



Changing to serve you better.

A Review of Rail Waivers



What is a rail waiver, and why do you need it?



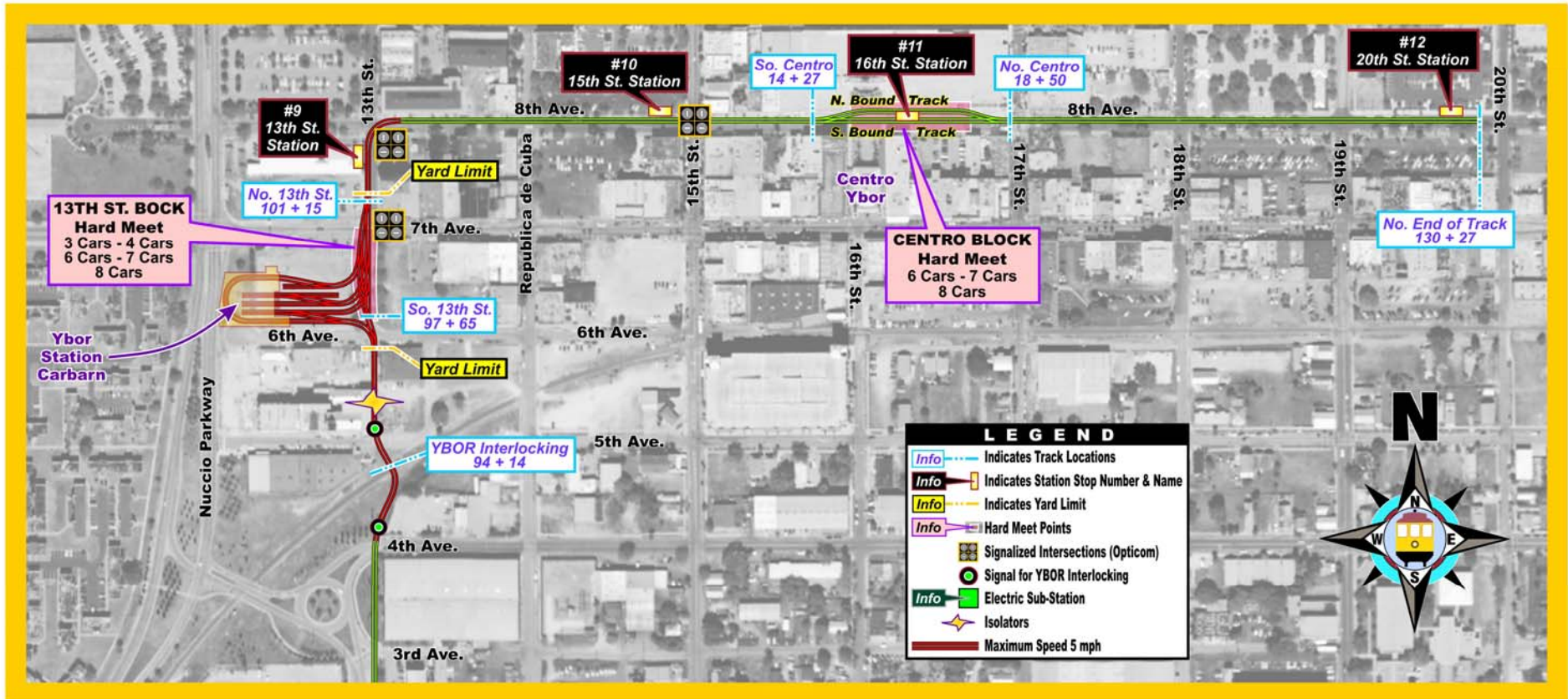
What is a rail waiver, and why do you need it?

A Rail Waiver is the documentation and process that allows for the safe interaction of standard and non standard rail vehicles on the same infrastructure.

Railroads i.e. heavy rail operations are governed by the Code of Federal Regulations or CFR's. Relevant parts are under section 49: Transportation. These set the standards to which railroads operate.

Light rail (streetcar as a variant) does not comply with many railroad standards. To maintain safe operation the FRA (in some cases the local state regulator also) requires that light rail operations achieve equivalent safety levels– using other methods.

Tampa Rail to Rail Crossing





24
18
12
6
0

When should you start planning a rail waiver?

