

October 23, 2008

Statement of
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California Public Utilities Commission

Good evening Commissioners, I am Daren Gilbert, Supervisor of the Rail Crossings Engineering Section of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The CPUC has jurisdiction over all rail crossings in California, including the presence of, location, and treatment of such crossings.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the Planning Commission this evening and want to state that I appear before you this evening not to support the Station 65 Project, nor to oppose it. Relative to the Station 65 project, we have identified some issues and concerns pertaining to traffic and circulation near the project impacting the highway-rail crossing at 65th Street. I am pleased to report that we have met with City Staff and the project proponent earlier today, and that City Staff and the Developer have taken a cooperative approach on our concerns and that we believe the concerns can be addressed. Additional, more global issues can be dealt with as the city prepares its 65th Street Station Area Study, currently under way.

I primarily come before you as you consider this development, the first real "Transit Oriented Development" in the City, to encourage this body to keep safety paramount as you consider approval of Transit Oriented Developments. The Commission's Consumer Protection and Safety Division and my Staff review environmental documents and development around rail corridors and crossings with a keen eye towards maintaining and if possible, improving public safety. As we invite citizens to such developments and encourage them to leave their cars, we must insure that public safety around the rail corridors and at the crossings is built in to the projects.

This may require fencing near projects to keep the public from crossing at unauthorized locations, addition or modifications to traffic signals at nearby intersections, pedestrian treatments at the crossings, addition of medians at crossings, supplemental warning devices or other enhancements.

We trust that we can work cooperatively with the City Staff and project proponents to assure such safety elements are incorporated into the infrastructure as TOD and other projects near Sacramento's rail corridors are considered. We encourage the Commission to assure safety around the rails as it considers and approves such projects.

Thank you.