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DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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ADMINISTRATION
916-449-8747

April 18, 1991

Law and Legislation Committee
Sacramento, California

HONORABLE MEMBERS IN SESSION:

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT AB 1109 (CAMPBELL) RELATING TO RAILROAD
GRADE CROSSINGS

SUMMARY:

Assembly Bill 1109 by Robert Campbell (D-Richmond) would allow cities and counties to restrict the operation of freight and passenger trains over at-grade crossings during peak commute hours. It is recommended that the Law and Legislation Committee declare the City's support for AB 1109.

BACKGROUND:

Local government agencies must continually balance the need for adequate traffic circulation with other considerations such as encouraging alternative commute modes, protecting the environment, and improving air quality. AB 1109 will enhance the ability of cities and counties to meet this challenge by allowing them to regulate train traffic, where appropriate, within their jurisdictions.

The City of Sacramento has several major arterial streets which are directly affected by train crossings during peak commute hours. Long lines of idling vehicles are forced to queue up waiting for the train to pass. Because many of these at-grade crossings are close to signalized intersections, significant time is required to disperse the traffic.

In addition to traffic circulation impacts, there are health and safety issues involved. Idling vehicles create greater emissions than those which are traveling. Eliminating the train crossings during peak hours would help to reduce the adverse impact on air quality. There are also emergency response problems when crossings are blocked for extended periods of time.

FINANCIAL:

Support of AB 1109 will not have any significant financial impact on the City.

April 18, 1991
Law and Legislation Committee

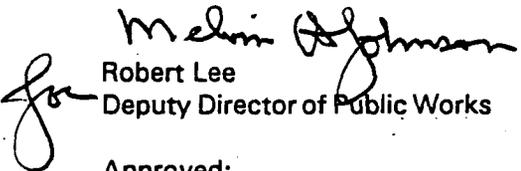
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The City of Sacramento's Legislative Policy Guidelines state that the City will support legislation which expands the authority and responsibility of cities for the management and control of environmental quality efforts. (7.3[c])

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Law and Legislation Committee declare the City's support for AB 1109 (Campbell).

Respectfully submitted,


for Robert Lee
Deputy Director of Public Works

Approved:


Melvin H. Johnson
Director of Public Works

Recommendation Approved:



Jack Crist
Deputy City Manager

Contact Person:
Roberta Larson, Administrative Services Officer
449-6281

April 18, 1991
All Districts

City of Sacramento
State Legislature

PUBLIC WORKS

B I L L R E F E R R A L

MAR 14 1991

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE: MAR 12 1991 COMMITTEE ACTION: _____

TO: Mel Johnson, P. Works DATE: _____

FROM: KENNETH EMANUELS, LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

REPLY NO LATER THAN: MAR 26 1991

A.B. 1109, As Amended - * Author Campbell

S.B. _____, As Amended _____ * Author _____

*Date of introduction or latest amendment

Please review the attached measure to determine its effect upon the City of Sacramento and complete the following questions as appropriate. During your analysis of this measure, if questions arise, please feel free to contact Ken Emanuels at 444-6789, FAX 444-0303, (1400 K Street, Suite 306, Sacramento, CA 95814.) This questionnaire should be returned to the City Attorney's Office for presentation to the Council Committee on Law and Legislation. PLEASE LEAVE THE BILL ATTACHED TO THIS FORM.

NO RECOMMENDATION. If you think no Committee action on this bill should be taken, either because the bill is not of sufficient importance to the City or for any other reason, please mark here, do not fill out the rest of the form, and return this form to the City Attorney's Office. _____.

PLEASE TYPE YOUR RESPONSE

- Briefly describe the provisions of the bill (attach additional sheets if necessary).
This bill would authorize City Councils or county boards of supervisors to restrict the operation of freight or passenger trains over a grade crossing during peak commute hours if the crossing is heavily used by vehicles or pedestrians.
- This measure should be: (Please circle desired position)

<u>Supported</u>	Opposed	Supported if Amended
Placed on Watch List	Other (explain)	
- Please explain your reasons for the above determination, including how this measure effects your Department and the fiscal impact of this measure on the City. Please make your comments in a format that can be used in a letter to state officials. (Continue on next page or attach additional sheets if necessary.)