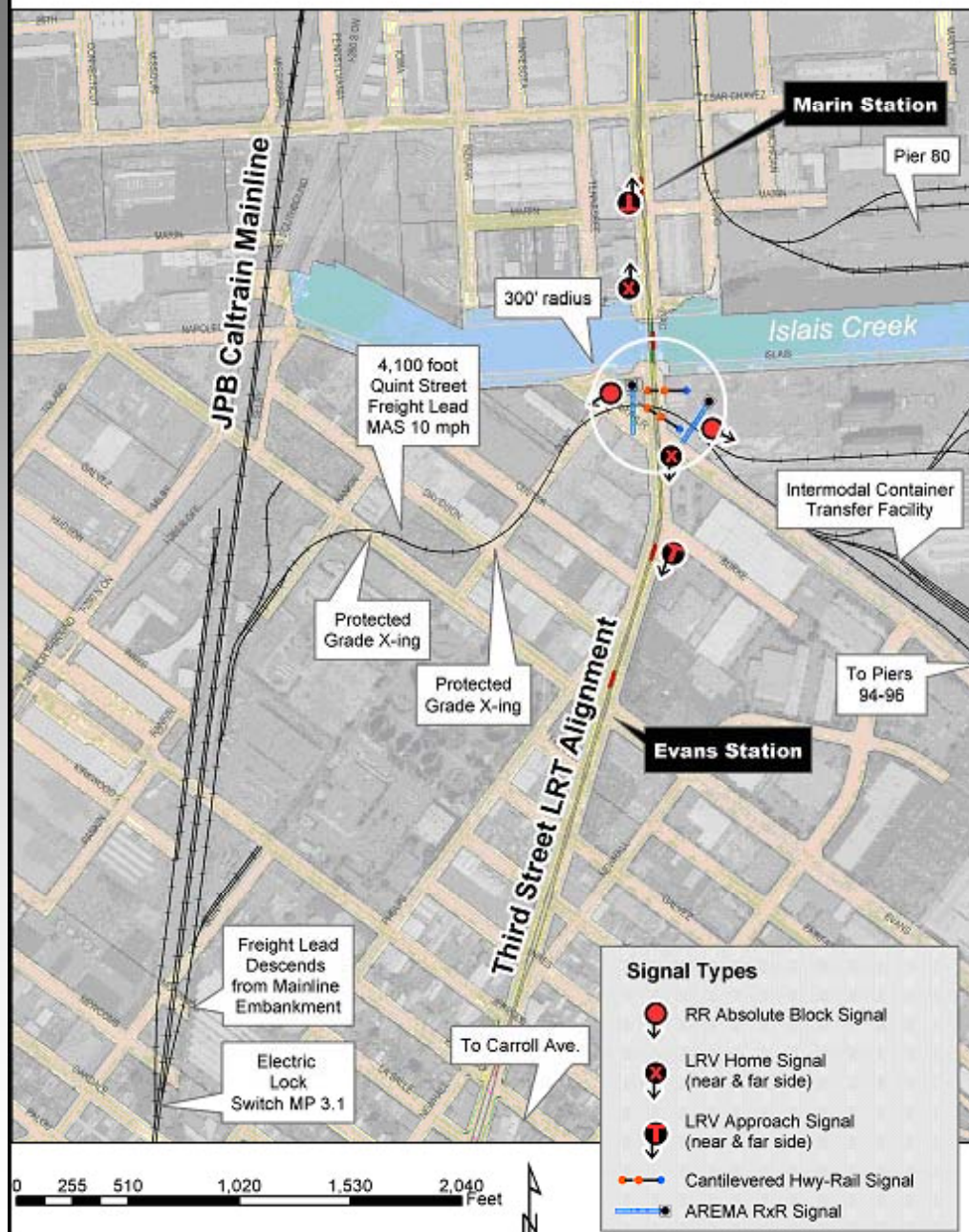
At the time of planning the line - considerations of a non standard rail crossings or situations requiring a waiver and their implications should be part of the planning process. Depending on situation – consider alternatives.

