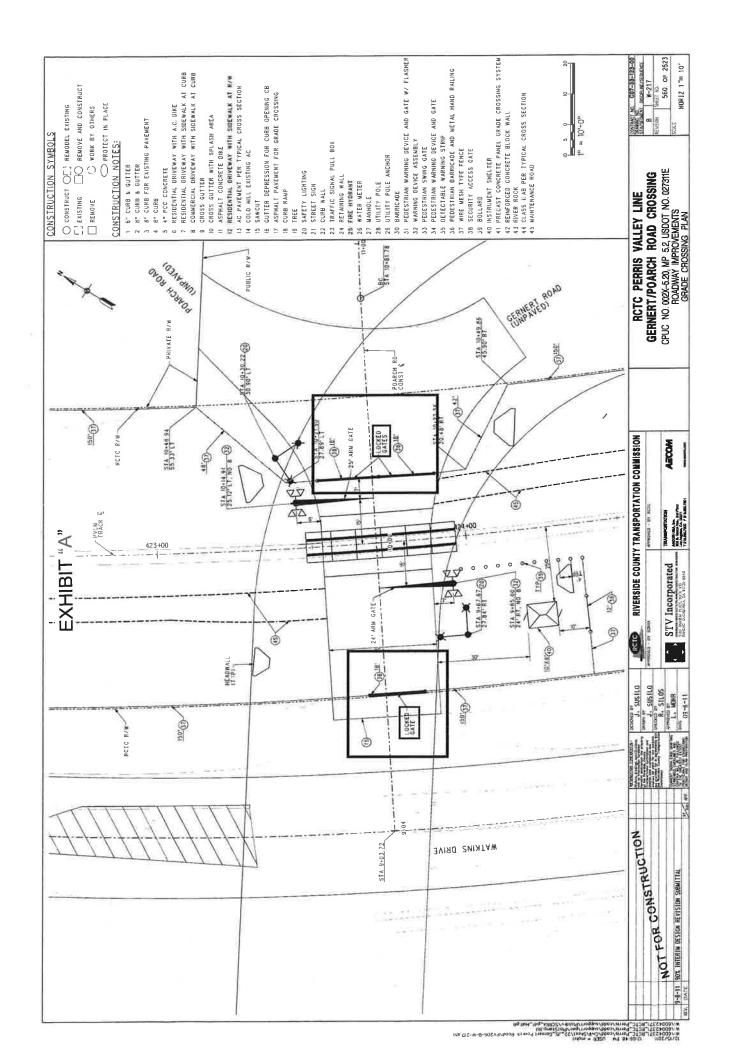
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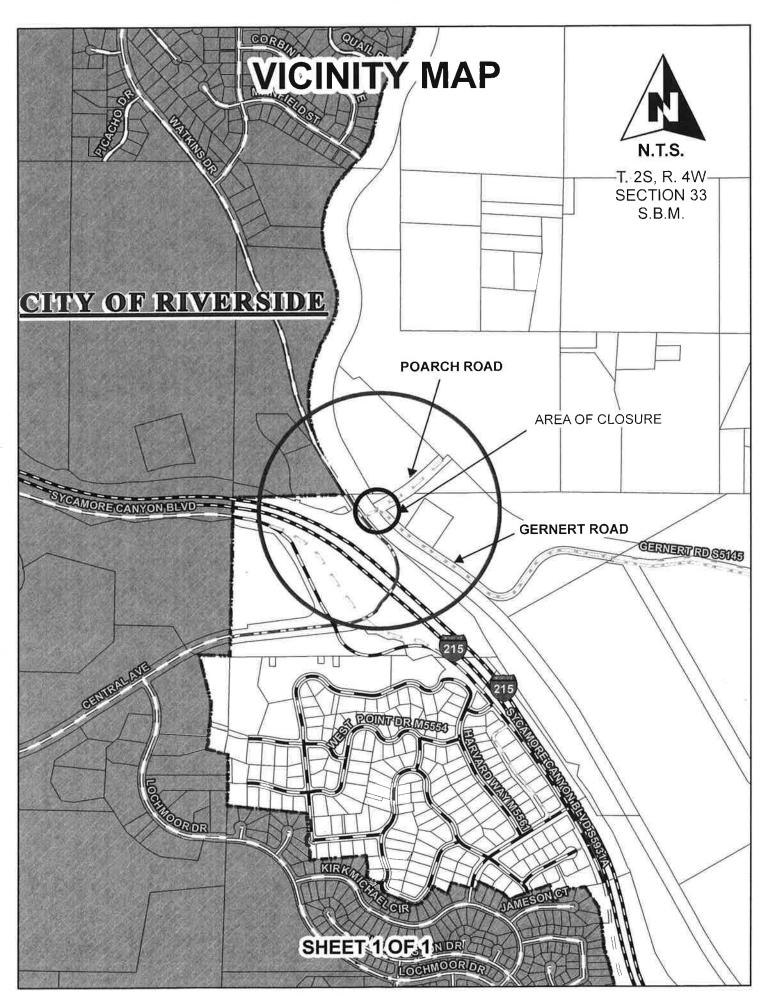
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1	RESOLUTION NO. 2013-079
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3	place the Board will hear and consider the proposal to close Gernert Road/Poarch
4	Road at the at-grade crossing of the Perris Valley Rail Line adjacent to Watkins Drive,
5	and any objections thereto.
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7	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Clerk
8	of the Board is directed to cause this Resolution to be published pursuant to Section
9	8322(a) and the Transportation Director shall cause notice of hearing to be posted
10	pursuant to Section 8323 of the Streets and Highways Code.
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