See attached.

(Continue answer to Question No. 3 here)

4. Specify the City's legislative policy guideline(s) applicable to this measure (if any).

Support legislation which expands the authority and responsibility of cities for the management and control of environmental quality efforts. (7.3[c])

5. If this measure could be amended to either improve its favorable aspects or to minimize its adverse aspects, which amendments would you propose?

The only amendment that may be favorable is to define specific hours that the trains may operate thereby eliminating a possible argument from the railroads that the bill will present unreasonable operational hardship.

6. List known support or opposition to this measure by groups with which you are familiar and include addresses and phone numbers, if known. League of California Cities position:

At the time this report was prepared, the author's office had received no letters of support or opposition.

7. Does this bill involve a State-mandated local program? If so, does the bill contain a State-mandated waiver, or an appropriation for allocation and disbursement to local agencies pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 2231?

No.

8. Using a rating scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 as the most important), how important ¹⁰ do you think this bill is to the City of Sacramento? _____

FORM COMPLETED BY: John Van Hoff/Roberta Larson

DATE: 3/28/91

(Continue answer to Question No. 3 here)

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Support legislation which expands the authority and responsibility of cities for the management and control of environmental quality efforts. (7.3[c])

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7. Does this bill involve a State-mandated local program? If so, does the bill contain a State-mandated waiver, or an appropriation for allocation and disbursement to local agencies pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 2231?

No.

8. Using a rating scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 as the most important), how important do you think this bill is to the City of Sacramento? 10

FORM COMPLETED BY: John Van Hoff/Roberta Larson

DATE: 3/28/91

3. Please explain your reasons for the above determination, including how this measure affects your Department and the fiscal impact of this measure on the City. Please make your comments in a format that can be used in a letter to state officials.

The City of Sacramento, Department of Public Works, is continuously attempting to maintain a balance among environmental protection, public transportation, multi-modal operations, and neighborhood interests. Assembly Bill 1109 will enhance our ability to improve conditions within the City in keeping with this goal.

The City of Sacramento has several major arterial streets, which are directly affected by train operations during peak commuting hours. Vehicle queues on the major arterial streets become excessively long when preempted by train operations. A large majority of these at-grade crossings are in close proximity to signalized intersections. Because of this close proximity, a greater length of time is required to disperse the queue created by the train blocking the intersection.

Idling vehicles create greater amounts of emissions than those that are traveling. Therefore, passage of this bill will not only improve traffic operations along major arterial streets, but it will have a beneficial impact on air quality.

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1109

Introduced by Assembly Member Campbell

March 5, 1991

An act to add Section 7651 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to railroads.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1109, as introduced, Campbell. Local jurisdictions: grade crossings.

Existing law does not authorize local jurisdictions to restrict rail traffic over heavily used grade crossings.

This bill would authorize city councils or county boards of supervisors, as the case may be, to restrict the operation of freight or passenger trains over a grade crossing during specified hours of the day designated as peak commuter hours upon finding that the grade crossing is heavily used by vehicles or pedestrians.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 7651 is added to the Public
- 2 Utilities Code, to read:
- 3 7651. A city council, if a grade crossing is located
- 4 within city boundaries, or a county board of supervisors,
- 5 if a grade crossing is located within the unincorporated
- 6 area of a county, may, by ordinance, restrict the
- 7 operation of freight or passenger trains over the grade
- 8 crossing during specified hours of the day designated as
- 9 peak commute hours. This section may only be utilized
- 10 if the jurisdiction makes a finding that the grade crossing

AB 1109

— 2 —

1 is heavily used by vehicles or pedestrians.