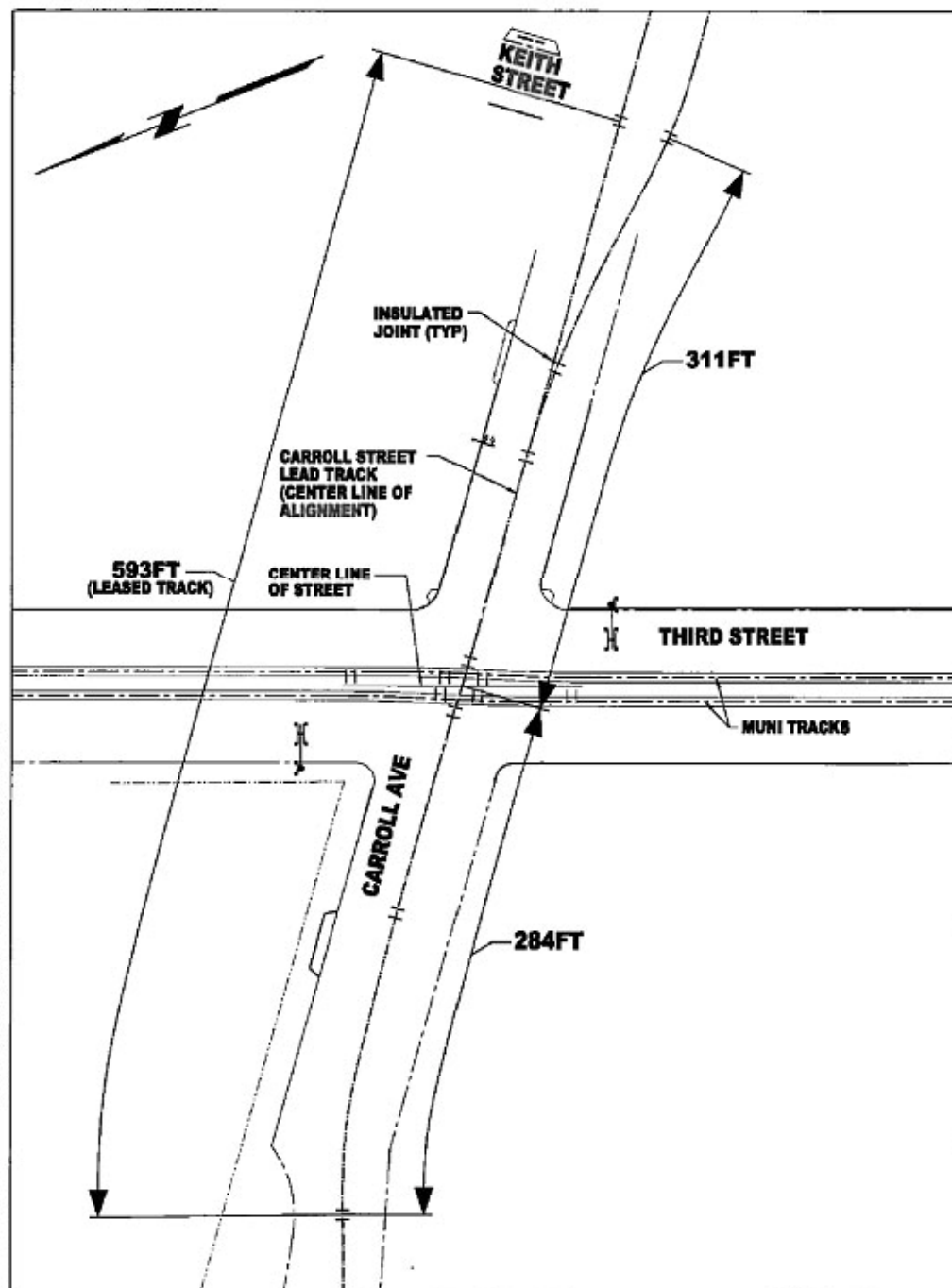
Not just crossing – but proximity of rail infrastructure.



