

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013



January 20, 2021

Nicole R. Nason, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Extension of Comment Period for Docket No. FHWA-2020-0001

Dear Ms. Nason:

The State of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) respectfully requests an extension of the comment period from 90 days to 180 days for the Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) regarding the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, identified as Docket No. FHWA-2020-0001.

The CPUC exercises exclusive jurisdiction over all rail crossings of both railroad and light rail transit within California pursuant to the state's Public Utilities Code. All rail crossing construction or modification within California requires CPUC approval. As such, the CPUC plans to review the NPA and comment regarding potential changes that could impact the safety of rail crossings.

The 2008 NPA provided 180 days for public comment. This NPA, issued on December 14, 2020, only provides 90 days. Given the extensive number and complexity of modifications in this NPA, the CPUC anticipates the need for at least 180 days to perform its review, provide constructive comments, and obtain necessary CPUC Commissioner approvals. The extended comment period would also allow the CPUC to coordinate with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the lead transportation agency in the state, to provide comments to improve rail crossing safety.

Please extend the comment period from 90 days to 180 days for this NPA. This request for 180 days appears reasonable and consistent with past practice.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Schumacher at (415) 310-9807, or by email (kevin.schumacher@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ Lisa-Marie Clark

LISA-MARIE CLARK
Attorney for the
California Public Utilities Commission