San Francisco Municipal Railway

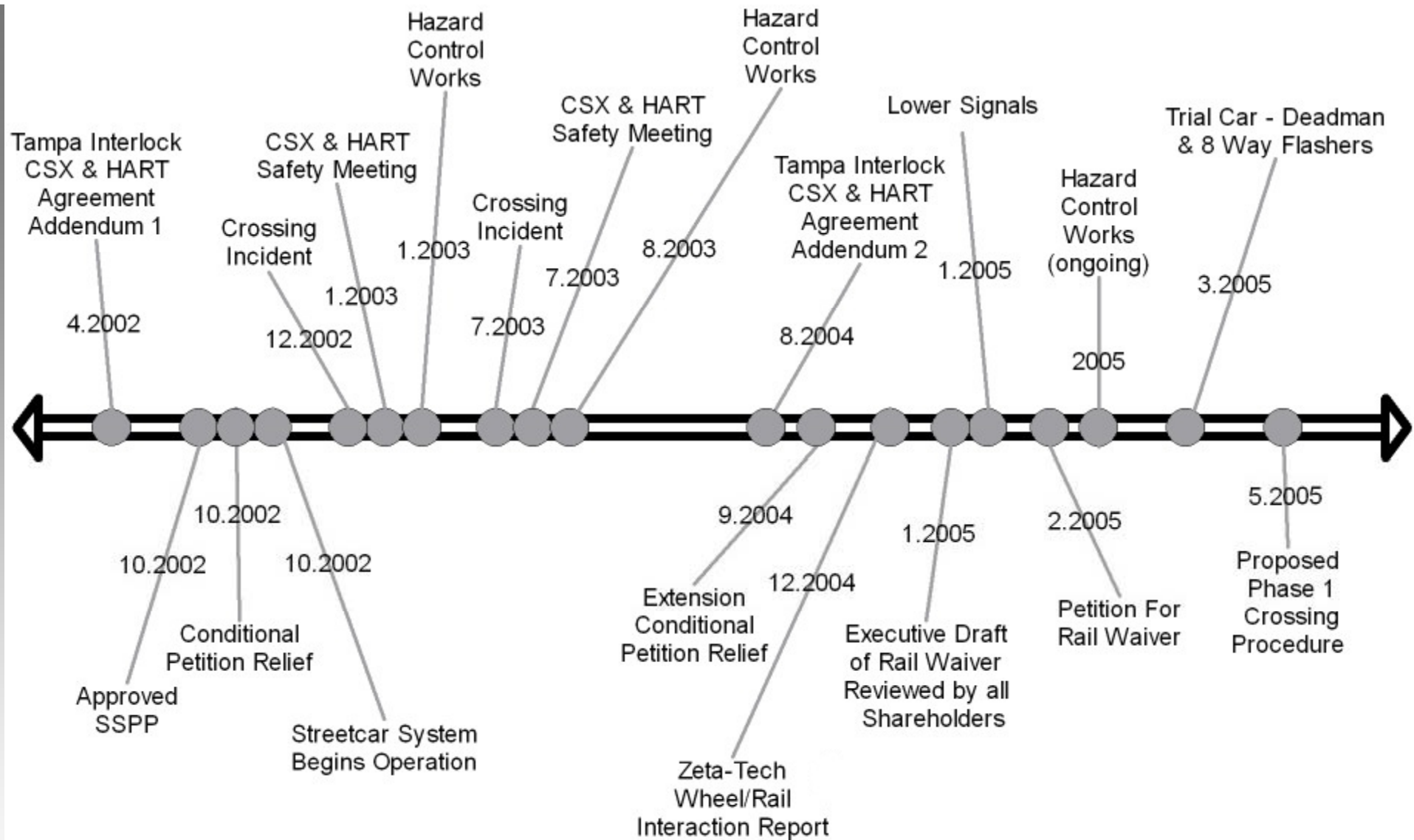
Figure 6
Detail Map of Arthur Avenue Rail Crossing Signals





What does a rail waiver petition document contain?

- Purpose and type of waiver
- Regulatory oversight and compliance
- Stakeholders and their ongoing commitment
 - Construction and implementation
 - Description and details of system
- Description and details of rolling stock
 - History of operations locally or other
 - Chronological representation of plan
- Proposed methods/mode of operation
 - Maintenance responsibilities
 - Photographs and diagrams
 - Hazard analysis
- FRA rules that comply and how compliance is achieved
- FRA rules that a waiver is requested, and how safety levels – using other methods will be achieved.
- conclusion



What documents are vital to the process?

- **CFR's. Relevant parts are under section 49: Transportation**
 - **The individual transits state regulator's requirements**
- **TRB recommended practices for Approval, design and operations of railroad – rail transit shared crossings**
- **TRB recommended practices for approval, design and operations of railroad – rail transit shared crossings**
 - **FRA's Shared Use Policy statement**
 - **Relevant APTA standards**
 - **Relevant AREMA standards**
- **FTA Hazard Analysis Guidelines for Transit Projects**
 - **Basic Guide to System Safety, Jeffrey W. Vincoli**



What industry groups are vital to the process?

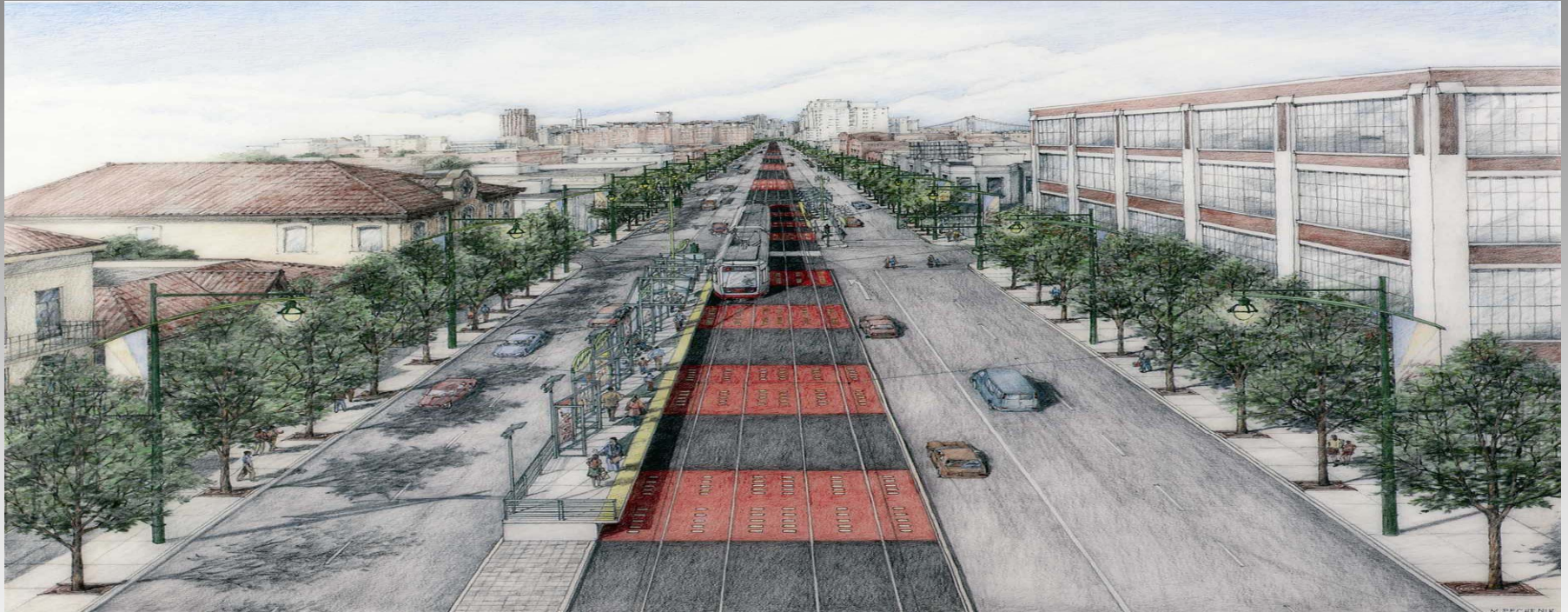
- APTA Shared Use Working Group
- TRB Light Rail Circulators Subcommittee Working Group
 - The local transit's state regulator
 - FRA clerk
 - FRA Safety Board
 - FRA Regional Inspector
 - The local railroad
- Another agency that has successfully achieved a rail waiver



Where can you get examples of other rail transit agencies waivers?

BEFORE THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

June 2003



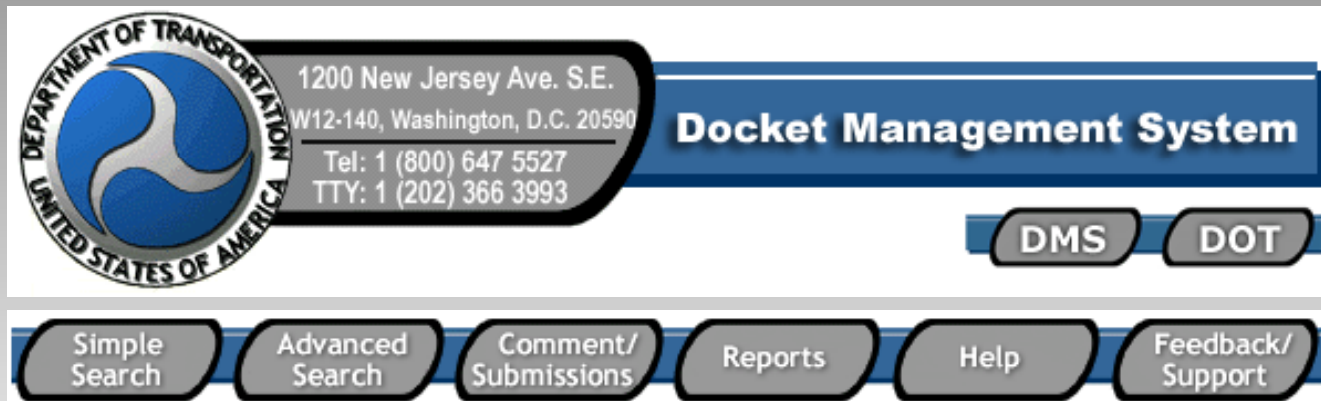
PETITION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FOR APPROVAL OF LIMITED CONNECTIONS AND WAIVER OF
FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS
PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. 211.7



THIRD STREET LIGHT RAIL



Department of Transportation (DOT) Docket Management System (DMS)



[http://dms.dot.gov/search/searchResultsSimple.cfm
?numberValue=15988&searchType=docket](http://dms.dot.gov/search/searchResultsSimple.cfm?numberValue=15988&searchType=docket)



Changing to serve you better.